

Connaught Rangers - Great War Service

1st Battalion Connaught Rangers

When war was declared the 1st Battalion Connaught Rangers were in Ferozepore, India as part of the 7th Ferozepore Brigade, 3rd (Lahore) Division. On 28th August it embarked at Karachi for Europe, via Egypt (14th - 19th September 1914) arriving in Marseilles on 26th September 1914. On 15th December 1914 the 1st and 2nd Battalions Connaught Rangers amalgamated at Le Touret, north east of Bethune. On 11th December 1915 the now 1st Battalion left Marseilles bound for Mesopotamia, arriving in Basra on 10th January 1916. Although temporarily with the 9th Indian Brigade, 3rd Indian Division the Battalion returned to the 7th Indian Brigade in February 1916. On 3rd April 1918 the Battalion sailed from Kuwait bound for Egypt, landing at Suez twelve days later on the 15th. On 31st October 1918 the 1st Battalion made it's final move, to Palestine.

2nd Battalion Connaught Rangers

The 2nd Battalion Connaught Rangers were in Barrosa Barracks, Aldershot at the outbreak of the war as part of the 5th Brigade, 2nd Division. On 14th August 1914 the battalion landed in Boulogne, France. On 26th November 1914 it transferred to the Ferozepore Brigade, 3rd (Lahore) Division in preparation for the amalgamation with the 1st Battalion Connaught Rangers which took place on 15th December 1914 at Le Touret.

3rd (Reserve) Battalion Connaught Rangers

At the outbreak of the war the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion Connaught Rangers were in Galway. They remained in Ireland (moving to Crosshaven, Cork Harbour on 8th August 1914 and then Kinsale in September 1914) until November 1917 when the battalion moved to Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England. In about May 1918 the battalion moved to Dover to become part of the Dover Garrison.

4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion Connaught Rangers

The 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion Connaught Rangers were in Boyle on the outbreak of war and remained in Ireland until November 1917, first at Queenstown (August 1914), Bere Island (from March 1915), Fermoy (from February 1916) and finally Crosshaven (from May 1916). In November 1917 the battalion moved to Scotland, specifically Nigg in Perthshire. In early 1918 the battalion moved to Fort George and in May 1918 the 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion Connaught Rangers was absorbed into the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion Connaught Rangers.

5th (Service) Battalion Connaught Rangers

The 5th (Service) Battalion Connaught Rangers were formed in Dublin in August 1914 as part of Kitchener's New Army. The following month the battalion moved to Kilworth as part of the 29th Brigade, 10th Division. Staying in Ireland, the battalion moved to Dublin in October 1914 and the Curragh in January 1915 before moving to England, arriving at Hackwood Park, Basingstoke in May 1915. On 9th July 1915 the battalion embarked at Devonport bound for Mudros, on the small Greek island of Lemnos, arriving there on about 25th July 1915. Mudros was only a staging post and on 5th August 1915 the battalion arrived at Anzac, the 29th Brigade being at time attached to the Australian and New Zealand Corps. The stay was short-lived and on 30th September 1915 the battalion they returned to Mudros before embarking for Salonika on 5th October 1915. In September 1917 the battalion moved to Egypt and in April 1918 it left the 10th Division and moved to France, arriving in Marseilles on 1 June 1918. Between 7 June and 28 June it was part of the 14th Division and on 22nd July 1918 was further transferred to the 197th Brigade, 66th Division at Serqueux. On 25th August 1918 the battalion transferred again, this time to the 199th Brigade, 66th Division. On 11th November 1918 it was at Sivry, east of Avesnes, France.

6th (Service) Battalion Connaught Rangers

The 6th (Service) Battalion Connaught Rangers was formed at Kilworth in September as part of

Kitchener's New Army. It remained in Ireland, at Fermoy, as part of the 47th Brigade, 16th Division until moving to Blackdown, England in September 1915. On 18th December 1915 the battalion landed at Havre, France. It stayed in France until 13th April 1918 when it was reduced to a training cadre. Five officers and 281 men were transferred to the 2nd Battalion Leinster Regiment. The cadre was disbanded on 3rd August 1918 after brief periods in the 34th and 39th Divisions.

Connaught Rangers - We Will Remember Them

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