



SEE PAGE 18

THE ROYAL SCOTS (THE ROYAL REGIMENT): THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM IN WORDS AND PICTURES



THE ROYAL SCOTS (THE ROYAL REGIMENT) THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM IN WORDS & PICTURES

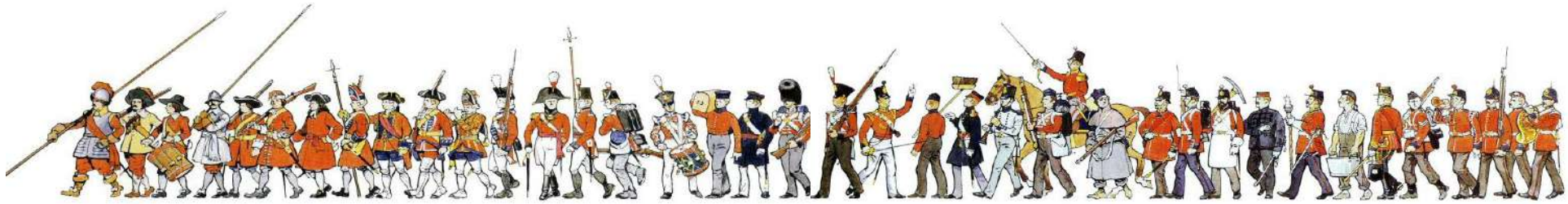


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The content of this booklet can also be found at www.theroyalscots.co.uk where there is a virtual tour of the Museum

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Compiled by Lieutenant Colonel W J Blythe MBE Regimental Secretary 2009 - 2018



The Royal Scots Museum in Edinburgh Castle - How To Find Us

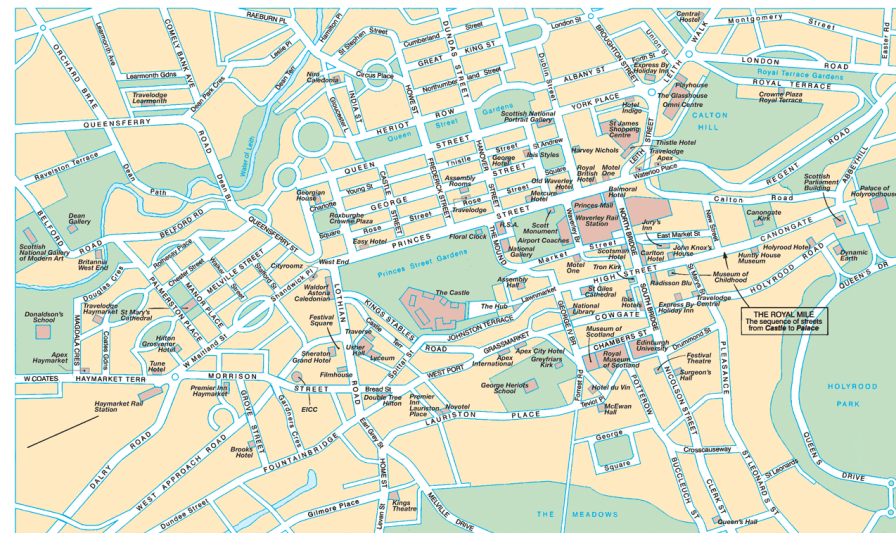


The Royal Scots Museum in Edinburgh Castle

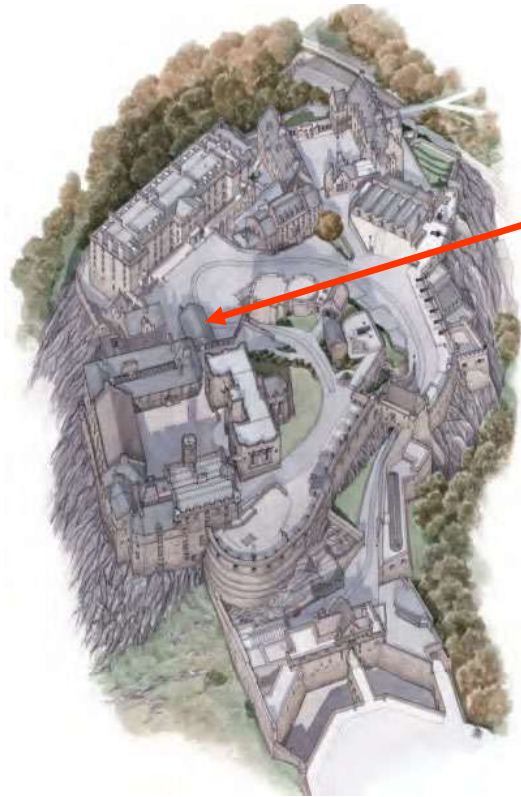


The Royal Scots Museum, telling the story of 373 years unbroken Royal Scots service to the Crown, is within Edinburgh Castle at the heart of Scotland's capital city.

The Castle can be approached on foot or by taxi from the nearby St Andrew Square bus station, Waverley mainline railway station and from the adjacent airport bus terminus. Car parking is available only in public parking areas, e.g. in Castle Terrace EH1 2ES but not within the Castle.



Where to find us in Edinburgh Castle



The Royal Scots Museum is No 9 on the map, and No 9 in the Castle audio guide available once inside the Castle.



The Museum is in the former garrison gymnasium on the site of the Castle Governor's stables.

The Museum office is in the Old Provost Marshal's House above the former military prison.

The Museum

The Museum was opened in 1961 by HRH Princess Mary, then our Colonel-in-Chief.

Previously the collection had been split between our training depot at Glencorse and the Scottish United Services Museum, now the National War Museum of Scotland, also in the Castle.



After refurbishment in 1991 the Museum was reopened by HRH Princess Anne, then our Colonel-in-Chief and presently our Royal Patron.

A virtual tour of the Museum is at www.theroyalscots.co.uk

The Collection

The story of 373 years unbroken Royal Scots service to the Crown is told in chronological order on wall panels, maps, display cases, tableaux and dioramas.



The medal collection is too large to be displayed so only a selection is on view. The remainder can be accessed on request, although a few days notice is always appreciated.

The Collection

Also to be seen are weapons, pictures, silver, drums and Colours.



There are also descriptions of contemporary Army life and overhead panels show significant world events for context.

The Scottish National War Memorial

No visit to The Royal Scots Museum is complete without also visiting The Scottish National War Memorial, also in the Castle, in which our Rolls of Honour commemorate all Royal Scots who have died in the service of Sovereign and Country since the outbreak of the Great War, including those Royal Scots who served on in The Royal Regiment of Scotland after 2006.



First and Second World War Rolls of Honour.



Old and New



The Museum of Scotland's oldest Regiment is now also home to the collection of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, Scotland's youngest Regiment.

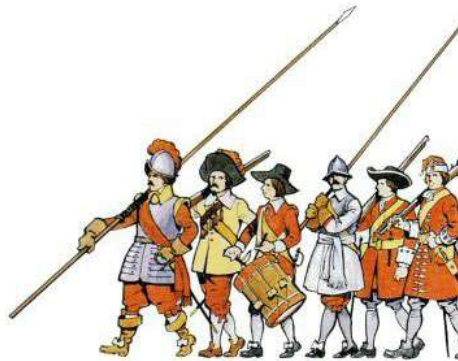
The Royal Regiment of Scotland was formed on 28th March 2006, 373 years to the day after the original Royal Scots.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland collection takes the story of the Scottish infantry forward through operations in Afghanistan to life in the Army of today.





The Royal Scots The Early Years Raising the Regiment and the First Battle Honour



Regimental Badges

The Saltire is important to both Nation and Regiment. It is the flag of Scotland and the basis of the Union Flag.



It is on the soldiers cap badge, along with our patron saint, St Andrew.



Three other badges are equally important.

The Royal Cypher within the Collar of The Order of The Thistle is the Regimental Badge and signifies our status as The Royal Regiment.



The Star of the Order of the Thistle, worn by officers, sergeant majors and colour sergeants as a cap badge.



The Crown and One symbolising our position as The Royal Regiment and the First Regiment of Foot.



Examples of badges can be seen immediately inside the Museum.

Athelstaneford and the Colours

The origin of the Saltire as our national flag is the legend that it appeared in the sky, by a trick of sunlight and cloud, on the eve of battle between Picts and Angles in the year 832 AD at Athelstaneford in East Lothian, as a portent of victory.

The Saltire formed our earliest standard or Colour along with the motto of Scotland, *Nemo Me Impune Lacessit*.

In broad Scots, it is a challenge *Wha daur meddle wi' me!*



Famously, the Colour was saved from capture at the Battle of Steenkirke in 1692 by Colonel Sir Robert Douglas, at the cost of his life.



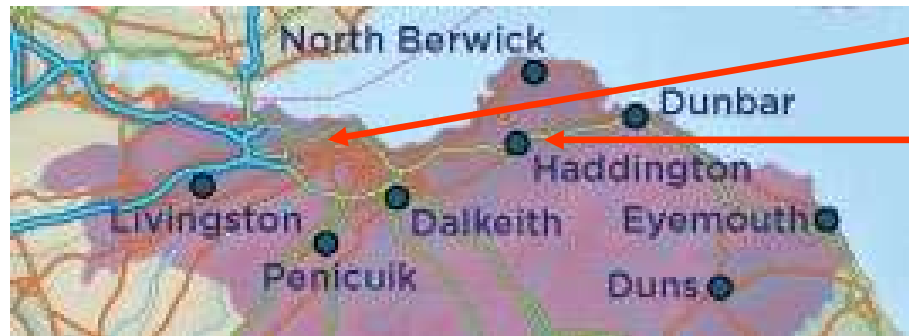
Colours became more formalised over the years, but the original design remained in service as the commanding officer's pennant.

It was most recently flown in battle during the liberation of Kuwait in 1991 by Lt Col Iain Johnstone on his Warrior armoured vehicle. A number of Colours are displayed in the Museum.



John Hepburn - The Student

Athelstaneford is also the birthplace of the founder of our Regiment and arguably of the British Army as we know it. John Hepburn grew up on a smallholding there and studied at the high school in Haddington where he won a scholarship to St Andrews University.



Edinburgh Castle

Athelstaneford

The Arms of
Haddington



The Arms of
St Andrews

Opportunity to study abroad took him to Poitiers in France where he met fellow countrymen, Scots mercenaries of Louis XIII's bodyguard. The life of a soldier



The Arms
of Poitiers

beckoned and Hepburn left university to join them.



The Fleur-de-Lys
of France

Hepburn returned to Athelstaneford and the poverty there, and told his brothers, "You run the farm. I've been living in the court of the King of France. I'm awa' for a sodjer!"

The story of John Hepburn is told immediately on the left on entering the Museum.

John Hepburn and The Green Brigade

Hepburn knew that rulers on the Continent were recruiting mercenary soldiers from Scotland where, so widespread was poverty, many young men were enlisting abroad.

He mustered a body of men, some probably imprisoned in the Tollbooth which once stood beside St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh's High Street, marched them to the Port of Leith, which can be seen from the Castle battlements, and took passage to Europe.



He soon found himself in the service of King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden in the 30 Years War and grew his platoon of 30 into a company of 100, then to a regiment of 500.



By 1625 he was commanding the Green Brigade.



So called because of the green sashes they wore to distinguish them from other formations.

The story of John Hepburn is told immediately on the left on entering the Museum.

Arise Sir John



Hepburn became one of Gustavus Adolphus's most successful and trusted generals for which he was knighted.

On returning to Scotland in 1633, Hepburn was summoned to London by the King and, on 28th March, in the Banqueting House in Whitehall, Charles I issued him with a Royal Warrant to *“raise a regiment of 1200 Scotsmen from a’ the Kingdome”* thus forming the first and the most senior infantry regiment of the British Army.

A transcript of Sir John's contract with Louis XIII is in the Museum archive.



A copy of the portrait of Sir John, attributed to Daniel Mytens c1630, is in the first case on the left inside the Museum.

Sir John Returns to France



Charles I recognised Sir John's soldierly qualities – but was short of funds and immediately hired out the newly formed Hepburn's Regiment to the King of France where it remained for 30 years. On returning to Britain, it formally entered the British Army establishment.



Originally, the Regiment was known as Le Regiment de Hebron and then by the name of subsequent colonels. Sadly, Sir John survived for only another three years before being killed while leading a reconnaissance at the siege of Sauverne.

John Hepburn, of humble origins in Scotland is interred in Toul Cathedral in France as Sir John Hepburn Marechal de France having raised The Royal Scots, Scotland's and the British Army's First and Royal Regiment of Foot, standing in the place of honour at the Right of the Line.



Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard

The Regiment has another title, or rather a nickname, that survives today.

It stems from the early days in France whilst brigaded with Le Regiment de Picardy, which claimed its ancestry from the Roman legion that garrisoned Jerusalem at the time of the Crucifixion.



At issue was a Picardy sentry falling asleep on duty which caused one of Hepburn's men to declare that, had his Regiment been guarding the Sepulchre, the sentries would not have fallen asleep thus preventing the angels from rolling away the stone that entombed Jesus.

This caused the French to refer to their Scots comrades as "Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard", making reference to the legend that Pontius Pilate was born at Fortingal in Perthshire of a Scots mother.



Fortingal

Athelstaneford

Edinburgh Castle

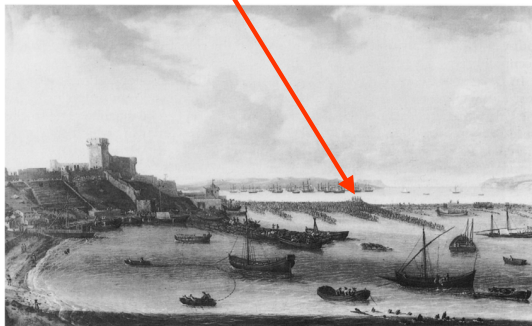
The original cartoon by E V Powell 1931 is in the first case on the left.

The First Battle Honour

Not only were we the first regiment to be raised, we also gained the Army's First Battle Honour *Tangier 1680*, shared with the 2nd Regiment of Foot (The Queen's Surrey Regiment) and the Coldstream Guards.



Tangier 1680 was gained while ejecting the Moors from the port which had been part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza, wife of King Charles II.



It is from a contemporary painting that we know that the Regiment had a body of pipers, some years before any other Scottish regiments were raised.

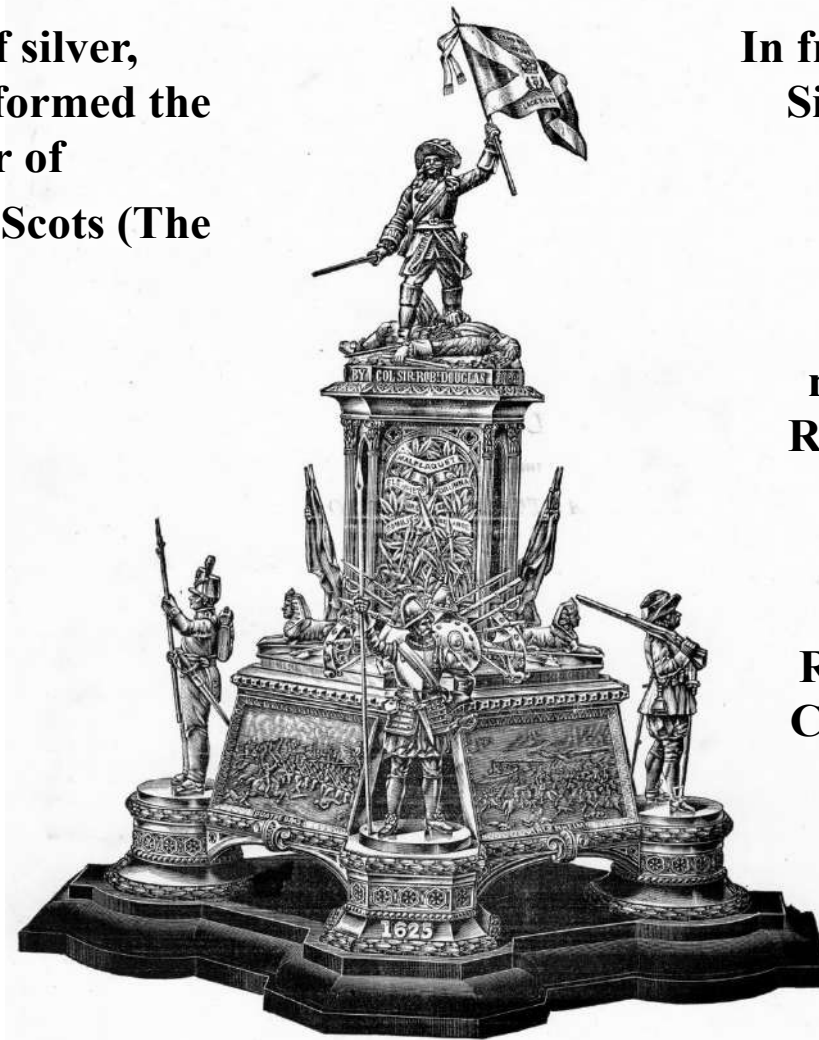


A model of Tangier by E V Powell is in the Museum.

The Early Years in Silver

This spectacular item of silver, commissioned in 1890, formed the centre piece of the silver of 1st Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

It was passed into the stewardship of their successors, The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, in 2006.



In front is a 1625 pikeman of Sir John Hepburn's Green Brigade in the service of Gustavus Adolphus.

To the right is a 1685 musketeer of the, by then, Royal Regiment, originally raised by Royal Warrant of Charles I.

On top is Colonel Sir Robert Douglas saving the Colour at Steenkirke 1692.

To the rear a soldier of 1742.

**The sergeant on the left is dated 1813, two years prior to the Battle of Waterloo
Other items of Regimental silver are displayed at the back of the Museum beside the medal cases. Further information is at www.theroyalscots.co.uk under Museum and Heritage - Further Reading.**



The Royal Scots Redcoats! Expansion of the Army



© 2018 The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

From Steel to Scarlet

As the power and accuracy of firearms improved, steel breastplates and helmets became less effective and the scarlet tunics of the British Army became the iconic item of uniform.



Nevertheless, vestiges of breastplates remained as a badge of office in the form of gorgets.



The breastplate and helmet are in the first case on the left inside the Museum.

The gorget and musket are on the right, opposite the Waterloo Colours.

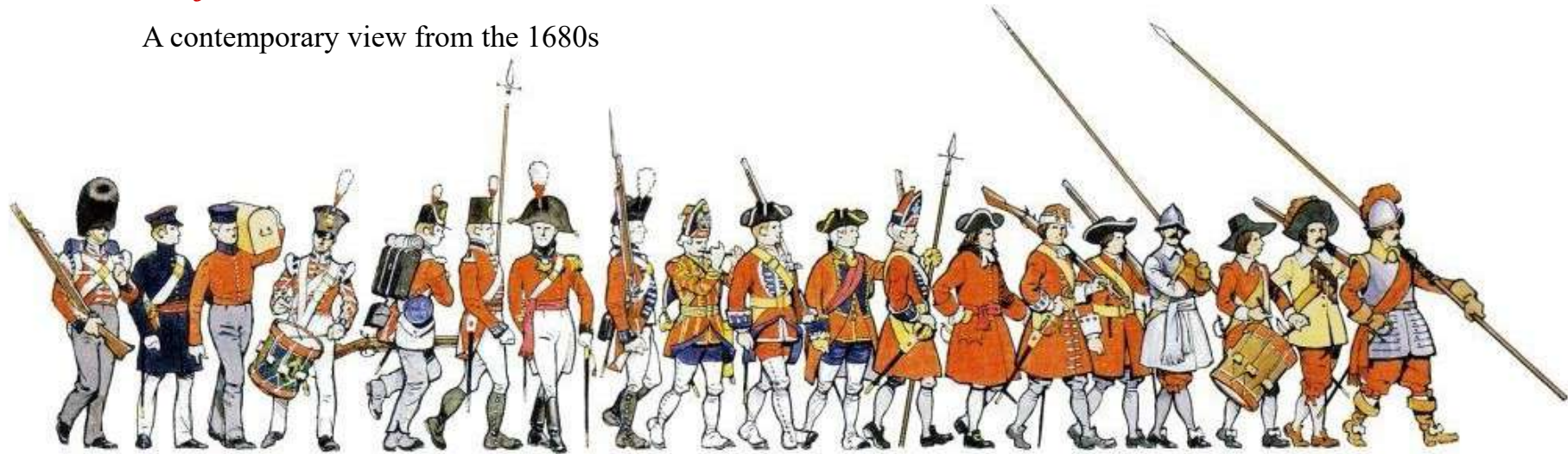


Scarlet Battalions

Generations of British soldiers have worn the scarlet coat, the colour chosen so that their enemies would not see the extent of the blood from their wounds.

“Soldiers are generally beloved of whores and lice because both are admirers of the scarlet coat”

A contemporary view from the 1680s



“Ill fed when fed at all, drowned in sea transports, when wounded mangled by surgeons more akin to carpenters, on the march shoeless and ragged, poorly paid when paid at all, and cut off from their nearest and dearest as if dead”

A contemporary account from the 1680s

The following pages describe some of the extraordinary achievements of such scarlet battalions from the Restoration of the Monarchy to the emergence of Napoleon.

Scarlet coats are featured at intervals throughout the Museum.

Monmouth's Rebellion and The Glorious Revolution



Protestant Charles II was succeeded by his Roman Catholic son, James II.

In 1685, the Protestant Duke of Monmouth mounted a rebellion.



Monmouth
at Sedgemoor

Five companies of The Royals fought against the rebels at Sedgemoor.

Monmouth knew The Royals from earlier service in France. Now with them opposite he said, ***"I know these men will fight. If I had them, I would not doubt of success"***

Opposition to James grew, Protestants invited the Dutch King, William of Orange to the throne in The Glorious Revolution and James fled to France.



William appointed the Duke of Schomberg as Colonel of The Royals, an appointment previously held only by a Hepburn or a Douglas, and this was unpopular.

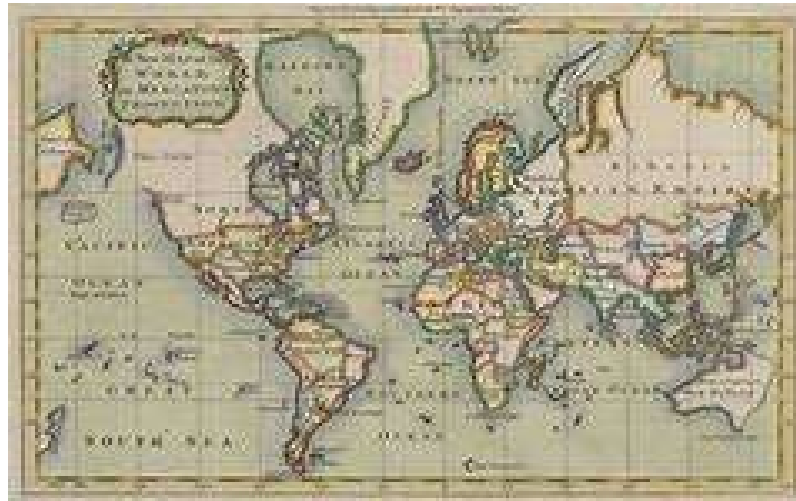
Furthermore, the Scottish Parliament had not yet declared for William.

The Regiment was warned for service in Holland. Objecting, the Regiment marched north to Scotland. William was lenient with the mutineers but the first Mutiny Act was passed in order to balance the relationship between the King, Parliament and the new standing Army.

Old Allies – New Rivals

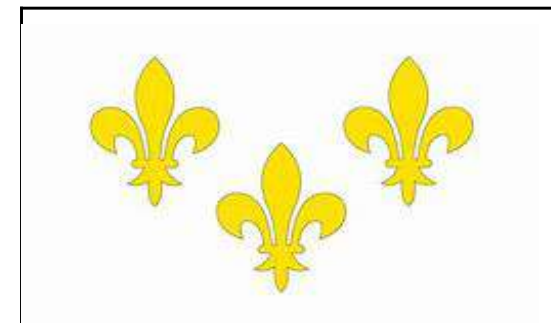


Throughout most of its first 50 years, the Regiment had fought for or with the French. This now changed as Britain and France embarked on a series of expansionist adventures to build their respective empires.



Rivalry lasted for over a hundred years with campaigns not only in Europe but westward to the New World and eastward through the Mediterranean to India.

The period is described in the Museum between the Tangier model and the case with the musket.



The War of Spanish Succession 1701 – 1714 and Marlborough's Great Battles

In 1700 James II died in exile, proclaiming his son James III, later known as the Old Pretender, as King. There follows an alliance between Britain, various German principalities, Portugal and Sardinia on one hand; and between France and Spain on the other. The scene was set for the War of Spanish Succession.



One of the great Generals of all time, John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, inspired the Army to win a series of famous victories that would affect the course of European history.

King William ordered The Royals to embark for the Continent, under Marlborough's command.



Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, Malplaquet

The 1st and 2nd Battalions served under Marlborough, in all four of his major victories, *Blenheim*, *Ramillies*, *Oudenarde*, and *Malplaquet*, all awarded as Battle Honours.



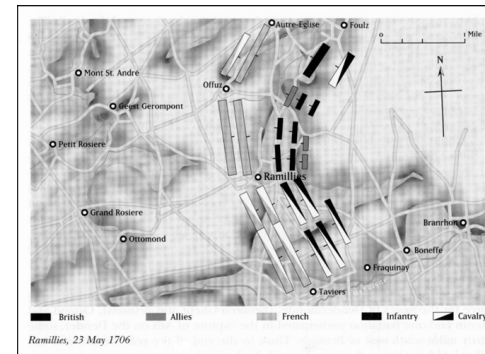
Blenheim with Marlborough on the white horse.

In the Museum, a diagram of the Battle of Blenheim is in the case on the right after the Tangier model.

At Oudenarde, failing light hindered pursuit.

“The French withdrew, aided by the drums of the Allies beating the French retreat. Some thousands of prisoners were gleaned, although the harvest that would have been reaped in another hour of daylight was lost.”

Fortescue's History of the British Army



Dispositions at Ramillies.

After Malplaquet, Richard Cockburn an officer of the Regiment wrote,

“The action lasted 7 hours. They had 30 battalions more than we. Our Battalion has lost an officer and 70 men and one wounded. We have taken 22 pieces of cannon”

A French officer wrote:

“Men were tearing at the muzzles of the muskets and the bayonets that pierced their entrails; even gouging out their opponents' eyes with their fingernails when the grip was so close that neither could make use of their weapons. It would have been impossible to find a more terrible representation of Hell!”

The Baby in the Knapsack at Malplaquet

On the eve of the Battle of Malplaquet, Private McBain was confronted by his wife because, being a senior soldier, his wife is permitted to accompany him on campaign.

She complains, “It’s been raining for a fortnight. I’m a’ drookit! My petticoats are a’ glaur richt up tae the knees. I’ve had enough! I’m awa’ hame!”

“Ye canna’ dae that” cautions McBain.

“Just watch me!” retorts his wife.

“But whit about the bairn?” pleads McBain, because the previous week Mrs McBain has borne him a baby son.

“You can hae the bairn” says she, thrusting the baby into her husband’s arms and storms off.

In the Museum, the story of the baby in the knapsack is featured in a diorama beyond the Tangier model where Private McBain stands at bay with bayonet fixed.



Regimental wives in the baggage train

The Baby in the Knapsack at Malplaquet

So, on the eve of battle, Private McBain is left with his musket in one hand and his week old son in the other.

What does he do? He places the baby into his knapsack where it remains throughout the battle and both father and son survive.

Like a good Regimental bairn, the son grows up and joins his father in the Regiment.



Master McBain being the youngest in the battle, Sergeant Hiseland is the oldest, aged 89!

A copy of a portrait of Hiseland overlooks McBain and his son in the Museum.

The Seventeen Forties

Ireland, Fontenoy and Jacobite Rebellion



There followed garrison duty in Ireland until 1742. The 2nd Battalion diary records that a sergeant and 10 men were sent to Tyrone, Fermanagh and Armagh, these being *“infested with Torys, Robbers, Rapparees and other evil disposed persons to the terror of HM subjects”*.

The Regiment was to have many similar deployments in the late 20th Century!

After 1742, the two battalions were usually separated to different theatres and, in 1743, the 1st Battalion moved to the Continent and the Austrian War of Succession, during which it was involved in the Battle of Fontenoy.



The French line at Fontenoy



Culloden
Inverness

In the following year, the 2nd Battalion became involved in the fight against the Young Pretender culminating in the Battle of Culloden, near Inverness, the last battle fought on British soil.

A plaster model of a soldier of the era and a replica grenadier company mitre are displayed in the Museum along with a diagram of Culloden moor.

Culloden 16th April 1746

“On Culloden moor, the Jacobite and Government lines are indicated by flagpoles. Whenever there, I go to the right hand flag of the Government line because that is where the 2nd Battalion stood, at the Right Of The Line. To our left were other Scottish Regiments, 21st Foot, 25th Foot and the Argyll Militia.”

Lt Col Blythe of The Royal Scots Museum

Colonel St Clair insisted that his 2nd Battalion stood in its rightful position at the Right of the Line.



Under his command were soldiers such as the one here.



Standing opposite was the Jacobite army of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender.

Charles was not an experienced soldier but his senior general was. Lord George Murray had served in The Royals but was of Jacobite persuasion and joined the rebel cause.



At Culloden they fell upon us like hungry wolves!

On the day after the battle, Alexander Taylor of the 2nd Battalion wrote to his wife from Inverness:

“It was a very cold rainy morning with nothing to comfort us but ammunition loaf and not a dram of brandy to be had we had great difficulty in keeping our firelocks dry the battle began by cannonading then they took to their small arms, sword and pistol and came running on our front line like troops of hungry wolves and fought with intrepidity fire increasing and encouraged by the Duke and Generals example they took plain flight”

The full text of the letter is in the Museum archive.



A statuette of a 1746 Royal is in the Museum in the case on the right after the Tangier model.



A contemporary engraving of the battle

A diagram of the battle is in the case on the right after the Tangier model.



The Americas 1757 - 1763

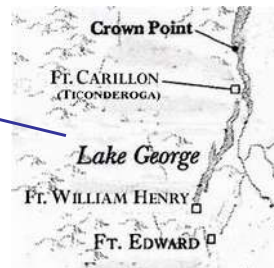
Rivalry with France extended to the colonies. The French held Canada in the north and Louisiana in the south, while the British colonies were on the eastern seaboard of today's United States. French intentions to link northern and southern colonies were thwarted in the Seven Years War. The 2nd Battalion played a prominent part from Louisbourg to Havannah.



The Royals helped counter the Spanish threat in Florida.



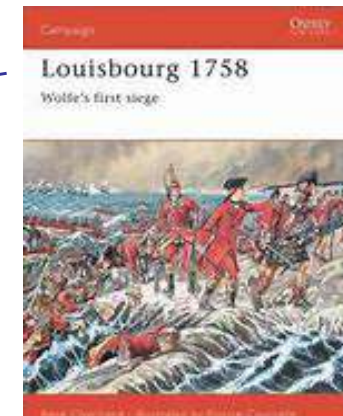
The Royals continued fighting the Spanish in Cuba, winning the battle honour **Havannah**. Cuba was later exchanged for Florida.



The Royals helped defeat the French around Lakes George and Champlain. The events inspired Fenimore Cooper's novel *Last of the Mohicans* and the subsequent film.



The Royals protected colonists against Cherokee raiders.



The Royals won the battle honour **Louisbourg** under General Wolfe.

To this day, Royal Scots officers attend the annual Wolfe Society dinner.

Elsewhere 1764 - 1793

1st Battalion

- England
- Gibraltar
- West Indies



Private, Drummer
and Officer 1792



2nd Battalion

- Scotland
- England
- Ireland
- Minorca
- Gibraltar



'Big Sam' of
The Royals
6 feet 10 inches
1786

The scene was soon to be set for war against Napoleon



The Royal Scots in The Napoleonic Wars



The Theatres



The French Revolution in 1789 led to war in Europe, India, Africa and the Americas until the defeat of Napoleon in 1815.

Britain initially subsidised allied armies on the Continent and used sea power against French colonies, but engaged also on land.

By Waterloo, the Regiment had expanded to four Battalions, serving on both sides of the Atlantic and in India.



1st Battalion

- 1812-15 *Niagara*

1st Battalion

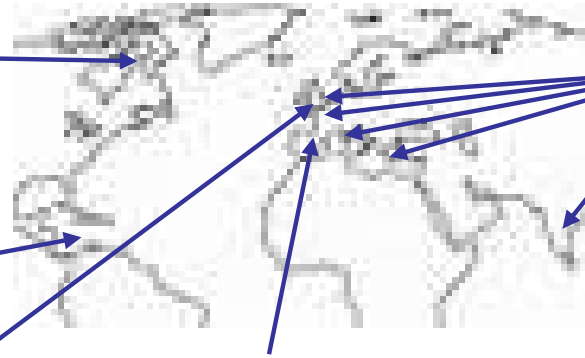
- 1790-1812 *St Lucia*

2nd Battalion

- 1803-06 West Indies

4th Battalion home defence and reinforcement of the other battalions

Place names in *red italics* are Battle Honours



2nd Battalion

- 1793 Portugal, Toulon, Corsica, Elba
- 1798 Portugal
- 1799 Holland *Egmont-op-Zee*
- 1800 *Egypt*, Gibraltar
- 1807-16 India

3rd Battalion

- 1808-09 *Corunna*
- 1809 Walcheren
- 1810-13 *Busaco, Salamanca, Vittoria, St Sebastian, Nive, Peninsula*
- 1815 Quatre Bras, *Waterloo*



The British firearm of the war was the Brown Bess musket, of which one is on display in the Museum

2nd Battalion

Toulon, Corsica, Elba, Holland, Egypt, Gibraltar

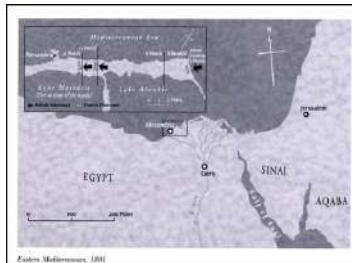


In 1793, the 2nd Battalion deployed to Toulon to support the surviving Royalists against the Republicans, and then to Corsica and Elba.

The diary of Colonel John Moore, subsequently General Moore of Corunna, compliments The Royals on their conduct on Corsica.



By 1798, the 2nd Battalion was at the mouth of the Tagus in Portugal and in 1799 joined an expeditionary force to Holland where it earned the battle honour *Egmont-op-Zoom*.



In 1800 they helped defeat Napoleon's Army of the East in Egypt after Nelson had destroyed the French fleet at the Battle of the Nile

winning the battle honour *Egypt* and the right to bear the Sphinx on their Colours.



By 1804, Napoleon was threatening to invade Britain. The two regular battalions were joined by the 3rd and the 4th. The 4th remained at home defence, supplying drafts for the others, while the 3rd was to pursue Napoleon in the Peninsular campaign and take part in his final defeat at Waterloo.

1st and 2nd Battalions

West Indies and Home Service

1st Battalion 1790-1812

- Garrison routine in Jamaica interrupted by refugees fleeing St Domingo (now Haiti). The 1st Battalion sent to counter the threat.
- By 1797, debilitating disease left only 169 to embark for respite at home, including at Leith, with an interlude in Ireland in 1798 suppressing the United Irishmen Revolt timed to coincide with a planned French invasion of Ireland.
- 1801 saw return to the West Indies against the French, and Swedish and Danish “armed neutrality”. From Barbados, the 1st Battalion went to Guyana and Surinam where their good conduct was praised by the Governor and the presentation of a tureen made by the master silversmith Paul Storr.

The tureen is on display in the Museum in the case immediately beyond the Waterloo diorama.



Jamaica

St Domingo

St Lucia

Barbados

Guyana



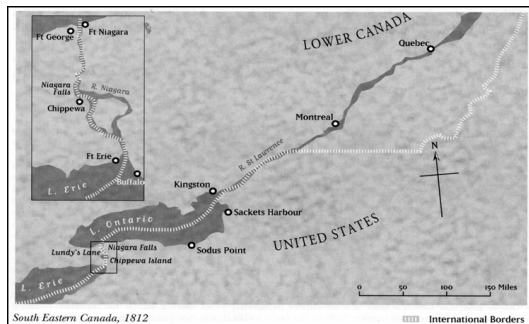
Typical uniform of the West Indies

2nd Battalion 1803-06

- On arrival on Barbados the Battalion immediately deployed to St Lucia to lead the assault on Morne Fortune which was carried with fixed bayonets. Expedition commander General Grinfield congratulated the troops:
- “.... on the gallant capture of the fortress and the surrender of the island, in particular the gallant behaviour of the 2nd Battalion of The Royals”
- The battle honour *St Lucia* was awarded.

1st Battalion Canada 1812 - 1815

During the voyage from the West Indies, one of the transports was intercepted by a US frigate but the Battalion nevertheless assembled in Quebec in early August 1812. Operations against the Americans were normally conducted by detachments of varying strengths as opposed to by the complete Battalion.



During 1813, US positions at Sackett's Harbour and Sodus Point on Lake Ontario, and at Fort Niagara, were attacked. At the latter, US weapons, ammunition and stores valued at \$1,000,000 were seized and the battle honour *Niagara* was awarded.



In July 1814, The Royals suffered heavy casualties at Chippewa close to the Niagara River, during which Captain John Wilson was wounded.



A painting of Wilson avoiding death is in the Museum, along with the US letter of parole guaranteeing safe passage as a prisoner of war.

Three weeks later, The Royals inflicted heavy casualties on the Americans at Lundy's Lane to the west of Niagara Falls, this being the final significant action before the Battalion sailed home in early 1815.

The War of 1812 is sometimes known to Americans as King George's War.

Among the Canadian soldiers who took part were a number of volunteers from Newfoundland.



In 1958 an alliance was formed between The Royal Scots and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment which is celebrated to this day. Information and exhibits are in the Allied Regiments case in the Museum.

2nd Battalion India 1807 - 1816

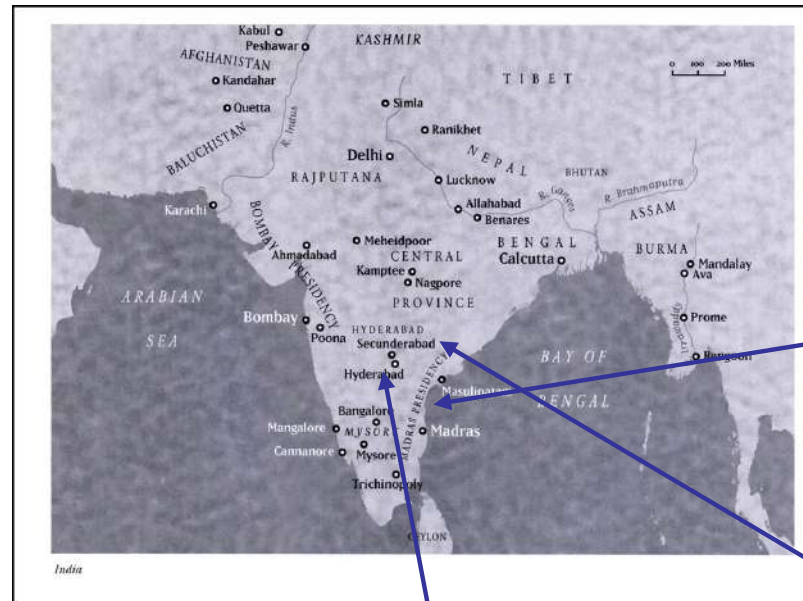
One thousand strong, and reinforced with drafts from the 3rd and 4th Battalions, the 2nd Battalion was ordered to India to strengthen the British presence there following a revolt of native troops of the East India Company.

Sergeant Butler recorded that **“the barracks were temporary, made entirely from the cocoa nut tree and divided into five rooms each accommodating 180 men”**

The Battalion’s role was to demonstrate presence and to enforce British authority.

The duties were not demanding but the climate frequently required them to be carried out in appalling conditions.

By the end of 1807, over 100 men had been lost to dysentery. The Battalion was ordered to Wallajahabad where a parade state recorded a further 241 sick.



At Madras in 1809, the Battalion joined a force of 10,000 against disaffected East India Company troops and marched to Secunderabad.

The 350 miles took three months. Sergeant Butler recorded that, **“We marched barefooted, it being impossible to procure shoes, travelling through so much water and sand.”**

3rd Battalion in the Peninsular

Nelson's victory at Trafalgar removed the threat of invasion at home. Had invasion materialised, Napoleon's troops would have been confronted by local militia.

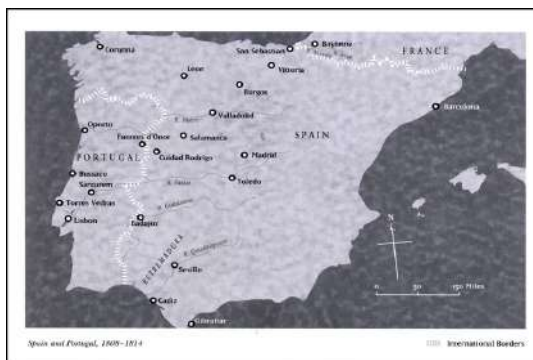


Edinburgh County Militia

A militia coat and pack are in the Museum collection.

Napoleon attempted to bar British shipping from European ports.

Portugal refused and a French army was sent to enforce compliance. Britain sent an army to assist Portugal, including the 3rd Battalion of The Royals.



The Spanish failed to halt the French advance across Spain and Sir John Moore withdrew through Corunna following a rearguard action in which the 3rd Battalion played a prominent part, gaining the battle honour *Corunna*



Captain Watters captured French despatches containing key intelligence.

The 3rd Battalion spent 1809 campaigning at Walcheren. An account by company commander Thomas St Clair is in the archive.



Returning to Portugal and Spain 1810 - 1813, the 3rd Battalion gained the battle honours *Busaco*, *Salamanca*, *Vittoria*, *St Sebastian*, *Peninsula* and, for the pursuit through France, *Nive*

Of these battles, none is believed to have been harder fought than by the



Light Company of The Royals in storming the Forlorn Hope breach in the walls of St Sebastian. An account by Lord Clyde who led the Forlorn Hope attack is in the Museum archive.

3rd Battalion at Quatre Bras and Waterloo

Napoleon's escape from Elba in February 1815 caused the Allies to take to the field once more, in Belgium.

The armies of Wellington and Blucher were at risk of being attacked in turn so Wellington ordered Picton's 5th Division, including the 3rd Battalion, to Quatre Bras on 16th June.

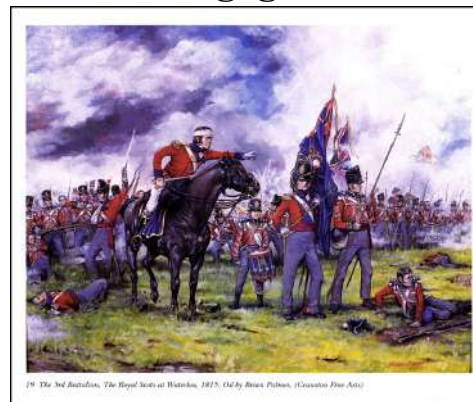


There, after a 20 mile march in the heat of summer, they took vital ground at bayonet point and, along with the 38th Foot, The Royals formed a square to repulse repeated counter attacks by French cavalry.

Quatre Bras was a decisive prelude to Waterloo.

The Battle of Waterloo, which was to alter the course of European history, commenced on the morning of 18th June after a miserably wet and stormy night.

The 3rd Battalion of The Royals, still in Picton's 5th Division, took up station on the right of Wellington's Army but were not engaged until the afternoon.



19 The 3rd Battalion, The Royal Scots at Waterloo, 1815. (Oil by Bruce Pitman, (Creative Fine Arts))

3,000 strong, the Division sustained repeated attacks by a French corps of 13,000, first repulsing infantry by skillful use of ground, musketry and bayonet charges, and subsequently holding squares against 4,000 cavalry.

In the course of the afternoon, General Picton was killed and

Lt Col Campbell, CO of the 3rd Battalion, took command of the Brigade while Major MacDonald, who had previously fought in the Peninsula including at St Sebastian, took command of the 3rd Battalion.

Major MacDonald's medals are on display in the Museum.



Lieutenant Colonel Colin Campbell, Commanding Officer of The 3rd Battalion at Waterloo, 1815

Ensign Kennedy and the King's Colour

With the Colours at risk of capture at the height of the battle, Sergeant Major Quick was shot through the heart while carrying the King's Colour. One lieutenant and three ensigns had already suffered the same fate.

When Ensign Kennedy died carrying the Colour, a sergeant attempted to take it from him but could not disengage the officer's grip. The sergeant threw the ensign, still clutching the Colour, over his shoulder and returned both to the ranks.



The French, in recognition of that remarkable act of gallantry, withheld their fire.

The action of Kennedy and the unknown sergeant typified the conduct of The Royals at Waterloo.

The Kennedy family memorial in the Old High Church in Inverness records that, at the time of his death that day, Ensign Kennedy was only one week past his fifteenth birthday.

In memory of the officers killed at Waterloo, the surviving officers fashioned their dead comrades' crossbelt buckles into a snuff box which is on display in the Museum immediately to the right of the Ensign Kennedy diorama.

The Waterloo Colours



The Colour in the diorama with Kennedy being carried by a sergeant is a replica but the actual King's Colour he had been carrying is on display in the Museum along with the Regimental Colour.

Other regiments' Waterloo Colours exist but may not have been in service as long as these. Detail being painted rather than embroidered is typical of older Colours of the era. Although Waterloo was not until 1815, our Waterloo Colours were issued to the 3rd Battalion when it formed up in Hamilton in 1804 .

It is remarkable that they survived campaigning at Corunna, Walcheren, throughout the Peninsular campaign including at St Sebastian and then during the pursuit through France to Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

Once Napoleon had been defeated, all regiments were reduced to two battalions and the 3rd Battalion Colours were transferred to the 2nd Battalion in India where they gained further battle honours of *Meheidpore* and *Nagpore* in the Mahratta Wars and finally at *Ava* during the First Burma War. Thus, their service spanned the period 1804 – 1826, rivalled by very few others.

On return from Burma, the Colours were laid up in St Giles Cathedral, the Mother Church of Scotland in Edinburgh's Royal Mile, where they remained until 1934 when they reverted to the care of the Regiment. The netting is not original but a conservation method of the 1930s.

In 2015 during the Waterloo bicentenary commemorations, both the King's and the Regimental Colours were displayed in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle for three months and were seen by more than half a million visitors.



There being insufficient space in the Museum to display both Colours in their entirety, and rather than return them to storage where they would not be seen by the Museum's 500,000 visitors each year, the Trustees decided that they should be folded to feature The Royal Cypher of the King's Colour and the Union Flag detail of the Regimental Colour.

Prisoners of War

A sizeable number of prisoners were taken in the course of the conflict. Most were French but others included Americans, many of whom were sailors



The road up through the Castle to The Royal Scots Museum was built by French prisoners



Beyond the Museum is the French prison where many American prisoners were also held

The former Royal Scots Depot at Glencorse, where our recruits were once trained, was built on the site of Greenlaw House which was also used to house French prisoners



Although Greenlaw House no longer stands, the contemporary tower still stands at the centre of the modern Glencorse Barracks which is occupied today by 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The Aftermath of Waterloo



Wellington's and Blucher's defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo changed the politics of Europe significantly and enduringly. The Royal Scots added *Waterloo* to the other battle honours of the War, i.e. *Egmont-op-Zee, Egypt, St Lucia, Niagara, Corunna, Busaco, Vittoria, Salamanca, St Sebastian, Nive* and *Peninsula*.



But it was at terrible cost. Between Quatre Bras and Waterloo 8 officers and 35 soldiers had been killed and 25 officers and 295 soldiers wounded.

Survivors were awarded the British Army's first campaign medal and soldiers were allowed to claim two additional years service to their pensions and were known as 'Waterloo men'. From the Waterloo medal roll, we know the names of all the 3rd Battalion officers and men who took the field at Waterloo. One of their descendants is presently the Chairman of The Royal Scots Association.

The only known photograph of a 3rd Battalion Waterloo man is in the *Waterloo Men* essay referred to below

Further reading is at the following

Link	Title	Subject
www.theroyalscots.co.uk/waterloo-men/	Waterloo Men	Information about some of those who fought at Waterloo
www.theroyalscots.co.uk/colours-of-the-3rd-battalion-the-royal-scots-the-waterloo-colours/	The Waterloo Colours	The Story of the Waterloo Colours in more detail
www.theroyalscots.co.uk/a-child-of-waterloo/	A Child of Waterloo	A soldier's son who was orphaned during the battle



The Royal Scots and the Tiger, the Bear, the Dragon and the Springbok



Tiger, Bear, Dragon and Springbok

Colonies, Empire and The Long Peace



Waterloo ended the conflict with France and the Regiment reduced to two regular battalions. Expansion and maintenance of the Empire, which was a source of food, raw materials and wealth to industrial Britain, became a priority.

Although the period 1817 – 1854 was sometimes referred to as “The Long Peace”, The Regiment was involved in garrison duties in Britain, the West Indies and Gibraltar, and in “little wars” in India, Burma, China and Africa. These were not necessarily major conflicts but were often single actions, sometimes at battalion strength.



The Tiger As early as 1600, Queen Elizabeth I had chartered the British East India Company for trade with India, forming its own private Army. From 1800, Britain became the most powerful influence in India.



The Bear In 1854, Russia and France disputed ownership of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, at that time in the Turkish Empire. Turkey declared war on Russia, so Russia attacked and destroyed the Turkish fleet. Britain felt that the trade route to India was threatened, and Britain and France invaded Russian Crimea.



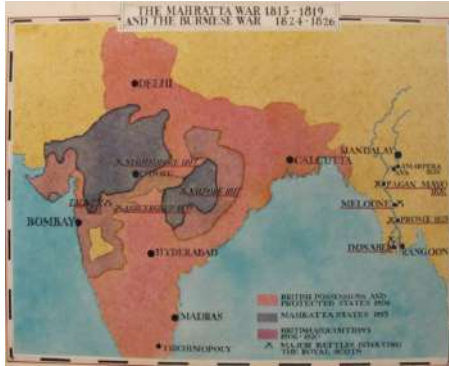
The Dragon In China in 1860 the 2nd Battalion was in action during the Second Opium War and reduced the Taku Forts en route to occupying Peking (Beijing).



The Springbok The Regiment served in Bechuanaland (Botswana) and Zululand from 1884 and throughout the Boer War 1899 - 1902, learning to match the Boers in manoeuvrability.

The Indian Tiger

Service in India and Burma 1817 - 1831



With the 1st Battalion in Ireland from 1816, the 2nd Battalion sailed for India and were soon engaged against Pindari robber bands and then, in 1817, against 20,000 rebellious Mahrattas at the battles of Nagpore and Maheidpoor, with further action at Talnere and Asserghur.

The battle Honour *Nagpore* is unique to the Regiment, being the sole King's regiment present with elements supporting the Sepoy Brigades. The flank companies further distinguished themselves by joining a force that defeated more Mahrattas at *Maheidpoor*, also awarded as a battle honour.

At the fortress of Talnere, The Royals encountered treachery when the Mahrattas surrendered but subsequently killed all but one of the delegation that entered the fortress. Swift revenge was exacted by storming the fort.



The Royals won “the highest approbation” of the Commander-in-Chief.

The Burmese invaded India in 1823 and the 2nd Battalion joined the British force there in 1825. Twice the Burmese tried to sue for peace but the matter was settled at the Battle of Ava in 1826, The Royals being awarded the battle honour *Ava*. Eventually, the Colours carried by the 3rd Battalion at Waterloo and by the 2nd Battalion in India and Burma came out of service and can be seen in the Museum.



Campaign medals showing the clasps for the battle honours Nagpore, Maheidpoor and Ava are displayed in the Museum.



The Russian Bear: Crimea 1854 - 1856

Disputes between Russia, France and Turkey led France, Turkey and Britain to declare war on Russia.



In September 1854 the 1st Battalion landed in Crimea with only three days rations, officers in full dress and soldiers without even their knapsacks. Overnight, all were soaked in a storm. Disease and weather would outnumber battle casualties.

Shortly, The Royals were fighting at Alma on the approach to the Russian naval base at Sevastopol. Colonel Bell described



The Royals at Alma



Alma as *“A battle of artillery with iron hail showered from shot and shell”*. The Royals gained the battle honour *Alma* but failure of high command to follow up produced stalemate. At Inkerman, The Royals repulsed attacks with the loss of only one man. Other regiments lost heavily in what became known as ‘The Soldiers’ Battle’.

Winter brought misery. Soldiers were without greatcoats or proper boots. Rain and snow filled the trenches. Florence Nightingale arrived with her nurses. By March 1855, the 1st Battalion had lost 321 from disease but only 7 killed in action.

In April 1855, the 2nd Battalion joined the 1st for an unsuccessful attack on Sevastopol, although a second attack succeeded. The Russians withdrew after setting fire to Sevastopol. The Crimean war ended in March 1856. This was the last occasion on which the two Battalions served together.



(Nightingale Museum)



Pte Prosser's
Victoria Cross
British & Turkish
Crimea Medals

Queen Victoria instituted the Victoria Cross, made from the bronze of a captured Russian gun, for exceptional valour. Pte Joseph Prosser of the 2nd Battalion won our first VC. His medals and a photograph are displayed in the Museum. Mrs Prosser was a Nightingale trained nurse but we do not know whether she served in Crimea.

After the war, a public investigation was held into training, equipment, administration and medical services for the Army.



Prosser VC
and Family

The Dragon: Hong Kong and China

The Second Opium War 1856 - 1860



In 1858 the 2nd Battalion arrived in Hong Kong. One company deployed to Canton to join an Anglo-French force that had occupied the city following the Chinese seizure of a British ship. This joint force also took part in three expeditions into the interior, capturing 15 Chinese guns.

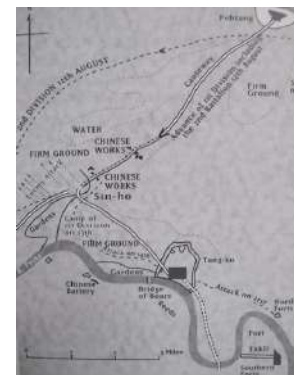
In May 1860 the 2nd Battalion embarked at Hong Kong with an Anglo-French expedition for the mouth of the River Peiho, landing at Pehtang which was taken swiftly. The advance on Peking (Beijing) was blocked by the Taku forts which had first to be reduced. The diary of Alexander Tulloch, carrying the Queen's Colour, recorded *“Taking advantage of a strip of firm ground, across we went up*

onto the Ramparts. The Battalion poured in, the Colonel whose horse had been shot and the Colours leading. Nothing was left of the enemy but for the dead and dying”.

The drawing to the left shows the storming of one of the forts. The Regimental Colour is in the background and is on display in the Museum behind the Drum Major and the drums. It was the final Colour of the Regiment to have been carried in action.



The photograph to the right was taken inside one of the forts after the battle.



Once the forts had been taken, the way was open to Peking which fell soon after.

The battle honours *Taku Forts* and *Pekin 1860* were awarded, as was the Second China War medal with the clasps *Taku Forts* and *Pekin*.



The Springbok: The Boer War 1899 - 1902



In South Africa, tension between Britain and the Boers had increased since the 1850s. The Boers wished to form a confederation but discovery of gold and diamonds renewed British interest, resulting in war.

In September 1899, the 1st Battalion mobilised at full strength with more than 700 reservists, a feat which was recognised in the House of Commons.



The 3rd Battalion, a home service militia battalion, was embodied at Glencorse in December 1899. In February, volunteers for South Africa were invited. All volunteered for service in South Africa.



The diaries of Pte Watters and Cpl Howden of the 1st Battalion record spartan living with hard physical work in difficult circumstances. Much of the time was spent securing lines of communication.



There were few occasions when the enemy engaged in set piece, so actions tended to be short. The Boer was rarely seen before opening fire. He was expert at making the British deploy and advance towards him across open ground, and even more expert at breaking contact.



The Veldt was perfect for the mobile Boer who was best beaten at his own game. In pursuit, the 3rd Battalion covered 2,400 miles on foot, earning the nickname 'Bloody Greyhounds'.



Of particular utility were mounted infantry. The diary of Lt Charteris is likewise instructive, including about the advance on Kimberley, Bloemfontein and Pretoria.



A silver replica of a block house built and manned by the 3rd Battalion, along with other items from the campaign are displayed in the Museum.



The Long Peace

Although the major campaigns in India, Crimea, China and South Africa were very significant in Britain's history, the Regiment was also active elsewhere during the period mis-named 'The Long Peace'.

Between them, the 1st and 2nd Battalions also served at home, Gibraltar, Malta, Canada and Bechuanaland (Botswana), and repeatedly in the West Indies and India. These deployments contributed to garrisoning the Empire.



However, in Canada in 1837, the 2nd Battalion was engaged in quelling a French rebellion in the area of Montreal.

While shipping from Canada to the West Indies in 1843, the second half of the Battalion, aboard the troopship Premier, foundered in the Gulf of



St Lawrence. All were saved but had to endure winter weather until eventually rescued. Among those on board was Pte Prosser who was to win the Regiment's first Victoria Cross in Crimea.

A stark reminder of the hazards of disease on overseas service at this time is the epitaph on a memorial stone at Nusseerabad in India, installed there in 1870.

*To The Memory of
3 Officers
13 Non Commissioned Officers
132 Men, 24 Women,
112 Children
2nd Battalion The Royal Scots*



Reforms towards the end of the period included greater all round proficiency, the linking of regiments to geographical areas and the wider use of tartan, popularised by Queen Victoria. We became The Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment).

At first, the Regiment wore Government tartan and then, as befitted The Royal Regiment, Hunting Stuart designed by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and worn by the Queen's household to this day.





The Royal Scots

The First World War



Introduction



The slides that follow tell the story of The Royal Scots in the First World War.

Significant objects are on display in the Museum including medals, uniforms, weapons and comprehensive interpretation boards.

There are links to further information about the parts played by various of the Battalions.



In particular, The Royal Scots First World War Roll of Honour can be accessed via

<http://straylight.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/royalscots/>

It contains information from The Scottish National War Memorial, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Regimental Museum Archive.



The Order of Battle - General

At the outbreak of war there were two Regular battalions, 1 RS in India and 2 RS at Plymouth, totalling some 2,000 once 2 RS had been reinforced with reservists.

Each battalion comprised 30 officers and 972 soldiers, organised into a HQ, a machine gun section, horse-drawn transport, band, and four companies of six officers and 221 soldiers, each consisting of four 50 strong platoons divided into four sections.

The 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, at Glencorse Barracks by Penicuik, reinforced 1 and 2 RS, deploying initially to Weymouth to do so.

There were also seven Territorial battalions totalling 5,000. These increased to twenty-two, along with eight New Army and two Garrison battalions.

Altogether 100,000 men served in the Regiment, more than in any other Scottish Regiment and more than the strength of the British Army today.

They were organised in thirty-five battalions, more than the Infantry of the Line today. Of these thirty-five, eighteen saw action, reinforced by men from the reserve battalions.

The complete organisation diagram of the Regiment is displayed in the Museum.

More detail is available at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/ww1-battalions/

The Order of Battle - The Territorial Force

Seven battalions were of the Territorial Force (TF), formed for Home Defence in 1908 from the former Yeomanry and Volunteer Forces, and were based in Drill Halls in and around Edinburgh:

- 4 RS - Grindlay Street adjacent to the Usher Hall in Edinburgh.
- 5 RS - Forrest Hill near the University in Edinburgh.
- 6 RS - Gilmore Place near Tollcross in Edinburgh.
- 7 RS - Dalmeny Street in Leith and also in Musselburgh/Fisherrow.
- 8 RS - Haddington and Peebles.
- 9 RS - East Claremont Street in Edinburgh.
- 10 RS - Linlithgow.

Six of them raised further battalions with home defence and reinforcement roles. For example:

- 1/6 RS - Coastal defence Scotland, Western Frontier Force North Africa, France.
- 2/6 RS - Raised in Edinburgh, merged with 2/4 RS and then to Ireland.
- 3/6 RS - Raised at Peebles, absorbed into 4 (Reserve) Bn RS.
- 5/6 RS - Formed in France from 1/5 RS and 1/6 RS.

TF individuals and units could volunteer for overseas service on mobilisation, which all seven TF battalions did. Individuals were entitled to wear this badge on their right breast.



The East Claremont Street Drill Hall is still used by A Coy 6 SCOTS. The others have been converted to other use.

More detail is available at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/ww1-battalions/

The Order of Battle - The New Army

From the outset, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, had appreciated that the war would not be 'over by Christmas' and had called for expansion of the Army by 500,000.

The Royal Scots Regular, Reserve and TF battalions were joined by eight New Army and two Garrison battalions.

In August 1914:

- 11, 12 and 13 RS were raised in Edinburgh and 14 RS in Weymouth

Later that year saw:

- 15 RS (1st City of Edinburgh) Battalion (Cranston's)
- 16 RS (2nd City of Edinburgh) Battalion (McCrae's)

Early in 1915:

- 17 RS (Rosebery's Bantams) were men hitherto too short for field service

In 1915 and 1916:

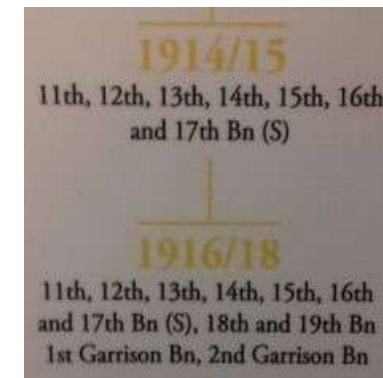
- 18th (Reserve)
- 19th (Labour)
- 1st and 2nd Garrison Battalions were formed

Fuller accounts can be found at the following

www.theroyalscots.co.uk/new-army-bns/

www.heartsfc.co.uk//the-heart-of-midlothian-museum

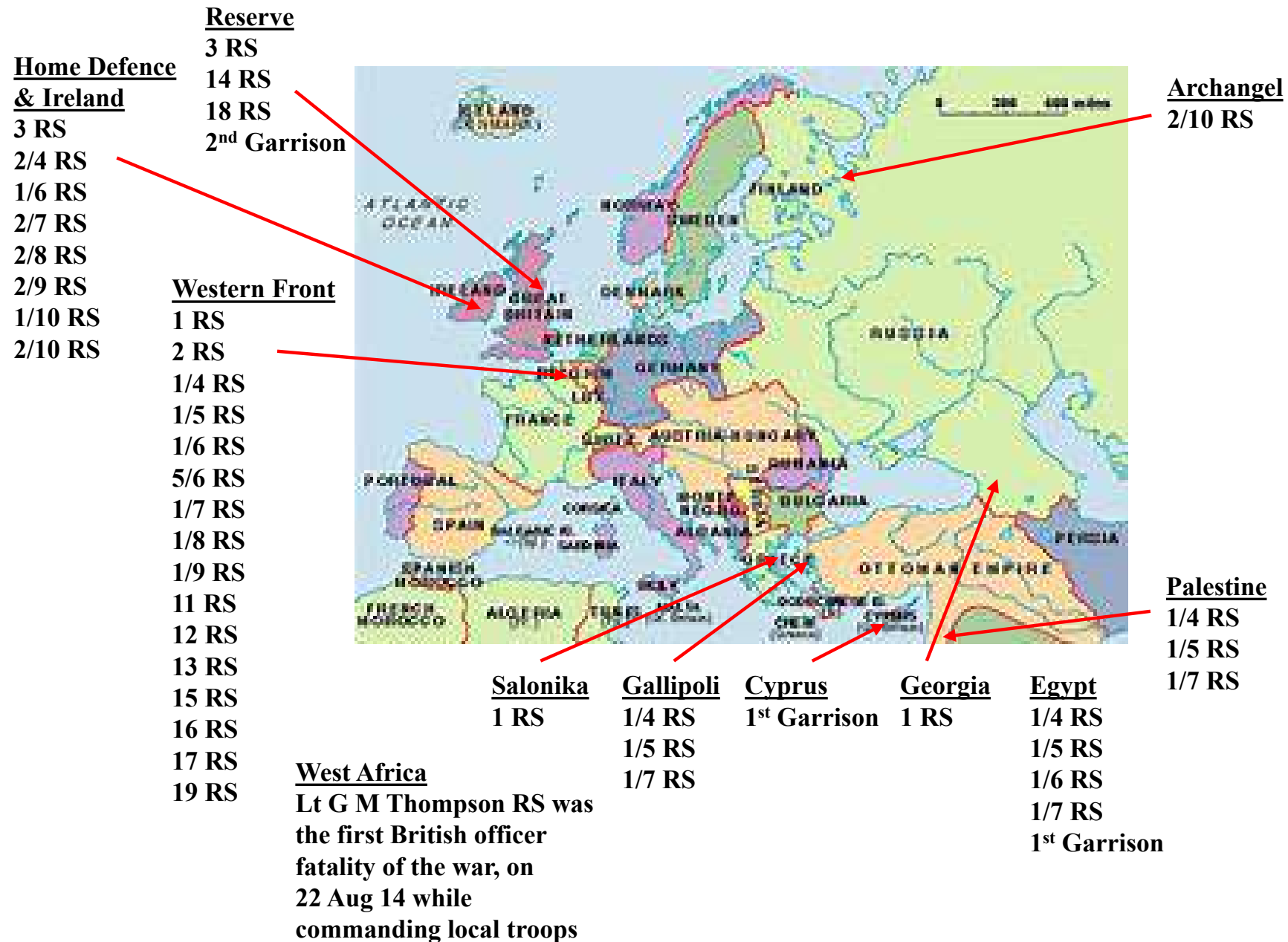
<https://scottishfootballmuseum.org.uk/the-museum/>



The Men



The Theatres



The Regular Battalions

The 1st Battalion

At the outbreak of war 1 RS was in India but, by early 1915, had arrived in Flanders, and was soon to be engaged in the Second Battle of Ypres.

In October 1915 the Battalion moved to Salonika in Greece to support Serbia against Bulgaria, seeing no action until September 1916 when it captured Zir by the River Struma. 1917 saw little activity, even in the front line. Patrolling alternated with Garrison duties.

The 1918 spring offensive was cancelled. Malaria caused the Battalion to withdraw to nearby hills, allowed Bulgarian occupation of the river valley, subsequently repulsed. In September, activity increased on the Vardar front and positions recently vacated by the enemy were taken. Bulgaria capitulated on 1 October.

1 RS then moved to Georgia to support the White Russians against the Bolsheviks.

A fuller account is at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-1st-battalions-war/

The Regular Battalions

The 2nd Battalion in the BEF

2 RS mobilised on 4 August and came up to its war establishment, moving to France on 12 August with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF).

Fighting at Mons, Le Cateau and the Retreat from Mons followed. Regimental historian Major John Ewing wrote, *‘Training had taught men to organise themselves when there was no officer available to do so. The value of this was never better exemplified.’*

A counter attack saw the advance to the River Aisne during which enemy trench systems were encountered. These were to become familiar as ‘the race to the sea’ formed a continuous line of trenches from the Channel to the Swiss border.

By the end of 1914, the BEF had sustained 90,000 casualties, matching the original force that had landed in France.

After the First Battle of Ypres, few battalions could muster more than 300 men. By comparison, 2 RS had been reinforced steadily by over 600 in preparation for further action.

For detail, go to www.theroyalscots.co.uk/2nd-bn-in-the-bef-2/

Territorials In The Dardanelles 1915-16

Four RS battalions took part in the Dardanelles/Gallipoli campaign from April 1915 to January 1916.

4 RS, 5 RS and 7RS were TF battalions. The fourth was the 1st Garrison Battalion. The first three played major roles in the Gallipoli operations landing in the order:

- 5 RS in the initial landings of 29 Division on 25 April.
- 4 RS and 7 RS with 52 (Lowland) Division landing 11 - 14 June.
- 1st Garrison Battalion deployed as a labour battalion in November to the Greek island of Lemnos where the Army HQ and Admin Base were established, with detachments at Cape Hellas on the peninsula itself. Subsequently they served in Egypt with elements in Cyprus. Their service in Gallipoli earned a First World War 'King's Colour' which was a very rare award for a Garrison battalion.



Long range grenade launching



Rifle cleaning

The campaign is described in more detail www.theroyalscots.co.uk/territorialsdardanelles/

The 7th (Leith) Battalion

The Gretna Rail Disaster of May 1915 befell 7 RS on its way to Liverpool to embark for the Dardanelles.

It is sometimes asked why the Regiment commemorates a rail disaster as opposed to any of the battles for which it won honours.

The answer is that whereas the vast majority of the 11,213 dead lie buried close to where they fell on foreign fields, most of the 216 who died at Gretna are buried together in the same grave under a splendid Celtic cross at Rosebank Cemetery in Edinburgh, in the heart of the Regimental area and which can be visited easily.



The story of the Gretna Rail Disaster is told at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/quintinshill-train-crash/

The New Army Battalions in France 1915 - 16

The response from Edinburgh and the Lothians to Lord Kitchener's New Army call was remarkable. By the end of 1914, six new RS battalions had been raised, namely 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 RS with 17 RS early the following year.

It was not until the Battle of Loos in September that 11, 12, and 13 RS participated in a major offensive. 11 and 12 RS spent winter and spring in the area of Loos and Ypres in the routine of trench warfare, while 13 RS helped counter a major attack near Loos in May.

15th (1st City of Edinburgh) Battalion (Cranston's), named after the Lord Provost, with many Scots from Manchester after an initiative failed to raise a Manchester Scottish Regiment, in the same way as the London, Liverpool and Tyneside Scottish Regiments. 16th (2nd City of Edinburgh) Battalion (McCrae's) and 17 RS (Rosebery's Bantams) followed.

Detail of RS New Army Battalions can be found at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/new-army-bns/

16th Battalion (McCrae's)



Sir George McCrae

by our standard. Furthermore, I have undertaken to lead the battalion in the field. I would not ask you to serve unless I share the danger at your side. In a moment I will set my name to the list of volunteers. Who will join me?’

That Saturday 800 men paraded at the Heart of Midlothian FC ground. By the following week, there were over 1,350 including a strong contingent of footballers and other sportsmen.

16 RS moved to France in January 1916. At Contalmaison on the Somme on 1 July, 15 and 16 RS, were the only units in 34 Division to achieve their objective - but at terrible cost.

The 16 RS Standard and Sir George's pipe banner are on display at the Scottish Football and Hearts FC museums respectively.

For detail go to www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-raising-of-16th-bn/



The Heart of Midlothian FC memorial at Haymarket in Edinburgh

The Battle of The Somme

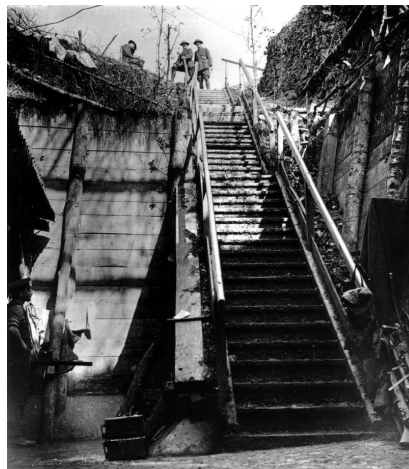
No fewer than nine RS battalions fought at The Somme: 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17 RS.

The battle lasted for 140 days from 1 July and inflicted the first major defeat on the German Army. Despite the horrific casualties of the opening day, and the appalling conditions throughout, the New Army battalions displayed the physical and mental stamina that succeeded in grinding down the German Army. By the time the weather brought the offensive to a close, the Germans knew they could not win.

The Somme was the turning point and it turned on the heroism and stoicism of Kitchener's New Army battalions.



9 RS on the march in wet weather



German dugout at Bernafay Wood



12 RS wearing captured headgear

Further information on The Somme is available at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-somme/

Egypt and Palestine 1916 - 1917

When 4 and 7 RS withdrew from Gallipoli, they moved to Egypt to protect the Suez Canal. In mid-summer 1916, a Turkish force of 18,000 advanced but was seen off by the British defences.



7 RS on the march

The Turks withdrew and the British force advanced towards Palestine. Both battalions distinguished themselves in the eventual fall of Gaza in November 1917. 4 RS in particular earned the unstinting praise of its Brigade Commander. With the collapse of defences around Gaza the subsequent advance quickly became a relentless pursuit. Both battalions took part in successful attacks on Burkah, north-east of Gaza in mid November.

A contemporary account by Major W R Kermack MC, commanding a company in 7 RS is at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/egypt-and-palestine/



Our affiliated Gurkha regiment, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles also fought at Gallipoli and in Egypt.



7 RS Officers' Mess

Arras April - May 1917



Although Scots had more than played their part at Loos and The Somme, more Scottish battalions fought at Arras than in any other battle.

The roles of 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16 RS are at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/823-2/ where there is also a contemporary account from the diary of Pte Clark 13 RS.

Seven Canadian battalions of Scottish heritage also fought at Arras, including The Canadian Scottish Regiment



and The Newfoundland Regiment, both later allied to The Royal Scots.

12 RS Lewis gunners



'Over the top'

2nd/10th Battalion in North Russia

Whereas the Great War formally ended with the Armistice in November 1918, 2/10 RS returned home only in June 1919 from Northern Russia where they had been part of an expeditionary force supporting the White Russians against the Bolsheviks.

Detail of the campaign along with a contemporary account by Pte John Stewart are at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/830-2/



2/10 RS escorting a funeral



The Archangel Gun
which is preserved at
Glencorse Barracks



2/10 RS in Archangel

2/10 RS returned with the only battle honour won by a second-line RS battalion, shared with just two other regiments, *Archangel 1918-19*, and a captured Bolshevik artillery piece.

Battle Honours and Gallantry Awards

Seventy nine Battle Honours were awarded to the Regiment and are listed in the Museum

Six Victoria Crosses were awarded. These are on display in the Museum along with the citations



For further information go to

www.theroyalscots.co.uk/battle-honours/
www.theroyalscots.co.uk/gallantry-awards-ww1-2/

The Casualties

11,213 were killed, amounting to 10% of all Scots servicemen killed on land.

40,000 were wounded, making a total Royal Scots casualty list of over 50%.

The wounded would have filled the East and West stands at Murrayfield.

Or,

**Both the major
Edinburgh football
stadiums at Tynecastle
and Easter Road.**



**The dead would have filled the seats at
The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo with a further
2,000 on the esplanade.**



Memorials

The dead are commemorated in the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle, the Regiment's living war memorial The Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh, and at the Memorial Gates at Glencorse Barracks our former training depot, and on city, town and village war memorials the length and breadth of the land.



*They shall grow not old as we who are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Further information about the Memorials is at

www.theroyalscots.co.uk/ww1-war-memorials/
www.theroyalscots.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Non-Regimental-Memorials-2.pdf



The Royal Scots Between The World Wars



Armistice

When the guns fell silent on 11th November 1918, not all Royal Scots battalions returned home immediately.

Those on the Western Front remained in France, Belgium or Germany into 1919.

1 RS, which had started WW1 in India and had served on the Western Front before redeploying to Salonika, was redirected to fight the Bolsheviks in Georgia in December 1918 and did not return to Edinburgh until April 1919.

2/10 RS, on home defence duties until deploying to north Russia in 1918, remained there in support of the White Russians until June 1919 when their return coincided with the traditional Riding of the Linlithgow Marches, the centenary of which was celebrated in 2019. However, a number remained prisoners of the Bolsheviks for several years, some of whom died in captivity.



**5/6 RS manning a check point
near Cologne 1919**



2/10 RS Archangel 1919

Most Royal Scots were entitled to the following campaign medals referred to affectionately as ‘Pip, Squeak and Wilfred’.



**1914-15
Star**



**British War
Medal**



**Victory
Medal**

The Peace Dividend

By the end of 1919 demobilisation was complete. Belief that there would never be another war, along with drastic national economies, rapidly reduced the size of the Army.

Two Regular Royal Scots battalions remained, the 1st and the 2nd, reverting to the practice of one remaining at home with the other abroad.



2 RS at Tientsin China

Reorganisation of the Territorial Army in 1922 left only two Territorial Battalions, the 4th/5th (Queen's Edinburgh), in their drill hall in Forrest Road in Edinburgh, and the 7th/9th (Highlanders) at East Claremont Street in the Bellevue area of Edinburgh.



4/5 RS (Queens Edinburgh)



7/9 RS (Highlanders)
at Holyrood

In a modernising Army, the Regimental Training Depot at Glencorse increased in importance.



Glencorse Barracks
from the air



In 1920 Royal permission was granted to change the title from The Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), which had reflected the Cardwell reforms of the Army along geographical lines in the late nineteenth century, to The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) to include the Royal Regiment title by which we had been known in earlier days.

Princess Mary and The Regimental War Memorials

Queen Victoria had been born while her father was Colonel of the Regiment and was therefore a “Daughter of the Regiment”. A march from Donizetti’s opera of that name became a Regimental March, played when Royalty was present.



In 1918, The Regiment felt that close links should be re-established with the Royal family. A request to King George V that Princess Mary might become Colonel-in-Chief was granted by the King and accepted by the Princess.

Princess Mary attended the installation of the Regiment’s WW1 Memorials.



**In 1922, the opening of
The Royal Scots Club in
Edinburgh’s Abercromby Place.**



**In 1927, the Memorial Gates at the
Regimental Training Depot at
Glencorse.**



**The WW1 Rolls of Honour can be
viewed in The Royal Scots bay**



**of the Scottish National War
Memorial in Edinburgh Castle,
and at www.theroyalscots.co.uk**

Deployments and Ceremonial

In 1920, 2 RS undertook garrison duties in Ireland seeing action in “The Troubles” that ended temporarily in 1922 with the creation of the Irish Free State, now the Republic of Ireland.



Overseas Deployments



presented 1 RS with new Colours. Also in 1926, The King approved our alliance with The Canadian Scottish Regiment on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.



In 1928, 2 RS moved to Tientsin and Peking (Beijing) in China to keep the peace during a period known as ‘The Rise of the Warlords’ and then, in 1930, to garrison duties in India.

Summer Dress China



In 1933, the Regiment’s Tercentenary was celebrated by 1 RS at Aldershot and 2 RS at Quetta and Pipers were granted the privilege of wearing Royal Stuart tartan.

In 1938, 1 RS defended against the Arab Revolt in Palestine. 16 Royals were killed and 42 wounded.



2 RS went to Hong Kong where they were shortly to make a gallant stand against Japanese invasion.



2 RS with an Armoured Car in Ireland



1RS at Rangoon in Burma



Winter Dress China



Army Life 1918 -1939



Life for regular soldiers improved with comfortable barracks, better food and good medical and dental services. Uniform was of good quality and pay was attractive because all basic needs were provided. Married men might have married quarters with allowances for their wives. The Army also encouraged saving.



Education by the Royal Army Educational Corps qualified soldiers for promotion. Many senior warrant officers were commissioned. Recreational facilities were available and sport, in which all ranks participated, had a high profile.



Officers were professionally trained and took interest in the training and welfare of their men. The Regimental Association developed to encourage comradeship. A more technical Army offered trade training useful on discharge was an attraction to the recruit. Engagements were shorter although a short engagement meant a longer period on the reserve.



Overseas postings were popular because of the low cost of living. Even private soldiers could afford local servants and could take their wives with them if their service qualified.





The Royal Scots

The Second World War



Introduction



The slides that follow tell the story of The Royal Scots in the Second World War.

Significant objects are on display in the Museum including medals, uniforms, weapons and comprehensive interpretation boards.

In particular, **The Royal Scots Second World War Roll of Honour** can be accessed at <http://straylight.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/royalscots/ww2/>.

Developed in partnership with St Andrews University, it contains information from the Scottish National War Memorial, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and The Royal Scots Museum Archive. Also accessible via www.theroyalscots.co.uk is the film **Scottish Soldiers - World War 2 Memories**, first hand accounts by four surviving WW2 veterans.

General service in WW2 was recognized with the following medals.



1939 - 1945 Star
Six months in an operational area from 3 Sep 1939-2 Sep 1945, including POW and casualties.



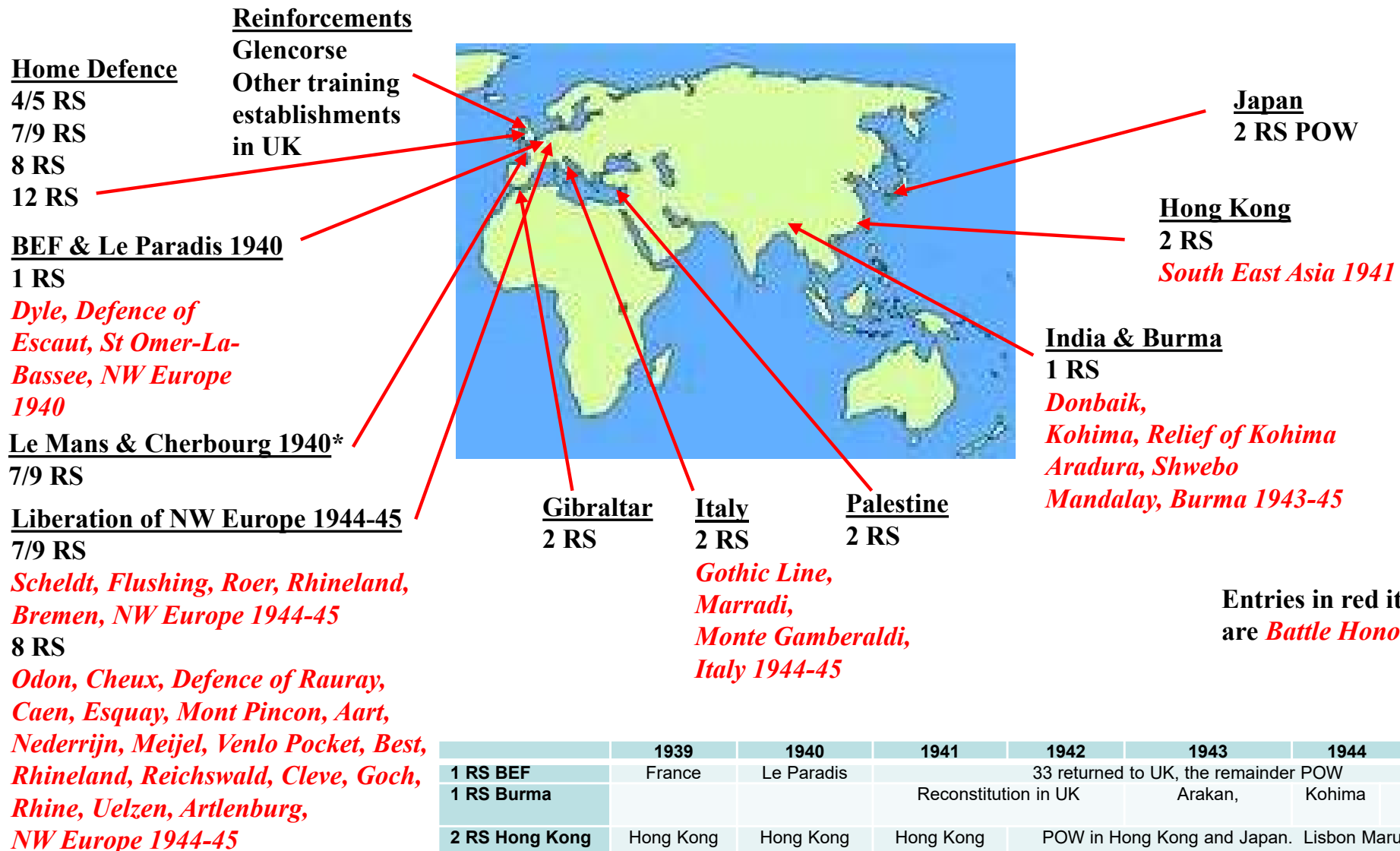
Defence Medal
Three years in non-operational areas subjected to air attack or closely threatened. Also for a year of overseas service, reduced to six months if subject to enemy attacks or closely threatened.



Second World War Medal
28 days service between 3 Sep 1939 and 2 Sep 1945. Those eligible for a campaign star whose service had been cut short by death, wounds or capture.

In addition, campaign stars were issued as described in the pages that follow.

Theatres - Time Lines - Battle Honours



Entries in red italics are **Battle Honours**

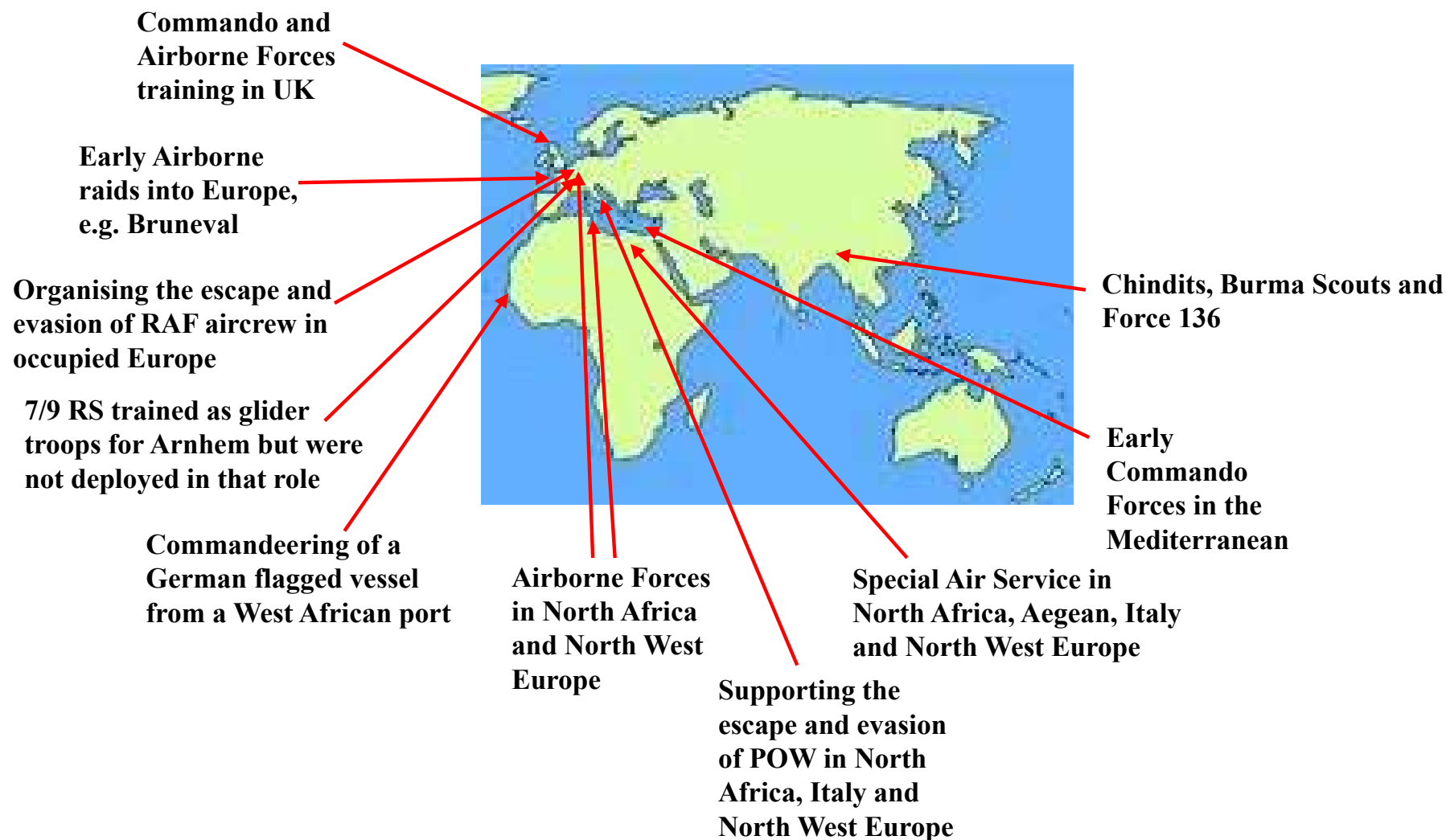
* Expedition to help the French attempt to save Paris

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
1 RS BEF	France	Le Paradis	33 returned to UK, the remainder POW				
1 RS Burma			Reconstitution in UK		Arakan,	Kohima	Mandalay
2 RS Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	POW in Hong Kong and Japan. Lisbon Maru sinking.			
2 RS Italy					Gibraltar	Italy	Palestine
7/9 RS		Cherbourg	Home Defence, preparation for Europe			Holland	Germany
8 RS	Home Defence and preparation for liberation of Europe					Normandy	France
						Belgium	Holland
							Germany

Unconventional Warfare

Individual Royal Scots also served in unconventional warfare in various theatres

A number of related exhibits are in the Museum



The Men



The recollections of some of the men are at
www.theroyalscots.co.uk/scottish-soldiers-world-war-2-memories/

The Order of Battle



On the outbreak of WW2 The Regiment comprised five battalions, as opposed to the thirty-five Battalions of WW1. Of these, two were Regular and three Territorial.



Regular Battalions:

- **1 RS was at Aldershot on return from Palestine throughout 1938.**
- **2 RS was in Hong Kong from January 1938 via Egypt, China and India.**

Territorial Battalions:

- **4th/5th (Queen's Edinburgh). The 4th and 5th Battalions combined after WW1 and, in August 1939, 4th/5th RS converted to a Royal Artillery searchlight regiment.**
- **7th/9th (Highlanders) Battalion in Edinburgh.**
- **8th (Lothians and Peeblesshire) Battalion with Companies outside Edinburgh.**
- **RHQ and Depot was at Glencorse Barracks at Penicuik.**

All five Battalions mobilised immediately.

1st Battalion in France and Belgium

At the outbreak of war, 1 RS was at Aldershot on return from Palestine and soon moved to France. Initially, there was little activity in the period known as “the phoney war”.



Routine



Static
Defence



Captain Martell of the famous brandy family was appointed the Battalion's French liaison officer

There was even opportunity for the officers to hold their annual St Andrews Night dinner in the Café du Paris in Lascelles. The mess silver having been left in UK, the patron of the café commissioned the carving of a wooden quaich for the toast to our Patron Saint. In 2014, 75 years to the day, officers of the Regiment returned to the café for a St Andrews Night dinner and toasted St Andrew with the same quaich.

The quaich is on display in the Museum.

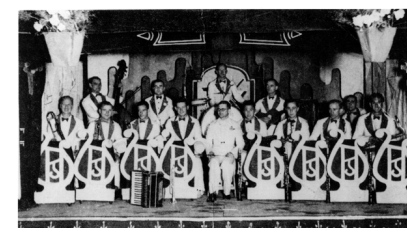


In late May 1940, the 1st Battalion, along with 2nd Royal Norfolks, fought an entire SS Division to a standstill at the village of Le Paradis, in France just to the west of the Belgian border and 30 miles south of Dunkirk, in helping to protect the Dunkirk evacuation beaches.



Le Paradis Memorial

Only 33 Royal Scots returned to UK, mostly wounded. The remainder were either dead, wounded or captured at Le Paradis, or had been wounded at the Defence of Escaut previously. Those captured spent the remainder of the war as POW, including the Regimental Band who had acted as stretcher bearers.



The Band as POWs

Other aspects of the story are in the film at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-untold-dunkirk-story-virtual-80th-anniversary-commemorative-service/ and in the village museum beside the church which was the Regimental Aid Post www.theroyalscots.co.uk/le-paradis/. The bullet marked railings from the garden in which the final seven members of the Pipes & Drums made their last stand are on display in The Royal Scots Museum in Edinburgh Castle.

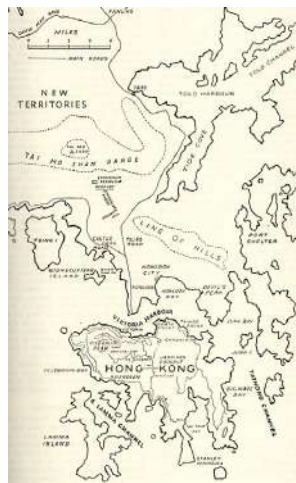
The Battle Honours *Dyle, Defence of Escaut, St Omer-La-Bassee, North West Europe 1940* were awarded.

2nd Battalion in Hong Kong

The Battle for the Mainland 8th - 11th December 1941

'There is not the slightest chance of holding Hong Kong or relieving it. Instead of increasing the garrison it should be reduced to symbolic scale....'

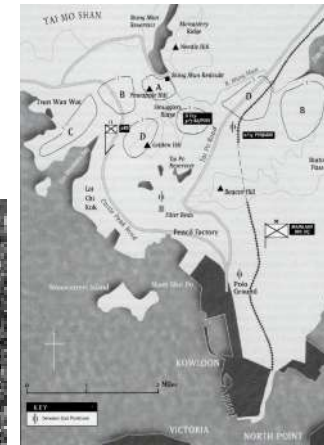
Prime Minister Winston Churchill 7th January 1941



By the time the Japanese invaded on 8th December, although the garrison was re-inforced to some extent, many experienced 2 RS officers and SNCOs had been detached to the staff or posted to other theatres. 153 of the established strength of 771 were hospitalised with malaria for which no prophylaxis then existed and this number rose to more than 180. Originally tasked to defend Hong Kong Island, 2 RS were redeployed to erect defences on the mainland according to a previous plan that had been abandoned three years before, ground on which they had not trained.



The 2 RS front grew to 5,000 yards of mountainous terrain that favoured the Japanese infiltrators, including the Shing Mun Redoubt, with a gap of a mile to the neighbouring battalion.



2 RS 8-11 December



Early on 10th December, the isolated platoon defending the key Redoubt was overcome by two companies of Japanese.

The Shing Mun Redoubt from the north

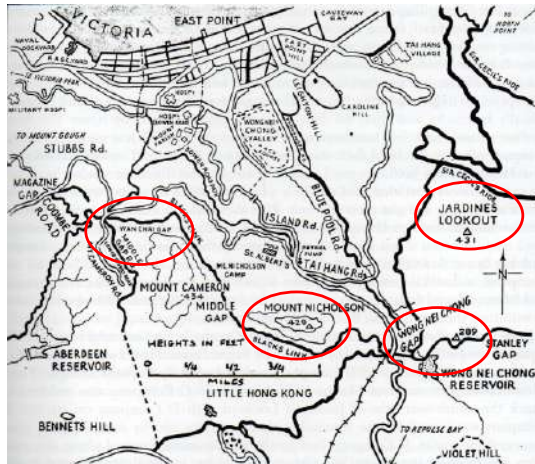


Rapidly reorganising despite losing key commanders, 2 RS assisted withdrawal of the Mainland Force to the Island, but at the cost of 6 officers and 32 soldiers killed and 67 wounded, excluding those wounded but able to fight on.

2nd Battalion in Hong Kong

The Battle for the Island 18th - 25th December 1941

'The counter attacks fought by the decimated 2 RS against two Japanese battalions at the Wong Nei Chung Gap are what legends are made of. There was no lack of determined leadership' Oliver Lindsay *The Battle for Hong Kong 1941-1945*



Part of Hong Kong Island

On the night of 18th December, six Japanese battalions landed on Hong Kong Island. The part played by 2 RS until the garrison fell on Christmas Day is told in more detail at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/2nd-world-war-ww2/ than there is space here.

The gallantry of 2 RS is evident, for example from the actions around Mount Nicholson after A Coy counter-attacked in a hopeless attempt to prevent the Western Brigade HQ being over-run at the Wanchai Gap. By then A Coy had been reduced from 76 to only 15. Sgt Whippley took charge and was awarded the Military Medal.



The Police Station and Pinkerton's Steps

Securing Jardine's Lookout above the Wong Nei Chung Gap made recapturing the Police Station essential. Capt Pinkerton's D Coy attacked from front and flank, driven back with heavy losses. Both Capt Pinkerton and Lt Jim Ford were awarded Military Crosses.



Meanwhile, elder brother, Capt Douglas Ford, who was subsequently awarded the George Cross posthumously, commanding a composite force of B and HQ Coys tried to hold the Gap along with the remainder of D Coy under Sgt Sutherland who was awarded the Military Medal.

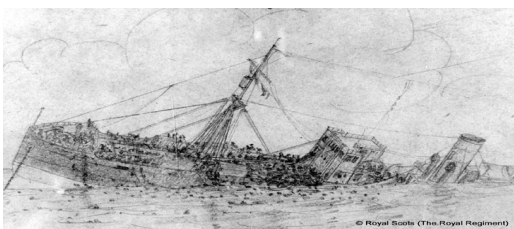
The cost of these actions alone had been 4 officers and 20 soldiers killed, and 4 officers and 48 soldiers wounded, the strength of an entire company in an already depleted battalion.

By the time Hong Kong surrendered on Christmas Day, the effective strength of 2 RS was 4 officers and 98 soldiers who had nevertheless remained determined to 'fight to the finish with the Nips'.

2nd Battalion - After The Battle



The Sum Shui Po POW camp on the Island is shown in yellow with the hills of the Mainland in the background



The *Lisbon Maru* sinking

A contemporary drawing of the *Lisbon Maru* is in the Museum. A detailed account is at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/lisbon-maru/

Twenty two officers and 608 soldiers became prisoners of war, of whom three officers and 59 soldiers died in captivity, and a further three officers and 178 soldiers died at sea in the *Lisbon Maru* incident.

The prisoners were kept in appalling conditions until September 1945, some being shipped to Japan.

The Museum displays items that belonged to members of 2 RS POW

Despite captivity, Captain Douglas Ford led an intelligence network which was exposed. Ford was tortured in the expectation that he would disclose the names of others involved, which he steadfastly refused to do, and was eventually executed. He was awarded the George Cross posthumously for the highest order of gallantry. His medals are on display in the Museum



In 1942, POW were transported to Japan, including on the *Lisbon Maru*. Japanese flagged, it had not indicated carrying POW and was torpedoed by a US submarine. The guards hindered the rescue of the prisoners who included RN, RA, RS and Middlesex. Three RS officers and 178 RS soldiers died at sea.



Lt Col White (back to camera) interrogating the commander of POW Camps, September 1945

'The Garrison was faced with an impossible task that, from the outset, was beyond their powers' Winston Churchill

Marking Time

With the 1 RS and 2 RS survivors of Le Paradis and Hong Kong in captivity, North Africa became the key theatre of operations while planning for the liberation of Europe and the Far East gathered momentum.



Most of the 33 members of 1 RS who returned from France in 1940 had been wounded and evacuated prior to Le Paradis. These formed the nucleus of the reformed 1st Battalion who shipped out to India in 1943 to help defeat the Japanese at the key battle of Kohima and the pursuit through Burma.



12 RS, originally one of Kitchener's New Army battalions of WW1, was reformed for home defence but was re-numbered 2 RS to avenge their Hong Kong comrades in Italy in 1944.



Of the Territorial Battalions:

- **4/5 RS was the first to see action, albeit re-roled as a Royal Artillery anti-aircraft searchlight regiment. Some were later to reinforce 1 RS in Burma.**
- **7/9 RS followed 1 RS to France for just one week in June 1940, in an attempt to help the French prevent German encirclement of Paris. On return, it deployed on home defence before training in mountain warfare in the Cairngorms in expectation of the liberation of Norway.**
- **8 RS likewise deployed in home defence and trained hard in UK for the eventual liberation of Europe.**



More can be viewed in subsequent pages about the parts played by all these Battalions in winning the peace.



4th/5th Battalion as Gunners



The 4th and 5th Battalions (Queens Edinburgh Rifle Volunteers) wore black and rifle green with a cap badge that also bore a Crown and a rifle regiment's bugle. During WW1, the 4th and 5th Battalions served at Gallipoli and in Palestine. However, as the Army shrank when peace came, the Battalions combined as 4th/5th RS (Queens Edinburgh).

4th/5th RS were converted to a searchlight unit in a TA Royal Artillery anti-aircraft Brigade in 1938. On 1 August 1940, they were renamed 52nd Searchlight Regiment (Queens Edinburgh Royal Scots) but retained their Pipe Band and wore the outline of their RS cap badge on their sleeves.



4th/5th RS was the first battalion of the Regiment to see action in the first air raid of the war when the Luftwaffe tried to bomb the Forth Bridge on 16 October.



On 23 October, the first enemy aircraft to be shot down crashed near Humbie in Midlothian near a 4th/5th RS detachment who took the pilot prisoner - the first German of the war to be captured. He had no doubt that the war would be over by Christmas and he would be home in Germany!

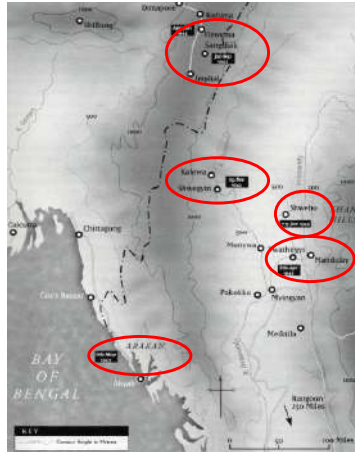
A fragment of the aircraft is on display in the Museum.

In December 1944, ninety nine former members of 4th/5th RS from 405 Searchlight Battery reinforced the reformed 1st Battalion in Burma.

At the end of WW2, 52nd Searchlight Regiment was disbanded and all that now remains of 4th/5th RS is their drill hall in Forest Road in Edinburgh, now part of the University.

Once More Into The Fray

1st Battalion in Burma



The few who returned from Le Paradis were the nucleus of the reformed 1st Battalion along with 250 other Royals from various sources and 600 from basic training.

In April 1942, 1 RS sailed from the Clyde with the 2nd Division. On arriving at Bombay (Mumbai) in India, they moved east to counter the Japanese.

The Arakan campaign of 1942-43 included 1 RS in 6 Brigade advancing down the coast. By early April 1943, at risk of being cut off, the Brigade withdrew with heavy casualties.



1 RS received 500 reinforcements **The Burma Star** but, with 550 malaria casualties, were now reduced to just 400 all ranks. However, the Japanese had been held at the gates of India.



The battles at Imphal and Kohima, April - June 1944, broke the Japanese thrust. In 4 Brigade, 1 RS were truly among *The Heroes of Kohima*, the pipe tune that commemorates the battle



Kohima after the Battle

The subsequent pursuit of the Imperial Japanese Army through Burma is enshrined in the 1 RS Battle Honours

Dobaik, Kohima, Relief of Kohima, Aradura, Shwebo, Mandalay, Burma 1943-45



The full story is told at

www.theroyalscots.co.uk/2nd-world-war-ww2/ and www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-kohima-campaign-1944/

Once More Into The Fray

2nd Battalion in Italy

12 RS, one of Lord Kitchener's New Army battalions in WW1, spent the early part of WW2 in Home Defence and training. After the Battle for Hong Kong, 12 RS renumbered to 2 RS to avenge their comrades there. The Battalion was disappointed to mark time in Gibraltar before entering the Italy campaign in July 1944 for operations to breach the defensive Gothic Line in the mountainous Apennines.



Gibraltar Routine



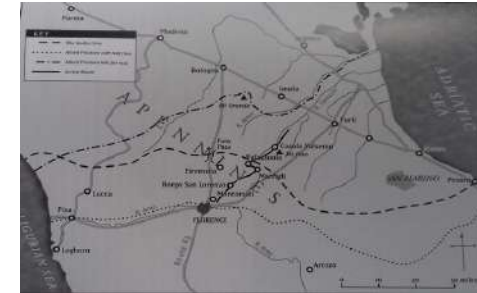
Entraining for the Front



Apennine Terrain



Winter Weather



The intention of the British 1st Division in the US 5th Army was to advance north from Florence, over the River Arno, through the Apennines and to link up with the British 8th Army. This was hampered by mountainous terrain, winter weather and German resistance.

Much of the ground was similar to that fought over by their predecessors on the Hong Kong mainland, as was the overstretch experienced by companies depleted by casualties.

By December 1944, the effective strength was only one rifle company and, in January, the entire 1st Division was withdrawn to Palestine.

One Distinguished Conduct Medal, five Military Crosses, six Military Medals and eight Mentions in Despatches had been awarded, the latter mostly to private soldiers.

2 RS battle honours from Italy were *Gothic Line, Marradi, Monte Gamberaldi, Italy 1944-45*

See also www.theroyalscots.co.uk/2nd-world-war-ww2/



The Italy Star

7th/9th (Highlanders) Battalion

7 RS having suffered grievously in the Gretna Rail Disaster of 1915 and 9 RS (Highlanders) had amalgamated into 7/9 RS in 1922, retaining the Highlanders title.



HRH Princess Mary
visiting 7/9 RS training

In 1940, 7/9 RS deployed briefly to support the French when Paris was threatened with encirclement. Once home in the UK, they trained in mountain warfare in the Cairngorms, in anticipation of the liberation of Norway. This was followed by preparation, as glider troops, for Op Market Garden at Arnhem although they were not deployed in this role. Eventually, their route into North West Europe was via the Netherlands where they fought in flooded polders on the island of Walcheren in the Scheldt estuary.



7/9 RS Advance
into Germany



‘Uncle’ Beach at Flushing

Extensive use was made of amphibious vehicles although Private Alec Campbell also recalled advancing in water up to his chest.



Hotel Britannia

7/9 RS fought on into Germany, being awarded the battle honours *Scheldt, Flushing, Roer, Rhineland, Bremen, NW Europe 1944-45*

Hotel Britannia, a German HQ, was a 7/9 RS objective. Visiting after the War, Major Joe Brown would say how pleased he was to enter by the front door; on his first visit it had been through a window at the rear.

See <http://lawlerbrown.com/>



Major Hugh Johnston borrowed Colonel's badges of rank to persuade General Daser that he was surrendering to a suitably senior officer.



France and
Germany
Star



As a result, German POWs filled the Dam Square in Middleburg.

See also - www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-territorial-battalions-in-ww-2

8th (Lothians and Peeblesshire) Battalion



8 RS fought from Normandy to the River Elbe



8 RS landed in Normandy on 16 June



Close cooperation with tanks in le bocage gave way to open country



France and Germany Star



Advancing to Escaut where 1 RS had fought in 1940 and 8 RS had previously fought in WW1



A halt on the march



Close cooperation with armour was a regular feature



8 RS took part in all three major river crossings into the Reich, i.e. Seine, Rhine and Elbe. On crossing the Rhine, 8 RS expressed reassurance that the banks were secured by 7/9 RS

Crossing the Rhine

RSM Forsyth MC



Much gallantry was evident. The honours included 4 Distinguished Service Orders, 7 Military Crosses and 12 Military Medals.

More WW2 Battle Honours were awarded to 8 RS than to any other RS Battalion *Odon, Cheux, Defence of Rauray, Caen, Esquay, Mont Pincon, Aart, Nederrijn, Best, Meijel, Venlo Pocket, Rhineland, Reichswald, Cleve, Goch, Rhine, Uelzen, Artlenburg, NW Europe 1944-45*

The 'junior' Battalion of the Regiment had earned its reputation by a balanced mixture of professional competence and real determination. Further reading is at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-territorial-battalions-in-ww-2

The Royal Scots Home Guard



Defence Medal



Second World War Medal

Edinburgh Home Guard companies were based in various parts of the city including at Mortonhall, the Braids Golf Course, and in Leith where some old buildings were given over to live firing urban training areas.

Some older Royal Scots filled specialist posts. Lt Col A H Hope had fought in WW1, including as a balloon observer and commanded 4/5 RS between the wars. By 1939 he was too old for infantry duties but served on troop ships in the Atlantic convoys. Thus he served in the air, on land and at sea, uniquely for a Royal Scot, gaining the Atlantic star, and was on parade during our 350th anniversary in 1983.

Lt Col Hope's medals are on display in the Museum.

The Home Guard comprised those disqualified from overseas service by age. Some older men were veterans of WW1 and in the Edinburgh area many had been Royal Scots. Some who were youths on joining went on to serve overseas once older.



An Edinburgh Home Guard Company

(City of Edinburgh)



A patrol on the Union Canal

(Imperial War Museum)



An Edinburgh Home Guard Lance Corporal

(National War Museum of Scotland
Edinburgh Castle)

Lt Col Hope's Medals



OBE; WW1 Trio; 1939-45, Atlantic, North Africa and Italy Stars; WW2 Medal; Coronation Medal; Territorial Decoration

Allied and Affiliated Regiments in WW2



Brigaded with 2nd Battalion The Royal Scots in Burma in 1896, the affiliation commenced when 10th Gurkha Rifles formed a pipe band and turned to The Royals for assistance. Both Regiments had battalions at Gallipoli in WW1 and in Burma during WW2.



The Canadian Scottish Regiment and The Royal Scots having fought in WW1, were formally allied in 1926. In WW2, en route from Vancouver Island to Europe, The Canadian Scottish presented a totem pole to The Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh where it stands in the main lounge. In preparation for the Normandy landings their mascot, a St Bernard named Wallace, was left at The Royal Scots Depot at Glencorse. Landing on D Day, they fought into Germany as did 7/9 RS and 8 RS. By the end, the battle casualty replacements had exceed their posted strengths on arrival in theatre.



The Royal Newfoundland Regiment fought at Gallipoli and in Flanders during WW1. Severe casualties at Beaumont Hamel on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme resulted in the Regiment remaining in Canada during WW2 lest similar casualties might lead to Newfoundland becoming unviable. In 1957 HM The Queen approved their alliance with The Royal Scots.

Exhibits celebrating all three affiliations and alliances are on display in The Royal Scots Museum. The affiliations and alliances themselves are carried forward today by The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Battle Honours and Gallantry Awards



Thirty nine Battle Honours were awarded, ten of which are carried on The Queen's Colour: *Defence of Escaut, Odon, Aart, Flushing, Rhine, North-West Europe 1940, 44-45, Gothic Line, Italy 1944-45, Kohima, Burma 1944-45.*

A Regimental committee sat in 1955-56 with representatives from all Battalions including the 'old' and 'reformed' 1st and 2nd Battalions. The archive describes why each Honour was selected. There were two areas of contention.

St Omer-la-Bassee covers the 4 Brigade stand around Bethune in May 1940. 1 RS and 2 Royal Norfolks made a strong case for Le Paradis to be recognised but The War Office would not agree.

A long, but eventually lost, struggle for *Hong Kong* to be awarded for the 'old' 2nd Battalion corrected errors in the Official History but The War Office would not upgrade from the award of *South-East Asia 1941*.

The following gallantry awards were made to Royal Scots during WW2.



Captain Ford
George Cross



Fourteen
Distinguished
Service Orders



Forty two
Military Crosses



Ten
Distinguished
Conduct Medals



Forty
Military Medals



Of the many honoured under the Order of the British Empire, particular mention is made here of Lieutenant Howell and Lieutenant Brownlow for their actions in rescuing their comrades from the sinking *Lisbon Maru*.

The Casualties

With far fewer battalions committed to action over shorter periods, WW2 casualties were significantly lower than in WW1. Nevertheless 97 officers, including seven of the eleven Canadians attached to 8 RS under the CANLOAN scheme, and 1,151 soldiers were killed, a total of 1,241 Royal Scots (WW1 11,213). Many more were wounded, including all four of the remaining Canadian officers. The breakdown of all casualties is in the table below. The difference between the text and the table for those killed is because a number were killed while serving elsewhere.

Battalion	Killed		Wounded/Missing		Total
	Officers	Soldiers	Officers	Soldiers	
1RS 1939-40	9	132	350 Officers and Soldiers (est)		491
2RS Hong Kong 1941	12	95	17	213	337
Lisbon Maru	3	178			181
POW 1941-45	3	59			62
(2RS Total 1941-45	18	332	17	213	580)
1RS (new) Arakan 1943	6	26	11	168	211
Kohima 1944	2	76	15	193	286
Mandalay 1945	0	36	1	89	126
(1RS Total 1943-45	8	138	27	450	623)
2RS (new) Italy 1944	5	94	12	114	225
7/9 RS 1944-45	8	76	14	163	261
8 RS 1944-45	13	224	48	971	1256
Totals	61	996	135	350 1911	3453

WW2 Memorials



The dead of WW2 are commemorated along with those of WW1 in the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle and at The Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh.



In The Royal Scots Club, two memorial tablets were added, one being to our Canadian Scottish comrades.

New memorials were erected, both in Scotland and on or close to the battlefields.



Eight memorial cottages, particularly for the disabled, were built in the Regimental area.



The memorial at the village church Le Paradis
1 RS 1940



Dedication of the Kohima memorial
1 RS 1944



1 RS Burma memorial
Lauriston Castle
Edinburgh



Stanley Cemetery
Hong Kong
2 RS 1941



7/9 RS Memorial Tablet
Hepburn House



Peeblesshire County War Memorial
8 RS

Most dead of WW2 are buried in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries in all the theatres and some at home. They are commemorated on city, town and village war memorials throughout the land.

The Kohima Epitaph

When you go home tell them of us and say,

For your tomorrow, we gave our today.

Further information about all RS Memorials is at www.theroyalscots.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/SUMMARY-OF-RS-MEMORIALS.pdf and www.theroyalscots.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Non-Regimental-Memorials-2.pdf



The Royal Scots The Cold War and Withdrawal from Empire



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The Aftermath of The Second World War



When WW2 ended, there was no return to the same peace time soldiering as after WW1. Reductions in the size of the Army led to amalgamations and disbandments of many famous Regiments, while unforeseen crises nevertheless required intervention causing severe strain on those remaining. 'Overstretch' became a familiar theme. Two years National Service, a form of conscription, was introduced to provide the manpower, and ended in 1962 when the Army became a regular body, reinforced by the Territorial Army.



In Europe, occupation forces remained in Germany and other former Axis areas. From 1949 these became part of The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) as a deterrent to the Russian threat as the wartime alliance became the 'Cold War'.



Outside Europe, unrest in Palestine continued until the creation of the state of Israel in 1949. The transition of former Colonies to independence was not always peaceable. The containment of Communist expansion in Malaya and Korea demanded the deployment of large forces, although fewer elsewhere.



The intensity of activity between 1945 to the end of the Cold War in 1990 is demonstrated by the 1st Battalion having changed station over 30 times in that period, from the UK to Korea and other deployments in between. Many of these moves required reorganisation, adopting new roles and familiarisation with new equipment.



In addition eleven emergency tours were undertaken, requiring moves at short notice to some critical situation, including to the Falkland Islands and Northern Ireland.

Reminiscences of some who served during the period are at

www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-royal-scots-scottish-soldiers-regimental-memories-1945-to-2006/



Withdrawal from India and reduction to one Regular Battalion

In December 1945, 1 RS was posted from India to Singapore and Malaya until January 1947 when it moved to Karachi, where it remained until the partition and emergence of the separate states of India and Pakistan.

Earl Mountbatten, last Viceroy of India, about to inspect the 1 RS Guard of Honour at The Pakistan Independence Parade



1 RS returned home, one of the last battalions to leave the sub-continent, and nearly six years after they had joined the Burma campaign. On arrival in Edinburgh, 1 RS became the Training Battalion, based at Dreghorn Barracks, for the then four Lowland infantry regiments.



**Field Marshal Montgomery
visiting 2 RS in Trieste**

Meanwhile 2 RS remained in Palestine maintaining order between Arabs and Jews, apart from a four month tour in Egypt's Canal Zone. Two of the Battalion were killed during these operations.

In April 1946 it moved to Malta and then, in June 1947, to Trieste as part of the occupation force in an area disputed between Italy and Yugoslavia.



In 1948 they too returned to Edinburgh where, on 9 February 1949, 2 RS amalgamated with 1 RS as part of the reduction of the Army, there no longer being any need to garrison India and Pakistan. 7/9 and 8 RS remained in the TA order of battle.



**1 RS red
backing**



**2 RS green
backing**

Berlin and Korea



1 RS arriving in Berlin

In February 1951, 1 RS moved to West Germany to join The British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) as part of Britain's contribution to NATO.

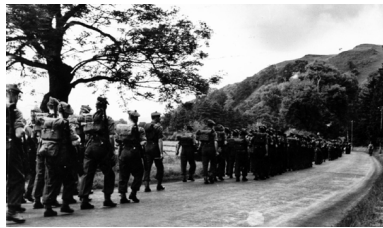
Initially in Munster and Wuppertal, arriving in Berlin in May 1952, the city occupied jointly by the US, France, Russia and the UK.

1 RS remained there until April 1953 when they transited through Glencorse, before sailing for Korea.



HRH opening the Monument

While 1 RS was at Glencorse, HRH Princess Mary, The Princess Royal and Colonel-in-Chief, opened the Regimental Monument in West Princes Street Gardens.



1 RS marching to the front line in Korea

In 1950 North Korea, backed by Russia and China, invaded South Korea. The UN deployed forces to support South Korea. The UK contribution was the 1st Commonwealth Division with troops from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India. 1 RS sailed from Southampton on 2 June, Coronation Day, the Colour Party having taken part in the parade in London that day. The truce in Korea held but 1 RS spent a year in the front line nevertheless. Three of the Battalion died in accidents.



The Colour Party for the Coronation Parade



Mortar Detachment



Berlin Brigade shoulder patch



1st Commonwealth Division shoulder patch



UK and UN Korea medals, the ribbons nicknamed MacArthur's Pyjamas and the Butcher's Apron, the US General MacArthur being the UN Commander

Egypt and Cyprus



In June 1954, 1 RS moved from Korea to the Suez Canal Zone in Egypt where, since the end of WW2, the Egyptians had been trying to remove the British presence by civil disorder and shootings. The Battalion had to adapt from general war tactics to those of internal security.



1 RS arriving in Egypt



Meanwhile, an uprising broke out in Cyprus when EOKA terrorists, seeking union with Greece, began riots, assassinations and sabotage, followed by attacks mounted from the Troodos Mountains. In September 1955, 1 RS moved at short notice to Paphos in order to restore police confidence before mounting operations against EOKA in the mountains. Pte Ketchen and LCpl Milne were killed during these.



1 RS in Port Said

In July 1956, President Nasser of Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal and in November 1 RS joined a British and French force to recover it. Although militarily feasible to regain control, US opposition made this politically impossible and, in December, the Allied forces handed over to the UN and withdrew. Major David



Tanks in support

Pinkerton, who had been awarded the MC for his gallantry while commanding a company of 2 RS in Hong Kong and who had also served in Korea, was killed.

General Service Medals with the campaign clasps Cyprus and Canal Zone are on display in the Museum.



Berlin and Libya



Returning to Elgin in Scotland in January 1957 for a year, 1 RS again moved to Berlin. While there, the Lowland Regiments were ordered to replace their own cap badges with the unpopular Lowland Brigade one. At the same time, the TA was reduced in size with 7/9 and 8 RS amalgamating into 8/9 RS. After two years, 1 RS returned to Dundonald Camp, Troon, near Ayr.



In 1960, Glencorse Barracks closed to be rebuilt as The Lowland Brigade Depot. RS Regimental Headquarters moved from Glencorse into offices, and later added the Museum, within Edinburgh Castle.



In October 1960, 1 RS was posted to Libya, British troops having remained there since 1945 at the request of King Idris in order to provide stability for his Kingdom, with garrisons in Tobruk, Benghazi, Tripoli and Homs. 1 RS was based in Benghazi and at Tobruk to provide security for the RAF airfield at El Adem, and then concentrated in Tripoli where it remained until April 1963. In the Spring of 1962, the last National Servicemen left.



In April 1963, 1 RS returned to UK to be stationed at Tidworth on Salisbury Plain as part of the Strategic Reserve. They were now organized, equipped and trained for short notice deployment by air to any crises point requiring military action.

In January 1964 a company trained for two months in Arctic operations at Fort Churchill in Canada.



In mid-May, during a Battalion exercise on Salisbury Plain, a message was received ordering the Battalion to move immediately, by air, to Aden.

Aden and Radfan



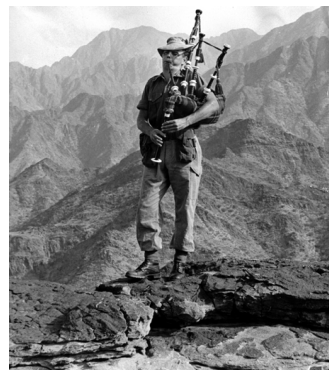
Tribal uprisings in the Aden Protectorate threatened the road between Aden and Dhala. The road was secured but the dissidents remained a threat and the Radfan area of steep, high and rugged peaks had to be occupied.

At the same time two rival nationalist groups, encouraged by President Nasser of Egypt, began a campaign of murder and intimidation in Aden itself and its surrounding area despite the British Government's undertaking to grant independence by 1968.

1 RS was complete in Aden, less than 10 days from the first warning, with A Company at Thumier providing defence for the Radfan base.



The next nine months realised four, one-month long tours up-country in the Radfan, interspersed with 'rest' periods in Aden town which usually involved internal security duties, urban patrolling by foot and vehicle and little 'rest'.



Little rest there might have been but a popular cartoonist found time for humour.

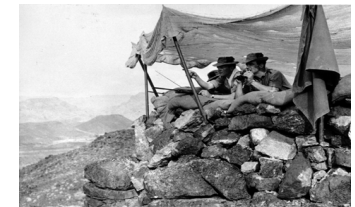


"It must be the Sassanachs - they've only hit the pipes again!"



Campaign Medals with the clasps South Arabia and Radfan are in the Museum.

LCpl McNicol was awarded the Military Medal. One soldier died in an accident.





The Royal Scots and The Cold War, Cyprus, Edinburgh, Munster, Falkland Islands and Northern Ireland





Masters of Many Trades

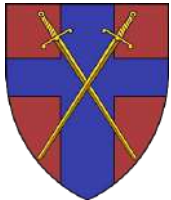


The period between 1965 and 2006 saw 1 RS embark on a variety of roles in dispersed theatres requiring the mastery of new tactics and equipment.

When	Where	Why	How
1966 - 1970	Osnabruck	NATO and BAOR	Mechanised Infantry in 12 Mech Bde
1970 - 1974	Tidworth	NATO Northern and Southern Flank protection	Ski-borne in Norway, on foot in Greece and Turkey
1974 - 1975	Cyprus	Strategic NATO bases	On foot
1976	Kirknewton	Home Base	Training and Ceremonial
1976 - 1979	Munster	NATO and BAOR	Nuclear convoy escort
1979 - 1981	Redford	Home Base	Training and Ceremonial
1981 -1983	Ballykinler	Northern Ireland battalion	Internal security
1983	Kirknewton	RS 350 th Anniversary	Commemorative events
1984	Falkland Islands	Deterring further Argentine aggression	Helicopter-borne
1985 - 1992	Werl	NATO and BAOR	Mechanised Infantry in 33 Bde
1991	Gulf	Ejection of Iraq from Kuwait	Armoured Infantry in Warrior
1992 - 1998	Fort George	Home Base	Training and Ceremonial
1998 - 2000	Colchester	Home Base	Helicopter borne in 16 Air Aslt Bde
2000 - 2002	Ballykelly	Northern Ireland battalion	Internal security
2002 - 2006	Dreghorn	NATO deployment to Bosnia Coalition deployment to Iraq	Internal security

Interspersed with the above and in addition to two, two-year long resident tours in Northern Ireland, were eleven emergency tours in Northern Ireland, each of up to four months duration.

The British Army of the Rhine and Metal Monsters



BAOR

In August 1966, 1 RS moved to Osnabruck and converted to the mechanised role in AFV 432 tracked Armoured Personnel Carriers, often referred to as 'metal monsters'. Converting to the role required new skills in driving, vehicle maintenance and radio operating, together with the need to react tactically much more quickly and to navigate at greater speed than before.

At the end of the year, having completed a Divisional exercise across the North German plain, the Battalion received considerable praise.



12 Mech Bde



By the time 1 RS returned home to Tidworth in 1970 they were expert in the Mechanised Infantry role



.... their own cap badge had been restored



.... they had patrolled the Inner German Border



.... and had completed their first Emergency Tour in Northern Ireland as the first battalion to be sent from BAOR and the first Scottish battalion to be deployed to the Province.



Protecting the Flanks of the Alliance

NATO Planks and Sunshine



1 RS returned to Tidworth in November 1970 to become the British battalion in the Allied Mobile Force (Land). The AMF(L) was a multi-national, brigade-sized formation whose role was to deploy to the flanks of NATO at short-notice.

The Battalion's priority was to learn to operate in the Arctic of North Norway, in Denmark and, on the Southern Flank in Italy, Greece and Turkey. Much time was spent on major exercises over the next four years.



Although not required to be ski-borne in Norway, the Battalion elected to be so and became very proficient in all necessary tactics. They mastered the skills of patrolling and approach marches 'ski-joring' behind BV206 snow vehicles. They also provided pilots and support staff for the force recce helicopters.

A number of endurance races were won, not on racing 'langrenn' skis but on wooden military patrol skis, unflatteringly referred to as 'NATO planks'.

In contrast to Arctic cold, Mediterranean sun was always welcome. A Company showing the flag on parade after an exercise in Greece.



An already busy NATO programme was augmented with three deployments to Northern Ireland at short-notice, at 24 hours in one case, so not much time was spent in Tidworth. The photograph shows a patrol observing the Fermanagh border during one of these.

Cyprus 1974 - 1975

Arriving in Cyprus in May 1974, 1 RS had had more family separation in the previous four years than any other unit in the Army. All were looking forward to two years stability as they took over responsibility for the strategic Sovereign Base Area (SBA) of Episkopi with RAF Akrotiri nearby.



The Royal Scots were no strangers to Cyprus. The 1st (Garrison) Battalion had deterred the Turkish threat in WW1, and 1 RS had operated against EOKA insurgents in 1955.



Makarios

In July 1974, President Makarios was deposed by the Cyprus National Guard (CNG), all Greek Cypriots who, as in 1955, sought union with Greece. The situation deteriorated as the CNG forced the Turkish minority into their enclaves.

This caused Turkey to invade and the division of the island. In an initial, frenetic period, the Battalion secured the boundary of the SBA, evacuated the families from nearby Limassol and eventually to UK, managed a flood of Greek refugees and dealt with a series of internal security incidents.



Families on the move



Emplaning to reinforce RAF Troodos



Briefing for a patrol



Happy Valley refugee camp

1 RS remained on the island until February 1975 when they returned to Edinburgh to prepare for the next Northern Ireland tour in South Armagh.



Securing the SBA

When reinforcements arrived they included our affiliated regiment 10th Gurkha Rifles



A Queen's Gallantry Medal, a British Empire Medal and a commendation for gallantry were awarded.



A Cyprus 1974 essay is at www.theroyalscots.co.uk at History Post WW2.

Ceremonial in Edinburgh, Glasgow Dustbins, Munster and Northern Ireland

The return from Cyprus to Kirknewton near Edinburgh in February 1975 was for a little over a year, during which were ceremonial duties



Maj Ashmore escorting King Gustav Adolphus of Sweden to inspect a guard of honour

.... assistance to the civil authorities during a strike of refuse workers in Glasgow



LCpl McCann and Cpl MacKinnon 'on the bins'

.... and a fifth emergency tour in Northern Ireland, this time on the South Armagh border.



Terrorist propaganda

In June 1976 the Battalion returned to Munster in West Germany, where they had been briefly in 1951, as the NATO Nuclear Convoy Escort Battalion working closely with 8 Regiment RCT and US troops. This time there were no 'metal monsters' to provide mobility but Land Rovers.

Escort Land Rovers



By May 1979, they were back in Edinburgh at Redford Barrack and, in May 1980, another four month deployment to West Belfast.

Foot Patrol with Police



On returning to Redford, HRH The Princess Anne presented new Colours at a parade at Holyrood in July 1980.

Colours Parade

In February 1981, the Battalion commenced its first, two year resident tour at Ballykinler in Northern Ireland.



350 Years Unbroken Service to the Crown

On returning from Ballykinler to Edinburgh, preparations started immediately for the Regiment to celebrate 350 years unbroken service to the Crown, more than any other infantry regiment in the British Army.

During the RS 350 year, no less than 74 events were held to mark the anniversary. The principal among these were recorded in this montage.



A commemorative medallion was issued to all serving at the time.



The highlight was a Royal Review at Holyrood, at the centre of the montage, before HM The Queen and her daughter HRH The Princess Anne who was to become our Colonel-in-Chief that day.

From top left, the other events depicted were:

- Reception at Armoury House in London
- Regimental Association on parade
- March Past along Princes Street
- Rugby match versus Merchistonians
- A Ball in the Assembly Rooms
- Pride of place at the Tattoo
- Museum events
- Drumhead Service and tree planting in Princes Street Gardens
- Royal Scots of the Royal Company of Archers
- Golf tournament at Dalmahoy

The Falkland Islands Garrison



Falkland Islands and South Georgia

In March 1984, 1 RS deployed for five months to the Falkland Islands with a detachment on South Georgia. A garrison had been maintained since the defeat of the Argentinian invasion in 1982.



On the Falklands

B Company Port Stanley

D Company San Carlos

Battalion HQ and A Company Goose Green

C Company Fox Bay



On South Georgia, the officer commanding the detachment was also sworn in as a Justice of the Peace and the Postmaster.

Argentine mines were an ever present threat.



Entertaining the South Georgia penguins.



The Falkland Sound between the main Islands.



A high state of alert was maintained.



Mid-winter patrol.



Remembrance Sunday in Port Stanley.

The End of the Cold War

In April 1985, 1 RS returned to BAOR as a mechanised battalion in 33 Armoured Brigade equipped with the familiar AFV 432 and stationed at Werl, once again in 'metal monsters'.



Training in Canada

'Metal monster'



Intensive live-firing training in Canada, followed by brigade and divisional level exercises in Germany brought the Battalion to peak efficiency.

HRH The Princess Royal our Colonel-in-Chief visited Werl twice, the second occasion after conversion to Warrior, the new infantry combat vehicle with a turret-mounted 30mm cannon and improved mobility.



HRH's Standard flying from her Warrior



By now it was common for BAOR battalions to carry out emergency tours in Northern Ireland and 1 RS was no exception, returning for an eighth time to West Belfast from December 1987 to March 1988.

1989 brought the end of the Cold War after 40 years, followed by the tearing down of the Berlin Wall, without a shot being fired. Tensions reduced by the peace dividend were replaced by others as new coalitions took shape. 1 RS were soon to be deployed in one such to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi invasion.

The Werl Barracks was vacated and The Royal Scots stained glass window was relocated to the Regimental Kirk in Edinburgh's Canongate





The Royal Scots

Northern Ireland 1970 - 2002



Operation Banner 1969 - 2002



In August 1969, the Army was deployed onto the streets of Londonderry to assist the Royal Ulster Constabulary in managing riots that had followed protests by the Civil Rights movement. By October, 10 infantry battalions were helping to police the Province, mainly in Londonderry and Belfast.



Royal Ulster
Constabulary



For the next 33 years the Army provided internal security under Operation Banner, first protecting Protestant Unionists and Catholic Republicans from each other, and then countering the various factions of the self-styled Irish Republican Army and Loyalist



paramilitaries throughout the Province, until the Good Friday Agreement eventually brought peace.



Force levels varied in response to the intensity of terrorist activity, peaking at some 22,000, including 27 infantry battalions and several other units in the infantry role. Op Banner dominated Army commitments throughout the period despite the major campaigns of the Falklands, the Gulf and Iraq.



In the course of Op Banner, 1 RS carried out 13 operational tours totalling 7 ½ years.

7 Royal Scots and 2 from attached Corps were killed or died in accidents.



HQ Northern
Ireland

Thirteen Tours



In the course of Op Banner, 1 RS carried out thirteen operational tours totalling seven and a half years.

Dates	Base	Deployment
March - July 1970	Osnabruck	West Belfast
May - July 1971	Tidworth	Londonderry
October - December 1971	Tidworth	Belfast
June - August 1972	Tidworth	Belfast, Londonderry
December 1975 - April 1976	Kirknewton	South Armagh
February - May 1980	Redford	West Belfast
March 1981 - March 1983	Ballykinler	Province Reserve
December 1987 - April 1988	Werl	West Belfast
September 1992 - March 1993	Fort George	South Armagh
November 1995 - April 1996	Fort George	South Armagh
June - December 1997	Colchester	Fermanagh
March - August 1999	Colchester	South Armagh
August 2000 - April 2002	Ballykelly	Province Reserve



West Belfast March - July 1970



39 Brigade

1 RS was the first battalion to deploy from BAOR, and the first Scottish battalion on Op Banner. Although the Provisional IRA emerged and commenced bombings and shootings during this tour, rioting was more frequent.

Originally a submarine depot ship, HMS Maidstone made an unlikely initial base



Belfast was, and remains, a divided city as indicated by the map. Interfaces were often flashpoints for sectarian violence, sometimes sparking riots several hundreds, even thousands, strong.



Often caught between factions, the cartoonist was more sympathetic than those we were trying to protect from each other



Humber 1 ton armoured vehicles, known for their appearance as 'Pigs', provided mobility and protection. Patrols replaced police and often had to escalate their posture at little or no notice.



Providing reassurance on the Peace Line

In June, it became apparent that IRA weapons were hidden in the Lower Falls area. As searching commenced, a mass exodus made for Andersonstown in the south west of the city, some with concealed weapons. Major rioting broke out and searching continued for days.



1 OBE, 2 MBE with gallantry clasps, 1 BEM with gallantry clasp and 1 Queen's Commendation for gallantry were awarded.



Londonderry May - July 1971

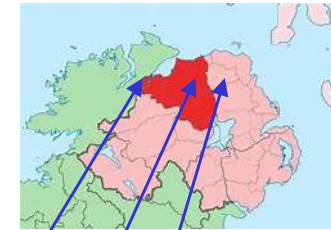


8 Brigade

1 RS moved from Tidworth at short notice to a factory at Drumahoe, to the east of Londonderry, that had been taken over as temporary accommodation.

From there, Companies deployed to village halls in various towns around County Londonderry with a view to patrolling both County Londonderry and County Antrim. The purpose of these rural operations was to both reassure the law-abiding population and inhibit IRA activity.

Mobile patrols conducted road blocks to search motor vehicles while foot patrols engaged with the communities and remained alert to any untoward activity. A number of searches were carried out and one found a significant quantity of explosives.



County Antrim
County Londonderry
Londonderry City



Other tasks included observing border crossing points between Londonderry and Donegal



.... and alerting all Lighthouse and Coastguard stations along the Antrim coast to expect IRA gun runners.



Unlike the previous year in Belfast, when confrontations were commonplace, there were few during this tour. A Company is seen here turning back a provocative Orange Order march at Dungiven.

Also in July were sporadic inter-sectarian disturbances in Londonderry City which necessitated 1 RS occupation of the Bligh's Lane compound and the derelict Mountjoy Prison. The map shows the old walled city, defended by the Protestant garrison in 1690 and contentious ever since.



Belfast October - December 1971

The pace and frequency of AMF deployments to the flanks of NATO were such that a period of consolidation had become necessary. However, it was not to be. Shortly after one such deployment, 1 RS was sent to Belfast for a four-month emergency reinforcement necessitated by the Republican backlash to internment. This was a measure whereby the RUC could arrest on suspicion and imprison without trial. The benefits of this were short-lived and stored up long-term resentment in the Catholic population.



Ligoneil
Shankhill

On this tour, the Battalion deployed to the largely Protestant Shankhill area



.... and the adjacent Catholic enclave of Ligoneil



Both areas remained relatively incident free throughout the tour, the duration of which was reduced by a month and the Battalion returned to Tidworth at the end of December, just in time for a two month deployment to Norway.



Recognising the scale of the emergency, the Ministry of Defence issued the clasp 'Northern Ireland' to be worn on the General Service Medal ribbon.

Belfast and Londonderry

June - August 1972



A civilian victim of
IRA bombing

As the Northern Ireland situation became increasingly volatile, 1 RS was warned to deploy once again to Belfast, the Advance Party at only 24 hours notice. This fourth tour, more than any other infantry battalion at this stage, made 1 RS the most experienced battalion in the Province.



The aftermath of rioting



On 25 June, the IRA announced a 'cease fire' and aspects of the Op Banner posture were scaled back commensurately. Not to be upstaged, the Unionists declared 'no go areas' to match those they claimed the Republicans had formed.



This prompted a response from Republicans demanding to march on Belfast city centre, halted by A Company in support of the RUC. On such occasions, the security forces could be outnumbered by up to 300:1.



The July 'marching season' brought Orange Order attempts to march provocatively into Republican areas with, considerable policing challenges. At the peak on 12th July, 1 RS covered the main parades.



Earlier in July, William Whitelaw as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had held secret talks with IRA representatives to try to find a solution but the IRA made unreasonable demands. The situation deteriorated and the breaking of the IRA 'cease fire' seemed inevitable.

Belfast and the Lenadoon incident July 1972



On 14th July, the IRA broke their cease fire in Lenadoon Avenue in south west Belfast by engineering an incident around a housing matter. Hundreds of Republicans took to the streets to threaten L Battery 2nd Feld Regiment Royal Artillery and their base 'Fort Nery' at the top of the Avenue. 1 RS was deployed with B Company astride the Avenue. One B Company barrier was rammed by two lorries carrying furniture but these were pushed back by a Saracen.



Suddenly the crowd disappeared and the IRA ambush was sprung with heavy rifle and machine gun fire from houses along the Avenue and from the flats at the top. Fire was returned against identified targets and the B Company Sergeant Major silenced the machine gun with his sniper rifle, although another IRA machine gun opened up.



A platoon in Pigs raced to the top of the hill, the other two platoons clearing the houses on either side. Support Company provided cover from the bottom of the Avenue and A Company secured the left flank.

The left hand platoon relieved Fort Nery while the right hand platoon secured the flats.

The mission had been achieved without any RS casualties.



One Military Cross was awarded.



However, violence increased and culminated on 21 July 'Bloody Friday' when 26 bombs in Belfast in two hours killed 11 civilians and injured 30 others.



Londonderry and Operation Motorman July 1972



Re-establishing the rule of law in an IRA 'no go area' in the Republican part of Londonderry City was known as Operation Motorman.

1 RS was tasked to secure an area of the Creggan housing estate in an operation in which no less than 12,000 troops were involved in one capacity or another.



On 29th July, 1 RS moved from Belfast to Drumahoe factory to the east of Londonderry.

Intelligence indicated there could be stiff resistance and casualties were expected. Such was the threat assessment that a Royal Engineers armoured vehicle with a demolition

gun and a dozer blade was employed to clear several of the barricades, some of which were believed to have been mined.



1 RS crossed its start line at 0400 on 31st July. After some exchanges of fire, the southern part of the Creggan was secured by 0800 without any RS casualties. By that night, follow up operations were under way with patrols reassuring law-abiding citizens and intelligence-led searches for arms.



The list of finds was impressive. One RS search alone discovered 56 assorted firearms, over 15,000 rounds of ammunition 3,000 lbs of explosives, 13 radio sets and a large quantity of military clothing, subversive literature and other items.

The tour ended on 6th August and the Battalion returned to Tidworth.



South Armagh December 1975 - April 1976



3 Brigade

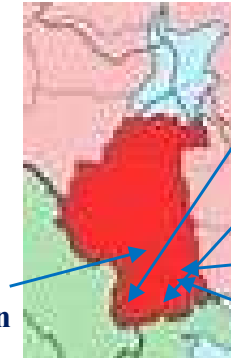
**'Between Carrickmacross and Crossmaglen
There are more rogues than honest men'**

Traditional

West Belfast and South Armagh were acknowledged to be the most challenging areas in the Province. Early in the tour, the IRA murdered 12 Protestant workers. The media referred to South Armagh as 'Bandit Country', a term we did not acknowledge.



Support Coy
Newtonhamilton



A Coy
Crossmaglen

B Coy
Forkhill

C Coy
Newry

Bn HQ
Bessbrook

A and B Coys operated on foot, often deploying by helicopter.



In Newry, C Coy stopped a tanker bearing 2 tons of explosive heading for Belfast.



The risk of improvised explosive device (IED) was extremely high. One A Coy patrol turned the tables on IRA bombers with a Military Medal and a Mention in Despatches awarded.



Many patrols were jointly with RUC.



Further north, Support Company patrolled by Landrover. Following near misses and a political decision not to revert to foot patrolling, one mobile patrol was caught by a culvert bomb, killing three, our first fatalities of Op Banner.



The Battalion base at Bessbrook became the busiest heliport in Europe.

A BBC Panorama film about 1 RS in South Armagh is at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcS2LBx3nZ4>



West Belfast February - May 1980



After an interlude as the NATO nuclear escort battalion in BAOR, and on returning to Redford Barracks in Edinburgh, history seemed to repeat itself with deployment to the same area of Belfast as during the first tour in 1970. Once again, Battalion HQ was in the Springfield Road Police Barracks, as RUC stations were then called, with Companies deployed to support an RUC increasing in confidence and capability in Whiterock, Ballymurphy, Turf Lodge and Woodburn.



1 RS covered the green area in the south west of the city.



By now most police stations were fortified to withstand IRA attacks by vehicle bomb, rockets and machine gun. Despite such violence, ordinary citizens went about their legitimate business.

Unlike the first Belfast tour when civil disorder and riots were the staple, the principal threats now were sophisticated improvised explosive devices, sniping and machine gun attacks.



The experience of South Armagh had made us proficient in avoiding and countering these forms of attack. Furthermore, joint RUC and Army intelligence gave us an edge.



Nevertheless, certain areas were very hostile and required expert patrolling.



Company bases maintained surveillance and mounted operations that caught armed terrorists and found caches of weapons and ammunition.



The tour was marred by the accidental death of one of our Royal Army Pay Corps clerks.

On completing the tour Commander Land Forces for the entire Province wrote, *'After four impressively successful months, the determined and imaginative way you dominated your demanding area undoubtedly deterred the terrorist. Your cheerful professionalism won the admiration of many and set a splendid example to those who follow'*



An OBE and a Mention in Despatches were awarded

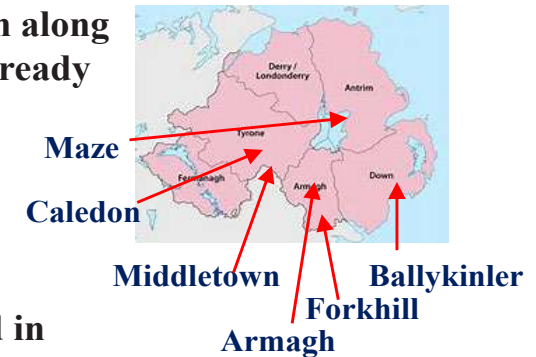
Abercorn Barracks Ballykinler

Province Reserve March 1981 - March 1983



Based in Abercorn Barracks at Ballykinler in South Down along with families, 1 RS became a Province Reserve battalion, ready to react anywhere it might be required but usually in the 3 Brigade counties of Armagh, Tyrone and Fermanagh.

Ballykinler had amenities for the families and was a pleasant base for the Companies between deployments.



B Company, in the close observation role, was tasked by HQ 3 Bde, acting on RUC intelligence.



The other Companies deployed in succession for a month at a time to the border where the IRA was active, often under command of other units.



The IRA frequently tried to blow up the Kilnasaggart railway bridge, near Forkhill, in attempts to disrupt the line between Belfast and Dublin but never succeeded.

At first, Company deployments were to Forkhill and later to Drumadd Barracks in Armagh with a detachments at Middletown and Caledon.



Whereas patrols from Forkhill and Middletown could be mounted on foot, deployments from Drumadd were by helicopter.

One accidental death occurred on one such deployment.



At intervals, Companies reinforced operations to contain Republican unrest prompted by hunger strikers among the IRA prisoners in HMP Maze.



The operational tempo was not sustained at as high a rate as during shorter, emergency tours and there were opportunities for military skills competitions and sport, with the Battalion winning the two major soccer trophies and runners-up at squash and cross country running. There were also impressive results in 7-a-side rugby, 6-a-side hockey and 5-a-side soccer.

West Belfast December 1987 - April 1988



Every aspect of an infantry battalion in Northern Ireland was different to being mechanised in BAOR from where 1 RS deployed after extensive training.



This fifth tour in Belfast saw an increasingly confident RUC establishing a measure of community policing, resented by the IRA.

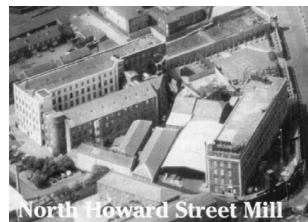


The threat of sniping and bomb attack remained. But there were improvements in intelligence, tactics, radios and equipment.

1 RS was first to deploy with the SA80 rifle. Close quarter shooting accounted for an IRA gunman and the award of a Queen's Commendation.



The 'Fakir' torch was developed, zeroed with SA80 to illuminate dark alleys, ending IRA 'drogue' grenade attacks that had injured several RUC in Belfast and preventing any in Londonderry.



Battalion HQ and B Coy were in North Howard Street Mill from where B Coy controlled the Peace Line and the Lower Falls, in one operation catching a gunman preparing to ambush a patrol.



A Coy covered the housing estates of Ballymurphy and Turf Lodge. Humour was never far from the surface.



C Coy operated at street level and in the high-rise Divis Flats.



We were very pleased that our Colonel-in-Chief visited during the tour.



An OBE and a Queen's Commendation were awarded.



One senior RUC officer stated that this had been the busiest period of his 40 years' service to date.

West Belfast March 1988 - Major Incidents

Civil disturbances, bomb clearances and non-fatal shootings were frequent occurrences in Belfast but would have been considered major incidents on mainland Great Britain.



However, in March 1988, a series of events were categorised as major incidents, even by Belfast standards.



Three IRA terrorists attempted a bomb attack on the Gibraltar garrison but were foiled by the SAS.



There followed widespread disorder in Republican areas, including in the 1 RS area of responsibility.

In anticipation of further disturbances, 1 RS was reinforced by four companies of the Brigade and Province reserve, doubling the Battalion's strength.



Tension heightened with the repatriation of the 'Gibraltar Three' and culminated on the day of their funeral.



A Unionist paramilitary attacked the funeral in Milltown Cemetery with grenades and a pistol but was caught by the RUC.



Milltown Cemetery
Andersonstown



Some days later, a Republican march took place in Andersonstown. By now, RUC took the lead in controlling all such large gatherings so there was no longer any close 1 RS involvement. It would have passed off without incident but for two Royal Signals soldiers in a civilian car driving through the area which had been placed out of bounds to such traffic.

The mob attacked and murdered both before either RUC or A Company could reach them.

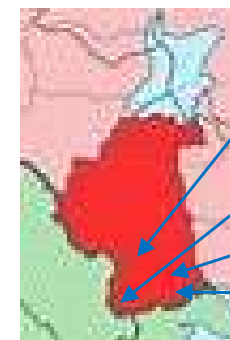


South Armagh September 1992 - March 1993



Having fought with distinction in the Gulf War, 1 RS was posted from Werl in Germany back home to Scotland. The Battalion's base was now Fort George near Inverness.

In September, the Battalion deployed to South Armagh for a second time.



Sphinx Bty
Newtonhamilton
B Coy
Crossmaglen
Bn HQ, A Coy
Bessbrook
C Coy
Forkhill

Many aspects of the tour were familiar although basing was different with no base in Newry. Battalion HQ and A Company were at Bessbrook Mill, B Company at Crossmaglen and C Company at Forkhill.



F (Sphinx) Battery Royal Horse Artillery came under command at Newtonhamilton. The Sphinx having been awarded as a battle honour in Egypt during the Napoleonic Wars to, among others, F Battery and The Royal Scots.



On foot and by helicopter were still the principal modes of mobility.



At one of the bases, a prominent sangar was fired on repeatedly and was also subjected to an arson attack using an improvised flamethrower.



Although terrorist activity increased towards the end of the tour, the media were no longer referring to South Armagh as 'bandit country' despite there being no doubt about the proportions of 'rogues to honest men' from the local poem.

Nevertheless, a mortar attack on Crossmaglen resulted in the serious injury of a civilian contractor, an RUC constable was shot dead near Crossmaglen while patrolling with B Company and, equally tragically, one soldier was shot dead near Forkhill.



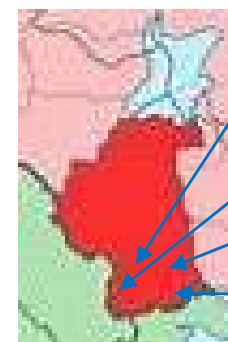
South Armagh November 1995 - April 1996



1 RS deployed once again from Fort George for a third tour in South Armagh, on this occasion reinforced by 87 soldiers from 8 different cap badges including from the Territorial Army.



Despite an IRA 'cease fire', activity was high. Much effort was invested in supporting RUC enforcement of the law.



**C Coy
Newtonhamilton
A Coy
Crossmaglen
Bn HQ, Fire Sp
Coy Bessbrook
B Coy
Forkhill**



1 RS focused on surveillance, patrolling and quick reaction to the various situations that developed.

High activity levels were rewarded when A Company seized a 1,300 lb bomb close to Crossmaglen.



Not to be outdone, B Company in a joint operation with the RUC seized £40,000 worth of alcohol from an off-licence which had 'neglected' to obtain a licence. The RUC referred to such as 'ordinary decent crime' as opposed to terrorism. The rogues between Carrickmacross and Crossmaglen were up to all sorts of mischief. Meanwhile, C Company did much to make the Newtonhamilton base habitable following an IRA mortar attack that had done much damage.



HRH The Princess Royal paid her second visit to 1 RS in Northern Ireland, touring all the Company bases.



Soon after this, the IRA bombed Canary Wharf in London, bringing that 'cease fire' to an end and heightening the profile of patrols until the end of the tour.

In recognition of the Armed Forces extended commitment to the Province and elsewhere, the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal was awarded. Thirty six months service in Northern Ireland was a qualifying condition.



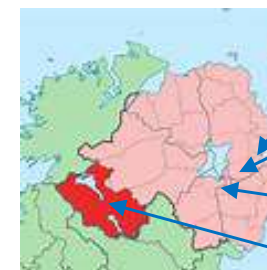
Reinforcement June - December 1997



By now in the Air Assault role in 16 Brigade based in Colchester, 1 RS started to deploy to various parts of the Province for their 11th tour, this time reinforced by a company of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.



Yet another IRA 'cease fire' was under way and 1 RS prepared to become the Rural Reinforcement Battalion although, at first, the exact nature of their duties were not entirely clear.



North Belfast

Long Kesh

Drumcree

Fermanagh



C Company deployed to Fermanagh where they escorted the RUC as they enforced the rule of law.



The remainder of the Battalion remained in Colchester until the end of June when it deployed to Long Kesh to cover the annual 'marching season' when Unionists attempt to march provocatively through Republican areas, often resulting in confrontation. At this time, Drumcree was a particular flashpoint.



A and Recce Companies were then deployed briefly into North Belfast to deter shooting, petrol bombing and general disorder before returning to Colchester.

Soon after, A Company relieved C Company in Fermanagh.



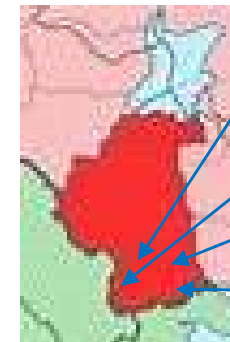
Prior to deploying, HRH The Princess Royal had visited the Battalion while training for the tour.

South Armagh March - August 1999



1 RS deployed again from Colchester for a fourth South Armagh tour, with Corunna Company of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment under command.

As the Battalion deployed, the Northern Ireland peace process was hanging in the balance. Selected powers were about to be devolved to the Stormont Assembly, according to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.



C Coy 1 DWR
Newtonhamilton
C Coy
Crossmaglen
Bn HQ
Bessbrook
A Coy
Forkhill



However, there was some way to go before it would be implemented as intended, as undercurrents of violence remained from both communities.

The highest degree of professionalism was required of 1 RS as they supported the RUC in their return to community policing.



The tour involved border surveillance from watchtowers overlooking terrorist infiltration routes, patrolling and quick reaction to any situation that might develop.

For Private Skinner, it was his first operational deployment which he described thus, *'Despite work-up training, being thrown in at the deep end would be an understatement! Immediately, I joined one of the watch towers. Guard duties were demanding but gave me a sense of importance and I*

didn't want to let anyone down; their lives were in my hands. Quick Reaction Force was fast and furious, straightaway deploying to support the RUC at an incident close to the Border.'



Once again, HRH The Princess Royal visited the Battalion on operations, at Bessbrook, Crossmaglen and Forkhill.

Shackleton Barracks Ballykelly

Province Reserve August 2000 - April 2002

In August 2000, 1 RS embarked on its second Resident Tour, this time at Shackleton Barracks near Londonderry, a former RAF Shackleton maritime patrol airfield.



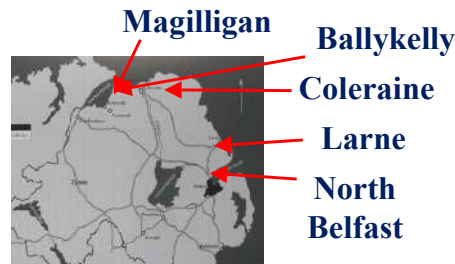
Significant changes were under way from the Good Friday Agreement, although hostility between the communities and towards the Security Forces continued.



The RUC had become the Police Service of Northern Ireland, viewed as a sell-out by Loyalists and with suspicion by Republicans. The new PSNI tended to be more representative of



both communities. PSNI very definitely now led on security with the Army ever further into reserve.



RS Companies took the following busy cycle in turn:

Ops 1. This was the most active, patrolling throughout the 8 Brigade area, operating against dissident IRA groups active in the Magilligan area and supporting PSNI in curbing Loyalist paramilitaries in Coleraine and Larne.



Ops 2. 8 Brigade Reserve Company, on standby for the 8 Brigade area and further south into 3 Brigade territory. Also supporting PSNI control the Holy Cross School sectarian flashpoint in North Belfast.



Ops 4. This brought training for operations



Once again, HRH The Princess Royal visited the Battalion on operations.



adventurous training

Ops 3. Guards and duties at Ballykelly, the least appealing task in the cycle.



and leave.

A Footnote to Op Banner



As the Province wearied of violence, the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, recognised that a united Ireland could not be achieved by force of arms. This led to the Good Friday Agreement, signed in 1988 by the principal paramilitary factions, the Northern Ireland political parties, the governments of the UK and Eire, all with the encouragement of the international community and especially the US.



Nevertheless, some Republican and Loyalist groups still perpetrated terrorist acts, thus the Army still being necessary, hence the 1 RS tour at Ballykelly.



Op Banner formally ended in 2007. 1 RS had suffered five operational and two non-operational deaths and a further two attached from other Corps died in accidents. Perversely, whereas terrorists were exempted from prosecution under the Good Friday Agreement, HM Government nevertheless permits Republican activists to bring actions against soldiers. This is an ongoing cause of anger among Veterans.



On 4 September 2010, Old Royals who had settled in the Province were joined by representatives of all Regimental Association Branches to inaugurate a Northern Ireland Branch. Earlier in the day, they had unveiled a memorial in the Palace Barracks Memorial Garden with two former 1 RS Padres officiating.



Having helped restore the rule of law over thirteen tours totalling seven and a half years, Old Royals were invited to visit Stormont in 2012 from where the rule of law was now being exercised.

The Memorial Garden is visited regularly and a Regimental wreath is laid annually.





**The Royal Scots
in the
Changing World Order
First and Second Gulf Wars, Bosnia,
The Royal Regiment of Scotland**



All Change!



While still based in Werl in Germany, Operation Banner in Northern Ireland continued with the 1 RS West Belfast emergency tour in 1988 against the backdrop of the ongoing commitment to the British Army of the Rhine to counter the threat of invasion by the Soviet Bloc.



Although Soviet Glasnost was developing, Germany remained divided until the Berlin Wall came down in November 1989, ending the Cold War and initiating the phased withdrawal of UK and US forces from Germany. Disintegration of the former Yugoslavia commenced in 1990 and political upheaval in Moscow in 1991 hastened the breaking up of the Soviet Union.

As this unfolded, 1 RS was one of the first battalions to receive the new infantry combat vehicle, Warrior. This was a new form of 'metal monster' with much improved protection, mobility and firepower.



Despite these improvements, it would still be the rifle section it delivered who would close with the enemy.



HRH The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief, continued her by now regular visits, on one occasion while the Battalion was converting to Warrior. Here she is pictured commanding one, flying her Royal Standard.



It would not be long before 1 RS would play a significant part in the Gulf to eject Iraqi forces from Kuwait, mounted in their Warriors and in 'a coalition of the willing' of the sort that would increasingly become as important as NATO.



Desert Storm, Granby and The Regiment's Final Battle Honours



The end of the Cold War brought the prospect of a peace dividend to HM Treasury as the 1st Armoured Division took to the field in the Gulf with two as opposed to three brigades, only made possible by stripping 3rd Armoured Division in Germany. Furthermore, 1 RS was to be one of the infantry regiments threatened with removal from the order of battle for defence savings at a time when stability was becoming increasingly tenuous in the Gulf, in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere. This increasing tempo, while Op Banner continued in Northern Ireland, started to contribute to alarming overstretch.



In August 1990, Saddam Hussein ordered the Iraqi army to invade Kuwait. A response from the free world was inevitable.

Initially, 1 RS was tasked to secure the German ports from where vehicles were being shipped out to Saudi Arabia but soon started a regime of intensive training both in barracks and at Soltau.



In January 1991, the 1 RS Battle Group (BG), including C Squadron The Life Guards was in Saudi Arabia where rigorous training continued as part of Operation Granby, the UK element of the US led coalition known as Desert Storm.



15th January, the UN deadline for Saddam's withdrawal from Kuwait, passed and preparations for the ground war intensified.



Meanwhile back in Werl, as they have always done when their menfolk have deployed on operations, the wives kept the home fires burning, entertaining the children and sending parcels to their husbands in theatre.



Bronze, Brass and Tungsten - Gulf 1991 and Wadi al Batin

On 24th February, the ground war commenced. Deception had convinced Saddam that the main attack would be through Kuwait. Instead, 1 UK Armd Div with the 1 RS BG in 4 Bde, hooked round from the west through the desert to the rear of the Iraqi army.

The 1 RS BG objectives were Brass and Tungsten, but in the course of the night approach, orders were received first to attack Bronze.



Training paid off. The CO issued new orders on a dark, rainy night, with the threat of gas attack, a UK convoy crossing the line of march and the Recce Pl already in contact with the enemy.



By first light on 26th February, Bronze had been secured with enemy artillery pieces destroyed, bunkers cleared and over 100 prisoners. At 0800 on the 26th, Brass, a larger and more complex objective, was attacked. Iraqi losses were substantial: 25 APCs, 6 tanks, 3 mortars, 6 air defence guns and 1 artillery piece were destroyed with more than 80 prisoners taken.

Before midnight on 26th February, Tungsten, another complex position, was attacked with similar success and the 1 RS BG advanced towards the Kuwait - Basra highway, being ordered to stop on 28th February.

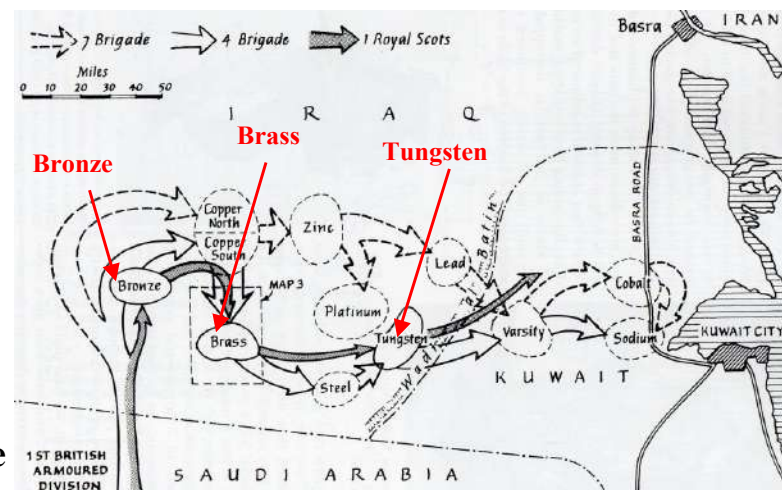


Throughout, Lt Col Iain Johnstone flew on his Warrior his CO's pennant, the original Regimental Colour.



The campaign medal, 2 Military Crosses, 1 Military Medal and the battle honours **Gulf 1991** and **Wadi al Batin** were awarded.

Pipe Major Cornwall composed the tune Bronze, Brass and Tungsten.



He later recalled having '**great officers, the best soldiers and, in his pocket, a message from The Princess Royal and a letter from his wife**'. The CO's full

account is at <http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-regiments-last-battle-honour/>

All were soon to protest angrily that Government had identified them for disbandment or amalgamation, '**We've just won a war for them and this is how they thank us!**'

The Writing on the Wall



Op Granby was followed by four more emergency tours in Northern Ireland and one two-year resident tour. These were in Fermanagh, South Armagh and at Ballykelly. In addition, 1 RS set aside their rifles and took up fire hoses during a fire service strike at home.



Global stability became ever more tenuous. The disintegration of Yugoslavia prompted NATO intervention to prevent further loss of life, while the survival of Saddam Hussein was seen by US President Bush as unfinished business.



Meanwhile, HM Government reduced defence spending, especially on the Infantry. The Royal Scots and The King's Own Scottish Borderers were ordered to amalgamate, causing anger in both Regiments and in Edinburgh, the Lothians and the Borders. Reprieve in 1993 brought much relief, which proved only temporary.



Meanwhile in the Territorial Army, the Regiment was reduced to a single company



.... and all battalions lost their military bands, who acted as medics in time of war.



As commitments continued, overstretch increased and retention and recruiting suffered. Recruiting was turned on and off, not by the MOD but by the Treasury, compounding the situation. No amount of challenging training nor imaginative Regimental recruiting could help.



This led to 1 RS being reinforced by other regiments for Op Banner. In 1996 a company of Royal Gurkha Rifles, themselves victims of defence cuts, joined 1 RS.



Some manpower shortages were alleviated by Fijian servicemen in the Edinburgh Tattoo transferring to RS under Commonwealth arrangements. They proved to be very good soldiers and added much flair to the 1 RS rugby XV.



However, the writing was on the wall that, among others, The Royal Scots would not survive unless fully recruited. Defence spending continued to be cut - and operational capability reduced as a consequence.

Bosnia September 2002 - April 2003

In April 2002, 1 RS moved from Ballykelly to Dreghorn Barracks in Edinburgh, an absence from Edinburgh of 22 years and from Dreghorn of 53 years. It had been at Dreghorn that 1 RS and 2 RS amalgamated in 1949.

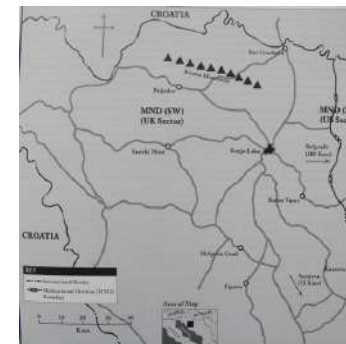


By September, the Battalion had deployed on NATO duties in Bosnia, where the Battalion rapidly established a firm presence in a delicate political arena where a hitherto light touch had allowed corrupt elements of government to conceal nefarious activities.

1 RS searches discovered large finds of weapons, ammunition and intelligence, including within the Bosnian Serb Parliament and Ministry of Defence, where computers were seized, providing evidence that convicted war criminals.



Such operations required swift appreciation of complex situations, followed by rapid action, often by officers and NCOs acting on their own initiative. One corporal was awarded an MBE and two officers received Queen's Commendations for Valuable Service.



a NATO campaign medal was awarded.

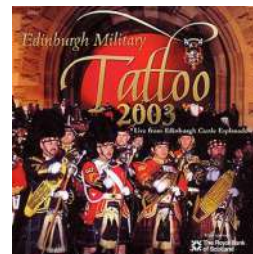


Throughout, patrols provided reassurance. On return, the pace did not slacken. By November 2003 year, they had trained as fire fighters

.... guarded The Queen at Balmoral



.... undertaken public duties, appeared in the Tattoo



.... received new Colours



.... and earned a strong seven-a-side rugby reputation



Iraq November 2003 - April 2004



By the time 1 RS had returned from Bosnia in April 2003, a new coalition led by the US and the UK had invaded Iraq in the belief that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction.



In November 2003, 1 RS joined the UK force around the southern city of Basra. On this occasion, the Battalion deployed with companies under command of other units in 20 Armoured Brigade while Battalion HQ joined the staff of the Multinational Division South West, despite the protestations of the CO that 1 RS would be better employed as an intact Battalion. Nevertheless, he was able to visit the Companies regularly.



All Companies were busy from the outset: A Coy supporting 26th Regiment Royal Artillery, C Coy under command the Queen's Royal Hussars and later, in a Danish Battle Group, while Recce Coy mentored the Iraqi police. In the first month alone, RS dealt with more than 10 small arms and rocket attacks, IEDs were made safe, 3 gunmen were captured and more than 70 arrests were made. This was to be the norm for the remainder of the tour.



A second Gulf medal was issued.



Back in Dreghorn in April 2004, there was a need to hone the battle procedure skills of officers returning to the Battalion from postings elsewhere. Command post and field exercises were held into 2005, along with Royal Guard and Public Duties in the summers of both 2004 and 2005.



The Battalion was to return to Iraq in January 2006, but under very different circumstances.

The Die is Cast



On 21st July 2004, the Secretary of State for Defence delivered a statement on the ongoing restructuring of the Army, reducing the infantry from 40 to 36 regular battalions.



The Scottish Division was likely to lose two of its six regular battalions.



Meanwhile, 1 RS was warned once more for Iraq from January to July 2005.

On 15th December 2004, timed to minimise immediate criticism just as the House of Commons recessed for Christmas, it was announced that The Scottish Division would lose one battalion and merge into a new Royal Regiment of Scotland of five regular and two reserve battalions, through the merger of the 1st Battalions of The Royal Scots and The King's Own Scottish Borderers.



1 RS was then stood down from Iraq but was warned for Northern Ireland from January to July 2006. However, Iraq and Afghanistan were assuming increasing priority and, in December 2005 as the nation focused on Christmas, 1 RS less one company, was ordered to Iraq, to be based outside Basra with a company in Baghdad. Deployment was in early January 2006 and was followed by a busy tour.

It was as if the Government was saying, '373 years unbroken service to the Crown, more than any other Infantry regiment, 149 Battle Honours, and the distinctions of being The Royal Regiment and standing at the Right Of The Line, now count for nothing. But, just before we get rid of you, go to Iraq for one last time where we desperately need your expertise, professionalism and dedication to duty!'



The Campaign - Nemo Me Impune Lacesit



The Regimental Council instructed a Campaign to save not just The Royal Scots but also in support of all the existing 40 battalions which were already desperately over-stretched against existing operational commitments.

We would continue to fight against any reduction in the infantry but do nothing that would damage the difficult job of uniting 1 RS and 1 KOSB harmoniously.

Several events were planned and led by the RS Campaign organisers, enthusiastically supported by the RS Association. Events with other Regiments' Associations were coordinated by the unlikely but most effective trio of a former RAF corporal, Scots Guards sergeant and a retired nurse.



Rallies and parades were held in Dundee, Stirling and Liverpool where local regiments were also under threat, and in London with a parade from Marble Arch to Trafalgar Square.



The most significant was in Edinburgh on Saturday 18 December 2004. The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band led a march of 3,500 supporters of the 'Save the Scottish Regiments' campaign along Princes Street to a rally in Princes Street Gardens.



The Royal Scots contingent of 800, by far the largest, was at the front and Princes Street was packed with Christmas shoppers all of whom applauded.



Jenners department store in Princes Street gave up window space to display exhibits from the Regimental Museum.



The Scotsman newspaper printed a special edition.



End Game

On 28th March 2006, Regimental Day, while 1 RS was deployed on operations in Iraq, and after 373 years of unbroken service to the Crown, The Royal Scots merged with the five other surviving Regular and two Territorial Regiments of Scottish Infantry to form The Royal Regiment of Scotland.



Temporarily, 1 RS was renamed The Royal Scots Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland and 1 KOSB was renamed The King's Own Scottish Borderers Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.



That day, 1 RS paraded for the very last time under the Regimental flag, wearing their Royal Scots cap badges. The Royal Scots flag was lowered, The Royal Regiment of Scotland flag was raised, and all ranks replaced their Royal Scots cap badges with those of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.



As the Companies returned to their operational duties, the

soldier who had lowered the RS flag apologised for shedding a tear. **'I never knew my parents and grew up in an orphanage. The Royal Scots have been my family'.**

Seldom has a Government so callously disposed of a Regiment it had deployed on operations. The exemplary leadership of officers and NCO and the fortitude of the soldiers achieved success.



The final Colonel of The Regiment joined the rebadging parade in Iraq, while his predecessor joined the Rear Party rebadging at Dreghorn.

On 1st August 2006, Minden Day, having returned from Iraq, the

RS and KOSB Battalions became The Royal

Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

RS Regimental Day and KOSB Minden Day are both celebrated by the new Battalion.



28th March is celebrated as Formation Day of the new Regiment to mark their inheritance from RS as the Senior Infantry Regiment in the British Army, standing at the Right Of The Line.

Aftermath



On 26th May 2006, 1 SCOTS paraded along Princes Street, behind its old Royal Scots Colours and before HRH The Princess Royal, now as Royal Colonel rather than Colonel-in-Chief.



They were followed by the Regimental Association led by its Pipe Band, representatives from HMS Edinburgh,



The Royal Gurkha Rifles, The Canadian Scottish and The Royal Newfoundland Regiments, our TA Company (now in 6 SCOTS), and members of our affiliated cadet forces.



On 9th May 2007, HRH The Princess Royal unveiled two plaques on the Regimental Monument in West Princess Street Gardens to mark our 373 years of independent service and the merging into The Royal Regiment of Scotland,



and a plaque commemorating her own 23 years as Colonel-in-Chief.

The final Gulf Battle Honours and places we had served latterly were also added.



After a service of thanksgiving in our Regimental Kirk in the Canongate, the Colours presented at Holyrood in 1980 were laid up in the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle.



Early in 2012, the final 1 RS Colours presented in 2003 by our then Colonel-in-Chief, along with



those of the 2nd Battalion 52nd Lowland Volunteers which she had presented in 1985, were laid up in Canongate Kirk with HRH taking part in the ceremony.

The Golden Thread

The Golden Thread represents the continuity of heritage passed forward by the antecedent Regiments of the former Scottish Division to The Royal Regiment of Scotland. The Royal Scots' Golden Thread is:

To The Royal Regiment of Scotland in general -

The Royal Title bestowed by King Charles II in 1686.



Royal Regiment blue in SCOTS Regimental Colours.



The motto, *Nemo Me Impune Lacessit.*



RS Battle Honours on SCOTS Colours.

Standing in the place of honour at the Right of the Line, with precedence over all other Line Regiments.

Thistle collar badges.



Glengarry with dicing, Blackcock feather.



Displays in the RS Museum for the SCOTS Collection.



Membership of the RS Club.



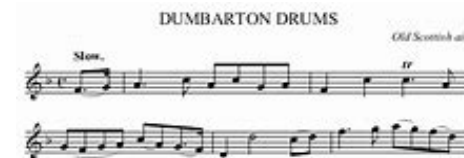
RS Alliances and Affiliations carried forward by SCOTS.

To 1 and 6 SCOTS in particular -

1 SCOTS Drum Major and Pipers are dressed as RS, with bass and tenor drummers wearing Canadian Scottish cougar skins.



Dumbarton's Drums is played as 1 SCOTS Colours are marched onto parade.



RS silver and pictures are in 1 SCOTS and 6 SCOTS messes.



A Coy 6 SCOTS is at Hepburn House, once home to 7/9 RS and commemorating Sir John Hepburn, arguably the founding father of The Royal Regiment of Scotland which was formed on 28th March 2006, 373 years to the day that Hepburn was ordered by King Charles I 'to raise a Regiment of Scotsmen frae a' the Kingdome'

28th March, once celebrated annually by RS, has been adopted by SCOTS.

The Future



In the febrile days of 2006, Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson KCB CVO CBE, 30th Colonel of The Regiment gave the following advice:

**“The Jock is second to none and admired throughout the world.
Treasure the past, draw strength from it but do not live in it.
The old days are gone, never to return. Embrace the future”**



Both RS and 1 and 6 SCOTS live up to it.



Since 2006, 1 SCOTS has deployed with the international coalition to Afghanistan, to the UN force in Cyprus and to help control the ebola epidemic in West Africa.

1 SCOTS is now a Specialist Infantry Battalion, delivering training to the forces of friendly governments in unstable countries of the developing world, especially where these may be challenged by extremism.

A Coy 6 SCOTS has provided individual reinforcements to 1 SCOTS and to other SCOTS Battalions on operations, and continues to do so.

For The Royal Scots, four RS Regimental Pillars remain: Association, Benevolence, Museum and Club.



Benevolence for all Royal Scots and their dependants in need.

The Association is a focal point for all The Royal Scots, commemorating RS history and recruiting, especially for 1 and 6 SCOTS.

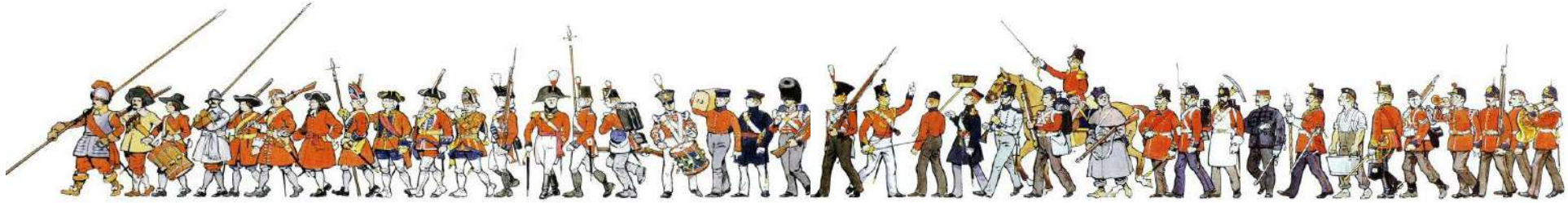


The Museum in Edinburgh Castle tells the story of 373 years unbroken Royal Scots service to the Crown.

The Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh is our principal War Memorial. Its objects are: Remembrance, Rallying Place and a Base for Schemes to benefit The Regiment.







The Royal Scots

373 Years Unbroken Service to the Crown

Postscript



The Royal Scots Museum in Edinburgh Castle

The Royal Scots Museum tells the story of the British Army's oldest and most senior infantry regiment, and its unique history of 373 years of unbroken service to the Crown.

A virtual tour of the Museum and much other information about the history of the Regiment is at www.theroyalscots.co.uk



The Beginning

The story started around 1625 with Sir John Hepburn's Green Brigade of Scots mercenaries in the service of King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden during the Thirty Years' War.

On Sir John's return to Scotland, he was summoned by King Charles I who issued him with a Royal Warrant on 28th March 1633 to "raise a regiment of Scotsmen from all the Kingdome".

Originally known as Hepburn's Regiment, spending its first 30 years in the service of the King of France, The Royal Scots have also been known as The First Regiment of Foot, The Royal Regiment of Foot, the First or Royal Scots Regiment, The Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment) and, finally, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).



As the senior infantry regiment, we traditionally occupied the place of honour at the Right of the Line.

The Regiment's and the Army's First Battle Honour

As the first Regiment to be raised, we gained the Army's First Battle Honour *Tangier 1680* while ejecting the Moors from the port which had been part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza, wife of King Charles II.



Marlborough's Campaigns

The Thirty Years' War was followed in the early 1700s by the War of the Spanish Succession and the Regiment fought in the Duke of Marlborough's great battles of Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet.

By then, the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment had been raised, in 1686, and continued unbroken service until merging with the 1st Battalion in 1949.

Both Battalions fought with Marlborough.



Waterloo

During the Napoleonic Wars, the Regiment was expanded to four battalions which campaigned in North America, West Indies, India, Egypt, Corsica, Portugal, Spain, France and finally at Waterloo.

The 3rd Battalion earned the Battle Honours of the Peninsular campaign, most notably *San Sebastian* which was credited to be the hardest fought action in the Regiment's history, and went on to fight at Quatre Bras, the prelude to Waterloo and at Waterloo itself.



The Great War

A century, in which the Regiment served in India, Burma, Crimea, China and South Africa lapsed before the Great War, in the course of which 100,000 men serve in the Regiment – more than the strength of the British Army today.

They were organised in 35 battalions - more than the Infantry of the Line today. Casualties are commensurately high with more than 11,000 killed and 40,000 wounded.

The dead were subsequently commemorated in the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle, the Regiment's living war memorial The Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh, and at the Memorial Gates at Glencorse Barracks our former training depot.



The Great War

The Regiment served on the Western Front, in the Dardanelles, Salonika, Palestine and Egypt.

Six Victoria Crosses were awarded.



Seventy nine Battle Honours were awarded.

The Great War

Whereas the Great War formally ended with the Armistice in November 1918, the 2nd/10th Battalion returned home only in June 1919 from Northern Russia where they had been part of an expeditionary force supporting the White Russians against the Bolsheviks.



They returned with the Battle Honour *Archangel* and a captured Bolshevik artillery piece.

The Second World War



In the Second World War there were five battalions although more than 1,200 Royal Scots make the ultimate sacrifice.

The Second World War

1st Battalion

In May 1940, the 1st Battalion along with 2nd Royal Norfolks fought an entire SS Division to a standstill at the village of Le Paradis just to the west of the Belgian border in helping to protect the Dunkirk evacuation beaches.

Only 33 Royal Scots returned to British shores, mostly wounded. The remainder were either dead, wounded or captured at Le Paradis.

The reformed 1st Battalion re-entered the fray in India where they fought in the key battle at Kohima and joined the pursuit of the Imperial Japanese Army through Burma, today's Myanmar.



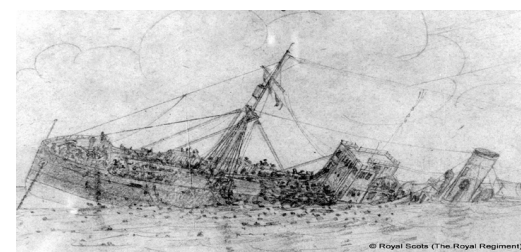
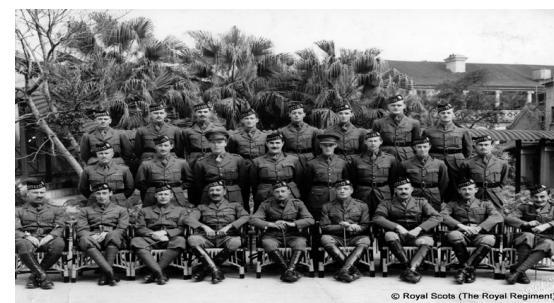
The Second World War

2nd Battalion Hong Kong

In December 1941, the 2nd Battalion fought a gallant but hopeless battle in the New Territories and subsequently on Hong Kong Island against the Japanese invaders.

The survivors remained in captivity in appalling conditions until September 1945, some being shipped to Japan having survived the sinking of the *Lisbon Maru*.

The George Cross was awarded posthumously for the highest order of gallantry to Captain Douglas Ford who, despite having been captured, continued to be active in an intelligence gathering network which was exposed and Ford was tortured and eventually executed.



The Second World War

The Territorial Battalions

In 1942 the 12th Battalion was re-titled the 2nd Battalion and deployed to avenge the original 2 RS by breaching the Gothic Line in Italy.



Meanwhile, the 7th/9th Battalion was training in mountain warfare in the Cairngorms in anticipation of the liberation of Norway.

Ironically, their route into the liberation of north west Europe was via the Netherlands where they fought in flooded polders, some below sea level.



The 8th Battalion landed in Normandy after D-Day and took part in all three of the major river crossings on the way to the Baltic.



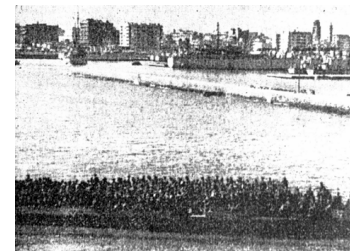
1946 - 2006

The Cold War and Withdrawal from Empire

Since the end of the Second World, only in 1968 and 2016 have British soldiers not been killed while serving Queen and Country, a number of Royal Scots among them.

Reduced to a single regular battalion in 1949, the 1st Battalion deployed to Korea shortly before the cease fire and was active during the Cyprus Emergency of 1955 and the Suez operation in 1956.

Peacekeeping in Aden in 1964 was followed by recurring service in the British Army of the Rhine as the Cold War deepened.



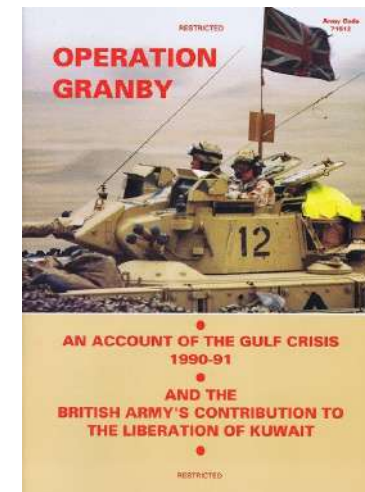
1946 - 2006

The Changing World Order

Against the background of the Cold War, the need for counter insurgency emerged in Northern Ireland and the 1st Battalion was deployed to all the trouble spots at intervals from 1970 - 2002.

When not in Northern Ireland, the 1st Battalion was ski-borne on the northern flank of NATO, back in Cyprus for the emergency of 1974, formed the Falkland Islands garrison after liberation from Argentine invasion, and in the former Yugoslavia.

In 1991, the 1st Battalion formed one of the Warrior equipped battle groups in the liberation of Kuwait, earning the Regiment's final battle honours *Gulf 1991* and *Wadi al Batin*.



373 Years Continuous Service to the Crown

However, it was in 2006, following the defence review that ordered all the famous regiments of the Scottish Division to march into history in favour of the new Royal Regiment of Scotland, that 1st Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) paraded to remove their cherished cap badge from their bonnets and replace it with the badge of the new regiment.

What is both ironic and remarkable is that this was done during operations in Iraq. It was as if the Government was saying that 149 Battle Honours were no longer of any consequence but that the same dedication to duty would be required nevertheless.

There was bitter disappointment.



A New Era

Nevertheless, the fine traditions of Scotland's oldest regiment are carried forward by the 1st and 6th Battalions of its newest regiment whose rather shorter story is also told in the Museum.



Our Motto – and that of Scotland itself



- **Nemo Me Impune Lacessit!**
In the Latin spoken by Sir John Hepburn.
- **No-one assails me with impunity.**
In Oxford English.
- **Wha Daur Meddle Wi' Me!**
In broad Scots – and normally issued as a challenge!