

## Archibald Douglas *Earl of Angus and Ormand*

*Colonel of the Regiment 1646-1653*

Born around 1609 he did not lead the Regiment in person and resigned in March 1653 in favour of his younger brother George.

## Lord George Douglas *Earl of Dumbarton*

*Colonel of our Royal Regiment of Foot 1653-1688*

He was only 17 when the Colonelcy was ceded to him. The Regiment was summoned from France to England by Charles II in 1661.

Created Earl of Dumbarton in 1661 for services in France and the Dutch War, where the Regiment became known as Dumbarton's. In 1678 it came permanently onto the British establishment and the Regimental March, 'Dumbarton's Drums', is believed to date from that time. King James II recommissioned George to be "Colonel of our Royal Regiment of Foot" on 28 November 1685. He remained loyal to King James in the Revolution of 1689 and accompanied him into exile at St Germaine-en-Laye, where he died 20 March 1692. The Duke of Schomberg replaced him on 18 April.

## Sir Robert Douglas *Colonel of the Regiment 1691-1692*

After the death of the Duke of Schomberg the Colonelcy fell to Robert Douglas. Having previously refused to acknowledge the authority of the Duke as Colonel in 1689, he had been deprived of his commission. He was however, reinstated and appointed Colonel on 5 March 1691. He died in a display of great bravery recovering the Regimental colours at the Battle of Steenkirke on 23 July 1692.

## Brigadier Robbie L Scott-Bowden MBE ADC

*Colonel of the Regiment 2005-2006*

Commissioned into The Royal Scots in 1974, he became the 33<sup>rd</sup> and last Colonel of The Royal Scots in July 2005. The appointment ceased a year later on the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

## Trouble at home: West Belfast 1970

Serious rioting in Belfast in 1969 had taken place along the line where the Catholic community of the Falls met the Protestant community of Shankill. Flax spinning and linen mills, surrounded by small old houses in narrow streets, were gutted and demolished, with houses burnt out and many families left homeless. In one street forty-three houses were burnt in one night.

The army established a 'Peace line' between the two communities to bring stability to the area. Crossing points were opened during the day but closed at night. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, used to mechanised warfare, had to adapt to a new order. Armoured vehicles had to be replaced with soft-skinned vehicles and drivers trained. With training in and around the barracks the Military Band was often used as rioters, frequently resorting to throwing snowballs as opposed to bricks, bottles and ball bearings.

When full scale rioting broke out in the Ballymurphy estate at Easter, B Company was deployed. The confrontation lasted four hours with soldiers facing a stone and bottle-throwing mob (on both sides) of about 150. Later B Company was reinforced by two platoons from A Company. When rioters dispersed in early morning, 29 soldiers had been injured. Rioting continued into April but Support Company worked hard at trying to break down prejudices. "Everyone took back vivid memories of the four-and-a-half months in Belfast." Drawn from Robert H Paterson's *Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard*.

THE ROYAL SCOTS IN BELFAST, APRIL, 1970



"I wish somebody was on MY side"

# The Royal Scots Museum

## Moments in Time



## March

4	1814	Battle of the Longwoods Canada.		Pictured here is an annual service to remember those killed when 140 Americans fought against 240 British and Native American Warriors. Twelve Royals lost their lives. Captain Johnston was
		killed leading the Light Company RS. See the re-enactment at <a href="http://www.royal-scots.com">www.royal-scots.com</a> .		
5	1691	Sir Robert Douglas appointed Colonel of the Regiment		
	1900	Boer War: General Gatacre occupied Stromberg Junction and left a Royal Scots company to hold it while withdrawing the remainder of his force to Molteno.		
10	1915 WW1	Battle of Neuve Chapelle 8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion – British losses were 544 officers and 11,108 other ranks, killed, wounded or missing.		
17	1686	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion replaced The Scots Guards at Leith Fort – the first time the Regiment served in Scotland. They returned to England in 1688.		
18	1927	Depot Memorial Gateway opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Mary The Princess Royal.		
21	1801	Seige of Alexandria – The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion lost 13 men and the city finally surrendered in September. They were granted, by King George III, the bearing of the Sphinx superscribed by 'Egypt' on their colours.		
28	1633	Grant of Royal warrant by Charles I to Sir John Hepburn to raise a Scots regiment for service in France.		
	2006	Cease and become The Royal Scots Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.		
30	1926	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion left for Egypt in January and met the 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion returning to Scotland from Aden at Moascar, Ismailia, on the Suez Canal. "The celebrations, which resembled a huge family party, were much enjoyed and, significantly, they extended over 28 March, the Regiment's 293 <sup>rd</sup> birthday." <i>Major General Sir Rohan Delacombe, unpublished memoirs quoted in Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard Vol II.</i> On 1 March 1924 the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion was only 520 strong – a figure made up of 336 Scots, 167 English, 15 Irish and 2 Welsh.		
	1970	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion West Belfast, Northern Ireland.		

## Regimental Day

March 28 is The Royal Scots commemoration of the day in 1633 when Sir John Hepburn was given the grant of Royal warrant by Charles I, to raise a Scots regiment for service in France. Sir John and fellow Scots had been fighting on the continent for many years, but this is considered to be the formation day of the Regiment.

For many hundreds of years it has been celebrated by The Royal Scots and this month will be celebrated by Old Royals as well as by our successors, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

“Our position as the senior Infantry Regiment of the line, stemming from the granting of a Royal Charter by King Charles I on 28 March 1633, has been transferred to the new Regiment and they are now the ‘Right of the Line’. The Regimental motto, and the Royal motto of Scotland, *Nemo Me Impune Lacessit*\* has also been adopted. Having appeared on the Colours in 1680, it predates the raising of any other Scottish regiment.” *Colonel Robert Watson OBE*

\*This motto is carved over the drawbridge as you enter the castle. See if you can find the translation in the museum.

### Merging of the Regiments in March 2006

Despite the Infantry being overstretched, it was a Government decision on 21 July 2004 to reduce from 40 to 36 battalions and to form large regiments from single battalion regiments. The Royal Scots, after 373 years of unbroken service were to be merged with The King’s Own Scottish Borderers under a new larger Royal Regiment of Scotland with five regular battalions and two reserve.

“The new Regiment would form on March 2006, thus keeping the link with the formation of Hepburn’s Regiment in 1633, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion would be re-titled The Royals Scots Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The Royal Scots and The King’s Own Scottish Borderers Regiments would then merge on 1 August 2006, Minden Day, to form The Royal Scots Borderers, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. The new title for the Lowland TA Battalion was to be 52<sup>nd</sup> Lowland, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.” *Lt Col (now Brigadier) George Lowder MBE*

### Lowering of the old...

“On 27 March 2006, one month into my tenure as Commanding Officer, we were joined in Iraq by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Robbie Scott-Bowden, and we prepared to mark the transition. The Battalion was determined to mark the Formation Day of The Royal Regiment of Scotland with steadfast dignity, capturing our fierce pride in The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) and channeling it with confidence towards the new era. That evening those Officers and Senior NCOs who were not committed to duty held a Dinner Night, with the Colonel of the Regiment as our only guest, in a tent in the desert. Between courses the companies each delivered a presentation on a discrete period of the history of the Regiment. It was a moving and dignified evening that focused entirely on the glory of our forebears. At 10pm a spectacular electric storm lit up the desert sky and lasted until just after midnight. Thus the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion marked the passing of the Regiment.

### ...and raising of the new Regimental Flags

On Formation Day on 28 March 2006, simple parades were held in Shaibah, Baghdad and at Edinburgh. We offered prayers of remembrance for our fallen, lowered the flag of The Royal Scots and raised the flag of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. We changed our cap badge and fitted black hackles. Momentarily, everything felt quite different and the sense of loss was acute. The moment passed and we got back to work.” *Lt Col (now Brigadier) Bob Bruce, Pontius Pilate’s Bodyguard Vol III*

## Boer War Boar



AINSLEY NEVER MADE ANY ATTEMPT TO GET DOWN, BUT WAVED HIS HAND TO THE BOERS AND SHOUTED ACROSS TO THEM, “MISS, HIGH RIGHT, OLD CHAP.”

Pte “Watty” Ainsley saw a porker feeding out in the open about a hundred yards away, between us and the Boers holding the river bank. Ainsley was a remarkably good shot, and “downed” the little pig between the eyes. He then said to me, “I’m going to get that pig, sir.” A bullet from a Boer sniper attracted my attention at the moment and I shifted my gaze towards the sniper, but when I again turned towards Ainsley I saw that he had left his rifle leaning against a rock, and was off across the open to fetch his pig. There were a lot of Boers among the scrub on the far side of the river, only a very few hundred yards away, but not a single shot was fired at Ainsley. There is no doubt that they saw him shoot his pig, and that, purely from a “sporting” point of view, none of them fired at him. Ainsley picked up his pig and threw it over his shoulder, like a shepherd carries a young sheep, and carried it back to where he had left his rifle, and put it down; he remained standing up and stretched himself. This was too much for the Boers and they opened fire on him. Ainsley never made any attempt to get down, but waved his hand to the Boers, and shouted across to them, “Miss, high right, old chap,” and then got down behind his rock !

*An excerpt from Nigel K Charteris’s diary with an illustration drawn by G Byam Shaw printed in The Regimental Journal The Thistle, page 674 1926.*

The Boer War lasted two years and eight months with 7,792 British soldiers killed and 22,829 wounded but a further 13,250 died during the campaign, mainly from disease. The Boers, horsemen and hunters who knew their ground and their Mauser rifles, lost around 4,000 men.




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