

**The 1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Liverpool  
Regiment and the Great War –  
the experience of a Territorial Battalion  
and its Home Towns**

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**A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the  
University's requirements for the Degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy**

**June 2004**

**Coventry University in collaboration with  
National Museums on Merseyside**

## **ABSTRACT**

This is a study of the importance and significance of community identity to a fighting unit in the First World War. It is an analysis of the relevance of the local communities to the unit and its combat effectiveness; the role played by the unit in the local communities' involvement in the War; and the post-War ramifications of this relationship. In focusing on 1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Kings Liverpool Regiment, a Territorial battalion based in Bootle, Southport and the surrounding area of south west Lancashire, the thesis follows a typical Territorial unit and its home towns from recruitment and establishment to demobilisation and beyond.

A wide range of primary sources have been examined including local newspapers, local Council records, official War Diaries of the various units, battle reports and private papers of several of the combatants. In developing existing historiography the study is also believed to present new perspectives on several aspects of the War including the Lusitania riots; the battles of Festubert, 1915, and Givenchy, 1918; and the role of charities in post-War reconstruction work. It also raises general issues about the role of the Territorial Force and draws attention to several gaps in the social and military historiography of the War.

The thesis concludes that local and community identity contributed significantly towards the 1/7<sup>th</sup> Kings' morale, organisation and hence battle effectiveness. This contribution initially stemmed from the local recruits themselves but was actively nurtured and encouraged by commanders at Battalion, Brigade and Divisional level throughout the War. It also establishes that by putting the local Battalion at the centre of its concerns, the rather disparate communities were able to organise, coalesce and maximise their War effort and support. Finally, it demonstrates in the post-War years, that, despite the fluctuations in this mutually important relationship, the local identification with the Battalion was maintained in memorialisation, remembrance and reconstruction.

## CONTENTS

Dedication	iv
Acknowledgements	v
<u>Chapter One</u> – Introduction and Historiography	1
The study of identity on two Fronts	4
Structure of the thesis	10
The military context	13
Society at War	18
Primary Sources	24
Conclusion	33
<u>Chapter Two</u> – Bootle and Southport: Summer 1914 – Spring 1915	
Introduction	35
Pre-War economy and society	38
The experience of women	47
Social composition, recruitment and training the Battalion	55
Lusitania	67
Conclusion	74
<u>Chapter Three</u> – Festubert 1915	
Introduction	76
1/7 <sup>th</sup> King's in France: March – May 1915	78
Festubert – '7 days in hell'	86
Conclusion	113
Epilogue	114
<u>Chapter Four</u> – Identity, Morale and Combat: the Somme 1916	
Introduction	115
Identity and morale	116
The local community and munitions	119
The Cast Iron Division - 1916	123
Deployment of the 1/7 <sup>th</sup> King's Battalion 1915-18	128
Battles of the Somme	133
Conclusion	148
<u>Chapter Five</u> – Identity, Discipline and Combat Effectiveness 1917-18	
Introduction	150
Dilution in the ranks and the preservation of local identity	151
Discipline matters	156
Third Battle of Ypres – 'our finest hour'	165
The Battle of the Lys, April 1918	172
The Final Advance	182
Conclusion	189
<u>Chapter Six</u> – The Armistice, memorialisation and community identity after the War	
Introduction	191
The Armistice, Peace Day and economic and social challenges	192
Community War Memorials	202
Festubert: Association and adoption	212
Festubert recherché	219
Conclusion	221
<u>Chapter 7</u> - Conclusions	222
Appendix – Tables	231
Bibliography and Sources	243

# DEDICATION



**Corporal (Thomas) Erlam Greaves**

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**26<sup>th</sup> April 1898 – 9<sup>th</sup> April 1918**

**Commemorated on the Loos Memorial Panel  
27-30, Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos-en-Gohelle, France**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the following people, in no special order, for their advice, guidance, assistance and tolerance: John Peters, John Wilson, Peter Simkins, Frank Crompton, Joy Squires, Simon Jones of the King's Gallery, Liverpool, Diana Spalton, Pam Hall, Garry Atterton, Pete Threlfall, Eric Greaves, Mr. R Haviland, Mr. J Blakeley, Louise Douglas of the *Southport Visiter*, Janet and Robert Gregson, Richard Halsall, the Earl Derby, Eleanor Ratcliffe, Marion Franklin, Cyril Pearce, Catherine Hemelryk, Mrs. A Teale, Mr. A F Atkinson, Mr. K. Baldwin, Major A S G. Dymond, M Claude Lefebre, M Jean-Luc Gibot, Mr. R Rymer, Jill Baldwin, Paul Griffith, Laurie Gregory, Rachel Hall, Roy Buckland, Peter Fennell, Alan and Adele Coles, the staff at Southport and Crosby Libraries (Sefton Borough Council), and staff at Liverpool Record Office, Lancashire Record Office, the Imperial War Museum, the National Army Museum, the Liddle Collection, the Public Record Office, the British Library at Colindale, and Dorothy Gregson, nee Greaves.