

THE ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILIERS

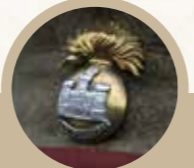
The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was an Irish infantry regiment of the British Army formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 27th (Inniskilling) Regiment of Foot and the 108th Regiment of Foot. Nicknamed the 'Skins' at the outbreak of the Great War the regiment had two regular battalions. In August the 2nd Battalion was first to see action in the Battle of Le Cateau on the 26th of that month. The 1st Battalion participated in the Landing at Cape Helles on the Gallipoli peninsula in April 1915 with the 29th Division. There were also nine New Army battalions raised seeing service with the 36th (Ulster) Division and the 16th (Irish) Division on the Western Front and at Gallipoli, the Macedonian Campaign and Palestine. The soldier you see here is a typical soldier of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers as he would have looked in August 1914.



Shoulder straps sewn on and fastened with brass buttons, with space for a brass regimental shoulder title.



Water bottle carrier.

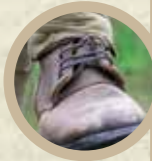


Stiffened peak cap with a leather strap, brass fitting, secured with two small brass buttons.



Wide Belt
Left and right ammunition pouches which held 75 rounds each.
Left and right braces.
Bayonet frog and attachment for the entrenching tool handle.
An entrenching tool head in web cover.
Water bottle carrier.
Small haversack and large pack.
Mess tin worn attached to one of the packs.
Inside haversack were personal items, knife and when on active service, unused portions of the daily ration. The large pack was normally kept for carrying the soldier's greatcoat and or a blanket.

1902 Pattern Service Dress Tunic and Trousers: thick woollen tunic, dyed khaki. Two breast pockets for personal items and the soldiers AB64 Pay Book, two smaller pockets for other items, an internal pocket sewn under the right flap of the lower tunic where a Field Dressing was kept.



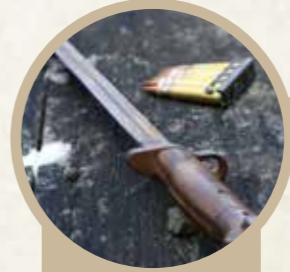
Puttees were worn round the ankles and calves. Ammunition boots with hobnail soles. These were brown in colour and polished black.

Short Magazine Lee-Enfield (SMLE) Mk III/III*

The SMLE is one of the most famous rifles ever produced. Evolving from the 1895 .303" Magazine, Lee-Enfield or MLE, the SMLE became synonymous for its reliability and rapid rate of fire. Variants of the SMLE would serve with militaries around the world including the British Armed Forces and the Irish Defence Forces well into the latter half of the 20th century. To this day it can still be found in service around the world.

Shorter and lighter than the MLE the SMLE Mk I was introduced in 1904 but modifications were to be made. The Mk III was introduced in 1907 along with a Pattern 1907 (P'07) Sword bayonet and featured a simplified rear sight arrangement and a fixed, rather than a bolt-head-mounted sliding, charger guide. The design of the hand guards and the magazine were also improved. Most significantly the chamber was adapted to fire the new Mk VII High Velocity spitzer .303" ammunition.

The SMLE Mk III proved expensive to produce. In late 1915 the Mk III* was introduced. This variant incorporated several changes, the most prominent of which was the deletion of the magazine cut-off and the long range volley sights. A trained soldier in British service was expected to fire 15 aimed shots a minute with the SMLE.



Bayonet.



10-round magazine, loaded with 5-round charger clips.



.303" Mk VII SAA Ball Ammunition.



SMLE Specifications
Weight: 4 kg (8.8 lb)
Length: 44 in (1,118 mm)
Barrel length: 25.2 in (640 mm)
Cartridge: .303" Mk VII SAA Ball
Action: Bolt-action
Rate of fire: 20-30 aimed shots per minute
Muzzle velocity: 744 m/s (2,441 ft/s)
Effective firing range: 550 yd (503 m)
Maximum firing range: 3,000 yd (2,743 m)
Feed system: 10-round magazine, loaded with 5-round charger clips
Sights: Sliding ramp rear sights, fixed-post front sights, dial long-range volley sights; telescopic sights on sniper models.