

Historical Research

We are happy to receive enquiries for which a search fee of £15 is charged. However you should note that we are not a record office and do not hold the personal or service records of individual soldiers. For the period up to 1920 these are held by the National Archives in Kew (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk); for those with service after that date, the records are only available to the individual concerned or their next of kin from Army Personnel Centre, Historic Disclosures, Mailpoint 400, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street Glasgow G2 8EX.



Books

A 3-volume book of Regimental History 'Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard' is now available from the Regimental Shop where you can also buy a Concise History by Trevor Royle.

Donations

We are dependent on donations for our continued existence. We do not receive any part of the fee that you have paid for entrance to the Castle. All donations are therefore most gratefully received.

Contact Details

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(The Royal Regiment)
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Scottish Registered Charity Number: SC005163

Accessibility

The Museum is fully wheelchair accessible.
Accessibility conforms to the standards in the
Edinburgh Castle Website

www.edinburghcastle.gov.uk/index/plan/essentials/accessforall.htm

Opening Hours

Summer (from 1 April)

Monday – Friday
9:30am – 4:45pm

Winter (from 1 October)

Monday – Friday
9:30am – 3:45pm

(Timings may be changed without notice)



THE ROYAL SCOTS (THE ROYAL REGIMENT)



373 Years of History

The Museum

The story of the Regiment, from its formation in 1633 until its demise in 2006, is explained in chronological order on pictorial wall panels supported by maps, in display cases and tableaux. The medal collection is too large to be openly displayed and therefore only a representative selection is on view. Also to be seen are collections of silver, sets of drums and old Colours.



Descriptions are given of contemporary life in the Army and how Regimental activities formed part of significant national and world events of the relevant periods.



A Short History

The Royal Scots, the oldest Infantry Regiment of the Line, was formed in 1633 when Sir John Hepburn under a Royal Warrant given by King Charles I raised a body of men in Scotland for service in France. By 1635 he commanded a force of 8000 including many who had fought as mercenaries in the "Green Brigade" for King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden. In 1680 the Regiment was posted to Tangier and won its first Battle Honour since when a further 148 have been awarded. On its return four years later the title "The Royal Regiment of Foot" was conferred by Charles II. The Regiment was divided into two battalions in 1686 and was not to have less until 1949 when the 1st and 2nd Battalions were amalgamated.

Battalions of The Royal Scots have been involved in almost every campaign in which the British Army has fought. From Marlborough's battles at Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet to the Napoleonic Wars; the Peninsular to Crimea and South Africa, members of the Regiment have followed the flag in the service of their country. The Regiment's first VC was won by Private Prosser during the Crimean War for two acts of heroism at the Siege of Sevastopol.



World War I saw the number of battalions increase from 10 to 35 of which 15 served as front line units. Others remained in home service to provide training, draft and coastal defence, one was a labour battalion in France and another a Garrison Battalion employed in Greece and Cyprus. More than 100,000 men passed through these battalions of whom 11,213 were killed and over 40,000 wounded.

Seventy-one Battle Honours and 6 VCs were awarded to the Regiment as well as innumerable individual medals. The active service battalions were involved in all areas from the Western Front to the Dardanelles, Macedonia, Egypt, Palestine and North Russia.

At the start of World War II, the 1st Battalion embarked for France as part of the British Expeditionary Forces. Forced into the retreat which was to end at Dunkirk, they never made the road to freedom. After a desperate defence across the Bethune-Merville road to gain time for the retreating Army and suffering appalling losses, many were taken prisoner and few escaped home. The 2nd Battalion, based in Hong Kong, saw action when the Japanese attacked in December 1941. Here too, The Royal Scots fought like tigers but the result was inevitable. The 1st Battalion was reconstituted after Dunkirk and fought in Burma during the Arakan campaign in 1943 and the Battles of Kohima and Mandalay in 1944. A new 2nd Battalion was formed in May 1942 from the 12th Battalion and served in Italy and Palestine whilst the 7th/9th and 8th Battalions fought in Europe after D-Day.

Since 1945 the Regiment has continued to serve in many parts of the world, including Germany, Korea, Cyprus, Suez, Aden and Northern Ireland. In 1983, the Regiment celebrated its 350th Anniversary and Her Majesty The Queen announced the appointment of her daughter, HRH The Princess Royal, to be Colonel-in-Chief. In December 1990 the battalion deployed to Saudi Arabia to take part in the Gulf War. Since which time it also served in Bosnia and in Iraq.

The Regimental recruiting area was Edinburgh, the Lothians and the former County of Peeblesshire. The Regimental tartan was Hunting Stuart which was worn by all ranks except Pipers who wore the Sovereign's personal tartan, Royal Stuart, an honour granted by King George V to mark the tercentenary in 1933. The Home Headquarters and Museum are in Edinburgh Castle.

On 29 March 2006, the 373rd Anniversary of its formation, The Royal Scots ceased to be a single Regiment but merged with the other Scottish regiments to form The Royal Regiment of Scotland in which, along with The King's Own Scottish Borderers, they form the 1st Battalion.