

Colonel of the Regiment - Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn 1767-1820

Born in 1767, Edward was the 4th son of George III, and brother of the Prince Regent who gave his name to the Regency period and later became George IV. He entered service as a Cadet in the Hanoverian Guards in 1785, becoming Field Marshall in 1805.

When he became Governor General of Gibraltar in 1802 his harsh methods to attempt reform caused problems:

“The Duke’s temperance leanings stood him in bad stead when Governor of Gibraltar, on the occasion of his refusing licences to the grog shopkeepers who sold vile and poisonous liquor to the troops under his command. This meant heavy pecuniary loss to himself on account of the fact that the licensing fees, estimated by some at £4,000 per annum, were part of his dues. A mutiny resulted, doubtless skilfully fostered by the culpable licencees, and His Royal Highness withdrew from the Governership.” *The Thistle* 1924.

Despite the above he also founded the system of regimental schools, which he had started for the benefit of the young privates and children of the NCOs and men of the 4th Battalion The Royal Scots, carrying it out on Dr Lancaster’s principles. It is recorded that it attained such a high reputation that several other regiments applied for, and obtained several of its best scholars as teachers. His private acts of benevolence were numerous and his officers held him in high regard. The 4th Battalion, raised 1804 Hamilton, was disbanded 1816. If you thought that all serving in the battalion were Scottish, you might be surprised to know that in June 1810 the NCOs and men consisted of:

Scots 326 English 403 Irish 454 Foreign 13.

It was during this time that the title “The Royal Scots” was conferred on the regiment.

The Duke is perhaps best known for being the father of the UK’s second longest reigning Monarch. Queen Victoria reigned 63 years, 7 months and 2 days. Queen Elizabeth II passed that on 9 Sept 2015.

Victoria was born whilst her father was serving as Colonel of The Royal Scots, and as such is considered a daughter of the Regiment. The music ‘Daughter of the Regiment’ is played whenever a member of Royalty is present. Queen Victoria died on 22 January 1901 and left instructions for her funeral to be military, as befitting a soldier’s daughter and head of the army. She also wished to be buried in white instead of the traditional black and wore a white dress and her wedding veil. As she was placed to rest in the mausoleum it began to snow.

The Royal Scots Museum is an independent museum with charitable status, reliant on donations and the generosity of supporters as it receives no part of the entrance charge to the Castle. Any donation you may wish to make helps greatly to sustain the museum and make continuous improvements. Thank you for your support.



The Royal Scots Museum

Moments in Time

January



1	1817	Nagpore Battle Honour awarded 1823. This battle was fought in India during the Third Anglo-Maratha War.
	1915	16 th Service (McCrae’s) Battalion formed.
2	1848	Siege of Multan.
4	1851	1 st Royals, 2 nd Battalion. Limerick. The corps has an effective band, and the performers form a remarkably fine choir. They sang in church on Sunday in Limerick, to the gratification of the congregation, who thronged in crowds to hear them.
5	1675	Battle of Turckheim.
8	1916	Gallipoli evacuated – 4 th & 7 th Battalions.
13	1938	1 st Battalion to Haifa, Palestine.
	1883	Prince Arthur of Connaught born.
	1849	Battle of Chillianwallah.
15	1761	Pondicherry captured in 1761.
16	1809	Battle of Corunna – 3 rd Battalion
17	1746	Battle of Falkirk – 2 nd Battalion. Prince Charles Edward (Bonnie Prince Charlie) had amongst his supporters the weather: “At this time a rain storm was raging, beating in the face of the King’s troops, preventing them from seeing clearly what was in the front, and rendering a fourth of their muskets temporarily useless... 6 men were killed with 2 wounded and 2 missing. Sergeant Heuson distinguished himself in this action and was given a commission in Semphill’s Regiment.” <i>Records of the Royal Scots</i> , J C Leask and H M McCance 1915
18	1826	Bhurtpore (Bharatpur, Rajasthan).
19	1812	Storming of Ciudad Rodrigo – 3 rd Battalion.
	1839	Aden taken.
	1806	Cape of Good Hope reoccupied. It remained a British colony until 1910.
22	1901	Queen Victoria died.
	1760	Battle of Wandewash, India.
23	1820	His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, Colonel of the Regiment, died.
24	1759	Capture of Guadaloupe – 1 st Battalion.
25	1915	1st Action of Givenchy – 2nd Battalion.
26	1633	Sir John Hepburn granted a commission, as Colonel of the Regiment, by Louis XIII of France. King Charles I’s warrant for Hepburn’s levy of 1200 men is 26 March, the date of formation of The Regiment
28	1653	Siege of Vervins 1 st Bn. “The weather continued inclement, the men were suffering from lack of food, and great difficulties had to be overcome; yet the attacks were made with such spirit and determination, that possession was gained of this town on the 28 th January.” <i>Richard J Cannon 1836</i>
	1846	Battle of Aliwal fought with the Sikhs.
29	1675	The regiment was denied the comfort of resting in winter quarters because it took part in the siege of Dachstein, when the senior major, whose name has not survived, was killed the day before the town surrendered. <i>Lawrence Weaver 1915</i>



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	1737	Lord George Hamilton 1692-1737, Colonel of the Regiment died age 71. George, Marquis of Huntly appointed Colonel of the Regiment.
30	1915	Battle of La Bassee.
31	1812	Title changed to 'The 1 st Regiment of Foot or The Royal Scots'.

Extract from *The United Services Journal* 1831:

Bayonne 1814

During operations near Bayonne on the 5th of January 1814, the 3rd Battalion of the Royals was obliged to fall back in consequence of the regiment on their right having been withdrawn. On emerging from some underwood that covered the top of a knoll, they were about to descend, Colonel Sir Stephenson Barns, happening with two or three officers to be in front, found himself face to face with a French officer, who saluted him with "*Rendez vous, Commandant,*" and who, accompanied by a single grenadier, was forming a sort of advanced guard to three or four hundred of his countrymen, that had got round to the right of the Royals, and were deliberately ascending the acclivity. The reconnoitre was as unexpected as the moment was critical; one body of the enemy close in front, another at no great distance behind, and the regiment completely broken by the wood through which they had been making their way. Ordinary minds would have wavered and would have been lost; fortunately, Sir Stephenson did not; active, though not athletic of person, he instantly sprang forward, dashed aside the musket that the French grenadier presented at to his breast, seized the soldier with one hand and the officer with the other and commanded them to lay down their arms. Captain Cluff*, who so gallantly defended the church of St Etienne the night of the sortie of Bayonne, and who was afterwards killed at Waterloo, chiming with the spirit of the moment, called out "Charge, Royals, charge!" though there were not ten men of the Regiment together, and the enemy, struck by such resolution, and thinking themselves about to be assailed by a very large force, threw down their arms and surrendered to the very men who were actually within their power and at their mercy. *Captain William Buckley, of the Royals is the officer referred to by the writer. Adjutant of 1st Battalion 1805-10, promoted to Captain in 1810, he transferred to the 3rd Battalion and served in the Peninsular at St Sebastian and Bayonne and was the only captain killed at Waterloo."

Dumbarton's Drums – The Regimental March

"Written during the Restoration period by John D'Urfey or some other English vamped and collector. The drums in the song are not those of the town of Dumbarton, but of Dumbarton's Regiment, as The Royal Scots were known at that time. As there were two drums to each company, "Dumbarton's drums," when massed, must have impressed themselves upon the memory." *From The Thistle* 1924.



McCrae's Battalion was the name given to the 16th Battalion of The Royal Scots raised by Colonel Sir George McCrae in January 1914. It is famous for being the first 'footballers battalion' of the Great War. There is a memorial service at Contalmaison on 1 July, and each Remembrance Sunday there is a service at the Haymarket Clock, Edinburgh to remember the Hearts players of the 16th Battalion who lost their lives on the Somme. <http://www.mccraesbattaliontrust.org.uk/>

The Victoria Cross and The Baltic Medal

"Mr William Hewlett, who witnessed the act of valour for which the first Victoria Cross was awarded, is still living in Brighton. He is now 85, and is a veteran of both Navy and Army. He won the Baltic Medal when only 16 ½ years old. He joined the Royals in 1859, serving for 6 ½ years until invalided out on a pension of 4d a day. When a boy of 14 ½ he joined HMS Victory, Nelson's old flag ship. Later, at the taking of Bomarsund in the Baltic, he saw Admiral Lucas win the first VC. The admiral was then a mate of HMS Hecla. A live shell landed on deck. It was hissing, and might have exploded at any moment, but Lucas seized it and threw it overboard. He was immediately made a Lieutenant." *From The Thistle* 1923, p 238. His Baltic Medal is on display.

Medals in the Museum

The Museum has a magnificent collection of medals, presented over the years. It has never refused to accept any regimental medals although many are duplicated and space precludes them all being on display. The collection includes all seven Victoria Crosses awarded to The Regiment. There are also several unique collections, which include:

Lt Col A H C Hope OBE TD

Arthur Hope was in the air in balloons in France during WW1. He then joined 4th/5th RS rising to command the Battalion. In WW2 he was officer in charge of troopships crossing the Atlantic. So he has WW1 and WW2 medals including the Atlantic Star (rare for a soldier) and the Territorial Decoration with four bars. He served on land, sea and air, and in both World Wars. Aged 87 he was on parade in a wheelchair in 1983 for the 350th anniversary of The Regiment.

Maj Gen Sir Rohan Delacombe KCMG KCVO KBE CB DSO

Jumbo, as he was always known, also held the appointment of Knight of the Order of St John (KStJ). He had the distinction of being the only Royal Scot to have been knighted four times. Dressed as an Archer on parade for the 350th Anniversary, with all his medals and decorations he looked every bit like a Russian General. *Lt Col Jock Wilson Smith OBE*