

# The King's Own Scottish Borderers

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**On 18 March 1689**, David Leslie, the 3rd Earl of Leven, raised the regiment in the city of Edinburgh, Scotland. The regiment fought at the Battle of Killiecrankie (1689), then served in Ireland (1691) and Flanders (1692-97).

In the **18th century**, the regiment fought at Sherrifmuir (1715) and Culloden, Scotland (1745), and served abroad in Gibraltar (1726-36), West Indies (1740-43), and Flanders (1744-45). In 1751, the regiment was named the **25th Regiment of Foot**, and served in the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), Minorca (1768-80), Gibraltar (1782), the French Revolutionary War (1793-1797), Grenada (1795), and Holland (1799).

**19th century.** The 1st Battalion served in Egypt (1801), West Indies (1809-11, 1837-39), Ireland (1837-39), South Africa (1840-42), India (1847-52), Gibraltar (1858-63), Malta (1863-64), Canada (1865-66), Ireland (1872-75), India (1875-81), Afghanistan (1878-80), and Burma (1889-90). The 2nd Battalion served in Ceylon (1863-68), India (1869-75), Sudan (1888), and India (1890-1903).

In 1881, when territorial titles and regimental districts were introduced, the regiment became 'The King's Own Borderers,' and moved to their depot at Berwick-upon-Tweed. The regiment became '**The King's Own Scottish Borderers**' in 1887.

**20th century.** The 1st and 3rd battalions fought the Boers in South Africa (1900-1902). In August 1914, the 1st and 2nd battalions and the 4th and 5th territorial battalions were mobilized. During **World War I**, the regiment raised fourteen battalions.

1st Battalion, KOSB  
2nd Battalion, KOSB  
3rd (Reserve) Battalion, KOSB  
1/4th (Border) Battalion, KOSB  
2/4th (Border) Battalion, KOSB  
3/4th (Border) Battalion, KOSB  
1/5th (Dumfries and Galloway) Battalion, KOSB  
2/5th (Dumfries and Galloway) Battalion, KOSB  
3/5th (Dumfries and Galloway) Battalion, KOSB  
6th Battalion, KOSB  
7th Battalion, KOSB  
8th Battalion, KOSB  
9th (Reserve) Battalion, KOSB  
10th Battalion, KOSB

87th Brigade, 29th Division  
13th Brigade, 5th Division  
**Replacement Training Battalion for 1st and 2nd KOSB**  
155th South Scottish Brigade, 52nd Lowland Division  
194th Brigade, 65th Division  
**Replacement Training Battalion for 4th KOSB**  
155th South Scottish Brigade, 52nd Lowland Division  
194th Brigade, 65th Division  
**Replacement Training Battalion for 5th KOSB**  
28th Brigade, 9th Division  
46th Brigade, 15th Scottish Division  
**Replacement Training Battalion for 6th, 7th, and 8th KOSB**  
120th Brigade, 40th Division

Battalions fought at Mons (1914), Gallipoli (1915), Loos (1915), Somme (1916), Arras (1917), Ypres (1917), Cambrai (1917), Vimy Ridge (1917), and Second Marne (1918). Due to losses at Loos, the 7th and 8th battalions were combined, 7th/8th KOSB, for the remainder of the war.

Between the wars, the 1st Battalion served in India, Malta and Palestine. The 2nd Battalion served in Ireland, Egypt, Hong Kong, and India.

**Regimental Badge.** Upon a saltire, the castle of Edinburgh, ensigned with the royal crest. The motto reads, "In veritate religionis confido," "I trust in the truth of my belief," and "Nisi dominus frustra," "In vain without the Lord." **Regimental Tartans.** Leslie and Royal Stewart.

**World War II.** 1st KOSB sailed to France in 1939 with the British Expeditionary Force. In June 1940, they were evacuated from Dunkirk. They returned to France on D-Day, 6 June 1944, and fought in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany.

3rd Division  
9th Brigade  
2nd Lincolnshire Regiment  
**1st KOSB**  
2nd Royal Ulster Rifles

**2nd KOSB** sailed for Burma in 1943 and fought at Imphal and along the Irrawaddy River until the defeat of Japan in 1945.

7th (Indian) Division  
89th Brigade  
**2nd KOSB**  
7/2 Punjab (later 1/11 Sikh)  
4/8 Gurka Rifles

**4th and 5th KOSB** were evacuated through Cherbourg in June 1940. In 1944, the battalions fought through the Low Countries and into Germany.

52nd (Lowland) Division  
155th Infantry Brigade  
7/9th Royal Scots  
**4th (The Border) Battalion, KOSB**  
**5th (Dumfriesshire) Battalion, KOSB**

**6th KOSB** landed at France in 1944 and fought in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

15th (Scottish) Division  
44th (Lowland) Infantry Brigade  
8th Royal Scots  
6th Royal Scots Fusiliers  
**6th (The Border) Battalion, KOSB**

**7th KOSB** landed at Arnhem in 1944 in Operation 'Market-Garden.' Of the (765) men who landed, only (4) officers and (72) men were evacuated after the battle.

1st Airborne Division  
Airlanding Brigade  
1st Border  
2nd South Staffordshire  
**7th (Galloway) Battalion, KOSB**

Since **World War II**, 1st KOSB has served in Palestine (1945-1947), Korea (1951), Malaya (1955-59), and Aden (1962-64). 1st KOSB has rotated regularly to Northern Ireland since 1970. In 1991, 1st KOSB served in the Gulf War. The **Kings Own Scottish Borderers** retains an unbroken lineage of over 300 years of service.