

Frederick, Duke of Schomberg

Colonel of the Regiment 1689-1690

Born in 1616, Frederick, a staunch Protestant with an English mother, served many masters in the wars of Europe. The King of France had appointed him Captain of the 'Scottish Guard' in 1652, with the rank of *Maréchal de Camp*. The 'Scottish Guard' was incorporated into Douglas's Regiment in 1660. He had previously served the House of Orange, before being recalled by the Prince of Orange (later William III) as his second-in-command for his expedition to England in 1689. Frederick took the oath of naturalisation on 4 April and was appointed Colonel of The Royal Regiment on 18 April after Dumbarton's departure for France. He died at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 whilst riding through the river, without his cuirass, to rally his men.

The Battle of Culloden

On 16 April 1745 two armies met on Culloden Moor for the last battle to be fought on British soil. Cumberland's force consisted of fifteen battalions of infantry, the Argyll Militia, 800 mounted dragoons and a small artillery train – 9,000 men.

The Jacobite Army fielded around 5,000 tired and hungry men, out of a possible 8,000. The action was short, bloody and conclusive.

The engagement opened with artillery fire which drove the Jacobites into mounting a premature attack; the front rank of The

Foot knelt and used their bayonets to repel the attacking Highlanders while the second and third ranks discharged their muskets over their heads, the horse being held

in reserve for the pursuit. Over 1,000 of the Jacobite army were killed in the pursuit which was protracted and savage. Cumberland's losses were no more than a few hundred and those of the 2nd Battalion had only four soldiers missing. During the campaign four men deserted to the Jacobite Army, three of whom were subsequently taken prisoner and executed. Lord George Murray, formerly an officer in the Regiment, commanded the right wing of the Jacobite Army. Roderick Chisholm led his father's clansmen whilst brothers James and John, were officers with the 2nd Battalion. The *Royal Ecosais*, consisting of Scots recruited in the Highlands, formed part of the Jacobite left. *From the Regimental History 'Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard'*.

The Inspection of the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) by His Majesty the King April 19th 1933

"Queen Victoria took pride that she was born in the Regiment, of which her father was Colonel. I understand her pride. It warms my heart to see the Duke of Kent's Own Regiment, passing its three hundredth milestone, with my dear daughter at its head. I, too desire to identify with my oldest Regiment. It gives me great pleasure to confer upon your Pipers to wear my Personal tartan, the Royal Stuart. I know that you and your successors will ever hold fast to your high traditions, and that Scotland and the Empire may always rely on The Royal Scots." His Majesty King George V, accompanied by Her Majesty The Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, inspected the Regiment, represented by the 1st Battalion at Aldershot on 19th April. *King George V was the first monarch to give a Christmas speech on radio in 1932. However it was his second son who became George VI who was the recent subject of the film 'The King's Speech'*.



Royal Scots Museum

Moments in Time

April



3	1944	Battle of Kohima, Burma 2 nd World War. On 3 April the Japanese 31 st Division attempted to capture Kohima Ridge, which dominated the road supplying British and Indian troops at Imphal. There were two thousand troops at Kohima, with thirteen thousand troops in the 31 st Division.
5	1812	Siege and Fall of Badajoz – The British losses were high and hundreds of dead and dying lay by the breaches in the walls of the fortress. At that time the accepted convention was that the governor of a fortress should capitulate once a practicable breach had been made, to spare the attackers the heavy losses that were the inevitable consequence of an assault. In return the attackers respected the right of the defenders to march out with honour as well as the safety of the civilian population. Neither happened at Badajoz, which was sacked for two days.
9	2002	The Royal Scots Pipes and Drums play at the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.
10	1947	Colonel-in-Chief accepts the Freedom of Haddington on behalf of the Regiment
12	1918	On this day in World War I the 2 nd Battalion lost fifteen killed, 108 wounded and 255 missing. Casualties amongst The Royal Scots Battalions totalled 2,378 in April 1918
16	1745	Culloden – "Upon Wednesday at Four o'Clock, General beat, and the Assembly half an hour later; the Army was formed by Five and we were on our long March a Quarter after Five. It was a very cold rainy Morning, ...We also had great Difficulty in keeping the Locks of our Firelocks dry: which was absolutely necessary; for the day was stormy, and the Rain as violent." <i>Alexander Taylor of the 2nd Battalion, from a letter to his wife dated 17 April.</i>
17	1944	Battle of the Tennis Court – so-called because attacking Japanese and defenders of Kohima were dug in on opposite sides, so close that grenades were thrown between the trenches. By 22 nd June 1944 British and Indian losses numbered 4,064 casualties. The Japanese lost 5,764 – the majority of the 31 st Div. died of disease or starvation. The epitaph of the Memorial of the 2 nd British Division in the cemetery at Kohima, (built over the Tennis Court) says: "When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say, For Their Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today"
19	1933	King George V with Princess Mary visited 1 st Battalion as part of the Tercentenary
24	1817	3 rd Battalion, raised to fight Napoleon, disbands
29	1961	The Colonel-in-Chief opens the Regimental Headquarters and 'new' Museum

The Royal Scots Museum is an independent museum with charitable status, reliant entirely on voluntary contributions for its upkeep. It receives no part of the admission fee to The Castle so any donation you may wish to make helps to sustain the Museum.

Pipes in the Army

The introduction of the bagpipes into the British Army dates from the raising of The Royal Scots Regiment. Register House in Edinburgh holds the original of a warrant, dated April 24 1633, which *“gives and grants full power and commission to Sir John Hepburne, knight, or to anie other whome he sall appoint, to levey and take up in the kingdome ane regiment of twelffe hundreth men out of all suche persons ... as he sall find willing to go with him ...to nominate captans and all other officers and members of the said regiment of twelffe hundreth men, and to caus towcke (beat) drummes, displey cullours,”*

These men had previous continental service, and were the predecessors of The Royal Scots of today. The bagpipe came into the British Army from the date of the origin of our standing Army, April 25, 1633.

We know that Hepburn's Regiment of Scots used the bagpipe because, less than two years later in January 1635, we read of them at Landau, Germany: “As the relieving force approached, deafening shouts were raised, the Scottish march was played, and the sole surviving piper, last of the thirty-six who had gone to Gustavus with Mackay's Highlanders, skirled a welcome on the great war-pipes of the North”. It is evident that the pipe had gone to the Continent from Scotland with Sir Donald Mackay's Regiment in 1626.

In 1660, Colonel Walton in his History of the British Standing Army states: “At the Restoration there was only one Regiment that boasted a piper (The First Royals),” as “...a peculiarity of the Regiment.” The piper was listed under ‘Staff Officers’ from 1679 until the Malplaquet Bounty Roll of 1709 when there was no longer a piper on the staff.

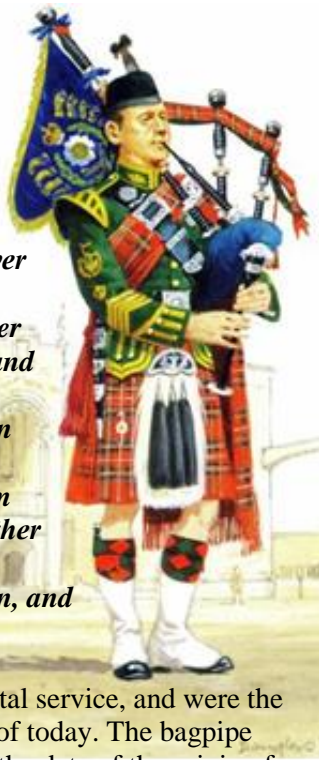
From J M MacLennan, The London Scottish Regimental Gazette reprinted in The Thistle 1928, the Warrant of 1633 and article by H M McCance The Thistle 1910.

The Power of the Pipes

At Camp ...one evening a complaint was made that the firewood, which consisted of railway sleepers, was difficult to split. On this, the ORS suggested to the Sergt. Bugler to parade the band as near the pile of firewood as possible, as he judged that the music produced by them would split anything. This utterance proved prophetic when the worthy Pipe-Major was enchanting Officers and friends on a guest's night, the tent collapsed.

It was never officially stated what caused the collapse, but a pipe band, which in an emergency can split firewood, can credibly be understood to be capable of lifting a marquee into the air. From that time one well-known sergeant insisted of addressing the Sergt Bugler as “the Commander of the Balloon Section”.

Lt C E Alison, 6th Volunteer Battalion, The Thistle 1904.



Fifty Years' Records of the Royal Buffshires

“April 5th 1876 – The men brought a monkey, which they wanted to dress in the uniform of the regiment and bring on parade, as other regiments have goats and lambs. The colonel would not allow the monkey on parade, as he said it might be mistaken for Major Smith.”

“The regiment, 1,000 strong, were ordered to embark for India, but as most of the NCOs and men remained at Portsmouth in public-houses, the strength on sailing was as follows: - officers 20; NCOs 3; rank and file 5; women 100; children 600. The remainder followed on rafts and P&O steamers.”

Bluffs of a spoof regiment, The Thistle June 1894.

The ‘new’ Museum

“We have taken over what used to be, before the 1939-45 war, the gymnasium (built 1899), and subsequently was a “Model Room” and Quartermaster's Stores. This building is situated immediately below Foog's Gate. After the 1960 Tattoo was finished, the workmen got busy with the building and transformed it out of all recognition. The two rooms which existed before have now been joined by two archways, and the Museum is housed in two rooms at right angles to each other, forming an L. At the far end partitions have been built to divide off the headquarter offices. The walls of the first room have been decorated in grey, and in the second apple green, and all the woodwork is white except that all doors are brick red.

The floor has been covered throughout with black and grey linoleum tiles, and the whole effect gives a

pleasant feeling of airiness and modernity.”

The new Museum was opened by HRH The Princess Royal. As Colonel in Chief, Princess Mary was introduced by the Colonel of the Regiment General Delacombe to Monsieur Fernand Soares of the Association Les Médaillés Militaires, to renew the bonds of friendship when the *Garde Ecossaise* and the Green Brigade served the Kings of France 300 years ago. The old Museum had been originally situated at Glencorse Barracks near Penicuik.

The weather was variable on the day: “After a splendid week of fine, spring-like weather we were in high hopes for a good day for the 29th; but this was not to be. At an early hour, the “cloud base” came right down... Edinburgh Castle was completely covered in a heavy mist.”

However, on 27 February 1967 there was the worst blizzard for years, followed by 10 days of gale force winds. *The Museum was under attack...* “Accompanied by a noise, reminiscent of the opening bombardment at Alamein, the skylight roof of the Museum was seen, to the great consternation of the resident staff, to come adrift from its moorings and then begin to batter itself to destruction.”

A gallant operation followed to rescue fragile items including the colours of 1830 amidst the flying glass.

The Museum you see today was launched on 27 June 1991. A team led by Lt Col Jock Wilson Smith, raised £350,000 of the £450,000 needed.

