

= Liverpool Scottish =

The Liverpool Scottish , known diminutively as " the Scottish " , is a unit of the British Army , part of the Army Reserve (formerly the Territorial Army) , raised in 1900 as an infantry battalion of the King 's (Liverpool Regiment) . The Liverpool Scottish became affiliated to the Queen 's Own Cameron Highlanders in the 1920s and formally transferred to the regiment in 1937 with its identity preserved . Reflecting the Territorial Army 's decline in size since the late 1940s , the battalion was reduced to a company in 1967 , then to a platoon of " A " (King 's) Company , King 's and Cheshire Regiment in 1999 . In 2006 , the company was incorporated into the 4th Battalion , Duke of Lancaster 's Regiment (King 's , Lancashire and Border) .

Service in the First World War was extensive and the Liverpool Scottish was one of the first territorial battalions to arrive on the Western Front when it deployed in November 1914 . Approximately 1 @, @ 000 of more than 10 @, @ 000 men who served with the Scottish died during the war . The first major battle of the Scottish during the war was on 16 June 1915 in what is officially known as " The First Action at Bellewaarde " , which was designed to pin down German reserves while other Allied forces were engaged elsewhere . The action is known to the Liverpool Scottish as the " Battle of Hooge " . Hooge being a village a few miles East of Ypres in Belgium .

The unit 's most acclaimed soldier during the war was Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse , who was awarded two Victoria Crosses while attached from the Royal Army Medical Corps . Sergeant Albert Baybut , Chavasse 's Medical Orderly , is technically the most highly decorated soldier in the history of Liverpool Scottish due to Chavasse 's parent unit actually being the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) . Baybut would receive a Distinguished Conduct Medal , and Bar , together with the Military Medal for his actions alongside Chavasse during World War I. Chavasse remains one of only three people to have been awarded the VC twice , and the only recipient from the Liverpool Scottish .

Although expanded to two battalions during the Second World War , the Liverpool Scottish did not serve abroad as intact battalions . Instead , contingents were supplied to other battalions and the Army Commandos . With the commandos , the Liverpool Scottish actively served in operations in Europe , including the Norwegian Campaign and the St Nazaire Raid .

= = 1900 ? 1914 = =

There had been a previous attempt to raise a formation of Scots in Liverpool . Heightened tension with France in the late 1850s had provided the impetus for the emergence of the Volunteer movement . Three " Scottish " companies (one " Highland " and two " Lowland ") were formed as the 19th (Liverpool Scottish) Lancashire Volunteer Rifle Corps , composed predominantly of the middle class . Disputes between members over the use of kilts and the colour of their tartan culminated in the 19th 's fragmentation . By 1861 , four companies of Liverpool Scottish existed within the 19th and 79th Corps . Neither corps survived : the 19th was subsumed by the Liverpool Volunteer Rifle Brigade while the 79th disbanded in 1863 .

The Second Boer War catalysed a renewed interest in establishing a unit composed of Scottish Liverpudlians . On 30 April 1900 , the 8th (Scottish) Volunteer Battalion was formed within the King 's (Liverpool Regiment) , with headquarters later being located at 22 Highgate Street , Edge Hill . The Liverpool Scottish became one of four battalions in English infantry regiments to explicitly associate with the Irish and Scottish communities - the other battalions were the London Scottish , Liverpool Irish and London Irish Rifles .

Traditional highland attire adopted for the battalion 's dress uniform included the Clan Forbes pattern tartan and the glengarry headdress . A former major in the 2nd Volunteer Battalion , Christopher Forbes Bell , was appointed commanding officer and officially assumed command on 24 October . Bell was succeeded in command by Andrew Laurie Macfie in 1902 .

In common with other volunteer battalions , the Liverpool Scottish organised a detachment for overseas service in South Africa during the Second Boer War . The contingent of 22 volunteers under Lieutenant John Watson was dispatched in 1902 and attached to the 4th Service Company of the 1st Gordon Highlanders . The battalion had already suffered its first fatality after Lieutenant J.A.

Bingham succumbed to wounds incurred at Klip River while serving with the Imperial Yeomanry in February 1902 . They had only limited duties , primarily occupying blockhouses , as the conflict was reaching its conclusion . Nevertheless , the British Army recognised the battalion 's contribution with the reward of a battle honour : " South Africa 1902 " .

The Liverpool Scottish acquired purpose @-@ built accommodation for its headquarters in 1904 at Fraser Street , in Liverpool City Centre , which the battalion maintained until 1967 . The construction of the building was partially subsidised by public donation (some £ 4 @,@ 000) but its cost required additional funds generated through a three @-@ day " bazaar " hosted at St George 's Hall .

The Liverpool Scottish became the King 's 10th Battalion in 1908 when Secretary of State for War Richard Haldane 's reforms established the Territorial Force , which grouped the volunteers and yeomanry into 14 county @-@ administered divisions and 14 mounted brigades . By 1914 , the 10th (Liverpool Scottish) would be subordinate to the South Lancashire Brigade , West Lancashire Division .

= = First World War = =

= = = 1914 ? 1915 = = =

When war was declared in August 1914 , the Liverpool Scottish mobilised and moved to Scotland under the command of Lieutenant @-@ Colonel William Nicholl . Duplicate battalions were formed in Liverpool from personnel unable to volunteer for overseas service . The second @-@ line battalion , designated as the 2 / 10th to distinguish it from the original , was organised in October , the third @-@ line in May 1915 . They became responsible for the training of recruits and provision of drafts for overseas service . The 2 / 10th , raised and organised by Captain (later Lieutenant @-@ Colonel) Adam Fairrie , was committed to the Western Front in 1917 . The third @-@ line remained in Britain for the duration of the war .

Considered by contemporaries to be socially élite and reasonably well @-@ trained compared to other territorial units , the 1 / 10th volunteered for overseas service and became the seventh territorial battalion to be dispatched to the Western Front . The battalion took passage aboard the SS Maidan at Southampton on 1 November 1914 , completing its disembarkation at Le Havre on the morning of the third with the Queen 's Westminster Rifles . The battalion 's original strength - those who qualified for the 1914 Star - became known as the " Maidaners " in reference to the vessel .

Assigned to the 9th Brigade , 3rd Division , the Liverpool Scottish occupied trenches in the Kemmel area , five miles south of Ypres . The 1 / 10th suffered its first fatality on 29 November : Captain Arthur Twentyman , killed while attempting to return to British lines . The combination of severe winter and trench warfare soon depleted the strength of the Liverpool Scottish . From an establishment of 26 officers and 829 men recorded in November , the battalion had dwindled to 370 able @-@ bodied men by January 1915 . Within weeks of the battalion 's arrival , Major Blair , Lieutenant @-@ Colonel Nicholl 's successor , was replaced by J.R. Davidson due to ill @-@ health . Davidson would command the battalion , albeit interrupted by wounds sustained during the Somme Offensive , until 1917 , when he returned to Liverpool to become the city 's Chief Engineer .

Obsolete equipment and organisational differences with the regular army became some of the earliest challenges that the battalion and other territorials contended with in France . The Scottish employed the long version of the Lee ? Enfield (MLE) rifle , which had been superseded by the SMLE (Short Magazine Lee ? Enfield) in the Regular Army . Unsited to newer ammunition and the conditions of the Western Front , the 10th 's MLEs began to be phased out by the SMLE in early 1915 ? a process that would not be entirely complete until 1916 . Structurally different from their regular counterparts , territorial battalions were reorganised early in the war to conform with the regulars . Unlike the Regular Army , which had adopted a four @-@ company system in 1913 , territorial battalions were still organised into eight companies . When the system was extended to the Liverpool Scottish , the battalion designated its consolidated companies " V " , " X " , " Y " , and "

Z " . This contrasted with the more conventional " A " to " D " or " 1 " to " 4 " ? considered by the battalion to be potentially confusing .

The battalion 's first major engagement happened on 16 June 1915 , at Hooge , 2 miles (3 @. @ 2 km) east of Ypres . The 9th Brigade , with the 7th Brigade in support , was chosen to conduct a three @-@ phased attack with the ultimate intention being to reach trenches on the south @-@ western edge of Bellewaarde Lake . Situated behind German lines was Bellewaarde Ridge , a tactically @-@ important feature that overlooked British positions . At 0415 , the first wave of troops moved on their objective and quickly secured the first @-@ line trenches , which continued to be shelled by British artillery . The Liverpool Scottish and 1st Lincolnshire Regiment , forming the second wave , then left their trenches to pass through the first wave of attackers and reach the German second @-@ line . Although the advance was relatively unopposed , " V " Company encountered resistance on its front from machine @-@ gun fire . After briefly suspending its advance , the company , reinforced by " Z " , charged the opposing positions and took about 40 prisoners .

On capturing the second @-@ line , elements of the Liverpool Scottish decided to consolidate the shallow trenches that afforded little protection . The battle had quickly degenerated into a disorganised and chaotic affair , with British battalions losing cohesion and becoming mixed up with each other . An intensive German barrage decimated the occupants of the second @-@ line trenches , while the 10th 's temporary commanding officer , Lieutenant @-@ Colonel E.G. Thin , was wounded by gunfire . The remainder of the Liverpool Scottish continued onto the third @-@ line with portions of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and 1st Northumberland Fusiliers .

Consolidating the third @-@ line proved difficult under relentless bombardment and determined opposition from the uncaptured right of the trench system . Some of the Liverpool Scottish nevertheless impulsively carried on beyond the third @-@ line , towards a position called Dead Man 's Bottom and probable death . The battalion 's left flank became compromised in the afternoon by the retreat of the surviving Northumberland Fusiliers . The Liverpool Scottish eventually retreated first to the second @-@ line , then to the more viable entrenchments of the former German frontline . The battle persisted into the night , and abortive attempts were made by the Germans to retake the first @-@ line trenches . For about 1 @, @ 000 yards (3 @, @ 000 ft) of gained territory , the Liverpool Scottish had suffered heavy casualties : 79 killed , 212 wounded , and 109 missing from a pre @-@ battle strength of 542 officers and other ranks . A memorial to this battle was erected in the area in 2000 . An experienced Company @-@ Quartermaster Sergeant , R.A. Scott Macfie , described the aftermath at camp in a letter to his father :

= = = 1916 ? 1917 = = =

The West Lancashire Division reformed in January 1916 as the 55th , under the command of Major @-@ General Hugh Jeudwine . Many of the division 's original constituent battalions returned and the Liverpool Scottish joined the 166th Brigade . Before being committed to the Somme Offensive in July 1916 , the 55th had concentrated in the Amiens area . The Liverpool Scottish moved to the Somme in mid @-@ July and relieved the 18th King 's near Montauban on the 31st . After spending six days under constant artillery fire undertaking auxiliary duties in the vicinity of Bernafay and Trônes Woods , the Liverpool Scottish moved to Mansel Copse in preparation for an assault on Guillemont . The village had already been subjected to two attacks since the opening battles of the Somme . At 0420 on 8 August , brigades from the 2nd and 55th divisions began a concerted effort to take Guillemont . The operation failed with resultingly heavy losses . Despite that , the Liverpool Irish and part of the 1st King 's managed to enter Guillemont , but became isolated . More than 700 men from the two battalions were killed , wounded , or missing , many becoming prisoners of war .

Amid reports that the Liverpool Irish were holding out in Guillemont , orders were issued for the 55th Division to renew the attack the next day . Resuming the battle on the night of the 8th had been considered before the decision to attack in the early hours of the 9th . The Liverpool Scottish , which had been in reserve on the 8th , was to advance along a front of 400 yards (1 @, @ 200 ft) with the 1 / 5th Loyals on its left flank , penetrate the German frontline , and establish itself on Guillemont 's

eastern boundary . In the prelude to the battle , the Liverpool Scottish waited behind lines , constantly moving to avoid sporadic German bombardment . Further difficulties arose for the battalion when it attempted to navigate to its starting positions through unfamiliar territory , compounded at one stage by the absence of guides . While the battalion reached its destination at 0400 , just 20 minutes before the attack was to begin , the Loyals did not arrive until an hour later . Final orders were received late , giving Colonel Davidson only minutes to brief his company commanders .

A five @-@ minute artillery bombardment preceded " Zero " hour , which provoked an immediate counter @-@ barrage . At 0420 , the Liverpool Scottish went over the top from the same positions that the 164th Brigade had the previous day . The barrage enveloped the Liverpool Scottish in no man 's land , which , combined with machine @-@ gun fire , stifled the battalion 's progress . Lieutenant @-@ Colonel Davidson personally rallied his battalion , seeking to regain momentum , but was wounded during the repulsed attack . Two further attempts by the remnants of the battalion to reach the frontline yielded no success . Few had entered the German trenches , the majority having been obstructed by uncut barbed wire . Of the 20 officers and about 600 other ranks engaged at Guillemont , 74 had been killed , 174 were wounded , and 32 were unaccounted for . Most of the missing would later be confirmed killed . Another attempt was made days later by the 1 / 9th King 's . The village would not be captured until September . Among the wounded was Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse , attached to the Liverpool Scottish from the Royal Army Medical Corps , who was awarded the Victoria Cross . He became the battalion 's first and only recipient , and had previously been awarded the Military Cross for his conduct at Hooges .

In the subsequent battles of Ginchy and Morval , the 1 / 10th was engaged in a purely supporting role : trench networks were constructed and improved near Delville Wood , and the dead collected and buried . A party of two officers and 100 other ranks was attached to the Third West Lancashire Field Ambulance during the Battle of Morval . After bivouacking at Pont Rémy , the battalion transferred with its division to the relatively quiet Ypres Salient in October . The routine of alternating between the front line , being in support , and in reserve preoccupied the battalion until the Third Battle of Ypres in July 1917 . Casualties were nevertheless sustained by the battalion during this period , invariably as a result of shelling and sniping .

The battalion was subsequently returned to the Ypres salient , positioned at Wieltje . On 31 July 1917 , a new offensive around Ypres was launched to try to penetrate the German lines , advance to the Belgian coast and capture German submarine bases . The Liverpool Scottish experienced some of the heaviest resistance in 166th Brigade 's area , taking heavy losses around the fortified farms . The battalion remained in some captured German trenches until it was relieved on 3 August . Captain Chavasse died of wounds the next day having again tended to wounded soldiers . His actions earned him a posthumous Bar to his Victoria Cross , one of only three men to be so decorated , and the sole double recipient of the First World War .

In September , the Scottish moved south to Epehy , thirteen miles south of Cambrai , where its division took part in the Battle of Cambrai in November .

= = = 1918 = = =

On 21 March 1918 , the Central Powers launched their expected Spring Offensive (Operation Michael) , signifying the beginning of Germany 's final attempt to achieve a decisive victory before significant American forces arrived on the Western Front . By the 25th , substantial gains in territory had been made in the direction of Amiens . Although prepared for a possible attack , the Liverpool Scottish and the 55th Division did not participate in the desperate Allied defence until the next phase of the offensive , Operation Georgette .

Begun on 9 April , Operation Georgette shifted the focus to the devastated town of Ypres , in Flanders . The bombardment preceding the attack was of considerable scale and included phosgene gas shells , causing severe casualties among the Liverpool Scottish .

The Liverpool Scottish was involved in the defence of the Givenchy sector during the Battle of Estaires , sustaining such losses that they absorbed the 2 / 10th Battalion that had landed in France

in February 1917 . After the Spring Offensive was halted , the Western Front entered its final phase ? a series of Allied drives from August to November known as the Hundred Days Offensive . The Liverpool Scottish fought one of its last actions of the war , at La Bassée Canal , in October .

The final month of the war offered little respite to the battalion . In the days leading up to the Armistice of 11 November 1918 , the Liverpool Scottish helped to secure numerous villages without opposition and crossed the River Scheldt on 9 November . On the day of the Armistice , the Liverpool Scottish was situated at Villers @-@ Notre @-@ Dame . With the 165th and 166th brigades , the battalion had been readied to assault German positions obstructing passage into the town of Ath . Such a prospect was averted , however , when the 2 / 5th Lancashire Fusiliers attacked and seized one of the bridges before it could be demolished .

= = Interbellum and Second World War = =

Following reconstitution into the Territorial Army in 1920 , the Liverpool Scottish formalised its relationship with the Queen 's Own Cameron Highlanders and transferred in 1937 to become the regiment 's second territorial battalion . In comparison to the densely urbanised region that the King 's Regiment encompassed in north @-@ west England , the Cameron Highlanders area of recruitment in the Highlands was sparsely populated . Although it had its numerical designation omitted , the battalion 's identity was preserved and headquarters at Fraser Street , Liverpool were retained . During a royal visit to Liverpool in 1938 , George VI presented the battalion with new colours at Everton Football Club 's Goodison Park stadium .

After the Territorial Army began to expand following a Government announcement in March 1939 , the Liverpool Scottish formed a second battalion . Mobilisation was later authorised , but both battalions would remain in Britain for the duration of the Second World War . The 2nd Battalion converted to artillery in 1942 as the 89th Anti @-@ Tank Regiment , Royal Artillery and served with the 55th (West Lancashire) Infantry Division . In addition , the Liverpool Scottish supplied drafts to other units , principally to the Cameron Highlanders , and formed contingents for the embryonic " Independent Companies " that became the Army " Commandos " .

The Liverpool Scottish contributed a troop to the composite No. 4 Independent Company , which also contained troops from the King 's Regiment and South Lancshires , collectively under the command of Major J.R. Paterson ? an officer from the Scottish . Formed on 21 April 1940 , at Sizewell , the company soon after embarked aboard the Ulster Prince , bound for Norway to join the Allied campaign against Germany . After landing in early May , No. 4 Company relieved a French force and occupied positions near Mosjoen . The company , in conjunction with others , operated under the aegis of Scisserforce , commanded by Brigadier Colin Gubbins . When a German landing cut off Mosjoen from the north on 11 May , No. 4 Company had to be evacuated by a Norwegian steamer and transported to Sandnessjøen , then to Bodø with No. 5 Company .

By the 24th , Allied troops had established a line of defence near the town of Pothus to facilitate the defence of Bodø against Germany 's northern advance . While his forces were engaged in battle , Brigadier Gubbins was informed that the British Government had decided to evacuate northern Norway . The withdrawal of Allied forces commenced on 29 May , with Nos. 1 and 4 Companies being embarked on two destroyers carrying other passengers , including administrative personnel and wounded .

After returning to Britain , the Liverpool Scottish troop obtained approval from the Government to readopt the kilt as an integral part of its Battle Dress . The Commando units and the independent companies consolidated later in the year into " Special Service " battalions , administered by a single brigade . For various reason , the system proved unpopular and in 1941 the battalions were sub @-@ divided , reverting to distinct Commando units . The 1st Special Service Battalion , which had absorbed No. 4 Company , became Nos. 1 and 2 Commando - the latter included a number of the Liverpool Scottish , designated as 5 Troop .

In March 1942 , the troop participated with 2 Commando in the raid on St Nazaire , codenamed Operation Chariot . Conceived to neutralise the western French port as an Atlantic sanctuary for the battleship Tirpitz , Operation Chariot involved 611 men , the antiquated lend @-@ lease destroyer

Campbeltown , and numerous small craft . The Campbeltown was converted into a platform designed to deliver 9 @, @ 600 pounds (4 @, @ 400 kg) of explosives , and her appearance was reconfigured to resemble a German destroyer .

= = Post @-@ war = =

The 1st Scottish deployed to the garrison of Gibraltar in 1945 . Conversion to motorised infantry occurred in 1947 ; however , the battalion soon reverted to a standard infantry role . Economic constraints and alignment towards nuclear weapons and other military technology necessitated the reorganisation and rationalisation of the Territorial Army in the 1960s . Most battalions were reduced to cadre @-@ strength or disbanded . Although the Liverpool Scottish avoided extinction , the battalion disbanded and reconstituted into two separate units , one of infantry and one of artillery : " V " Company , 51st Highland Volunteers , and " G " Troop of " R " (King 's) Company , The West Lancashire Regiment , RA . Both maintained their headquarters at Forbes House , Score Lane , in Childwall , Liverpool . While the troop disbanded with " R " Battery in 1969 , the company remained an integral component of the 51st Highland until 1992 .

During company exercises in Cyprus in 1974 , Greek Cypriots seeking enosis with Greece deposed the island 's government - an action illicitly supported by the Greek Junta and followed by the Turkish invasion . Unable to intervene in the ethnic conflict , the Liverpool Scottish were eventually evacuated from Akamas , through Greek @-@ controlled territory , to the British base at Akrotiri . Post @-@ Cold War restructuring incorporated " V " Company into the 5th / 8th (Volunteer) Battalion of the King 's Regiment , successor to the King 's Regiment (Liverpool) . Further reorganisation in 1999 reduced the Scottish to a platoon of A (King 's) Company , King 's and Cheshire Regiment . The platoon relocated to Townsend Avenue , Norris Green , where territorial infantry in Liverpool are concentrated .

In 2006 , the King 's Regiment amalgamated with two others to become the Duke of Lancaster 's Regiment . The regiment 's 4th Battalion was formed by the integration of the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers with the King 's companies of the King 's and Cheshire Regiment . The Liverpool Scottish Platoon remained a part of the retitled " A " (Ladysmith) Company . Individuals from the platoon have been attached to other units deployed on operational tours in Bosnia , Afghanistan , and Iraq .

= = Commanding officers = =