





14 MAY 1689 TO 14 MAY 1968



1st Battalion  
The  
Cameronians

(Scottish Rifles)

The uniform, arms and equipment which Sentinel John Thompson wore and carried at Dunkeld in 1689



*The First Cameronian*

## AN ACROSTIK UPON HIS NAME

W ell, all must stoop to death, none dare gainsay.  
I f it command, of force we must obey:  
L ife, Honour, Riches, Glory of our State  
L yes at the disposing Will of Fate:  
I f't were not so, why then by sad loud thunder  
A nd sulph'rous crashes, which rends the skies asunder  
M ust a brave Cleland by a sad destiny

C ulled out a Victime for his country die.  
L o, here's a divine hand, we find in all,  
E ternal Wisdom has decreed his fall.  
L et all lament it, while loud fame reports,  
A nd sounds his praise in Country, Cities, Courts.  
N o old forgetful Age shall end his story,  
D eath cuts his days but could not stain his Glory.

Written to the first Commanding Officer by an unknown author, 1698,  
and included in a collection of Lieutenant-Colonel Cleland's poetry.



James, Earl of Angus, who raised the 26th Cameronian Regiment in 1689 and was killed at the battle of Steinkirk in 1692

# the

**O**N this day, May 14th 1968, at Douglas, the men of the 1st Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) will parade for the last time. Their final act will be to take part in a Conventicle. The service will not start until the conducting minister has been told by the Picquet Officer that 'There is no enemy in sight'. As you look around, you will see at each point of the compass sentries on patrol. As the men of the Battalion bow their heads in prayer they will be firmly holding their weapons.

## The Covenanters

This simple ceremony will symbolise nearly three centuries of devoted service by Cameronians to their country. When the Regiment was first raised on this day two hundred and seventy nine years ago, religious toleration was unknown. There existed in Scotland at this time a large number of Covenanters. These were men and women who stood for the principles laid down in the National Covenant of 1638 and the Solemn League and Covenant of 1643. Those who signed the Covenants were pledged to maintain the principles of the Protestant Reformation and the presbyterian faith and discipline.

Presbyterianism did not find favour with the Stewart kings, and the crisis came when Charles II was established on the throne in 1660. Charles II had repeatedly signed the Covenants and sworn to be faithful to them but he set himself at once to make them null and void. He forced the Scottish Parliament to impose the episcopal form of Church government upon the Scottish people and the Covenants were declared to be unlawful.

Because of oppression the Covenanters were forced to worship in the open air in gatherings known as Conventicles. Due to the danger of attack by Royalist soldiers they began to carry arms and to post picquets in order to ensure their protection during such meetings.

In 1679 dissention became open rebellion. But after an initial victory over Graham of Claverhouse at Drumclog the Covenanters were routed at Bothwell Brig.

## Richard Cameron

One of the most ardent and active Covenanters was Richard Cameron who was born in Falkland in Fifeshire about 1648. In Holland during the brief rebellion, he returned to Scotland in 1680. In that year at Sanquhar in Dumfriesshire he made the 'Declaration of Sanquhar'. Through this Cameron, on behalf of himself and all that might adhere to him, solemnly disowned Charles Stewart and declared war against him. This was, of course, treason and with a price of 5,000 marks on his head he was shortly trapped by Royalist forces and slain in the ensuing skirmish.

## The Cameronians

The followers of Richard Cameron were naturally known as 'Cameronians'. They were, generally speaking, covenanters of the strictest and most thorough-going type. Eight years after Cameron's death the 'Bloodless Revolution' exiled the Stewarts and placed William of Orange on the throne. William pursued a tolerant policy and appointed a commission which fixed presbyterianism as the national form of Church government in Scotland.

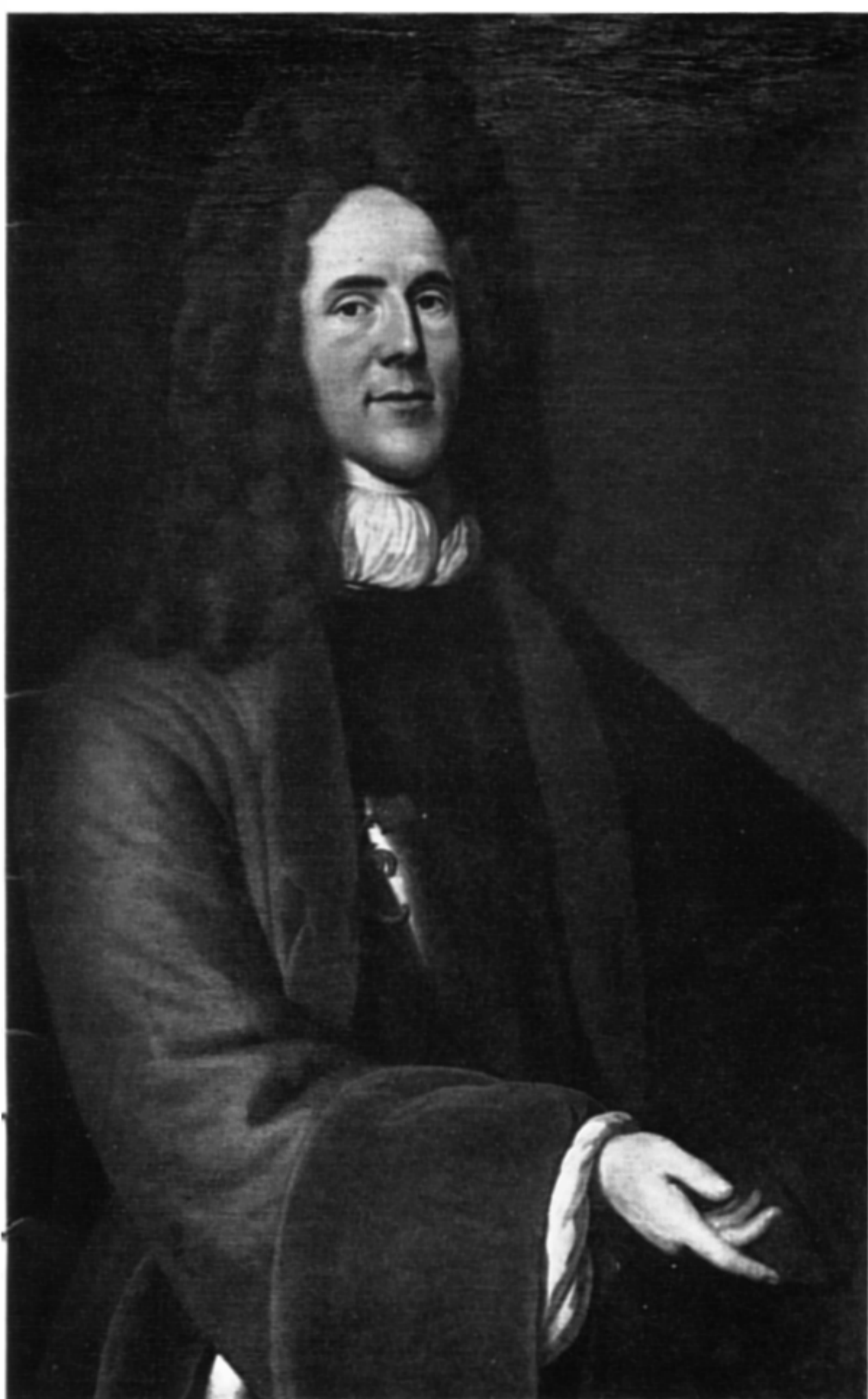
## The Cameronian Regiment

When Graham of Claverhouse raised the standard of the exiled Stewarts in the Highlands, the Cameronians were divided in opinion as to whether they should take up arms under William. The majority are said to have been against enlistment but a strong party was in favour, and it was out of this party that the Cameronian Regiment was formed on 14th May 1689, at Douglas Dale, in Lanarkshire.

The Regiment's first Colonel was the Earl of Angus who was then only 18 years old. The appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel was held by William Cleland who was a remarkable character and a man of many parts. He was a scholar and a poet but had also played a decisive part in the Covenanters' victory at Drumclog.

John Blackader, a lieutenant when the 26th was raised in 1689, later commanded the regiment. From the painting in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

# 26th



Initially the Regiment was organised on the model of a presbyterian congregation rather than on normal military lines. The men were puritans in faith and life. They insisted that the most rigorous discipline should be maintained among them, and that their Officers should be men whom in conscience 'they could submit to'.

The Highland Army under Claverhouse, whose attire was described by Cleland in a mock poem on the Highland Host thus:

'Their head, their necks, their legs, their thighs.

Are influenced by the skies,

Without a clout to interrupt them.

They need not strip them when they whip them.

Nor loose their doublet when they're hanged.'

defeated a royalist army at Killiecrankie and marched southwards. The newly formed Regiment was sent to Dunkeld to bar the Highlanders' progress. On August 21st 1689 the Highlanders attacked with about 5,000 men. Soon much of the town was burning and the opponents were locked in hand-to-hand fighting. The Cameronians' powder ran low and men had to be employed in making bullets from the lead roof of the Marquis of Atholl's house. Cleland was killed at an early stage and also the Second-in-Command Major Henderson.

Suddenly the Highlanders' attack slackened and soon their whole army was in full retreat northwards. On realising what was happening 'The defenders of Dunkeld had raised a great shout and thrown their caps in the air, and then all joined in offering up praise to God'. This, the Cameronians' first battle, had been a magnificent feat of arms. As Lord Macaulay wrote 'The Cameronians had every reason to be joyful and thankful, for they had finished the war.'

In 1691 the Regiment, known as Angus's, after the name of its Colonel as was the custom in those days, left Scotland for Flanders. There, fighting in the Low Countries, they are recorded as 'displaying a stern valour'. At Steinkirk in 1692 the Earl of Angus fell at the head of his Regiment.

A description of the Cameronians in the early days said 'The Cameronians are strictly religious and ever act upon that principle, making the war part of their religion and converting state policy into points of conscience. They fight as they pray, and pray as they fight, making every battle a new exercise of their faith, and believe that, in such a case, they are, as it were, under the banner of Christ. If they fall in battle they die in their calling, as martyrs to the good cause and believe that in thus shedding their blood they finish the work of their salvation. From such maxims and articles of faith, the Cameronians may be slain, never conquered. Great numbers of them have lost their lives, but few or none of them ever yielded'.

The Regiment had been raised initially from among deeply religious men for a specific reason. That task having been successfully completed and given the continual need of any Regiment for recruits it would be surprising had the religious nature of the regiment not been diluted by time. John Blackader, who fought at Dunkeld as a Lieutenant and who later commanded the Regiment, thought little of the morals and religious faith of Marlborough's army, and presumably his own men

are to be included in his general description. His diary for 30th April 1704 had the entry 'Marching all day, and alas, involved in sin by company, and by idle discourse. A sad place to be in an army on Sabbath, where nothing is to be heard but oaths and profane language'.

From this we can gather that since the days of Marlborough to the present time the men of the Cameronians were first and foremost soldiers. Since their historic defence of Dunkeld, the Cameronians have had their full share of war. They took part in all of Marlborough's campaigns in the low countries and in the march to the Danube. They won special renown at Blenheim. In 1727 the Regiment was engaged in one of the successful defences of Gibraltar. In the American War of Independence, the Cameronians were called upon to face much hardship and privation, and added to their already great reputation. In 1809 the Cameronians were with Sir John Moore in his masterly retreat to Corunna. In 1840 they took part in the campaign in China. During the next 70 years until the outbreak of the First World War the Regiment spent a total of 33 years in the British Isles and 24 years in India, Gibraltar, Canada and Bermuda. Malta and South Africa also saw the Cameronians during this period.

In 1881 Cardwell's reforms of the British Army linked the 26th Regiment with the 90th of Foot, The Perthshire Light Infantry.

At the start of the First World War the 1st Battalion of what was now known as The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) was in Scotland. The battle honours shown with the Order of Service give some idea of the fighting in which this and other Cameronian Battalions were involved during this struggle.

Between the two world wars the 1st Battalion served in Ireland, China, and India. The whole of the Second World War was spent in Burma and India and the Battalion played a prominent part in the Chindit campaign. After the war in 1947 this Battalion was placed in suspended animation but the second battalion was renumbered the 1st to carry on the traditions of both Battalions.

Since that date the Cameronians have seen action in Hong Kong; the Malayan Emergency; in Muscat and Oman and latterly in Aden where they served until February 1967. Contemporary accounts surely witness that the recent generations who have brought the Regiment's history to its sad conclusion have continued and upheld the reputation first won at Dunkeld.



The pipe-banner presented to the Regiment by its Colonel-in-Chief, His Majesty Gustav VI, Adolf, King of Sweden, in 1961





Top left: Nineteenth century silver goblets from two sets presented individually by various officers of the Regiment.

Top right: Late nineteenth century uniforms from the contemporary watercolour by O. Norie.

Below: One of the pair of 'St Vincent bowls' presented to the 90th by the Legislature of St Vincent 'to this Regiment as a Token of their Esteem and Regard. 1813' The bowls were made in that year by the fashionable London silversmith Paul Storr.



# the 26th

Staff List of the Officers and Sergeants in 1689  
and a map showing where the Regiment has been stationed.

**Regimental Colonel:**  
My Lord Angnes, Collonell

**Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel:**  
William Cleland

**Regimental Majority:**  
James Henryson (Henderson)

**Chaplain:**  
Alexander Shields

**1st Company**  
Captain James Cranston  
Ensign John Pringle  
Surgeon Gideon Elliot  
Sergeant Thomas Lyon  
Sergeant David Moffet

**2nd Company**  
Lieutenant John Stewart  
Ensign Allan Lochart  
Sergeant John Moir  
Sergeant Alexander Finnieison

**3rd Company**  
Lieutenant Henry Stewart  
Ensign John Boyd  
Sergeant Robert Stobo  
Sergeant John Bell

**4th Company**  
Captain John Ballantin  
Lieutenant Robert Tait  
Ensign Robert Gordon  
Sergeant Robert Dun  
Sergeant Patrick Douglas

**5th Company**  
Captain William Borthwick  
Lieutenant Nathaniel Johnston  
Ensign William Campbell  
Sergeant John Dalrymple  
Sergeant James Richmond

**6th Company**  
Captain James Caldwell  
Lieutenant Robert Stewart  
Ensign John Huie  
Sergeant William Orr  
Sergeant George Keess

**7th Company**  
Captain John Campbell, The Elder  
Lieutenant William Cathcart  
Ensign Thomas McCure  
Sergeant James Andersone  
Sergeant James Ross

**8th Company**  
Captain John Campbell of Moy  
Lieutenant Hutchesone  
Ensign Campbell  
Sergeant Hutchesone  
Sergeant Campbell

**9th Company**  
Captain James Gillchryst  
Lieutenant Adam Herkness  
Ensign Francis Hizlop  
Sergeant Robert Dalyell  
Sergeant Jo Dreden

**10th Company**  
Captain William Grieve  
Lieutenant Thomas Fairbairne  
Ensign George Young  
Sergeant John Armstronge  
Sergeant Robert Pringle

**11th Company**  
Captain John Hadow  
Lieutenant James Ballantin  
Ensign Andrew Dennistoun  
Sergeant Thomas Nilson  
Sergeant James Boyle

**12th Company**  
Captain William Hay

Lieutenant John Forrester  
Ensign William Hamilton  
Sergeant Alexander Hamiltone  
Sergeant Robert Robertstone

**13th Company**  
Captain William Herries  
Lieutenant John Blackader  
Ensign John Wilson  
Sergeant Thomas Stewart  
Sergeant James Corsan

**14th Company**  
Captain Robert Home  
Lieutenant Thomas Talzeor  
Ensign John Lang  
Sergeant John Adam  
Sergeant John McGrigor

**15th Company**  
Captain Daniel Ker of Kersland  
Lieutenant Ninian Oliphant  
Ensign Hew Ferguson  
Sergeant John Douglas  
Sergeant Abraham Oliphant

**16th Company**  
Captain James Lindsay  
Lieutenant Thomas Hadow  
Ensign John Kirkland

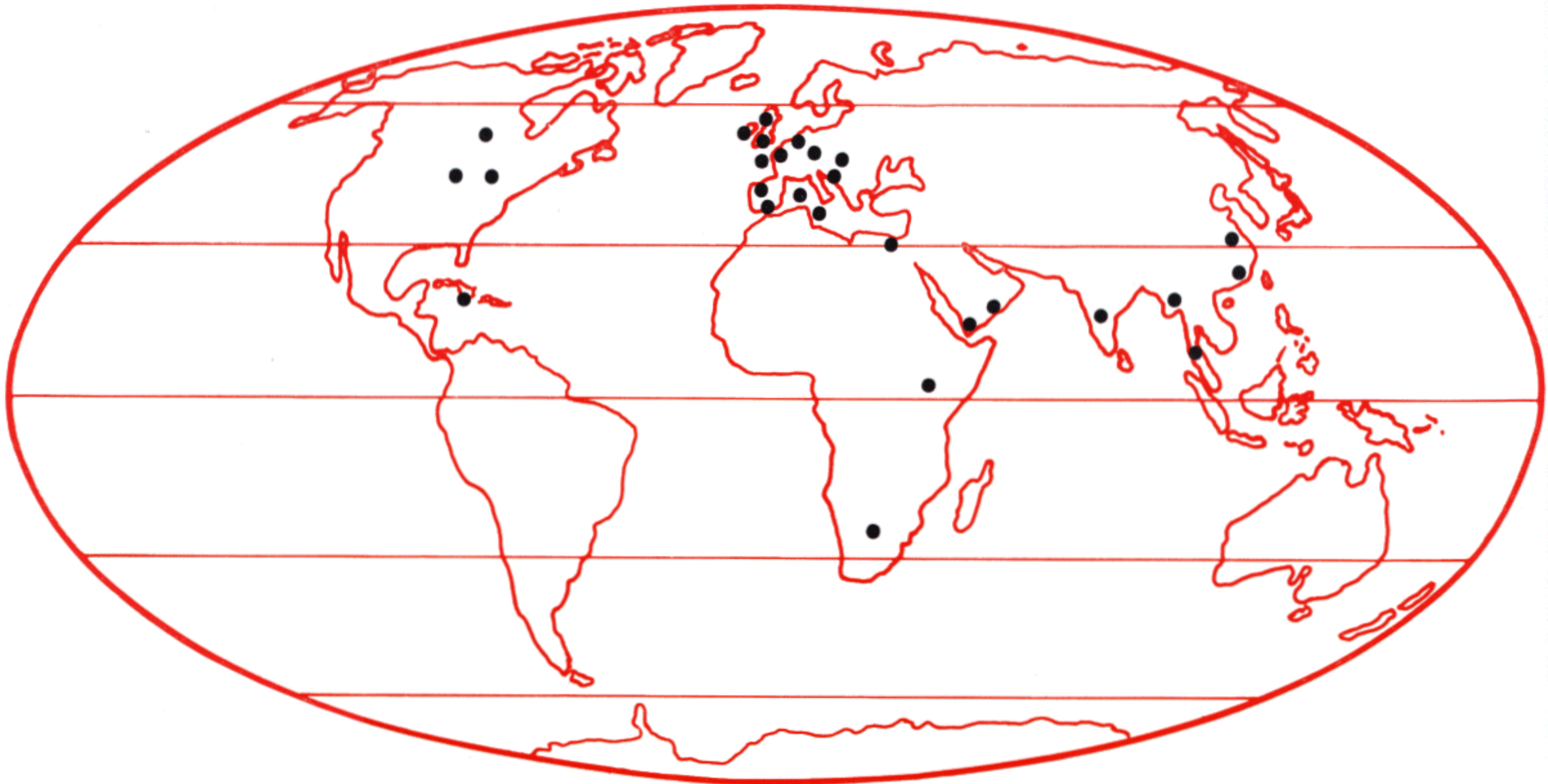
Sergeant William Spence  
Sergeant James Kie

**17th Company**  
Captain John Mathison  
Lieutenant John Haetson  
Ensign Robert Creightoun  
Sergeant William Lattimur  
Sergeant John Hoetson

**18th Company**  
Captain George Monroe  
Lieutenant Charles Dalzell  
Ensign James Campbell  
Sergeant Francis Baittie  
Sergeant Ninian Andersone

**19th Company**  
Captain Ninian Steel  
Lieutenant William Clerk  
Ensign Archibald Wilson  
Sergeant James Hunter  
Sergeant Andrew Forrest

**20th Company**  
Captain John Stevensone  
Lieutenant James Aikman  
Ensign Alexander Marshall  
Sergeant James Dick  
Sergeant Patrick Dreden.



1689-1691 Dunkeld/Scotland  
1691-1702 Low Countries  
1702-1713 Low Countries/  
Danube  
1713-1715 Ireland  
1715-1717 Preston/England  
1717 Scotland  
1718-1726 Ireland  
1727-1738 Gibraltar  
1738-1749 Minorca  
1749-1755 Ireland  
1755-1757 Scotland  
1757-1768 Ireland  
1768-1772 N. America  
1772-1780 Canada  
1780-1783 England  
1783-1787 Scotland  
1787-1800 Canada  
1801 Egypt

1801-1803 Scotland  
1805-1806 Germany  
1808 Spain  
1809 Walcheren  
1810 Jersey  
1811-1812 Spain  
1812-1822 Gibraltar  
1822-1827 Ireland  
1828-1840 India  
1840-1843 China  
1843-1845 Scotland  
1845-1850 Ireland  
1850-1853 Gibraltar  
1853-1854 Canada  
1854-1859 Bermuda  
1859-1861 Ireland  
1861-1865 England  
1865-1875 India  
1875-1876 England

1876-1878 Scotland  
1878-1880 England  
1880-1881 Malta  
1881 England

*becomes 1st Bn  
The Cameronians  
(Scottish Rifles)*  
1881-1886 England/Scotland  
1886-1891 Ireland  
1891-1894 England  
1895-1909 India  
1909-1912 South Africa  
1912-1914 Scotland  
1914-1918 France  
1919-1922 Ireland  
1922-1927 England  
1927 China  
1927-1930 England

1930-1931 Egypt  
1931-1939 India  
1939-1945 India/Burma  
1945-1946 Malaya/Singapore

*placed in  
'Suspended Animation' 1947  
2nd Bn becomes 1st Bn  
The Cameronians  
(Scottish Rifles)*  
1948-1949 Trieste  
1950 Hong Kong  
1950-1953 Malaya  
1953-1954 England  
1954-1956 Germany  
1957-1958 Bahrain/Muscat  
and Oman  
1958-1959 Kenya/Jordan  
1960 Scotland

1960-1964 Germany  
1964-1966 Scotland  
1966-1967 Aden  
1967-1968 Edinburgh

Staff List of Officers and Sergeants, 13 May 1794  
and a map showing where the Regiment has been stationed.

# the 90th

**Colonel Commandant:**  
Thomas Graham of Balgowan

**Lieutenant Colonels:**  
George Moncrieffe  
Rowland Hill

**Majors:**  
Kenneth McKenzie  
Hugh Houston

**Captains:**  
Peter Heron  
Henry Murray  
John Woodcock  
Walter Farquhar

**Lieutenants:**  
George Vigneaux  
George Perkin  
Fortiscue  
Robert Cholmondely  
Hon. Mark Napier  
Edward Hodges  
John McNair  
John Graham  
Grant

**Ensigns:**  
Francis Eddins (Adjutant)  
Alexander Drummond  
James McDonald  
William Cartwright  
William Austin  
Thomas Webster  
James Murray

**Quartermaster:**  
David Hopkins

**Surgeon:**  
William Russell

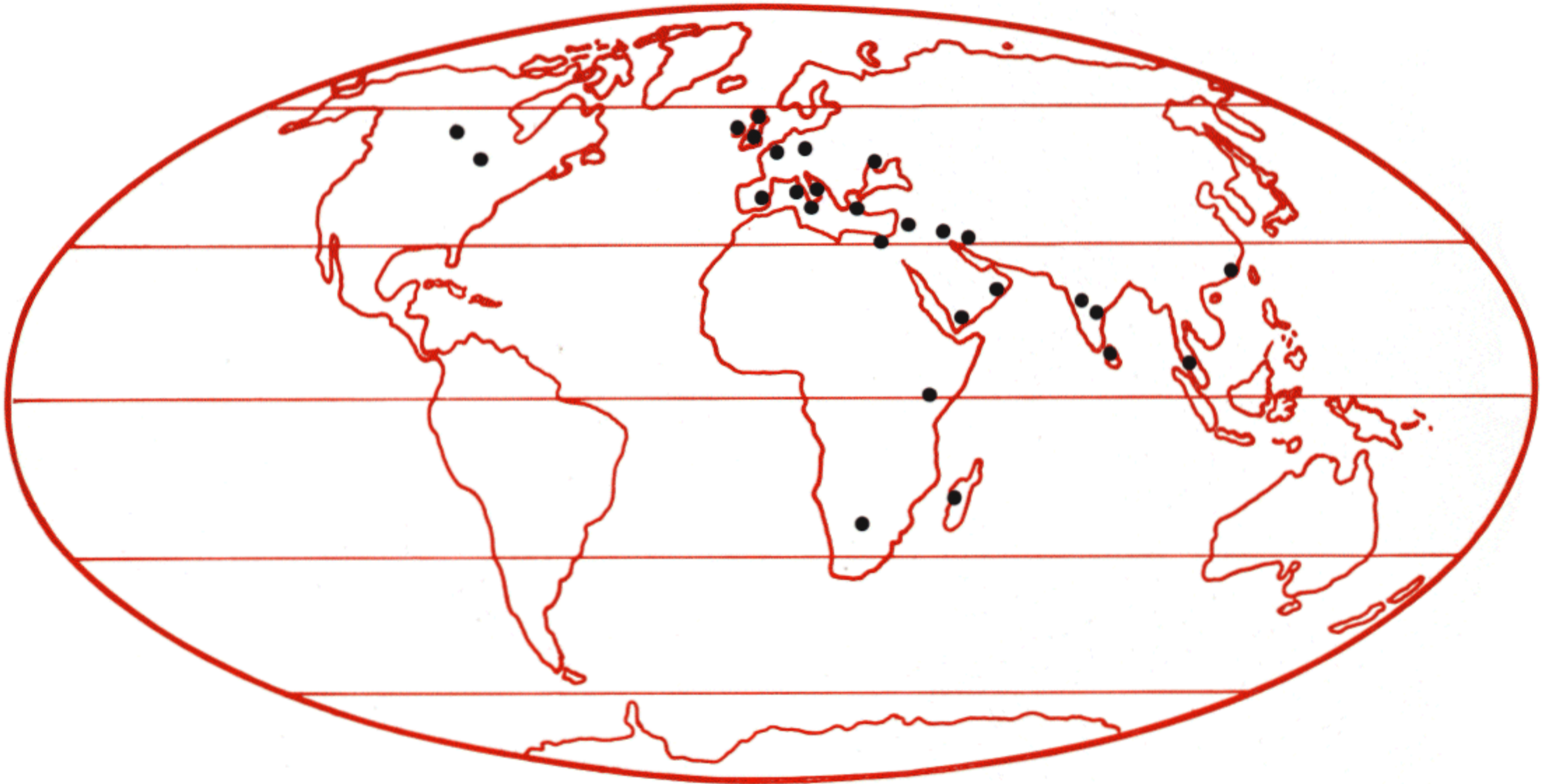
**Surgeon's Mate:**  
James Anderson

**Chaplain:**  
Reverend Cathcart

**Sergeants:**  
Thomas Air  
Thomas Amson  
Abram Britton  
Andrew Allison  
James Bradshaw  
Joseph Bradshaw

John Calder  
George Davis  
James Drysdale  
Nahum Fuller  
Alexander Gun  
William Henderson  
James Jaffery  
Thomas Kewley  
Alexander Kid  
William Kewley  
Thomas Lloyd  
Alexander Lesslie  
William McIntosh  
Smith McLean  
John Monro  
Joseph McLeish  
William Moor  
Christopher Mowfield  
Hugh Miller  
Charles McQuuggan  
Thomas Newton  
James Orrok  
Will Palmer  
Thomas Paterson  
George Pickerill  
Quail  
Mex Robertson

John Rashlay  
William Shuttleworth  
John Stevens  
Hugh Scot  
Henry Smith  
John Thorn  
Charles Whithead



1794-1797 Scotland/England  
1797-1801 Gibraltar  
1801 Egypt  
1801-1802 Malta  
1802-1805 Scotland  
1805-1814 W. India  
1814-1815 Canada  
1815-1816 France  
1816-1821 England  
1821-1830 Ionian Islands  
1830-1832 Scotland  
1832-1835 Ireland  
1835-1846 Ceylon  
1846-1848 S. Africa  
1848-1852 England  
1852-1854 Ireland  
1854-1856 Crimea  
1856-1857 England  
1857-1869 India

1869-1872 Scotland  
1872-1875 England  
1875-1877 Ireland  
1878-1879 S. Africa  
1879-1881 India  
*becomes 2nd Bn  
The Cameronians  
(Scottish Rifles)*  
1881-1895 India  
1895-1899 England  
1899 Scotland  
1899-1904 S. Africa  
1904-1906 Scotland  
1906-1911 England  
1911-1914 Malta  
1914-1918 France  
1919-1923 India  
1923-1924 Iraq

1924-1929 India  
1929-1933 Scotland  
1933-1936 England  
1936 Palestine  
1936-1939 England  
1939-1940 France  
1940-1942 England/Scotland/  
Ireland  
1942-1943 Middle East/  
Madagascar/  
India/Persia  
1943 Sicily  
1943-1944 Italy  
1944-46 France/Germany  
1946 England  
1946-1948 Gibraltar

*renumbered to become  
1st Bn The Cameronians  
(Scottish Rifles)*

# the 90th

**Below:** Thomas Graham of Balgowan who raised the 90th Perthshire Volunteers in 1794. Detail of the painting by Sir Thomas Lawrence in the Wellington Museum.

**Right:** Field-Marshal Lord Hill from a contemporary engraving.

**Below right:** Gainsborough's portrait of the Hon. Mrs Graham in the National Gallery of Scotland.



**T**HROUGHOUT its history, in keeping with Napoleon's remark that the British are 'a nation of shopkeepers', our country has never been keen to maintain a large standing army. Large-scale reductions, such as those which sound the death knell of our Regiment today, have been common in periods of peace. In 1881 reforms introduced by Cardwell joined together the 26th and 90th Regiments of Foot to form 'The Scotch Rifles Cameronians'. The two regiments so joined, whose new name was soon altered to 'The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)' could hardly have been more dissimilar in historical origins or in character. Because of this, with each regiment having its own traditions, the new name was the only aspect of the marriage which produced harmony. It is only to be expected that, when two such individualistic, proud and proven fighting corps were united, only time would produce the perfect bond which was duly effected.

The 90th, The Perthshire Light Infantry, had been raised in 1794 in circumstances as interesting as those of the formation of the other Battalion in 1689. It was in fact raised on behalf of a beautiful lady.

In 1792 Mary Graham died off Hyères in the Mediterranean. One of the most beautiful women of her time, four times painted by Gainsborough, she was married to Thomas Graham of Balgowan. Whilst being escorted by Graham through revolutionary France the coffin was desecrated by an unruly mob of 'half-drunk rascals'. This incident filled Graham with an unrelenting hatred of France. In 1794 he sought permission to raise his own regiment, having proved to his own satisfaction the previous year at Toulon that he was fitted to become a soldier. Graham himself coming from Perthshire, it was natural that his new regiment should be designated the 'Perthshire Volunteers'.

Colonel Graham initially tried to train his troops in the role of Light Infantry but it was not until 1815 that the Regiment officially became a Light Infantry Corps. Two items of the original uniform are of interest. The head-dress was a black leather helmet of



dragoon pattern and the trousers of a light grey cloth which gave rise to the well known nickname of 'The Perthshire Greybreeks'.

In 1795 the Regiment's first tour of active service took them to France and later they went to Gibraltar and Minorca. However it was not until 1801 that the first of many famous battle honours was won. At Mandora in Egypt the 90th formed the advanced guard of the right column of Abercromby's force. The French Cavalry, mistaking the 90th, because of their Dragoon Helmets, for dismounted cavalry, expected an easy victory. The 90th held their fire until the last moment and then let loose a volley with devastating effect. This 'compelled them to retreat with great precipitation, the discipline and steadiness of the 90th Regiment was most honourable and praiseworthy'.

The 90th then moved to Malta where a rumour became current that the regiment was to be disbanded. But fortunately this was not the case. The remainder of the Napoleonic Wars saw the regiment in Scotland, the West Indies and Canada. On return from the latter country it was heard that the 90th was to be formed officially into a Light Infantry Corps.

During the Crimean War, Private Alexander became the first man in the Regiment to win the Victoria Cross, just recently introduced. He was unfortunately killed during the Indian Mutiny where the regiment next saw action. Here also it was that another interesting event occurred. The 90th were part of Outram's force sent to relieve the garrison of Lucknow. But although they broke through into the town they were only able to reinforce the garrison but not able to relieve it. However on the voyage to India one ship with three companies had run aground and arrived late. These companies in consequence joined the main army moving towards Lucknow. When the siege was eventually lifted it was Wolseley of the 90th who entered the town first. On first meeting the besieged garrison he found 'to the astonishment of us all, it was Captain Tinling of my own regiment with his company behind him, thus the first greetings between besieged and besieger were between two companies of my battalion, a circumstance all the regiment was proud of'. During the Mutiny the 90th won six Victoria Crosses.

The Regiment further distinguished itself in 1879 during the Zulu War. At the conclusion of this war it returned to India and whilst there, became the 2nd Battalion of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). Queen Victoria specially selected the 90th for conversion to a Rifle Regiment by reason of its distinguished service as light infantry. It was from this date that the old red coat and the grey breeks were dispensed with. From now onwards both battalions were to wear the dark green doublets with black buttons and tartan trews, which have helped to make Scotland's only rifle regiment so distinctive.

During the Boer War the 2nd Scottish Rifles, as the 2nd Battalion was always known, put up another impressive performance. At Spion Kop the correspondent of the *Standard* described the part they played: 'The Scottish Rifles, who ultimately saved the position, came into action about 4 p.m. They came none too soon. The incessant fighting under such conditions would have tried

the morale of any troops but the Scottish Rifles.'

A notable feature of the 90th Regiment has been the number of distinguished and highly decorated officers who have served in its ranks. Sir Evelyn Wood was one of only three field-m Marshals in the history of the British Army to have been recipients of the Victoria Cross. Sir Evelyn Wood, Lord Wolseley and Lord Hill, give the 90th the unique distinction of having produced three Commanders-in-Chief of the Army. In 1872 the regiment was presented with new colours. At the ceremony laying up the old colours in the East Church of Perth, three officers on parade—Major Wood and Captains Rogers and Rennie—wore the Victoria Cross. This was to be the last set of new colours of the Regiment due to its becoming the 2nd Battalion of a Rifle Regiment through amalgamation with the 26th in 1881. Rifle Regiments do not carry colours.

The whole period of the First World War was spent by the 2nd Scottish Rifles in France. It was on 10th March 1915 that they took part in the battle which was to become the Regiment's proudest battle honour. This was the battle of Neuve Chapelle.

They had to assault a portion of the enemy line where the wire and other defences had been untouched by the preliminary bombardment.

'In the first gallant rush nearly every officer, including the Commanding Officer, was killed or wounded, and more than half the battalion fell. But there was no pause, the rest went on . . . and when relieved three days later, there remained one officer, 2 Lieutenant Sommervail, a youngster of two months standing, with Sergeant Major Chalmers and no more than 150 of the 900 other ranks who had gone into action.'

During the war an event of regimental interest occurred. The 1st and 2nd Battalions found themselves billeted closely together towards the end of 1916 and on St Andrew's Day a game of football was arranged between them followed by dinner for the officers of both battalions. This was the first time when the battalions had met since being linked together in 1881. They had served together once before. That had been with Abercromby in Egypt in 1801 but of course they had no idea then that they would subsequently be united. In 1927 both Battalions were in Great Britain for a few days and to mark this unique event, a dinner, attended by the Commanding Officers of the Regular and Territorial Army Battalions and of the Depot, together with a large number of serving and retired officers, was held in Hamilton.

Reference to the accompanying map will show the places visited by the Battalion after the end of the First World War.

At the outbreak of World War II they found themselves in England. They fought with the British Expeditionary Force in France and after Dunkirk spent two years in Britain. After a year in the Middle East they fought through Sicily, Italy, and France and at the finish of the War were in Germany. Moving to Gibraltar in 1947 they remained there for two years. It was while the Battalion was in Gibraltar in 1947 that the decision was taken to reduce all Regiments in the Army to one Regular Battalion. This resulted in the 2nd Battalion being renumbered the 1st and receiving a large

draft from the 1st Battalion which had been placed in suspended animation in Malaya. Thus the two regiments which had been linked for 66 years but which had each retained their individual character were finally merged to become the 1st Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) which has maintained and added further laurels to the proud records of both regiments until this day the fourteenth of May 1968.



**The Graham Snuff Box. A gold box presented to Lieut.-General Sir Thomas Graham containing the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh 'In grateful acknowledgement of most meritorious services . . . particularly in the glorious battle of Barrosa . . .' Dec. 1813. Acquired in 1967 for The Cameronians Trust by a small group of former officers of the regiment**





FORM OF PARADE AND ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE CONVENTICLE HELD AT CASTLE DANGEROUS, DOUGLAS DALE, ON 14TH MAY 1968, TO MARK THE DISBANDMENT OF THE

# 1st Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

3.25 pm

The 1st Battalion contingent, led by the Pipes and Drums (Bugle-Major R. MacDonald, Pipe-Major R. Gillies), will leave the West lodge of the Douglas Estates and march along Douglas Dale towards the Conventicle site.

3.33 pm

The 1st Battalion contingent will march past a saluting base on the Estate road located 120 yards from the Conventicle site. The salute is to be taken by His Grace The Duke of Hamilton (The Earl of Angus), KT, GCVO, AFC, lately Honorary Colonel 6/7th Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

The Battalion contingent will march straight to its Conventicle position, in line either side of the Communion Table. Meanwhile contingents provided by the regular officers and men of the Regiment serving outside the Battalion and by the retired officers and men of the Regiment will march past the saluting base.

The Pipes and Drums will play the contingents past to the Regimental Marches (Kenmuir's On and Awa' and The Gathering of the Grahams). They will then take up their position with the 1st Battalion contingent.

**During the approach march and the march past the congregation is requested to remain within the Conventicle enclosure and to be seated, where applicable, once the Pipes and Drums have joined the Conventicle. Apart from execut-**

Left: Badge on officers' ceremonial cross-belt



The Sphinx superscribed "Egypt" awarded to the 26th and 90th after the campaign in Egypt in 1801.

## BATTLE HONOURS

' BLENHEIM '

' RAMILLIES '

' OUDENARDE '

' MALPLAQUET '

' MANDORA '

' CORUNNA '

' MARTINIQUE 1809 '

' GUADALOUPE 1810 ''

' SOUTH AFRICA 1846-7 '

' SEVASTOPOL '

' LUCKNOW '

' ABYSSINIA '

' SOUTH AFRICA 1887-8-9 '

' RELIEF OF LADYSMITH '

' SOUTH AFRICA 1899-1902 '



The Dragon superscribed "China" awarded to the 26th in 1843 after service in China.

ing certain drill movements, the 1st Battalion will remain standing to attention whilst the Regimental Marches are being played. But in view of the marching spectacle to be seen behind the Conventicle enclosure and the need for the second two contingents to move to the area of their seats as soon as they have marched past, the convention of standing to attention during the Regimental Marches will not be expected of anyone other than members of the 1st Battalion.

When the Pipes and Drums have joined the Conventicle, the official party will move from the saluting base and on their arrival the Clergy will take up position at the Communion Table.

**The congregation should remain seated when the Clergy move to the Communion Table.**

### 3.45 pm

At 3.45, or as soon afterwards as all is ready in the Conventicle area, the 1st Battalion will be brought to attention. General Count Thord Bonde, Aide-de-Camp-General to His Majesty King Gustav VI Adolf of Sweden, will deliver a message from the Colonel-in-Chief. This and any other messages received will be read out by the Colonel of the Regiment (Lieutenant-General Sir R. George Collingwood, KBE, CB, DSO.)

The 1st Battalion will give three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen, followed by three cheers for the Colonel-in-Chief.

**The congregation is not expected to participate in this part of the ceremony.**

The picquet officer Lieutenant J. J. D. Cox will report to the senior minister (The Reverend Donald MacDonald, DD), as follows:

'Sir, the picquets are posted. There is no enemy in sight. The service may proceed.' (Two members of the picquet will be visible throughout the service: Rifleman N. M. Hawthorn one of the oldest Riflemen in the Battalion, beyond the Communion Table on the left as viewed by the congregation, and Rifleman J. Gallagher one of the youngest Riflemen in the Battalion, on the right.)

The Military Band of the Regiment (Bandmaster T. Charlton) will lead all present in to the singing of the first verse of the National Anthem.

**The congregation should then sit.**

The picquet officer will withdraw to his duties. The 1st Battalion will stand at ease. The Reverend T. J. T. Nicol, MBE, MC, MA, Chaplain to the Forces, 1st Class, will say prayers.

The Lord Clydesmuir, CB, MBE, TD, Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the County of Lanarkshire and lately commanding 6/7th Battalion the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), will read the lesson from the book of Joshua Chapter 1 verses 5 to 9.

The Reverend Joseph Hardie, MA, Minister of St Bride's Church, Douglas, will call upon the congregation to sing the 121st Psalm:—

I to the hills will lift mine eyes,  
from whence doth come mine aid.  
My safety cometh from the Lord,  
who heav'n and earth hath made.  
Thy foot he'll not let slide, nor will  
he slumber that thee keeps.  
Behold, he that keeps Israel,  
he slumbers not, nor sleeps.

The Lord thee keeps, the Lord thy  
shade  
on thy right hand doth stay:  
The moon by night thee shall not smite,  
nor yet the sun by day.  
The Lord shall keep thy soul; he shall  
preserve thee from all ill.  
Henceforth thy going out and in  
God keep for ever will.

The Reverend Donald MacDonald, DD, will give the address.  
The congregation will sing the 23rd Psalm:—

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green: he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

' MONS '
' Le Cateau '
' Retreat from Mons '
' MARNE 1914-18 '
' Aisne 1914 '
' La Bassée 1914 '
' Messines 1914 '
' Armentières 1914 '
' NEUVE CHAPELLE '
' Aubers '
' LOOS '
' SOMME 1916, 18 '
' Albert 1916 '
' Bazentin '
' Pozières '
' Flers-Courcelette '
' Le Transloy '
' Ancre Heights '
' Arras, 1917, 18 '
' Scarpe 1917, 18 '
' Arleux '
' YPRES 1917, 18 '
' Pilckem '
' Langemarck 1917 '
' Menin Road '
' Polygon Wood '
' Passchendaele '
' St Quentin '
' Rosières '
' Avre '
' Lys '
' Hazebrouck '
' Bailleul '
' Kemmel '
' Scherpenberg '
' Soissonais-Ourcq '
' Drocourt-Quéant '
' HINDENBURG LINE '
' Epéhy '
' Canal du Nord '
' St Quentin Canal '
' Cambrai, 1918 '
' Courtrai '
' Selle '
' Sambre '
' France and Flanders, 1914-18 '
' Doiran 1917-18 '
' MACEDONIA, 1915-18 '
' GALLIPOLI, 1915-16 '
' Rumani '
' Egypt 1916-17 '
' Gaza '
' El Mughar '
' Nebi Samwil '
' Jaffa '
' PALESTINE 1917-18 '



My soul he doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
ev'n for his own name's sake.

Yea, thou I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill:  
For thou art with me; and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me:  
And in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

**At the end of the psalm the congregation should sit.**

The Colonel of the Regiment will speak and the Colonel-Commandant of the Scottish Division (Major-General F. C. C. Graham, CB, DSO), will reply.

The Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion (Lieutenant-Colonel L. P. G. Dow) will read from Ecclesiasticus, Chapter 44 and then report to Lieutenant-General Sir Derek Lang, KCB, DSO, MC, General Officer Commanding Scotland, for permission to disband the 1st Battalion.

The 1st Battalion will be brought to attention.

**At this point all present should stand.**

The 1st Battalion will present arms and the picquet come to the On Guard position with their rifles.

**On the third movement of the Present, all officers in uniform should salute, all others in uniform come to attention and gentlemen in plain clothes remove headdress.**

The bugler (Lance-Corporal J. Morrison) will play the Last Post and whilst he does so the 1st Battalion flag will be lowered for the last time.

On the last note of this call all officers other than those in the 1st Battalion should come down from the salute and all in uniform relax the position of attention.

The Pipe-Major will play the Flowers of the Forest and whilst he does so two subalterns (Lieutenant R. A. U. Grant, the senior subaltern and 2nd Lieutenant D. J. P. Corkerton, the most recently commissioned Cameronian) will take the flag and lay it on the Communion Table

Silent prayer and silent benediction by the Reverend Donald MacDonald, DD.  
The parade will march off.

**Once the first drill movement at the end of the silent prayer has been executed, the congregation may wish to sit again.**

The clergy will leave the congregation, at which point, at approximately 4.30 p.m., the Conventicle ends.



Left: The Regimental collar badge

THE SECOND  
WORLD WAR

' Ypres-Comines Canal '

' ODON '

' Cheux '

' Caen '

' Mont Pincon '

' Estry '

' Nederrijn '

' Best '

' SCHELDT '

' South Beveland '

' Walcheren Causeway '

' Asten '

' Roer '

' RHINELAND '

' Reichswald '

' Moyland '

' RHINE '

' Dreirwalde '

' Bremen '

' Artlenburg '

' N. W. EUROPE, 1940, 44-45 '

' Landing in Sicily '

' Simeto Bridgehead '

' SICILY 1943 '

' Garigliano Crossing '

' ANZIO '

' Advance to Tiber '

' ITALY, 1943-44 '

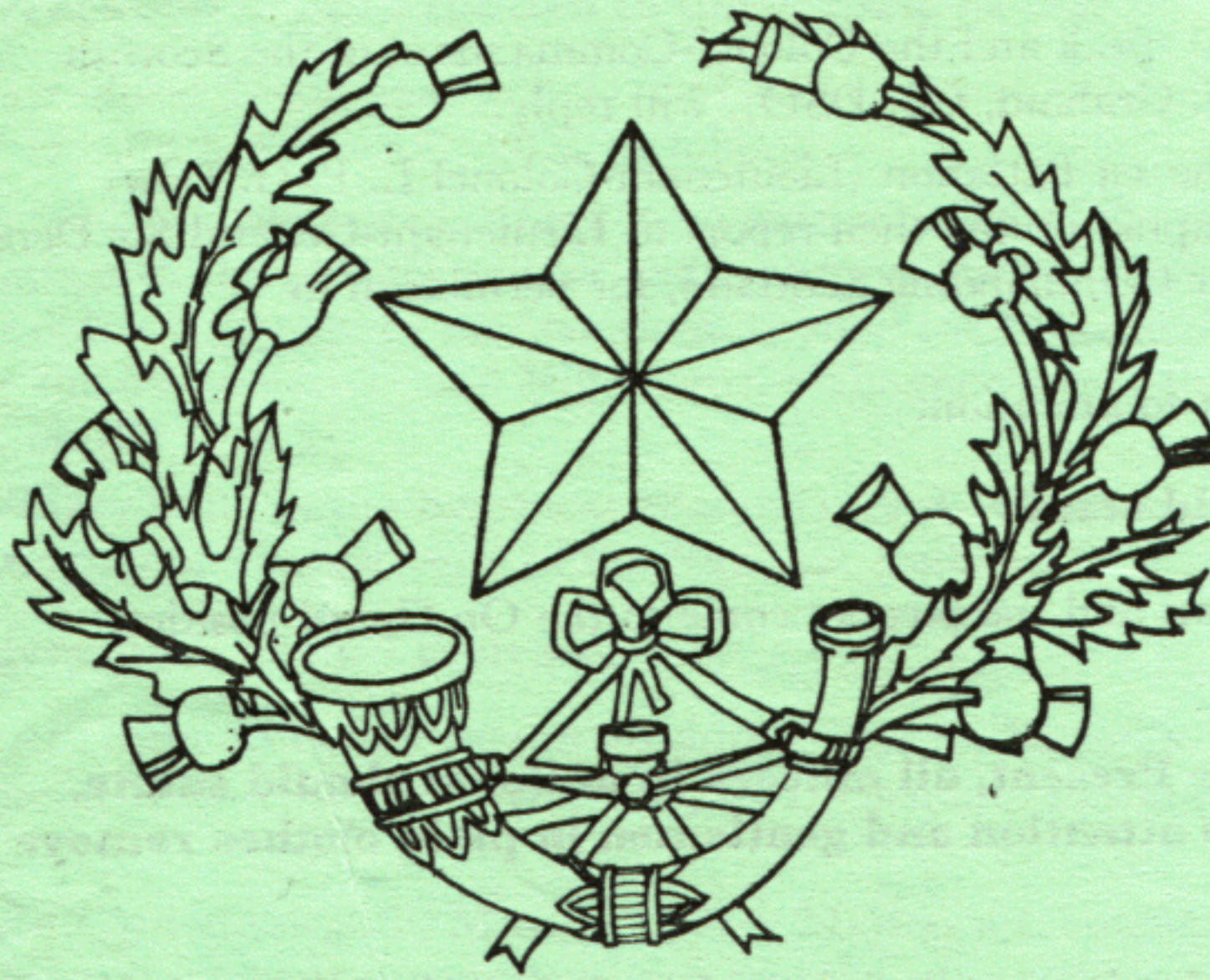
' Pegu, 1942 '

' Paungde '

' Yenangyaung, 1942 '

' CHINDITS, 1944 '

' BURMA, 1942, 44 '



**The Regimental Cap Badge from 1881 to 1959.**

O God in Whose Almighty Name  
The Covenanters fought their way  
Hold Thou thy Brothers' faith the same  
To keep Thy Covenant today.

**Composed by a retired officer of the Cameronians  
(Scottish Rifles) for use by a Cameronian Lodge.**



## Regimental Conventicle on the Pentlands, 1967

### STAFF LIST OF THE OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS OF THE 1ST BATTALION TODAY

**Commanding Officer:**  
Lieutenant-Colonel L. P. G. Dow

**Second-in-Command:**  
Major J. C. M. Baynes

**Adjutant:**  
Captain D. O. Christie

**Regimental Sergeant-Major:**  
Warrant Officer R. T. Andrews

**Intelligence Officer:**  
Lieutenant M. D. Sixsmith

**Medical Officer:**  
Major M. C. Wotton, MBE, RAMC

**Padre:**  
Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. T. Nicol,  
MBE, MC, MA

**Orderly Room Colour Sergeant:**  
Colour-Sergeant A. E. Thurlow

**Orderly Room Sergeant:**  
Sergeant R. McAllister

#### RIFLE COMPANIES

##### 'A' COMPANY

**Company Commander:**  
Captain C. Lindsay

**Company 2 IC:**  
Captain J. Murray

**Company Sergeant-Major:**  
Warrant Officer II T. Anderson, BEM

**Company Quartermaster-Sergeant:**  
Colour-Sergeant R. Kilbride

**No. 1 Platoon Commander:**  
Lieutenant J. B. Jerman, KOSB

**Platoon Sergeant:**  
Sergeant A. MacDonald

**No. 2 Platoon Commander:**  
Sergeant H. Megeary

**Support Platoon Commander:**  
Lieutenant J. J. D. Cox

**Mortar Sergeant:**  
Sergeant W. Sheridan

**Anti-tank Sergeant:**  
Sergeant G. O'Neill

##### 'B' COMPANY

**Company Commander:**  
Major A. Campbell

**Company 2 IC:**  
Captain P. Gordon-Smith

**Company Sergeant-Major:**  
Warrant Officer II E. Martin

**Company Quartermaster-Sergeant:**  
Colour-Sergeant R. McBride

**No. 5 Platoon Commander:**  
Second-Lieutenant D. J. P. Corkerton

**Platoon Sergeant:**  
Sergeant J. Wilson

**No. 6 Platoon Commander:**  
Lieutenant R. A. U. Grant

**Platoon Sergeant:**  
Sergeant J. Carr

**Support Platoon Commander:**  
Lieutenant J. R. Williams

**Mortar Sergeant:**  
Sergeant R. Irons

##### 'D' COMPANY

**Company Commander:**  
Major A. Lindsay

**Company 2 IC:**  
Captain I. D. Farquharson

**Company Sergeant-Major:**  
Warrant Officer II W. Todd

**Company Quartermaster-Sergeant:**  
Colour-Sergeant W. Morrison

**No. 14 Platoon Commander:**  
Lieutenant R. P. Mason

**Platoon Sergeant:**  
Sergeant J. Quinn

**No. 15 Platoon Commander:**  
Lieutenant C. G. F. Mitchinson, RS.

**Platoon Sergeant:**  
Sergeant T. La-Roche

**Support Platoon Commander:**  
Lieutenant F. C. Matthews

**Mortar Sergeant:**  
Sergeant W. Adams

**Anti-tank Sergeant:**  
Sergeant R. Findlater

##### 'C' (Training) COMPANY

**Company Commander:**  
Captain A. D. I. Nisbet

**Company Sergeant-Major:**  
Warrant Officer II S. M. Robertson

**Training Sergeants:**  
Sergeant E. Wallace  
Sergeant J. Currie

#### HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

**Company Commander:**  
Major D. E. N. Cameron

**Company Sergeant-Major:**  
Warrant Officer II G. Yuill

**Company Quartermaster Sergeant:**  
Colour-Sergeant E. A. Page

**Administrative Sergeants:**  
Sergeant T. Sorbie  
Sergeant A. Tait

**President of the Regimental Institutes:**  
Major H. W. N. Grace, RS.

**Unit Families Officer:**  
Major S. D. Clarke

**Provost Sergeant:**  
Sergeant H. Hamilton

**Medical Sergeant:**  
Sergeant J. Hynd

#### QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

**Quartermaster:**  
Major (QM) G. A. M. Soper

**Assistant Quartermaster:**  
Lieutenant E. G. T. Critchell

**Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant:**  
Warrant Officer II J. Burns

**Ration Non-Commissioned Officer:**  
Sergeant J. Ramsay

**Quartermaster's Stores:**  
Sergeant J. Irwin

**Quartermaster's Clerk:**  
Sergeant S. Fairie

**Accommodation Warrant Officer:**  
Warrant Officer II J. Haslam

**Accommodation Sergeant:**  
Sergeant W. Wilson

**Armourer:**  
Staff Sergeant B. Fuller, REME

**Cook Warrant Officer:**  
Staff Quartermaster Sergeant-Major  
F. Brierley, ACC

**Cook Sergeant:**  
Sergeant W. Booth, ACC

#### MECHANICAL TRANSPORT PLATOON

**Mechanical Transport Officer:**  
Captain (QM) J. Burns

**Mechanical Transport Warrant Officer:**

Warrant Officer II R. McDonald

**Mechanical Transport Colour-Sergeant:**

Colour-Sergeant J. McKnight

**Technical Sergeant:**  
Sergeant J. Armstrong

**Fitter Sergeant:**  
Sergeant K. Burnett, REME

#### SIGNAL PLATOON:

**Signal Officer:**  
Captain R. H. Paterson

**Colour-Sergeant:**  
Colour-Sergeant I. Collinson

**Radio Sergeant:**  
Sergeant P. Schoneville

**Signal Sergeant:**  
Sergeant D. Ferguson

**Army Physical Training Instructor:**  
Staff Sergeant J. Riley, APTC

**Unit Pay Master:**  
Captain K. Lee, RAPC

**Pay Warrant Officer:**  
Warrant Officer II J. Scott, RAPC

**Officers' Mess Colour-Sergeant:**  
Colour-Sergeant T. F. Laverick

#### PIPES AND DRUMS:

**Bugle-Major:**  
Colour Sergeant R. MacDonald

**Pipe-Major:**  
Sergeant R. Gillies  
MILITARY BAND

**Bandmaster:**  
Warrant Officer I T. Charlton

**Band Warrant Officer:**  
Warrant Officer II J. McEwan

**Band Sergeants:**  
Sergeant J. Sorrie  
Sergeant K. MacSween  
Sergeant J. Dalglish  
Sergeant C. Bryan

Some nineteenth century uniforms of the 90th from the water-colour by P Simkin (1884).  
Top: 1850. Bottom left: 1826. Bottom right: 1832



# BATTALION QUOTATIONS: THEN . . .

## **Extract from a letter to Sir Patrick Home of Polwarth written by Alexander Monro of Bearcrofts on 24th September 1689:**

'Sir, if ye be acquainted with the Earl of Angus, I pray you assure him that his Regiment must necessarily break if they be not delivered from Blackwood & Mr Shields. They are the worst paid of any of the forces, and they are naked, and their heads are blown up with such notions as renders them intolerable. They are worse than ever they were in every way; the reputation they gained (at Dunkeld) will quickly vanish. I hear the Earl is a discreet youth and understands his business, and if he desires to have a regiment he must quite change the frame of this, for they refuse all subjection to discipline. They run away and return as they please, their own brutish officers comply with them in all their disorders; gentlemen are disgraced in conjunction with them and no gentlemen can bear Blackwood's arbitrary government.'



### **Tod's Snuff Box**

The inscription reads:

'In memory of Noel Moir Tod,  
Lieutenant, The Cameronians,  
who fell leading a forlorn hope  
at Wagon Hill, Ladysmith, on  
6th January, 1900.'

Tod's final remark:

"Well it has got to be done somehow".'

## **Extract from General Sir John French's Address to the 2nd Cameronians after the battle of Neuve Chapelle, 10th March 1915:**

'I come here as Commander-in-Chief of this Army to express to you my heartiest gratitude for the splendid part which you took at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle. I know what awful losses you suffered, I know the gallantry you displayed on that occasion has never been surpassed by a British soldier. You came up against the enemy's wire, and although the artillery was unable to get at it, you showed the utmost bravery and gallantry. I deeply regret the terrible losses you suffered on that occasion. No less than 22 officers were killed or wounded; the officer commanding your splendid Battalion, Colonel Bliss, being included amongst the losses. Everyone in the Regiment will deeply regret this loss. I do not mean to say it was too much—I want you all to realise that. I am sure your officers will always lead you on, it may be to die, but follow them right gallantly. I know you will. I am sure at the same time you will all feel what your officers have done for you, leading you as they have done; but still at the same time the officers on their part felt they had splendid and gallant men who would follow them anywhere and had every confidence in them. That is one great thing, the mutual confidence which exists between leaders and men. I can not say more.'

# BATTALION QUOTATIONS: LATER . . .

## **Two extracts from 'The Road Past Mandalay' by John Masters**

'The Cameronians, also called the Scottish Rifles, were a Regular battalion that had fought through the first Burma campaign. "Damned good they were, too", Joe said. "And they've still got a good many left from '41, officers and men! They recruited most of their men from the streets of Glasgow, and had the reputation of being one of the toughest regiments in the British Army, in peacetime. They waged street fights with secreted bayonets and broken bottles and, on at least one occasion in Calcutta, with rifles and ball ammunition. They carried razor blades in the peaks of their caps, with which to wipe the grin off opposing faces by a careless backhand swipe from the cap; and potatoes in their pockets, in which razor blades were stuck. No one but their own officers could handle them, and their touchy discipline vanished altogether for a week around the great Scottish fiesta of Hogmanay, New Year's Eve'.'

'A Cameronian lay near the ridge top, near death from many wounds. "Gi' me a Bren", he whispered to his lieutenant. "Leave me. I'll take a dozen wi' me!''.'

# AND NOW . . .

## **Remark made by R. T. Paget, MP in the House of Commons, 26th June 1962**

' . . . In the early part of April some Jocks beat up a honky tonk one night. I do not know whether I am somewhat out of date but in my day it would have been news if two months had gone by without the Jocks doing something like that.'

## **Extract from 'The Covenanters', December 1966, the concluding lines of an article 'Jottings from a visit to Aden' written by the present Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir George Collingwood, KBE, CB, DSO.**

' . . . And so ended a wonderful experience for an elderly and retired soldier to have been able to live with the Regiment for a short space in an operational camp. The actors were different people and the conditions rather different from what we knew, but basically it seemed to me that they were doing just the same things that we used to do. It was rather like a ghost coming back to his family house after thirty years, to see what was going on, and retiring again with a happy sigh to find that the old home was in good hands and the old tradition going on just as before.'

## **Extract from a letter written by the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir James Cassels, GCB, KBE, DSO to the Colonel of the Regiment on 24th February 1967.**

'I enclose a copy of a letter I have from John Willoughby which I know you will find very good reading.

I saw your Battalion in Aden in January, and everywhere I went there was nothing but praise for the way all the men had behaved and acted. I should therefore like to add my most grateful thanks and congratulations for the splendid work that they did.'

Major-General Willoughby's letter is reproduced on the following two pages.

HEADQUARTERS,  
MIDDLE EAST COMMAND,  
B.F.P.O. 69.17 Feb '67

My dear General

Yesterday, Leslie Dow, Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Cameronians, left on the completion of his Battalion's tour of duty here in Aden. I would like therefore now to put on record how this Regiment has completed its difficult and exacting duties.

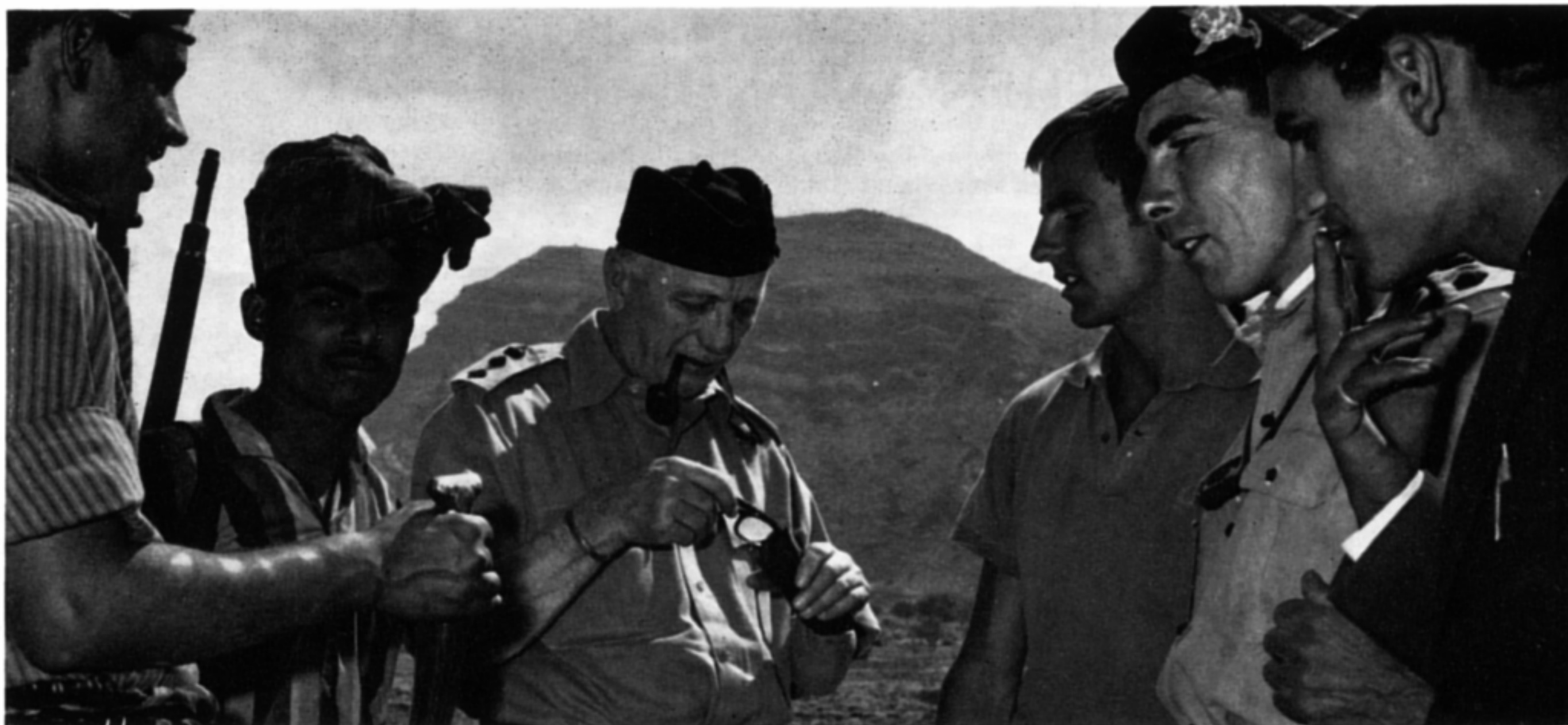
The men arrived in the heat of the summer with all the appearance and bearing of troops seasoned in the kind of half-war we wage here. They went straight on patrolling and escorts; and from the day of their first appearance they looked like business. They have never looked otherwise.

And in many ways a much less easy reputation to earn under these trying conditions, they have won a name for exceptional courtesy.

They will ever be remembered by  
the families of Servicemen and of  
Civilians with affection, not only for  
these qualities but in the crowning of  
their association with their pipes in  
the open streets. And in the telling  
of this day by the ordinary word  
of ordinary families bearing the strain  
of terrorism magnificently, I have seen  
tears of gratitude and of pride  
They are second to none, and  
I am as proud of having had these  
men under my Command as they have  
reason to be of their record and  
reputation so well and truly earned  
in Aden, and in the hills of Southern  
Arabia.

Yours very sincerely  
John.





The present Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant-General Sir George Collingwood KBE, CB, DSO, talking to members of the Federal Regular Army with the Political Officer, Michael Tamblin, and the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel L. P. G. Dow. Photographed at Habilayn, South Arabia, December 1966

## COLONELS OF THE REGIMENT

### THE 26TH

- 1689-1692 The Earl of Angus
- 1692-1693 Colonel Andrew Monro
- 1693-1705 Colonel William Borthwick
- 1706 Colonel Lord Dalrymple  
(The Second Earl of Stair)
- 1706-1720 Colonel George Preston  
(later Lieutenant-General)
- 1720-1760 Colonel Philip Anstruther  
(later Lieutenant-General)
- 1760-1763 Colonel Edward Sandford
- 1763-1775 Colonel John Scott  
(later General)
- 1775-1782 Colonel Lord Adam Gordon  
(later General)
- 1782-1795 Colonel Sir William Erskine
- 1795-1801 Major-General Sir Charles Stuart
- 1801-1806 Colonel Andrew Gordon  
(later Lieutenant-General)
- 1806-1813 Major-General Lord Elphinstone  
(later Lieutenant-General)
- 1813-1838 Major-General The Earl of Dalhousie
- 1838-1854 Colonel Sir John Colborne  
(later Lord Seaton)
- 1854-1862 Major-General Sir Philip Bainbrigge
- 1862-1889 Major-General George Mackinnon

(In 1890 Mackinnon became Colonel of both Battalions of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).)

### THE 90TH

- 1794-1823 Colonel Commandant Thomas Graham of Balgowan  
(later Lord Lynedoch)
- 1823-1837 Major-General Ralph Darling
- 1837-1842 Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Sheehy Keating
- 1842-1854 Colonel Alexander Leith
- 1854-1858 Colonel W. Felix Calbert
- 1858-1862 Colonel Alexander F. Macintosh
- 1862-1881 Colonel William Hassall Eden
- 1882-1889 Colonel John Street

### Both Battalions: The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

- 1890-1899 Major-General George Mackinnon
- 1899-1910 Lieutenant-General Sir J. Clark Rattray
- 1910-1918 Major-General J. H. Laye
- 1918-1927 Major-General P. R. Robertson
- 1927-1945 Major-General Sir Eric Girdwood
- 1946-1951 General Sir Thomas Riddell-Webster
- 1951-1954 General Sir Richard O'Connor
- 1954-1961 Major-General D. A. H. Graham
- 1961-1964 General Sir Horatius Murray
- 1964- Lieutenant-General Sir George Collingwood.

# FORBEARS AND FORTITUDE: THEN AND NOW . . .



1689

As we come to the end of an era that has lasted 279 years, our thoughts inevitably centre on the great deeds of Cameronians since the raising of the Regiment in 1689. This short article recalls another side of their lives which receives little space in military histories: their pay, their food, and their families, all of which are basic to man's existence. The modern reader may be interested to learn how much was accomplished under appalling conditions.



Camp scenes — 1803

**Pay.** Early records of the Regiment show that a Sentinel's pay was 8d a day, out of which he actually received 6d subsistence money to pay for his quarters and food. The remainder, amounting to £3 0s 10d per annum, was known as the 'gross off-takings' most of which went to the Colonel for the purchase of the Regiment's clothing. This is a far cry from the basic £9 3s 9d a week our regulars begin with, excluding their marriage allowance. The state paid its soldiers as little as it dared, so it was hardly surprising as we look at the records that pay was often a subject of discontent. It was not only utterly inadequate, but seldom issued regularly, even in peace time stations. Men sometimes went months without it. Small levies made at the whim of commanding officers were often regarded as acutely unfair; for instance, 5% of a soldier's pay in the 18th century went as a fee to the Regimental Paymaster, and levies of ½d to the Regimental Surgeon, or to the Chelsea Hospital.

The increase in pay between 1689 and 1783 was minute. In that year the amount paid to a captain of a company for a man's subsistence was increased by 8d a week, and a few years later by 10d. In 1795 these amounts were consolidated so that the soldier then received 10d a day, that is 6d as pay and 4d as a daily allowance: 2½d for messing and 1½d for bread! Two years later the daily rate was increased to 1s a day out of which 4s a week was guaranteed to the soldier, the State paying any subsidies for his keep. This princely sum was to remain unchanged for over 100 years. It was not until the end of the 19th Century that pay and allowances really improved, enabling men to maintain themselves and their families with some dignity. Today a married Rifleman with 5 years service receives £12 17s 3d a week and a Sergeant £24 11s 3d.



1790

**The Bounty.** Recruiting was from the first a problem, although times of war brought forth a patriotism that eased the difficulties. 'Set a Glasgow man, and a Glasgow weaver at that, to lure recruits out of the Glasgow mills'. Every means, fair or foul, was employed to inveigle men into uniform, and one big draw was the bounty. A recruit signing on might be paid as much as £5 bounty as an inducement—a very large sum in those days, seeing that he was invariably drawn from the very poor, the outcasts of society and even the criminal classes. Poor fellow! By custom this sum was regarded as common property by his comrades, and from the Platoon Sergeant downwards every man enjoyed his beer or spirits until the lot was gone. The idea of saving was almost unknown—life was too uncertain, anyway—but there were rare exceptions. Colonel Harry Oglander in 1826 made himself unpopular with the authorities because of a radically humane attitude to his Cameronians, and by such actions as starting a small regimental savings bank. He would have been interested to find that 142 years later weekly savings in the Battalion average £570.

**Food.** If pay was poor, food was worse. Ignorance, parsimony and sheer bad administration ensured that men went hungry, ill-nourished and often ill-clad. It is recorded that during Marlborough's campaigns at the beginning of the 18th century, and 100 years later during the Peninsular War, the rations might consist of an issue of one biscuit a day. The system of billeting did not lend itself to good cooking. Until 1792, when the first barracks was built, men were customarily billeted in private houses or inns, and innkeepers were paid an allowance of 4d a day for board and lodging. Centralised cooking in barracks was unknown, men doing the best they could in their barrack rooms, often with little or no fuel allowance, sometimes with the aid of the wives living among them.



Camp scenes — 1803

**No suppers.** The scarcity of food turned many to drink cheap wines and spirits—a frequent cause of dysentery. (Cheap alcohol has not completely lost its appeal, but its effect on the Battalion today is less devastating.) Ration scales varied enormously in different theatres. In the American War the weekly scale was as follows:— 7lbs of bread or flour, 7lbs beef or pork, ½lb rice, 3lbs peas and 6 ozs butter. Rations there were issued in the proportion: Brigadier-General 12, Major 4, Subaltern and Staff 2, and presumably Private 1! In India in 1826 and even under the benign leadership of Colonel Oglander, Private McGregor of the 26th recorded: 'I don't recollect any suppers, I never saw any, and breakfast was a piece of dried bread and coffee'. A few years later, when the 26th were in China, rations, it seems,

'were salty and of poor quality and the result was an outbreak of fever and dysentery'. In a year 240 men of the Regiment died of disease. It was not until after the Crimean War that serious efforts were made to improve the rations. In 1873 the first free daily issues were authorised, and food has improved steadily to the point where today in the expert hands of the Army Catering Corps aided by our own well-trained Regimental Cooks a notable standard has been achieved. For instance the main dining hall menu for Thursday 15th February, 1968 just an ordinary day, was as follows:



1840

**Breakfast**

Porridge/Cereals  
Fried/Poached/Boiled  
or Scrambled egg  
Grilled Bacon or  
Sausage, Baked Beans  
or Tomatoes, French  
Fried Bread, Toast,  
Marmalade, Bread,  
Margarine, Coffee or  
Tea.

**Lunch**

Cream of Vegetable soup  
Roast pork, apple sauce,  
Roast beef, Yorkshire  
Pudding, Roast Chicken,  
Bread sauce, Braised  
Steaks, Fried liver and  
Onions, Roast Potatoes,  
Buttered Cabbage,  
Vichy Carrots,  
Gravy.  
Steamed fruit pudding,  
Jam pancakes, Apple pie,  
Semolina pudding,  
Custard, Bread, cheese,  
Tea.

**Tea**

Fillet of Cod,  
Meat & Veg. Pie,  
Savoury mince  
and Toast, Braised  
sausage, Saute and  
Creamed potatoes,  
Garden peas, Green  
Beans, Brown sauce.  
  
Fresh fruit, Swiss,  
Roll, Cream slice,  
Jam sponge, Tea,  
Bread & Margarine.

**Supper**

Tomato soup,  
Cornish pasties  
Creamed potatoes  
Garden peas  
Tea, Bread &  
Margarine.

As a contrast to 200 years ago, in Aden at Hogmanay, 1966, the Battalion consumed 670lbs of turkey, 500lbs each of pork and ham, 2,000lbs of potatoes not to mention 950lbs of plum pudding.

**Families.** The families of early Cameronians suffered much. For two centuries married men had to maintain their wives and children on their basic pay, for no allowances or quarters were provided until late on in the 19th century. The Army, except where it won victories, was held in scant esteem by the nation, and this attitude coupled with the quality of man recruited did not encourage strong marriage ties. Though heroic in battle, it would be idle to pretend that the early Cameronians were always upright and virtuous at other times. A 'wife' in every theatre was not unknown.

**Travel.** Where the soldier went, his family if humanly possible went too. Marriage into the army was considered socially degrading and hence to be left behind on a regimental move spelled destitution. Official, 'on the strength' wives were selected by ballot. Wives acquired abroad, if they were 'off the strength' of the Regiment, had to be abandoned before the troop ship sailed for home. As to moves abroad from Britain, one poor Scotswoman trudged all the way from Edinburgh to Folkestone to join her husband on posting abroad, only to draw a 'to be left' ticket: she died making her way from the quayside. Her husband rarely spoke afterwards, and was one of the first to fall in Spain. Proper concern for women and children today ensures that when they move abroad with soldiers they do so at public expense and with all the comforts and facilities of modern airlines.

**Sutlers and Nurses.** Since there were no quarters, women lived where their husbands were billeted, in inns, commandeered houses and curtained-off portions of barrack rooms. In 1738 in Gibraltar some wooden hen hutches were to be burned, but strong protest was made because families were found to be living in them. Selected 'on the strength' women were called upon to cook, clean and wash for the soldiers they lived with. Their children grew up with them. During campaigns these women travelled with the baggage train or the columns, acting as sutlers and appointed as nurses: one can imagine the medical attention the wounded received. Living in such conditions and with disease and crime about them, they had to be very tough indeed. Like the men, they became adept at scrounging, foraging and even stealing, but were subject to regimental discipline. There is the pathetic tale of Margaret, wife of Peter Dove, who was tried by court-martial for creating a disturbance and slitting the throat of a soldier. She was sentenced in Gibraltar in 1738 to three hundred lashes, one hundred to be administered every other day by the Regimental Drummers, and then was driven out of the garrison. Again there is the moving account of the wife at the terrible retreat to Corunna who watched silently while her husband received two hundred lashes, and after tenderly drawing his shirt over his streaming back, shouldered his pack and firelock and trudged at his side as the column moved on.

**Shipwreck and Disease.** Disease took heavy toll of men and their families abroad, and many succumbed in the terrible conditions at sea. In 1805 fifty-two women and children and about half the Regiment were drowned while on their way to Germany. In India under the privations of heat and disease—mainly cholera and dysentery—many more died. Yet these hazards never prevented families following the men wherever they went in the world.

As with improvements in food and pay, it took the Crimean War to set in train real advances in quartering and allowances. The advent of the short service soldier greatly reduced the numbers married, who by 1914 were to be found chiefly among warrant officers and senior NCOs, now housed with some degree of comfort and security. By contrast to-day, 280 out of 540 Cameronians in the 1st Battalion are married; one hundred live in married quarters and sixty in Army Department hirings in the Edinburgh Area. All these quarters and hirings are fully furnished, supplied with linen, crockery and cutlery. The remainder of the married men draw marriage allowance and live in private accommodation for the most part within commuting distance of Redford Barracks. Times have indeed changed!



Camp scenes — 1803



1865

# ANOTHER ACROSTIC UPON HIS NAME

W ould you approve of how the tree has grown?  
I like to think so. You bequeathed your own  
L ove of a harassed land and honest cause,  
L ove which without advertisement or pause  
I nspired a hundred Clelands less renowned  
A nd warms platoons of Thompsons in the ground,  
M en who have walked this road and shared this view.

C ampbell and Lindsay forged the sword with you.  
L it by your pride they handed on the text,  
E ach generation shaping up the next.  
Lindsay and Campbell finish it today.  
A xed lies the tree. Now put the sword away.  
N o old forgetful age will end our story.  
D eath cuts our days, but could not stain our glory.

Written to the first Commanding Officer by the last at  
Douglas, 1968.

Rifleman John Thompson on patrol in Aden in 1967



THE LAST CAMERONIAN

**Right: the 1st Battalion centre-piece.**

**'JAMES, EARL OF ANGUS, Son of the Marquis of Douglas, born 1671, killed at the Battle of Steinkirk, when in command of the Cameronian Regiment'**

## **A TRIBUTE TO OTHER CAMERONIANS**

Today's events at Douglas are concerned with the loss of the last remaining regular battalion of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). This commemorative programme has been produced by the Battalion with the aims of recording history, of honouring our regular forbears and of illustrating that our regimental spirit and outlook in modern times are little different from what they were 279 years ago.

Leaving those aims on one side for a moment, the 1st Battalion before it goes would wish to pay tribute to two other groups of Cameronians. First we would wish to express our admiration for the way in which a number of units within the framework of the Cameronian Company of the new Lowland Volunteers and of the Cadet movement continue to work with devotion and tenacity in these difficult and changing times.

Our final word goes, appropriately, to the many former Territorial Cameronians who have done so much to support and encourage us, and who have upheld the name of the Regiment where for us it has always counted most—on the field of battle. We cannot name all the individuals; even the current Regimental Association mailing list is of daunting length. There is little point in merely naming the Battalions. We are all of the same family; today we merely want our old comrades to know, as we depart, that we are very much aware of their individual presence and strength.

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