

THE SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO 1950

MASSED P.T. DISPLAY

by

4th Royal Tank Regt.
Armoured Replacement Group
44 Company RASC (Tk Tptr)

MUSIC

By the band of the Lancashire Fusiliers conducted by
Mr. J. HAWORTH ARCM.

4th ROYAL TANK REGIMENT

Tanks were used for the first time in action on 15 September 1916 at FLEURS during the Battle of the Somme; manned by crews of C and D Companies, Heavy Section, Machine Gun Corps.

In November 1916 "D" Company became "D" Battalion, Heavy Section, Machine Gun Corps and it is to this unit that the 4th Royal Tank Regiment trace their origin.

On 20 November 1917 in the Battle of Cambrai, Tanks were used for the first time in large numbers (474 in all) and on ground of their own choosing. This is now celebrated as the Regimental Day.

The Battalion crossed with B.E.F. to France and took heavy toll of the Germans at Arras. and were evacuated from Dunkirk.

Later the Battalion joined 1st Army Tank Brigade in the Western Desert in 1941, and one Capt "Pip" Gardner was awarded the V.C.

After the fall of Tobruk in 1942 the Battalion remained in suspended animation until March 1945, when their identity was revived with its passing to 144 Regt R.A.C. (formerly 8th Bn The East Lancashire Regt).

The Battalion were first to cross the Rhine in March 1945 when they carried infantry of 51st Highland Division in Buffaloes.

In 1946 the Battalion served in Italy from where they moved to Egypt in 1947.