Walter John Preston's 1st. WW Experience

Mike,

If lucky, it is possible to gain a great deal of information about soldiers who fought in the 1st. WW but if unlucky the opposite applies. In the case of your father, I have not been able to draw down much personal information which could have covered such areas as;

His:

- signing on papers (includes information on his height, weight and general state of health plus information about where he lived)
- service record noting the campaigns he was involved in and the dates of engagement and disengagement, also if and when he was transferred to other companies, regiments, etc.
- pension entitlement (relating to any disability he may have incurred that would affect him for the rest of his life)
- disciplinary record (self-explanatory)

I have managed to find his **awards and decoration card** which is attached.

This is also a disappointment because it fails to record:

- his time with the Leicestershire's
- The Military Medal and the Medaille Militaire (this may be understandable because of the fact it was given by the French)

I will keep looking, there are some avenues I have not yet explored but, as I said, it may be that your dad's records were destroyed during the 2nd. WW along with millions of others.

The Good News

What I have managed to find out is information on the Loyal North Lancashires and their campaign experiences. I have produced a summary below and also copied in some very interesting details from a number of web sites.

Below you will see a summary of the theatres of war in which the Regiment was involved. I don't know when you dad transferred to the Loyals, though given what you have said about him being involved in East Africa it sounds as though it was fairly early on because they ended up in South Africa in May 1916.

http://www.1914-1918.net/loyals.htm

2nd Battalion The Loyal North Lancashire

August 1914 : in Bangalore, India.
3 November 1914 : Landed at Tanga, German East Africa, with the 27th Indian Brigade. Moved to Mombasa on 7 November and commenced operations in East Africa.
Moved in May 1916 to South Africa, to allow for recovery from mass ill-health.
18 January 1917 : Moved to Egypt, landing at Suez.
14 April 1917: attached to 232nd Brigade in 75th Division. The Battalion was moved in rapid succession to the 233rd and 234th Brigades of the same Division, and then detached as a result of a medical board on 9 August 1917. Proceeded to Sidi Bashr and then placed onto Lines of Communication at Gaza.