



## THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

**“ More battle honours on its colours  
than any other regiment of the line.”**



# LET'S MARK AND HONOUR THE GLORIOUS GLOSTERS' FAMOUS PLACE IN THE NATION'S DEFENCE OF THE REALM



## THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT MEMORIAL



Whilst there have been individual memorials around the county, and that includes probably the best small military museum in the country based in Gloucester, the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, there has never been a formal memorial celebrating the whole life of this famous Regiment from 1694-1994. A team of veterans and volunteers seek, with your help, to rectify that.

Our vision is a Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) and to achieve this, we have already raised some £20,000 against the required target of £60,000. If we succeed, we believe that due recognition can then be given on a national and international scale to the contribution made by the Gloucestershire Regiment to the crown and country for 300 years.

Please support us in our Vision, however large or small your gift may be.



*National Memorial Arboretum (NMA)*



# THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

The Gloucestershire Regiment, commonly referred to as the Glosters, was a line infantry regiment of the British Army from 1881 until 1994. It traced its origins to Colonel Gibson's Regiment of Foot raised in 1694, which later became the 28th (North Gloucestershire) Regiment of Foot. The regiment was formed by the merger of the 28th Regiment with the 61st (South Gloucestershire) Regiment of Foot. It inherited the unique privilege in the British Army of wearing a badge on the back of its headdress as well as the front, an honour won by the 28th Regiment when it fought in two ranks back-to-back at the Battle of Alexandria in 1801. At its formation the regiment comprised two regular, two militia and two volunteer battalions, and saw its first action during the Second Boer War.

Before the First World War, the regiment's four auxiliary battalions were converted to three Territorial Force battalions and a reserve battalion, and a further 18 battalions were added to the regiment's establishment during the war. Sixteen battalions of the regiment saw active service in France and Flanders, Italy, Gallipoli, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia and Salonika, losing a total of 8,100 men killed and winning 72 different battle honours. Four awards of the Victoria Cross (VC) were made to soldiers serving with the regiment.

The wartime battalions were disbanded as the war ended, and just before the Second World War, two of the territorial battalions were re-purposed and ceased to have any affiliation with the regiment. On the eve of the war, the remaining territorial battalion was duplicated, and another five battalions were raised on the outbreak of war, though most of these were disbanded or re-purposed as the war progressed. Four battalions saw active service under the regiment's colours during the war. The 2nd and 5th Battalions both fought in the Battle of France and, after being lost almost in its entirety during the Battle of Dunkirk, the re-formed 2nd Battalion landed at Gold Beach on D-Day and fought in the Allied campaign in North-West Europe. The 1st Battalion was involved in the retreat from Rangoon during the Japanese conquest of Burma, and the 10th Battalion saw active service in the defeat of Japanese forces during the Burma Campaign 1944–45.

After the Second World War, the hostilities-only battalions were disbanded and the 1st and 2nd Battalions were amalgamated, leaving the regiment with one regular and one Territorial Army battalion. It achieved fame during the Korean War when the 1st Battalion held out for three nights against overwhelming odds during the Battle of the Imjin River. The stand, described by the commander of the United Nations forces in Korea at the time as "the most outstanding example of unit bravery in modern war", prevented the encirclement of other United Nations forces, for which the regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and earned the nickname The Glorious Glosters. Two men serving with the regiment were awarded the VC for their actions in the battle. **Following on from amalgamation the 1st Battalion in the Korean War fought with such gallantry that they were awarded the honour of wearing the US Presidential Citation and the Solmari Streamer was carried on the Regimental Colour.**

In the latter half of the 20th century, the regiment was reduced to a single regular battalion and completed tours of duty around the world, including Germany, Africa, the Caribbean, Central America and the Middle East, as well as in Northern Ireland during The Troubles.

Shortly after celebrating its tercentenary in 1994, the regiment, which carried more battle honours on its colours than any other regiment of the line, was merged with the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment to form the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. The new regiment inherited the back badge, and when it too was merged in 2007, it passed the tradition on to its successor, The Rifles.



**If you would like to donate towards the Gloucestershire Regiment Memorial you can do so by:**

- a. Sending money by Bank Credit Transfer to The Gloucestershire Regiment Memorial at NatWest Bank, Sort Code 55 50 11, Account Number 57747148**
- b. Send a cheque made payable to The Gloucestershire Regiment Memorial to either Len Keeling or Richard James**
- c. Contact details are:  
Richard James, Picton House, Waterloo Road, Caythorpe, Lincolnshire NG32 3DX  
Len Keeling, 13 Sunnyside Park, Caines, Worcester WR3 7SP**



[www.glostersistemorial.org](http://www.glostersistemorial.org)

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