

## Royal Lincolnshire Regiment



The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment was a line infantry regiment of the British Army raised on 20 June 1685 as the Earl of Bath's Regiment for its first Colonel, John Granville, 1st Earl of Bath. In 1751, it was numbered like most other Army regiments and named the 10th (North Lincoln) Regiment of Foot. After the Childers Reforms of 1881, it became the Lincolnshire Regiment after the county where it had been recruiting since 1781.

After the Second World War, the regiment was honoured with the name Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, before being amalgamated in 1960 with the Northamptonshire Regiment to form the 2nd East Anglian Regiment (Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire) which was later amalgamated with the 1st East Anglian Regiment (Royal Norfolk and Suffolk), 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot) and the Royal Leicestershire Regiment to form the Royal Anglian Regiment. 'A' Company of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Anglians continues the traditions of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

The regiment was raised on 20 June 1685 as the Earl of Bath's Regiment for its first Colonel, John Granville, 1st Earl of Bath. It embarked for Flanders in 1690 and saw action at the Battle of Steenkerque in August 1692, the Battle of Landen in July 1693 and the Siege of Namur in July 1695 during the Nine Years' War before returning to England in 1696.

The regiment embarked for Holland in 1701 and saw action at the Battle of Blenheim in August 1704, the Battle of Ramillies in May 1706 and the Battle of Malplaquet in September 1709 during the War of the Spanish Succession.[9] The regiment was given the title of the 10th Regiment of Foot in 1751 when all British regiments were given numbers for identification instead of using their Colonel's name. It then took part in the 1759-60 action to repel Thurot at Carrickfergus during the Seven Years' War.

The regiment would next see action in the American Revolutionary War, fighting at the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775, the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775, the New York Campaign in winter 1776,[14] the Battle of Germantown in October 1777, the Battle of Monmouth in June 1778 and the Battle of Rhode Island in August 1778. In 1778, the 10th returned home to England after 19 years service overseas. In 1782, the regiment was linked to the County of Lincolnshire for recruiting.

### Napoleonic Wars

The regiment embarked for Egypt in 1800 for service in the French Revolutionary Wars and took part in the Battle of Alexandria in March 1801. The 2nd battalion then took part in the disastrous Walcheren Campaign in autumn 1809. Meanwhile the 1st battalion embarked for Spain in 1812 for service in the Peninsular War and took part in the Battle of Castalla in April 1813 and the Siege of Tarragona in June 1813.

## The Victorian era

In 1842, the 10th Foot was sent to India and was involved in the bloody Battle of Sobraon in February 1846 during the First Anglo-Sikh War. The 10th would also see action at the Relief of Multan in January 1849 and the Battle of Gujrat in February 1849 during the Second Anglo-Sikh War. In 1857, at the outbreak of the Indian Rebellion, the Regiment was stationed at Dinapore, taking part in the failed first relief of the Siege of Arrah and going on to play an important role in the relief of Lucknow where Private Denis Dempsey won the Victoria Cross.

The 1st Battalion, 10th Foot served in Japan from 1868 through 1871. The battalion was charged with protecting the small foreign community in Yokohama. The leader of the battalion's military band, John William Fenton, is honoured in Japan as "the first bandmaster in Japan" and as "the father of band music in Japan". He is also credited for initiating the slow process in which Kimi ga Yo came to be accepted as the national anthem of Japan.

The regiment was not fundamentally affected by the Cardwell Reforms of the 1870s, which gave it a depot at the "old barracks" in Lincoln from 1873. The regiment moved to the "new barracks" further north on Burton Road in 1880. Nor was the regiment affected by the Childers reforms of 1881 – as it already possessed two battalions, there was no need for it to amalgamate with another regiment. Under the reforms, the regiment became The Lincolnshire Regiment on 1 July 1881.

The Royal North Lincolnshire and Royal South Lincolnshire Militia regiments became the 3rd and 4th Battalions, and the 1st and 2nd Lincolnshire Rifle Volunteer Corps became the 1st and 2nd Volunteer Battalions (a 3rd Volunteer Battalion was added in 1900). The 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment was posted at Malta from 1895, and took part in the Battle of Omdurman in September 1898 during the Mahdist War. It was then stationed in British India, where it was in Bangalore until late 1902 when it transferred to Secunderabad. The 2nd Battalion embarked for South Africa in January 1900 and saw action during the Second Boer War.

The 3rd (Militia) battalion, formed from the Royal North Lincoln Militia in 1881, was a reserve battalion. It was embodied in May 1900, disembodied in July the following year, and later re-embodied for service in South Africa during the Second Boer War. Almost 540 officers and men returned to Southampton on the SS Cestrian in early October 1902, following the end of the war, when the battalion was disembodied at Lincoln.

In 1908, the Volunteers and Militia were reorganised under the Haldane Reforms, with the former becoming the Territorial Force (TF) and the latter the Special Reserve; the regiment now had one Reserve and two Territorial battalions. These were the 3rd Battalion (Special Reserve) at Lincoln, with the 4th Battalion (TF) at Broadgate in Lincoln and the 5th Battalion (TF) at Doughty Road in Grimsby (since demolished).

## First World War

The regiment started the First World War with two regular battalions, one militia battalion and two territorial battalions. The 1st Lincolns were stationed in Portsmouth, the 2nd Lincolns on Garrison in Bermuda, and the 3rd in Lincoln. The 4th and 5th Battalions were the Territorial battalions, based throughout Lincolnshire.

## Regular Army

The 1st Battalion landed at Le Havre as part of the 9th Brigade in the 3rd Division for service on the Western Front in August 1914. Notable engagements included the First Battle of Ypres in autumn 1914 and the Battle of Bellewaarde in May 1915, during which the commanding officer of the battalion, Major H E R Boxer, was killed.

The Commanding Officer of 2nd Lincolns, Lieutenant-Colonel George Bunbury McAndrew, found himself acting Governor, Commander-In-Chief, and Vice-Admiral of Bermuda in the absence of the Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir George Bullock, and oversaw that colony's placement onto a war footing.[40] The battalion returned to England on 3 October 1914, and was sent to the Western Front as part of the 25th Brigade in the 8th Division soon after, arriving in France on 5 November 1914. Major engagements included the Battle of Aubers Ridge in May 1915 where the battalion incurred heavy losses and the Battle of the Somme in Autumn 1916 where the second-in-command of the battalion, Major F W Greatwood, was injured.

A contingent from the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps composed of Captain Richard Tucker and 88 other ranks was detached in December 1914 to train for the Western Front. It was hoped this could join 2nd Lincolns, but 1 Lincolns need for reinforcement was greater and it was attached to that battalion as an extra company (at least one Bermudian, though not from the BVRC, Corporal G. C. Wailes, did serve with the 2nd Lincolns). Although commanders at the Regimental Depot had wanted to break the Contingent apart, re-enlist its members as Lincolns, and distribute them throughout the Regiment as replacements, a letter from the War Office ensured that the BVRC contingent remained together as a unit, under its own badge. The contingent arrived in France with 1 Lincolns on 23 June 1915, the first colonial volunteer unit to reach the Western Front. It remained an extra company of 1 Lincolns until the following summer, by when its strength had been too reduced by casualties to compose a full company (having lost 50% of its then remaining strength at Gueudecourt on 25 September 1916). The survivors were merged with a newly arrived Second BVRC Contingent, of one officer and 36 other ranks, who had trained in Bermuda as Vickers machine gunners. Stripped of their Vickers machine guns (which had been collected, for the new Machine Gun Corps), the merged contingents were retrained as Lewis light machinegunners, and provided 12 gun teams to 1 Lincolns headquarters. By the War's end, the two contingents had lost over 75% of their combined strength. Forty had died on active service, one received the O.B.E, and six the Military Medal. Sixteen enlisted men from the two contingents were commissioned, including the Sergeant Major of the First Contingent, Colour-Sergeant R.C. Earl, who would become Commanding Officer of the BVRC after the War (some of those commissioned moved to other units in the process, including flying ace Arthur Rowe Spurling and Henry J. Watlington, who both went to the Royal Flying Corps).

At the end of the war in 1918, the 1st Lincolns, under Frederick Spring, and the 3rd Lincolns were sent to Ireland to deal with the troubles in the unrecognised Irish Republic.

## Territorial Force

The 1/4th Battalion and 1/5th Battalion landed as landed at Le Havre as part of the 138th Brigade in the 46th (North Midland) Division in March 1915 for service on the Western Front. The 2/4th Battalion and 2/5th Battalion moved to Ireland as part of the 177th Brigade in the 59th (2nd North Midland) Division and took part in the response to the Easter Rising before landing in France in February 1917 for service on the Western Front.

## New Armies

The 6th (Service) Battalion landed at Suvla Bay in Gallipoli as part of the 33rd Brigade in the 11th (Northern) Division in August 1915 and, having been evacuated at the end of the year, moved to Egypt in January 1916 and then to France in July 1916 for service on the Western Front. The 7th (Service) Battalion landed at Boulogne as part of the 51st Brigade in the 17th (Northern) Division in July 1915 also for service on the Western Front.[37] The 8th (Service) Battalion landed at Boulogne as part of the 63rd Brigade in the 21st Division in September 1915 also for service on the Western Front. The 10th (Service) Battalion (Grimsby, often known as the Grimsby Chums, landed in France as part of the 101st Brigade in the 34th Division in January 1916 also for service on the Western Front and saw action at the First day on the Somme in July 1916 and the Battle of Passchendaele in Autumn 1917.

## Second World War

The Second World War was declared on Sunday, 3 September 1939 and **the two Territorial Army battalions, the 4th and the 6th** (a duplicate of the 4th), were called-up immediately. The 2nd Battalion embarked for France with the 9th Infantry Brigade attached to the 3rd Infantry Division commanded by Major-General Bernard Montgomery in October 1939.[46] They were followed by the 6th Battalion, part of 138th Brigade with the 46th Infantry Division, in April 1940; both served with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and managed to return from Dunkirk after the battles of France and Belgium. After returning to England, both battalions spent years in the United Kingdom on home defence anticipating a possible German invasion of the United Kingdom. The 2nd Battalion, remaining with the same brigade and division throughout the war, then spent the next four years training in various parts of the United Kingdom before taking part in the D-Day landings in June 1944. The battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Welby-Everard was then engaged throughout the Normandy Campaign, taking part in Operation Charnwood, Operation Goodwood, and throughout the rest of the Northwest Europe Campaign until Victory in Europe Day in May 1945.

The 1st Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment was stationed in British India and saw no active service until 1942. They remained in India and the Far East throughout the war and were assigned to the 71st Indian Infantry Brigade, part of 26th Indian Infantry Division, in 1942. fighting the Imperial Japanese Army in the Burma Campaign and during the Battle of the Admin Box, the first major victory against the Japanese in the campaign, in early 1944 where Major Charles Ferguson Hoey was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, the only one to be awarded to the Lincolnshire Regiment during the Second World War.

**The Territorials of the 4th Battalion**, part of 146th Brigade attached to 49th (West Riding) Infantry Division, were sent to Norway and were among the first British soldiers to come into contact against an advancing enemy in the field in the Second World War. Ill-equipped and without air support, they soon had to be evacuated. Within a few weeks, they were sent to garrison neutral Iceland. They trained as Alpine troops during the two years they were there. After returning to the United Kingdom in 1942, when the division gained the 70th Brigade, they were earmarked to form part of the 21st Army Group for the coming invasion of France and started training in preparation.

After two years spent on home defence, the 6th Battalion left the United Kingdom, still as part of the 138th (Lincoln and Leicester) Brigade in the 46th Infantry Division, in January 1943 to participate in the final stages of the Tunisia Campaign. In September 1943, the battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel David Yates, took part in the landings at Salerno in Italy as part of Mark Clark's U.S. Fifth Army, suffering heavy losses and later captured Naples, crossed the Volturno Line and fought on the Winter Line and in the Battle of Monte Cassino in January 1944. The battalion returned to Egypt to refit in March 1944, by which time it had suffered heavy casualties and lost 518 killed,

wounded or missing. It returned to the Italian Front in July 1944 and, after more hard fighting throughout the summer during the Battles for the Gothic Line, it sailed for Greece in December to help the civil authorities to keep order during the Greek Civil War. In April 1945, the 6th Lincolns returned to Italy for the final offensive but did not participate in any fighting and then moved into Austria for occupation duties.

The Lincolnshire Regiment also raised two other battalions for hostilities-only, the 7th and 8th, created in June and July 1940 respectively. However, both were converted into other arms of service, the 7th becoming 102nd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery on 1 December 1941 and the 8th becoming the 101st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.

The Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps again provided two drafts; one in June 1940, and a full company in 1944. Four Bermudians who served with the Lincolns during the war (three from the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps) reached the rank of Major with the regiment: Major General Glyn Gilbert (later of the Parachute Regiment), Lieutenant Colonel John Brownlow Tucker (the first Commanding Officer of the Bermuda Regiment, amalgamated from the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps and the Bermuda Militia Artillery in 1965),<sup>[56]</sup> Major Anthony Smith (killed-in-action at Venrai, in 1944, and subject of an award-winning film, *In The Hour of Victory*), and Major Patrick Purcell, responsible for administering German newspapers in the British area of occupation.

### Post-war years

After the war, both the 4th and 6th battalions were placed in 'suspended animation' in 1946 but were both reformed on 1 January 1947. However, on 1 July 1950, the 6th was merged with the 4th to create the 4th/6th Battalion. On 28 October 1948, the 2nd Battalion was amalgamated with the 1st Battalion. In 1960, the regiment amalgamated with the Northamptonshire Regiment to form the 2nd East Anglian Regiment (Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire) which was later amalgamated with the 1st East Anglian Regiment (Royal Norfolk and Suffolk), 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot) and the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in September 1964 to form the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Currently, 674 Squadron Army Air Corps uses the Sphinx as an emblem within its crest in honour of its local connections with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

The Royal Anglian Regiment maintains the same parental relationship with the Royal Bermuda Regiment that the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment had maintained with the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps (retitled Bermuda Rifles in 1951, before amalgamating with the Bermuda Militia Artillery to form the Bermuda Regiment in 1965).

### Battle honours

The regiment's battle honours are as follow:

- Steenkirk 8 July 1692
- War of the Spanish Succession 1702–1713
- Blenheim 13 August 1704
- Ramillies 23 May 1706
- Oudenarde 11 July 1708
- Malplaquet 11 September 1709
- Bouchain 13 September 1711
- Peninsula 1816
- Sobraon 10 February 1846

- Mooltan 21 December 1848
- Goojuarat 21 February 1849
- Punjab 1857
- Lucknow 1858 1863
- Atbara 1898
- Khartoum 1898
- Boer War 1899–1902
- Pardeberg 19 February 1899
- South Africa 1900–02
- Mons
- Le Cateau
- Retreat from Mons
- Marne 191
- Aisne 1914, '18
- La Bassée 1914
- Messines 1914, 1917, 1918
- Armentières 1914
- Ypres 1914, '15, '17
- Nonne Bosschen
- Neuve Chapelle
- Gravenstafel
- St. Julien
- Frezenberg
- Bellewaarde
- Aubers, Loos
- Somme 1916, '18
- Albert 1916 '18
- Bazentin
- Delville Wood
- Pozières
- Flers-Courcelette
- Morval
- Thiepval
- Ancre 1916, '18,
- Arras 1917, '18
- Scarpe 1917, '18
- Arleux
- Pilckem
- Langemarck 1917
- Menin Road
- Polygon Wood
- Broodseinde
- Poelcappelle
- Passchendaele
- Cambrai 1917, '18
- St. Quentin
- Bapaume 1918

- Lys
- Estaires
- Bailleul
- Kemmel
- Amiens
- Drocourt Quéant
- Hindenburg Line
- Épéhy
- Canal du Nord
- St. Quentin Canal,
- Beaufort
- Selle
- Sambre
- France and Flanders 1914–18
- Suvla
- Landing at Suvla
- Scimitar Hill
- Gallipoli 1915
- Egypt 1916
- Vist
- Norway 1940
- Dunkirk 1940
- Normandy Landing
- Cambes
- Fontenay le Pesnil
- Defence of Rauray
- Caen
- Orne
- Bourguébus Ridge
- Troarn, Nederrijn
- Le Havre
- Antwerp-Turnhout Canal
- Venraij
- Venlo Pocket
- Rhineland
- Hochwald
- Lingen
- Bremen
- Arnhem 1945
- North-West Europe 1940, '44–45
- Sedjenane I
- Mine de Sedjenane
- Argoub Selah
- North Africa 1943
- Salerno Vietri Pass
- Capture of Naples
- Cava di Terreni

- Volturno Crossing
- Garigliano Crossing
- Monte Tuga
- Gothic Line
- Monte Gridolfo
- Gemmano Ridge
- Lamone Crossing
- San Marino
- Italy 1943–45
- Donbaik
- Point 201 (Arakan)
- North Arakan
- Buthidaung
- Ngakyedauk Pass
- Ramree
- Burma 1943–45

### Victoria Crosses

Private Denis Dempsey, Indian Mutiny (12 August 1857/14 March 1858)

Lieutenant Henry Marshman Havelock-Allan, Indian Mutiny (16 July 1857)

Private John Kirk, Indian Mutiny (4 June 1857)

Lance-Sergeant Arthur Evans First World War (2 September 1918)

Captain Percy Hansen, First World War (9 August 1915)

Temp Major Charles Ferguson Hoey, Second World War (16 February 1944)

Acting Corporal Charles Richard Sharpe, First World War (9 May 1915)

### Colonel-in-Chief

1888–1902: F.M. HSH Prince William Augustus Edward of Saxe-Weimar, KP, GCB, GCVO

### Colonels of the Regiment

1685–1688: Col. John Granville, 1st Earl of Bath

1688: Col. Sir Charles Carney

1688–1693: Col. John Granville, 1st Earl of Bath [reappointed]

1693–1703: Lt-Gen. Sir Bevil Granville

1703–1715: Lt-Gen. William North, 6th Baron North & Grey

1715–1737: Lt-Gen. Henry Grove

1737–1746: Lt-Gen. Francis Columbine

1746–1749: F.M. James O'Hara, 2nd Baron Tyrawley (Lord Kilmaine)

1749-1763: Lt-Gen. Edward Pole

#### **10th Regiment of Foot**

1763–1781: Lt-Gen. Edward Sandford

1781–1795: Lt-Gen. Sir Robert Murray Keith KB

#### **10th (North Lincolnshire) Regiment of Foot**

1795–1811: Hon. Henry Edward Fox

1811–1824: Hon. Thomas Maitland

1824–1847: Sir John Lambert KCB

1847–1860: Sir Thomas McMahon, 2nd Baronet

1860–1863: Lt-Gen. Thomas Burke

1863–1874: Lt-Gen. Sir Sidney John Cotton, GCB



1874–1878: Lt-Gen. Sir John Garvock, GCB

1878–1888: F.M. HSH Prince William Augustus Edward of Saxe-Weimar, KP, GCB, GCVO

***The Lincolnshire Regiment***

1888–1890: Gen. Sir Henry Errington Longden, KCB, CSI

1890: Gen. Reginald Yonge Shipley, CB

1890–1903: Gen. Sir Julius Richard Glyn, KCB

1903–1908: Lt-Gen. George Hyde Page

1908–1914: Lt-Gen. Henry Fanshawe Davies

1914–1938: Maj-Gen. Charles Rudyerd Simpson, CB

1938–1948: Maj-Gen. John Hedley Thornton Priestman, CB, CBE, DSO, MC

***The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment***

1948–1958: Maj-Gen. John Arnold Atkinson Griffin, DSO

1958: Brig. Ralph Henry Lefroy Oulton, CBE