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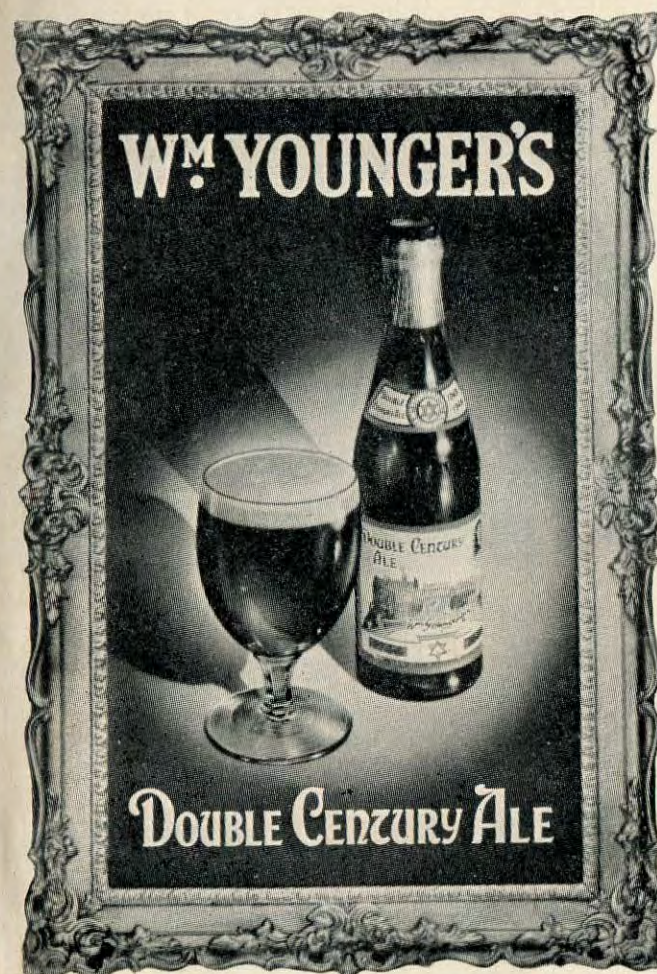
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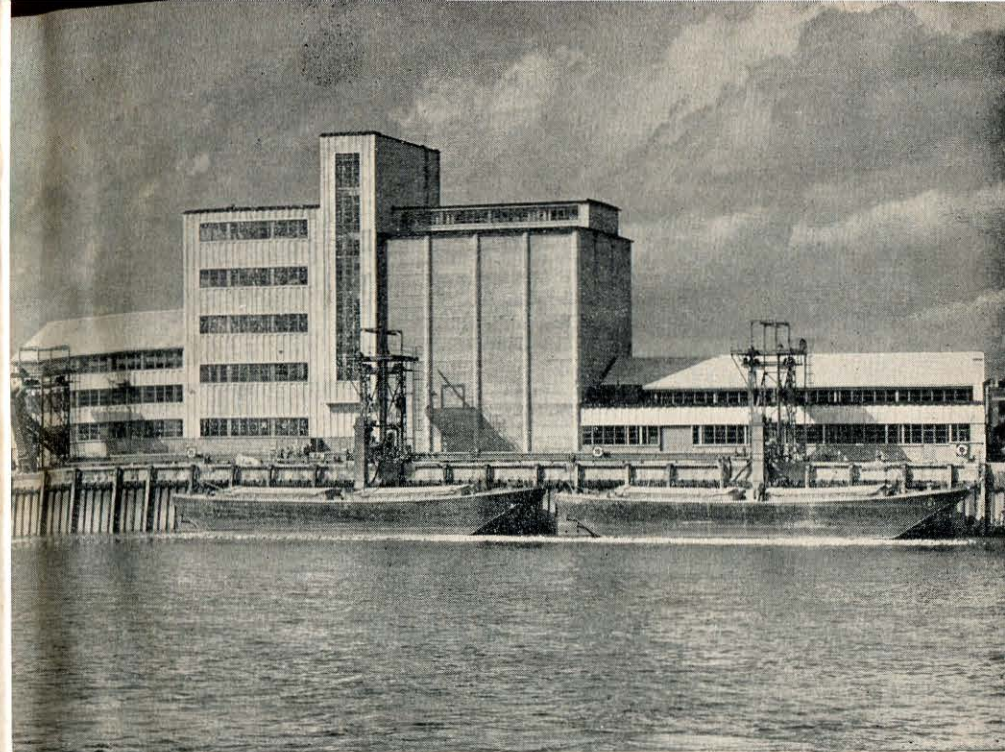
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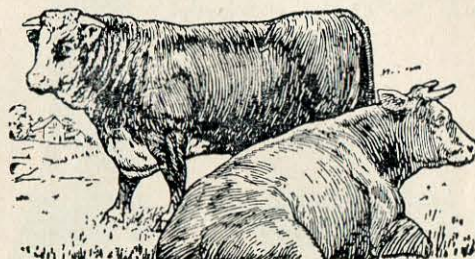
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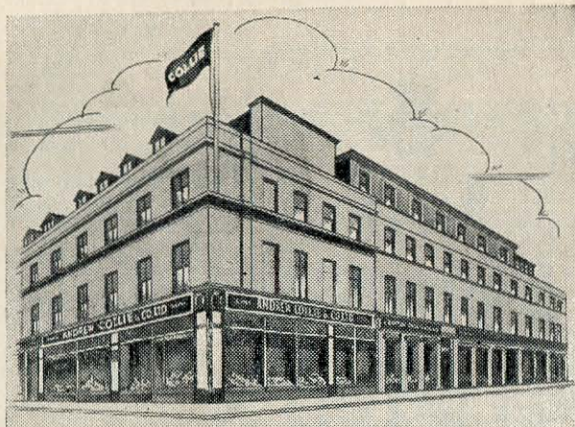
92nd

**THE  
GORDON  
HIGHLANDERS  
1787-1957**

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A SHORT HISTORY  
AND SOME GENERAL INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE REGIMENT

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The Regimental Committee of The Gordon Highlanders acknowledges with gratitude the support of those firms whose advertisements appear herein. This support, without which the Handbook could not have been produced, has in many cases been given purely out of friendship and loyalty to the Regiment.

The Committee would therefore like to show its thanks by drawing the attention of its readers to the advertisements.

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	23
<b>PART ONE — Historical</b>	
Battle Honours	25
Short History of the Regiment	31
Victoria Crosses (Citations)	50
Colonels-in-Chief and Colonels	57
<b>PART TWO — Life in a Modern Infantry Battalion</b>	
The life of a Recruit	58
Life in the 1st Battalion	63
Conditions of Service (Regular Soldiers)	70
Rates of Pay (Regular Soldiers)	72
Overseas Service	76
Returning to Civilian Life	79
Ex-Service Organisations	81
<b>PART THREE —</b>	
Territorial Army Battalions	83
Allied Regiments of the Commonwealth	89
Army Cadet Force	91

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## INTRODUCTION

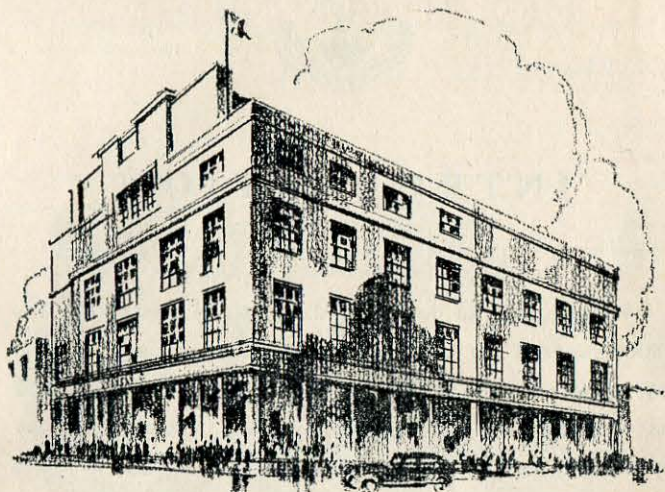
We give here an outline of the past and present life and achievements of the Gordon Highlanders. And as a guide to any young man who may be thinking of making his career in the Regiment, we also give some details of the present-day terms of service. If he is prepared to accept our high standards he will be most welcome.

The Regiment is intensely proud of its unsurpassed history, and of its long connection with the City of Aberdeen, the Counties of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine, and the Island of Shetland. Many of our officers and men come from these parts, and this association is largely responsible for the 'family feeling' which is such a feature of life in The Gordon Highlanders.

The Gordons claim to live up to their distinguished past, but they do not rest on it. This is shown by our recent high repute and achievements on active service in Malaya and Cyprus, which speak for themselves.

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## BATTLE HONOURS OF THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

These are the authorised Battle Honours of The Gordons, and there are few Regiments in the Army which can show more. But they are only the **major** battles, and the Regiment has fought countless other engagements, **some** of which are shown in the last column. The lists make fascinating reading to anyone with the imagination to be thrilled by the very names and the splendid record of world-wide active service which they represent.

	<i>Authorised Battle Honour</i>	<i>Some other actions in the same Campaign</i>
India 1790-1792	MYSORE	Chowghaset Tervangherry 1st Siege of Seringapatam
India 1799-1805	SERINGAPATAM (2nd Siege)	Agrar Malabar Canara Fort Kerria Brodera Soangurh Bhurtpore
Holland 1799	EGMONT-OP-ZEE	Aboukir Bay
Egypt 1801	MANDORA	Alexandria
Denmark 1807	—	Kioge
Peninsula (Spain and Portugal 1808-1813)	CORUNNA FUENTES D'ONOR ALMARAZ VITTORIA PYRENEES PENINSULA	Arroyo dos Molinos Alba de Tormes Maya Pampeluna Pass of Donna Maria

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**OFFICIAL MORRIS SERVICE AGENTS:**

France 1814

NIVE  
ORTHES

Nivelle  
St. Pierre  
St. Palais  
Arriverete  
St. Cyprien  
Toulouse  
Quatre Bras  
Fort Cox

Belgium 1815  
South Africa  
(1st Kaffir War)

WATERLOO  
SOUTH AFRICA 1835

(NOTE :—The Victoria Cross was instituted at this time, and the letters 'v.c.' mark the battles in which a Gordon won the cross. Details of the citations are shown on pages 50 to 56).

Indian Mutiny  
1857-1858

DELHI  
LUCKNOW

Badli-Ki-Serai  
Delhi Ridge :—  
Flagstaff Picquet  
v.c. Subzee Munde  
Hindoo Rao's Battery  
Metcalf's Grounds  
Ludlow Castle  
v.c. Koodsia Baugh

Afghanistan  
1878-1880  
(1st Afghan War)

v.c. CHARASIA  
KABUL 1879  
KANDAHAR 1880  
AFGHANISTAN  
1878-1880

Karatiga Fort  
White's Hill  
v.c. Takht-I-Shah  
Asmai  
Sherpur  
Childukteran

South Africa 1881  
Egypt & Sudan  
1882-1885

—  
TEL-EL-KEBIR  
EGYPT 1882-1884  
NILE 1884-1885

Majuba  
El Teb  
Tamai  
Abu Klea  
Kirkbikan  
Malakand Pass  
Sado

North-West Frontier  
of India 1895-1898

CHITRAL  
TIRAH

v.c. v.c. Dargai  
Fort Downman

South Africa 1899-1902  
(2nd Boer War)

DEFENCE OF  
LADYSMITH  
PAARDEBERG

v.c. v.c. Elandslaagte  
Wagon Hill  
Laing's Nek  
Rooi Kopjes  
Frischgewag  
Belfast  
Machadodorp  
Lydenburg  
v.c. Magersfontein  
Reit River

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## The Great War 1914-1918

MONS	Festubert 1915	Bullecourt
Retreat from Mons	Hooze 1915	Pilckem
LE CATEAU	LOOS	Menin Road
MARNE 1914, 1918	SOMME 1916, '18	Polygon Wood
Aisne 1914	Albert 1916, '18	Broodseinde
La Bassée 1914	Bazentin	Poelcappelle
Messines 1914	Delville Wood	Passchendaele
Armentières 1914	Pozières	CAMBRAI 1917, '18
v.c. v.c. YPRES 1914, '15, '17	Guillemont	v.c. St. Quentin
Langemarck 1914	Flers-Courcelette	Bapaume 1918
v.c. Gheluvelt	Le Transloy	Rosières
Nonne Boschen	ANCRE 1916	Lys
Neuve Chapelle	ARRAS 1917, '18	Estaires
Frezenberg	Vimy 1917	Hazebrouck
Bellewaarde	Scarpe 1917, '18	Béthune
Aubers	Arleux	Soissonais-Ourcq
Hindenburg Line	Sambre	Tardenois
Canal du Nord	France & Flanders	Piave
Selle	1914-1918	VITTORIO VENETO
		Italy 1917-1918

## The Second World War 1939-1945

Withdrawal to Escaut	Rhineland	MARETH
Ypres-Comines Canal	REICHSWALD	Medjez Plain
Dunkirk 1940	Cleve	N. AFRICA 1942-43
Somme 1940	GOCH	Landing in Sicily
St. Valery-en-Caux	RHINE	SFERRO
ODON	N.W. EUROPE	Sicily 1943
La Vie Crossing	1940, '44, '45	ANZIO
Lower Maas	EL ALAMEIN	Rome
Venlo Pocket	Advance on Tripoli	v.c. Italy 1944-45

Note :—For both the First and Second World Wars only the official Battle Honours are shown, because there were far too many other actions fought by the Gordons to even start listing them here.

## Since the Second World War

From 1951-1954 the 1st Battalion were on active service in Malaya, and in 1955-1956 again in action in Cyprus.

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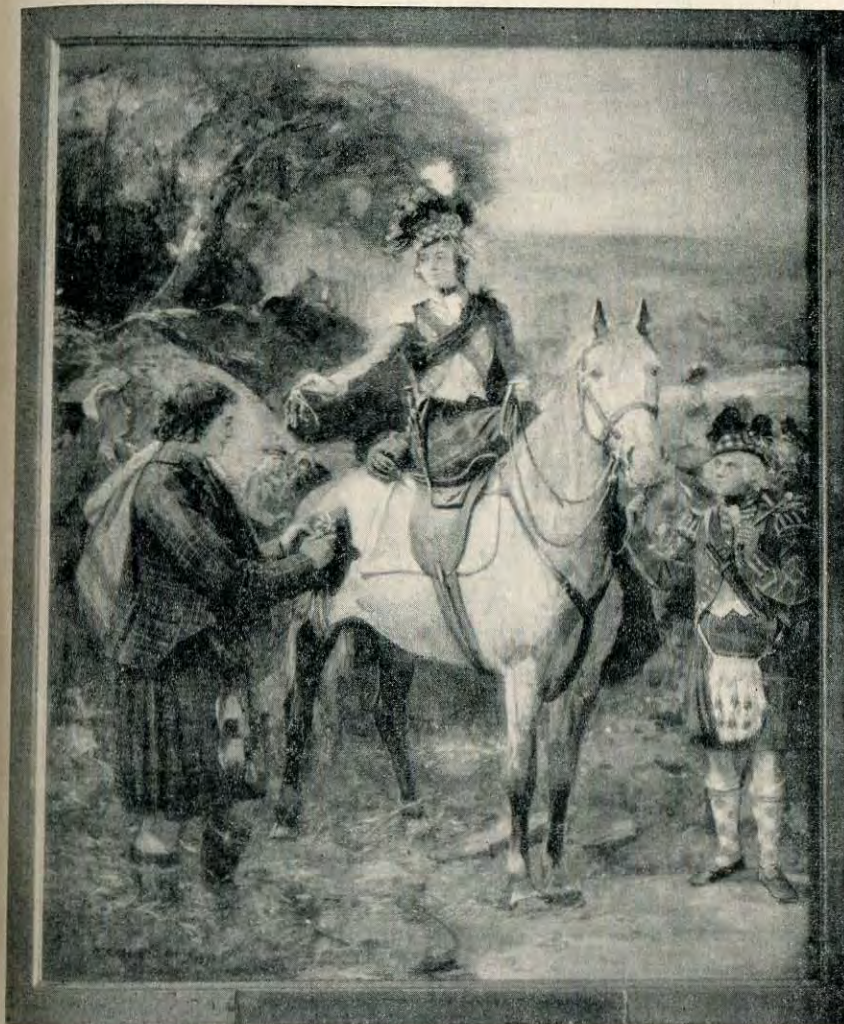


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## **HISTORY (In brief) OF THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS**



from the original picture at the Regimental Depot

*DUCHESS JEAN — Raising of the 92nd Gordon Highlanders*

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## RAISING OF THE REGIMENT

### The 75th

In 1787, owing to the gravity of the situation in India, Colonel Robert Abercromby of Tullibody was appointed to command and raise a new regiment. This was the 75th Highland Regiment of Foot, which was to become nearly a century later the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders. The 75th was popularly known as Abercromby's Highlanders, and during this first hundred years of its life it was an entirely separate Regiment from the Gordon Highlanders, who were raised a few years later in the following way.

### The 92nd

In 1794, when the French Revolutionary Government declared war on Great Britain, the 4th Duke of Gordon raised another regiment, and command was given to his son, the Marquis of Huntly, at that time a Lieutenant-Colonel in the 3rd (now the Scots) Guards, and later to be the 5th Duke of Gordon. This new Regiment became the 92nd (or Gordon) Highland Regiment of Foot, although it was numbered as the 100th until 1798.

The Duke himself, and his wife the celebrated Duchess Jean, took a personal interest in the recruiting. The Duchess, still a beautiful woman, lent to it all the prestige of her high position, and the grace and charm of manner for which she was famed. She rode to the country fairs in highland bonnet and Regimental jacket, and it is told how she gave a kiss to the men she enlisted. Sometimes she is said to have placed a guinea between her lips, and on one occasion a certain young blacksmith, remarkable for his strength and good looks, who had defied all the recruiters, took the kiss and the guinea, but to show that it was not the gold that tempted him, he tossed the guinea amongst the crowd.

The Regiment took its recruits largely from the far-flung Gordon estates in Badenoch, Lochaber and Strathspey, and to some extent from the counties of Aberdeen, Banff and Elgin. And men came too from the west of Scotland, the Isles of Skye and Barra, and many from Uist led by a son of MacDonald of Boisdale.

On 24th June, 1794, the Regiment paraded for the first time. This was at Aberdeen, and they wore the then almost new, the now famous, dark tartan with the yellow stripe, which had been devised by Forsythe of Huntly, who trusted, as he wrote to Lord Huntly, that it would appear "very lively".

### EARLY DAYS AND FIRST FOREIGN STATIONS

Only three days after this first parade the Regiment marched to embark at Fort George en route for Gibraltar, crossing the River Spey at Fochabers by raft. It was at Gibraltar that they received their first Colours. After a short stay on the Mediterranean island of Corsica, at that time under the sovereignty of Great Britain, and after a highly successful raid by a detachment against the island of Elba, the Regiment returned home in 1796.

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In 1798 they were in Ireland making the acquaintance of Major-General John Moore, with whom they were to serve on many historic occasions. Ten years later at Corunna, at the end of the great retreat, the Regiment had a prominent place at the funeral of their distinguished commander, and it is in Sir John Moore's memory that even today black buttons are worn on our spats.

#### IN HOLLAND — EGMONT-OP-ZEE 1799

Here the 92nd served under two of Britain's famous commanders, Sir John Moore and Sir Ralph Abercromby, both of whom they were to serve again, the high mutual esteem broken only by death. Egmont-op-Zee was a desperate battle against the Dutch and French for a foothold on the beach and sand-dunes, a battle of bayonet charge and counter-charge, in which "the courage and activity of the Highlanders drew the attention and excited the admiration of both sides". In this action the Regiment suffered 328 casualties, one of them being their Commanding Officer, Lord Huntly, who was severely wounded.

#### INDIA 1799-1807

While the 92nd were fighting in Holland, the 75th were plodding through the jungles of Mysore with Colonel Wellesley (later the famous Duke of Wellington) on their way to Seringapatam, where they ultimately stormed the breach in the walls and trampled Tippoo Sahib underfoot. After several other hot engagements, notably the siege of Bhurtpore, the 75th voyaged home in 1807.

#### SPANISH PENINSULA 1810-1814

By the autumn of 1810 the 92nd had joined Wellington's army before Lisbon to spend more than a year preparing to breach the defences on the Spanish frontier. 1812 was the decisive year when the British army moved steadily northwards driving the Emperor's forces back to France. Famous actions followed in quick succession, no less than six being added to the colours, but it was in the mountainous Pyrennees that the Gordon Highlanders really came into their own and were in at every skirmish. They came in like hounds to a fox at bay when Soult turned to face them on the Nivelle, and as the year came to an end they were campaigning outside Bayonne remembering the gallantry of their three pipers at St. Pierre, where, as they went into battle, one piper died and another took up the air; and when death silenced him, a third continued it . . . Soon the long war was over, Wellington was a Duke and the Gordon Highlanders sedately drilled in Ireland.

#### BELGIUM 1815 — WATERLOO

But their recall to service was not long delayed when the Emperor Napoleon, having escaped from Elba, landed near Cannes on 1st March, 1815. Thus they soon found themselves once more under Wellington's command and by mid-May they were in Belgian billets. On the evening of the day early in June when Napoleon hurled his whole command towards Brussels four sergeants of the Gordon Highlanders were dancing



*Colonel John Cameron of Fassiefern 92nd Gordon Highlanders, 1794-1814, killed in action at Quatre Bras, after commanding the Battalion throughout the Peninsula and Pyrenees Campaigns.*

reels to amuse the guests at a ball given by the Duchess of Richmond, the eldest daughter of Jean, Duchess of Gordon. Among those present was Cameron of Fassiefern their commanding officer, but the military guests left early and at dawn the regiment was marching out of the city and by afternoon they had joined a mixed force of Dutch and Germans holding a position near the cross-roads of Quatre Bras. In the savage fighting which followed the 92nd lost their Colonel, that Cameron of Fassiefern who had joined the regiment when first raised and of him Sir Walter Scott wrote :—

During twenty years of active military service,  
With a spirit that knew no fear and shunned no danger  
He accompanied or led  
In marches, in sieges, in battle  
The gallant 92nd Regiment of Scottish Highlanders.  
Always to honour, almost always to victory.



*The Gordons and the Greys at Waterloo*

And it was not only Fassiefern who had gone. That night though the men of the 92nd cooked their supper in the breastplates of the French Cuirassiers they had killed and the Pipe-Major played his music at the cross-roads, he played for half the men in vain.

In the chill of the next dawn Wellington came to the Gordon Highlanders and it was there he came to his great decision that he would "get back to the position at Mont St. Jean, where I will accept battle with Napoleon if I am supported by one Prussian Corps." Thus on Sunday, 18th June, the two armies faced each other at Waterloo. While Grouchy sought for the Prussians the Emperor brought 70,000 men to bear upon Wellington's position in which he had scarcely 63,000 of whom 42,000 were foreigners.

The Gordon Highlanders were in the second line behind a Netherlands Brigade when they heard the good news that the Prussians were on their way, but as the main attack developed they heard their Brigadier shouting to them — "92nd you must charge, for all the troops to your right and left have given way." And that was their signal — for the Dutch were no longer ahead and the French were on the ridge. But the 92nd came on four deep with levelled bayonets and screaming pipes; and beside them beyond all belief, a pounding charge of British cavalry thundered towards the French.

And then the horsemen recognised their countrymen and a great cry went up 'Scotland for Ever,' and the Gordon Highlanders seized

hold of the stirrups of the Scots Greys as they gave back the cry; and all together the whole thundering mass of men and horses, sabres, bayonets and muskets were hurled into the midst of the French lines. The Gordons were beside themselves as they took to the slaughter and an old piper shouted that he could see Fassifern, still leading them, his bonnet lifted as it always used to be. And there was nothing that could stand against the Highland frenzy, but their Brigadier recalled them, saying — "You have saved the day Highlanders, but you must return to your former position; there is more work to be done." It was then only half past three and there remained five hours of daylight. The long summer afternoon wore on and wave after wave of French cavalry came charging up the slope, but the squares of the 92nd did not flinch.

But now they could hear the Prussian guns and, as the light began to fade, the last attack, the massed bearskins of the Emperor's Guards came up the hill, came closer still and then withered away under the blast of British musketry. And the whole allied line swept forward and the Gordon Highlanders found themselves cheering their allies at La Belle Alliance. The great day was over; they had lost Fassifern and half their strength at Quatre Bras. At Waterloo they had lost almost half that had remained, but those two days of savage fighting brought to the Gordon Highlanders imperishable honour such as can never be outdone.

After Waterloo Europe was to enjoy almost forty years of peace and the regiment did uneventful garrison duty at home and overseas including many years in the West Indies where they suffered much from disease. They were at Gibraltar in 1854 when Russian interference with Turkish sovereignty brought France and Britain to her aid in the Crimean War. But although, as a regiment, the 92nd saw no service in the Crimea between three and four hundred of their number had fought there with other units and amongst those who now returned to their original regiment was Private Thomas Beach, a native of Forfar, who rejoined with the newly established Victoria Cross pinned to his breast.

#### INDIAN MUTINY 1857-1858

Two years later the 92nd were sent to India to take part in the closing stages of the Indian Mutiny. The 75th were already in India, and the officers and men, who had established for themselves a reputation as the first mounted infantry and employed as such in the Kaffir War of 1835, were now rushed on elephants to bring in outlying settlers, and when this had been successfully accomplished, they prepared to advance, by a series of forced marches, against the mutineers who had murdered the inhabitants of Delhi. The 75th had also a reputation as ordinary infantry for, a short time before this, they had reached Umballa, a distance of 48 miles from their base, in 38 hours.

It was in June, 1857, that they came in front of Delhi as part of the 1st Brigade, and here they found themselves for the first time opposed by organised and intelligently led Indians. Thus they spent three months outside the city until Brigadier John Nicholson led them through a breach in the walls and fell mortally wounded in the hour of the 75th's victory — a victory which earned three of their number the Victoria Cross. After Delhi they became part of a flying column which did brilliant work in saving Agra, and took part in the relief of Lucknow by Sir Colin Campbell. They returned home in 1862, to be followed shortly by the 92nd.

#### AFGHANISTAN 1878-1880

In 1878 a sudden crisis blew up on the North-West Frontier of India due to intrigue between the Russians and the Amir of Afghanistan and the Gordon Highlanders joined a force under Lord Roberts who in his "Forty one years in India" says: 'Towards the end of February, 1879, I paid a visit to Kohat and had the pleasure of welcoming to the frontier that grand regiment the 92nd Highlanders, which had been sent up in readiness to join my column in the event of an advance on Kabul becoming necessary.'

A few months later the whole of the British Embassy staff in Kabul was murdered and there followed a period of mountain fighting when all the advantages were with the Afghans and even the Highlanders found it possible to curse the inclemency of the weather fighting 8000 feet above sea level. Some idea of the temperature may be gathered from the fact that on several occasions the rum had frozen in the barrels and once the hard-boiled eggs in the haversack ration had to be thawed out before they could be eaten.

The war soon reached the hills around Kabul and the 92nd under Major White raced for a hill and crowned it with a charge of great gallantry so that it is still known as White's hill in commemoration of that Gordon major who was later as Field Marshal Sir George Stuart White, V.C., to be honoured with the Colonelcy of the Regiment. But though Kabul was captured and Roberts had assumed the rule of the country, Afghanistan was by no means at peace, and during this time there were several engagements, at one of which, Takht-i-Shah, Captain Dick-Cunyngham won the Victoria Cross.

In July, 1880, far away to the south-east a force of 2500 under General Burrows had been defeated at Maiwand with casualties of 1000 and the survivors were now besieged in Kandahar. It was just such a defeat of European troops by native forces which was calculated to bring the latent unrest in North India into open rebellion and it was imperative that the beleaguered force be relieved.

This distance from Kabul to Kandahar is 300 miles and Lord Roberts, his guard throughout the march provided by 24 Gordon Highlanders, led a force of 10,000 through enemy country without news of their progress reaching besieged or besiegers at Kandahar.



*Gordons and Gurkhas at Kandahar*

At the end of the long march came the culminating scene when Gordons and Gurkhas raced each other to capture the Afghan guns. And when Lord Roberts was made a G.C.B., he, like Sir John Moore before him, chose to have as one of the supporters of his coat of arms a private of the Gordon Highlanders.

#### **SOUTH AFRICA 1881 (1st BOER WAR)**

In the following year the regiment sailed for home, but were diverted to South Africa where a dispute between the British and the Boers was deepening into hostilities and arrived in time to suffer heavy casualties at the melancholy action of Majuba Hill. The 92nd were still in South Africa when in 1881 came the merging with the 75th, which was to be known as the Gordon Highlanders and neither regiment would seem to be very pleased with this enforced marriage. At midnight on 30th June, they solemnly interred a flag decorated with the figures '92,' while all the officers in full Highland dress walked behind as chief mourners, and the Colonel of the 15th Hussars delivered the funeral oration before the proceedings ended with three volleys over the grave and a piper's lament. Next morning when the flag was exhumed it was found to be inscribed 'No deid yet.'

At the same time in Malta the 75th were registering their grief by raising a Roman altar below the ramparts of Floriana on which was inscribed :—

Here lies the poor old 75th  
But under God's protection  
They'll rise again in kilt and hose  
A glorious resurrection.  
For by the transformation powers  
Of Parliamentary laws  
They go to bed the 75th  
And rise the ninety twas.

But any feeling of regret was soon forgotten and before long the Gordon Highlanders were to prove that they were by no means 'deid yet.'

#### **EGYPT AND SUDAN 1882-1885**

In August, 1882, the 1st Bn. disembarked at Alexandria to take part in the suppression of an armed insurrection. The rebels were threatening the Suez Canal and Sir Garnet Wolseley found them entrenched at Tel-el-Kebir and realised at once that it would be useless to attack by daylight. So, by a night march of 8 miles, two divisions advanced simultaneously upon the enemy and dawn found them passed through the enemy's forward line without being discovered. And then as the Egyptian bugles called to action and a stream of rifle fire opened



from picture in Regimental Museum

on the British forces the Gordons went in with fixed bayonets and pipers playing and in twenty minutes Arabi Pasha and his army were in full retreat. Though order was soon restored in Egypt, the Soudan was in a turmoil and the 1st Bn. took part with both the Desert and River columns in the attempt to save Gordon at Khartoum.

#### **NORTH-WEST FRONTIER OF INDIA 1895-1898**

In 1888 the 1st Bn. went to India living uneventfully enough until 1895 when they were called to service with the Chitral Relief Force and two years later they again saw fighting on the frontier, this time against the Afridis. The tribesmen held the heights before Dargai and had withstood for half a day the onslaught of a Brigade when it was decided that once again the classic combination of Gordons and Gurkhas should clear the way. But the Gurkhas were checked and the Gordons heard their Colonel, Colonel Matthias, tell them — 'The General says the hill must be taken at all costs — the Gordon Highlanders will take it.' Then they left cover for a dash across the bullet-swept approaches, the pipes screaming. Almost at once there were casualties and though the pipes played on they did not go with the advance for Piper Findlater had been shot through both feet. Yet under heavy fire he sat there playing doggedly and both he and Pte. Lawson received the Victoria Cross for their work that day.

Dargai was captured. The swift march against the enemy, the short and dashing battle without too many casualties and the touch of romance added by the wounded piper captured the imagination of the British public in a remarkable way, so that when the battalion returned home their progress from Liverpool to Edinburgh was triumphal and in the capital itself it required a squadron of the Scots Greys to clear a way for them.

#### **SOUTH AFRICA 1899-1902 (2nd BOER WAR)**

But clouds were gathering in South Africa as Queen Victoria's reign drew to its close. The 2nd Battalion had reached there from Bombay and were at Ladysmith when war was declared. Resolved to stem the Boer invasion of Natal the garrison made a thrust towards Elands-laagte and it was there in October, 1899, that they first met the Boers in battle. The Boers were in a strong position and their arms and musketry were more modern and better than those of the British forces. The Gordons attacked as the pipers played and paid a heavy price, but the contested ridge was reached at last and shouting 'Majuba' to remind them of what had befallen their comrades there at the hands of the Boers, they went after the retreating enemy. But the victory failed to disengage Ladysmith and they settled down to the dwindling amenities of a siege life which was to last until 28th February, 1900.

The 1st Bn. came out from Britain in time to join Lord Methuen's attempt to relieve Kimberley and suffered heavily with the rest of the

Highland Brigade at Magersfontein so that the century ended in dismal fashion for British troops. But with the arrival of Lord Roberts to take command the tide began to turn. The 1st Bn. saw Kitchener win his victory at Paardeberg and then they swept on to Bloemfontein, while in the east relief came to Ladysmith.

The 1st Bn. distinguished themselves with rare gallantry at Hout Nek and then at Doornkop, led by Ian Hamilton, the Gordons won fresh laurels. Much has been written of that battle, but there is surely no better account than that given by Sir Winston Churchill in his book, "Ian Hamilton's March." "The honours, equally with the cost of the victory, making every allowance for skilful direction and bold leading, belong to the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders more than to all the other troops put together. The rocks against which they marched proved to be the very heart of the enemy's position. The grass in front of the position was burnt and burning, and against this dark background the khaki figures showed distinctly. The Boers held their heaviest fire until the attack was within 800 yards, and then the ominous rattle of concentrated rifle fire burst forth. The advance neither checked nor quickened. With remorseless stride, undisturbed by peril or enthusiasm, the Gordon Highlanders swept steadily onwards, changed direction half left to avoid as far as possible an enfilade fire, changed again to effect a lodgement on the end of the ridge most suitable to attack and at last rose up together to charge. The Boers shrunk from the attack . . . they fled in confusion . . ." He also wrote at the time "There is no doubt that they are the finest regiment in the world . . . Their unfaltering advance, . . . their final charge with the bayonet, constitute their latest feat of arms the equal of Dargai and Elands-laagte."

The South African war ended, the 2nd Battalion returned to India and by the summer of 1914 had been stationed at Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo, for two years. The 1st Battalion had come home and at this time were at Crownhill Barracks, Plymouth.

#### **THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918**

When on 4th August the Germans struck through Belgium the shock had to be met on the fields of Flanders and France and within a few days the 'contemptible little army' as the Kaiser called it had been thrown across the channel and by the 22nd of the month had reached Mons. The 1st Bn. as part of the 8th Bde. in the 3rd Division helped to line the Conde-Mons canal near Nimy Bridge and it was here on the morning of the following day that the brunt of the German onslaught fell and two days later, after the longest march of the retreat, they made their famous stand at Le Cateau. At last after 8 days of retreat and with only one company left they reached a line behind the river Marne and it was from here that General Joffre struck at the German flank and turned the tide of invasion away from Paris.

Meanwhile the 2nd Bn. had taken the field with the 7th Division and at the First Battle of Ypres held the line against a force, six times its strength, which was aimed at the Channel Ports. And now at intervals there arrived four territorial and three service battalions to join the regulars so that the year 1915 was to see all the Gordon battalions in action from Neuve Chapelle in March, Festubert in May to the autumn battle of Loos.

A year later the allies in the west found themselves on something like equal terms with the enemy and after the heavy losses of the French at Verdun the brunt of the fighting fell on the British. Throughout the five months' long battle of the Somme, every Gordon Bn. took its full share — the 1st still with the 'Fighting 3rd' and the 2nd in the no-less famous 7th Division. The four territorial Bns. were by now brigaded with the 51st, while the two service Bns., which had fought so well at Loos, served in the 15th (Scottish) Division.

The fight of the 2nd Bn. at Mametz was a typical Somme action in which a dour and ready enemy sold ground at the highest possible price. Three lines of trenches had to be won and crossed before the village of Mametz was reached and at the end of the long day the battalion had lost 16 officers and 445 other ranks.

As the battle progressed the other Bns. were drawn in. The 1st had a memorable engagement at Delville Wood. The four Bns. in the 51st fought at High Wood and the service Bns. at Flers and Pozieres Ridge. Each Bn. was engaged over and over again and it was not until August that the great day came when all those tired Bns. were to meet. The regulars were resting at Mericourt, the remainder at Happy Valley. The 1st had the longest way to go, but by a forced march they managed to reach the scene of that great gathering of eight Gordon Bns.

Throughout 1917 the struggle raged and the Gordons were there at Vimy Ridge and Bullecourt, at the battle of Third Ypres and Cambrai and countless other actions.

In the spring of the following year came the supreme crisis of the war and on 21st March the mighty German blow fell. The 2nd Bn. had by now moved to the Italian front to help stem the tide after the disaster to the Italian army at Caporetto, but the other seven Bns. were engaged in the second battle of the Somme and an indication of the ferocity of the struggle is given by the casualties of the 5th Bn. in six days' fighting at Doignie and Mezieres — 22 officers and 560 other ranks.

To atone for his partial failure on the Somme the enemy now threw in 35 fresh divisions at the battle of the Lys on the Flanders front and when this was no more successful Ludendorff launched his last and greatest effort to force a decisive victory. He forced the Aisne and reached the Marne at Chateau Thierry and it was here that history was to repeat itself — just as Joffre had thrown back the first German rush from this line, so now, were they to meet a more disastrous fate at the hands of Foch.

And throughout these great battles and those that followed all the Gordon battalions played their part and when, on 11th November, 1918, the Armistice was signed, victory was celebrated where each Bn. stood — the 1st at Longueville, the 2nd on the Piave, the 6/7th at Thu-Leveque and the 9th east of the Scheldt. The regiment had suffered casualties close on 30,000 of all ranks.

The 1st Bn. now did a spell at Cologne before coming home to prepare for foreign service. Early in 1920 they landed at Constantinople as part of the Army of the Black Sea. Here internal trouble in Turkey and quarrels with Greece had led to a dangerous situation. Soon they were in Malta though two years later a further call came for service in Turkey, but the crisis passed. Again in 1924 they were called upon to leave the island at short notice when they sailed in the Aircraft Carrier Eagle for Egypt where a Nationalist agitation had arisen, but after a month on the outskirts of Cairo the Bn. was again on board ship bound for Bombay and the fourth Indian tour in its history.

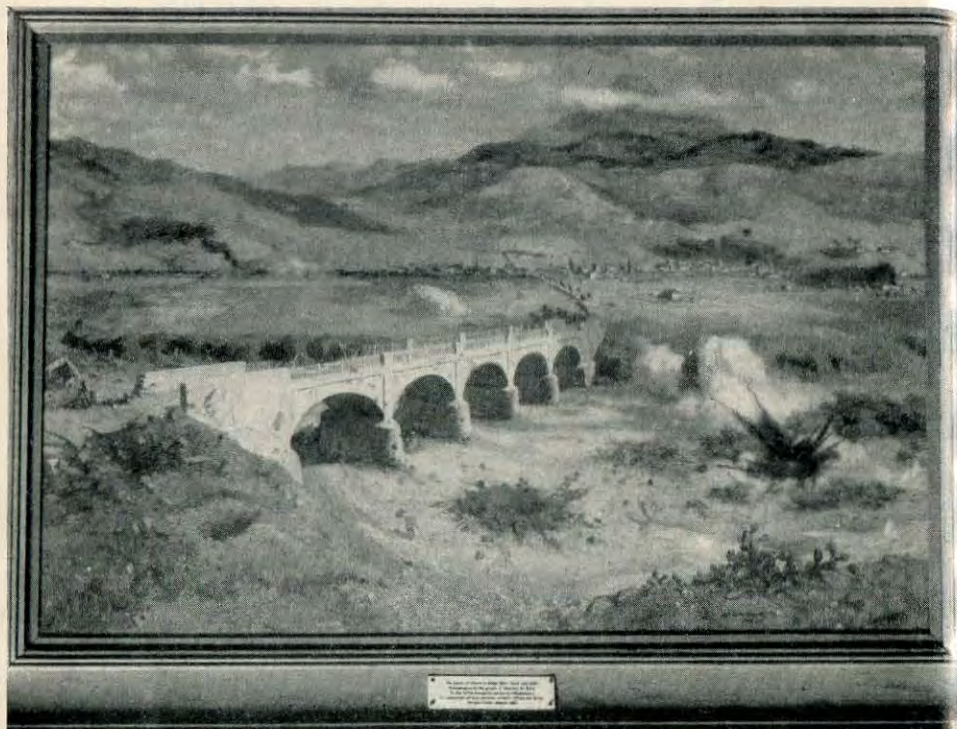
Service in the Deccan, at Delhi and on the North-West Frontier occupied the next ten years and then after a short stay in Palestine they sailed for home and, en route, disembarked at Gibraltar to spend a day with the 2nd Bn. which was stationed on the rock. This was in 1935, the year in which the Depot moved to the Bridge of Don and the new barracks in their spacious setting of 50 acres, a great contrast to the cramped two acres of Castlehill, which had been the home of the regiment for more than 140 years.

The 2nd Bn. began its post-war reconstruction in Phoenix Park, Dublin, and thereafter served in Scotland, Ulster and England before leaving for Gibraltar and the start of their foreign service tour. September, 1939, found them as part of the garrison of Singapore, while the 1st Bn. was at Aldershot. There were three territorial Bns. and during the summer months these had been in the process of doubling, thus at the outbreak of the war the regiment had five Bns. and three more forming.

## SECOND WORLD WAR 1939-45

It was not long before four of these had crossed the channel and when in 1940 the German break-through came, two of them, the 1st and the 5th, part of the 51st Division, were holding a section of the Maginot Line and from here they were withdrawn to fight their way west and south by way of Amiens to St. Valery. And it was here, faced with overwhelming force and all hope of escape by sea gone, that they with the rest of the division, laid down their arms. Meanwhile to the North the 4th and 6th Bns. having moved forward into Belgium were obliged to fall back on Dunkirk from whence they were evacuated to England.

There followed a long period of reorganisation and training during which new 1st and 5th Bns. were formed and three units of the regiment were converted to other arms. The 4th and 8th Bns. became respectively the 92nd and 100th Anti-Tank Regiments R.A., while the 9th Bn. became the 116th Regiment R.A.C.



from picture in Regimental Museum

*Battle of Sferro — Sicily 1943*

#### **MALAYA 1942**

When in December, 1941, the Japanese opened hostilities, the 2nd Bn. were drawn into the fight. As part of the garrison of Singapore they were not thrown in to resist the Japanese advance down the Malayan peninsular until late in the campaign and by then the position was desperate. But they withdrew in good order over the causeway to Singapore to play a full part in the battle which ended with the surrender of the garrison.

#### **AFRICA AND ITALY**

Nearer home Britain was building up her forces and the time was not far distant when, with her American allies, they were to go over to the offensive. Thus the 1st and 5/7th Bns. in the new 51st Division had rounded the Cape and were now training in the Nile delta for the task of ridding Africa of the Germans and Italians. And these two Bns. marched with the 8th Army from El Alamein westwards to Tripoli and beyond, while from the west came the 6th Bn. in the 1st Army to meet them, their task accomplished, on the tip of Tunisia.

There followed the invasion and rapid conquest of Sicily before the 51st Division was withdrawn to prepare for a yet more important task. The 6th Bn. remained in this theatre, however, and was soon to land on the beaches of Anzio and take the road which led them to Rome.

#### **NORTH-WEST EUROPE 1944-1945**

At home a new 2nd Bn. was rising and was ready to take the field with the 15th (Scottish) Division in the invasion of Normandy. They followed closely on the heels of the 1st and 5/7th Bns. in the 51st Division which had landed on D day, and from then onwards until the final surrender of Germany there were three Gordon Bns. in the fight which led them across France and over the Rhine to avenge their comrades of St. Valery.

#### **BURMA 1943-1945**

And in the East two other units of the regiment, 100th A/Tk. Regt. R.A. (The Gordon Highlanders) and 116th Regiment, R.A.C. (The Gordon Highlanders) were there at the defence of Kohima and N.E. India, and in the drive which cleared Burma of the Japanese. Four and a half years' fighting had cost the regiment 2,500 lives.

#### **AFTER THE WAR**

While the 1st Battalion served with the British Army of the Rhine, and the 2nd in Tripoli, demobilization was proceeding rapidly. In 1947 nearly all the Infantry Regiments of the Army were reduced to one battalion, and the 1st and 2nd Gordons were amalgamated. At the same time the Territorials were reduced, and we now have only the 4th/7th and 5th/6th Battalions in Scotland, and The London Scottish.

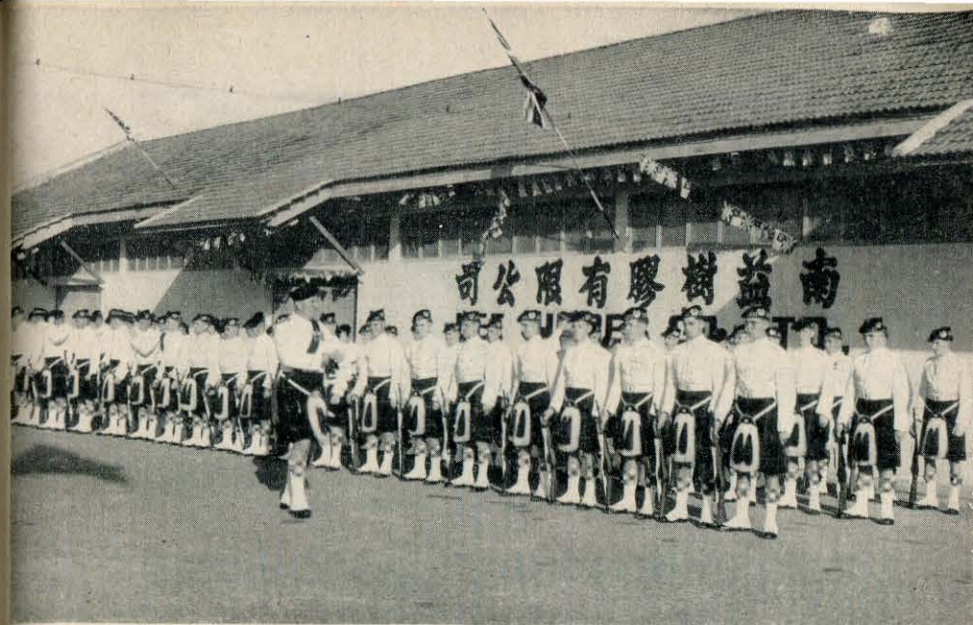
In 1951-1954 the 1st Battalion served for three years on active service against the Communist terrorists in Malaya, and on 31st December, 1956, they returned from fifteen months of equally hard skirmishing in Cyprus, and are now, at the time of writing in July, 1957, in Dover. Nineteen members of the Battalion were killed in Malaya, and sixteen in Cyprus.



*Jungle Patrol in Malaya*

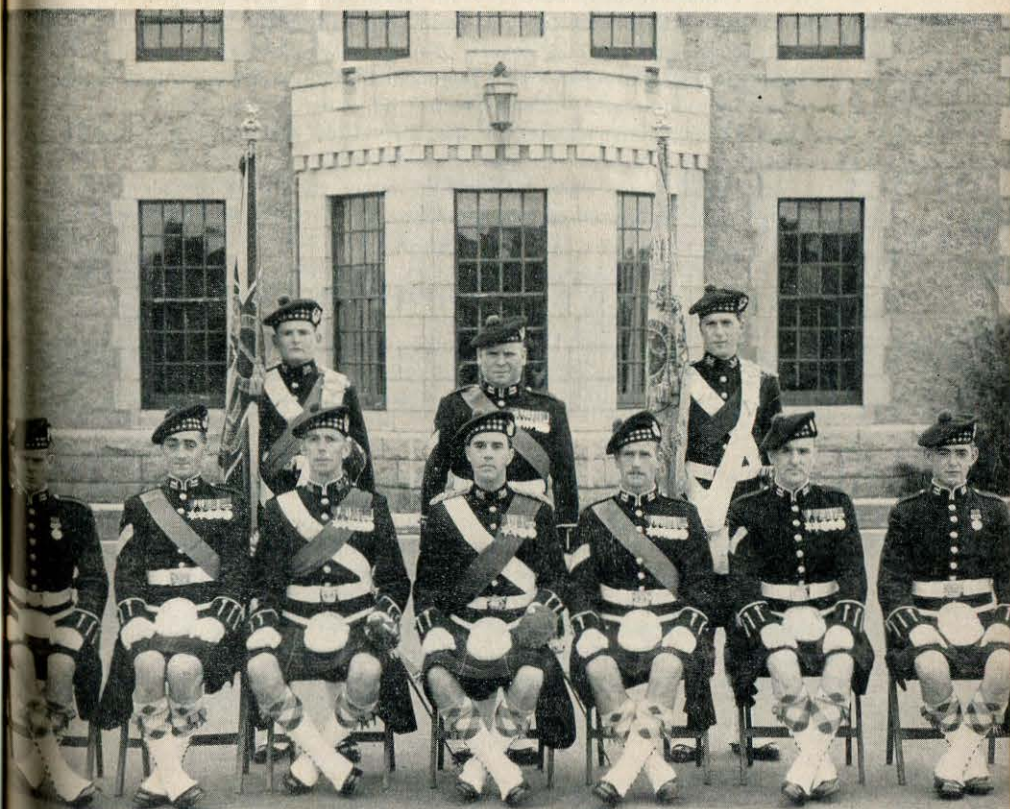


*"Fire!" 3" Mortar Platoon in action in Malaya*

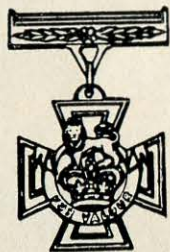


*Inspection before the Coronation Parade at Malacca 1953.*

*Colour Party — Coronation Contingent 1953*



# THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS



## VICTORIA CROSSES

### PRIVATE THOMAS BEACH

"Thomas Beach, Private, 55th Regiment. For conspicuous gallantry at the Battle of Inkerman, 5th November, 1854, when on piquet, in attacking several Russians who were plundering Lieut.-Colonel Carpenter, 41st Regiment, who was lying wounded on the ground. He killed two of the Russians, and protected Lieut.-Colonel Carpenter until the arrival of some men of the 41st Regiment."

NOTE.—Private Beach was one of many volunteers for service in the Crimea, from the 92nd Highlanders at that time garrison troops in Gibraltar.

### PRIVATE PATRICK GREEN

"For having, on 11th September, 1857, when the piquet at Koodsia Baugh, at Delhi, was hotly pressed by a large body of the enemy, successfully rescued a comrade who had fallen wounded as a skirmisher."

### LIEUTENANT RICHARD WADESON

"For conspicuous bravery at Delhi on the 18th July, 1857, when the regiment was engaged in the Subjee Mundee, in having saved the life of Private Michael Farrell, when attacked by a sowar of the enemy's cavalry, and killed the sowar. Also on the same day for rescuing Private John Barry, of the same regiment, when wounded and helpless, he was attacked by a cavalry sowar, whom Lieut. Wadeson killed."

## Victoria Cross Citations

### COLOUR-SERGEANT CORNELIUS COGHLAN

8th June, 1857; 18th July, 1857. "For gallantly venturing, under a heavy fire, with three others, into a serai occupied by the enemy in great numbers, and removing Private Corbett, 75th Regiment, who lay severely wounded. Also for cheering and encouraging a party which hesitated to charge down a lane in Subjee Mundee, at Delhi, lined on each side with huts, and raked by a cross fire; then entering with the said party into an enclosure filled with the enemy, and destroying every man. For having, also, on the same occasion, returned under a cross fire to collect dhoolies and carry off the wounded; a service which was successfully performed, and for which this man received great praise from the officers of his regiment."

### MAJOR GEORGE STUART WHITE

6th October, 1879. "For conspicuous bravery during the engagement at Charasia on 6th October, 1879, when, finding that the artillery and rifle fire failed to dislodge the enemy from a fortified hill which it was necessary to capture, Major White led an attack on it in person. Advancing with two companies of his regiment, and climbing from one steep ledge to another, he came upon a body of the enemy strongly posted and outnumbering his force by about eight to one. His men being much exhausted and immediate action being necessary, Major White took a rifle and, going on by himself, shot the leader of the enemy. This act so intimidated the rest that they fled round the side of the hill and the position was won. Again on the 1st September, 1880, at the Battle of Kandahar, Major White, in leading the final charge under heavy fire from the enemy, who held a strong position supported by two guns, rode straight up to within a few yards of them, and seeing the guns, dashed forward and secured one of them, immediately after which the enemy retired."

### LIEUTENANT WILLIAM HENRY DICK-CUNYNGHAM

13th December, 1879. "For conspicuous gallantry and bravery displayed by him on the 13th December, 1879, at the attack on the Sherpur Pass, in Afghanistan, in having exposed himself to the full fire of the enemy, and by his example and encouragement rallied the men who, having been beaten back, were at the moment wavering at the top of the hill."

**PIPER GEORGE FINDLATER**

20th October, 1897. "During the attack on the Dargai Heights on the 20th October, 1897, Piper Findlater, after being shot through both feet, and unable to stand, sat up, under a heavy fire, playing the regimental march to encourage the charge of the Gordon Highlanders."

**PRIVATE EDWARD LAWSON**

20th October, 1897. "During the attack on the Dargai Heights on the 20th October, 1897, Private Lawson carried Lieut. K. Dingwall, The Gordon Highlanders (who was wounded and unable to move), out of a heavy fire, and subsequently returned and brought in Private McMillan, being himself wounded in two places."

**CAPTAIN ERNEST BEACHCROFT  
BECKWITH TOWSE**

"On the 11th April, 1899, at the action of Magersfontein, Captain Towse was brought to notice by his commanding officer for his gallantry and devotion in assisting the late Colonel Downman, when mortally wounded, in the retirement, and endeavouring when close up to the front of the firing line, to carry Colonel Downman on his back; but finding this not possible, Captain Towse supported him till joined by Colour-Sergeant Nelson and L/Cpl. Hodgson. On the 30th April, 1900, Captain Towse with twelve men, took up a position on the top of Mount Thaba, far away from support. A force of about 150 Boers attempted to seize the same plateau, neither party appearing to see the other until they were but one hundred yards apart. Some of the Boers then got within forty yards of Captain Towse and his party, and called on him to surrender. He at once caused his men to open fire, and remained firing himself until severely wounded (both eyes shattered), thus succeeding in driving off the Boers. The gallantry of this officer in vigorously attacking the enemy (for he not only fired, but charged forward) saved the situation; notwithstanding the numerical superiority of the Boers."

**CAPTAIN MATTHEW FONTAINE  
MAURY MEIKLEJOHN**

"At the Battle of Elandsplaagte, on the 21st October, 1899, after the main Boer position had been captured, some of the men of the Gordon Highlanders, when about to advance, were exposed to a heavy cross-fire, and, having lost their leaders, commenced to waver. Seeing this, Captain Meiklejohn rushed to the front and called on the Gordons to follow him. By his conspicuous bravery and fearless example he rallied the men and led them against the enemy's position, where he fell, desperately wounded in four places."

**LIEUTENANT WILLIAM ROBERTSON**

"At the Battle of Elandsplaagte, on 21st October, 1899, during the final advance on the enemy position, this Warrant Officer led each successive rush, exposing himself fearlessly to the enemy's artillery and rifle fire to encourage the men. After the main position had been captured, he led a small party to seize the Boer Camp. Though exposed to a deadly cross-fire from the enemy's rifles he gallantly held the position captured, and continued to encourage the men until he was wounded in two places."

**CORPORAL JOHN FREDERICK  
MACKAY**

"On the 20th May, 1900, during the action at Doornkop, near Johannesburg, Mackay repeatedly rushed forward, under a withering fire at short range, to attend to wounded comrades, dressing their wounds while he himself was without shelter, and in one instance carrying a wounded man from the open under a heavy fire to the shelter of a boulder."

**CAPTAIN WILLIAM EAGLESON  
GORDON**

"On the 11th July, 1900, during the action near Leekoehoek (or Doornboschfontein, near Krugersdorp), a party of men, accompanied by Captains Younger and Allan, having succeeded in dragging an artillery waggon when its horses were unable to do so by reason of the heavy and accurate fire of the enemy, Captain Gordon called for volunteers, and with the greatest coolness fastened the drag rope to the gun, and then beckoned to the men, who immediately doubled out to join him, in accordance with his previous instructions. While moving the gun Captain Younger and three men were hit. Seeing that further attempts would only result in further casualties, Captain Gordon ordered the remainder of the party under cover of the kopje again, and, having seen the wounded safely away, himself retired. Captain Gordon's conduct under a particularly heavy and most accurate fire at only 600 yards range was most admirable, and his manner of handling his men most masterly; his devotion on every occasion that this battalion has been under fire has been remarkable."

**CAPTAIN DAVID REGINALD  
YOUNGER**

"This officer, during the action near Krugersdorp on the 11th July, 1900, volunteered for and took out the party which successfully

#### Victoria Cross Citations

dragged a Royal Artillery waggon under cover of a small kopje, though exposed to a very heavy and accurate fire at only 850 yards range. He also accompanied the second party of volunteers who went out to try and bring in one of the guns. During the afternoon he was mortally wounded, dying shortly afterwards. His cool and gallant conduct was the admiration of all who witnessed it, and, had Captain Younger lived, the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief in South Africa would have recommended him for the high award of the Victoria Cross, at the same time as Captain W. E. Gordon, of the same regiment."

NOTE.—On 8th August, 1902, H.M. King Edward VII authorised the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross.

#### DRUMMER WILLIAM KENNY

"For conspicuous bravery on 23rd October, 1914, near Ypres, in rescuing wounded men on five occasions under very heavy fire in the most fearless manner, and for twice previously saving machine guns by carrying them out of action. On numerous occasions Drummer Kenny conveyed urgent messages under very dangerous circumstances over fire-swept ground."

#### CAPTAIN JAMES ANSON OTHO BROOKE

29th October, 1914. "For most conspicuous bravery and great ability near Gheluvelt, on the 29th October, in leading two attacks on the German trenches under heavy rifle and machine gun fire, regaining a lost trench at a very critical moment. He was killed on that day. By his marked coolness and promptitude on this occasion, Lieut. Brooke prevented the enemy from breaking through our line at a time when a general counter-attack could not have been organized."

#### PRIVATE GORDON McINTOSH

"For most conspicuous bravery when, during the consolidation of a position, his company came under machine gun fire at close range. Private McIntosh immediately rushed forward under heavy fire, and reaching his emplacement, he threw a Mills grenade in to it, killing two of the enemy and wounding a third. Subsequently, entering the dug-out, he found two light machine guns, which he carried back with him. His quick grasp of the situation and the utter fearlessness and rapidity with which he acted undoubtedly saved many of his comrades, and enabled the consolidation to

#### Victoria Cross Citations

proceed unhindered by machine gun fire. Throughout the day the cheerfulness and courage of Private McIntosh was indomitable, and to his fine example in a great measure was due the success which attended his company."

#### LIEUTENANT ALLAN EBENEZER KER

"For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. On the 21st March, 1918, near St. Quentin, after a heavy bombardment, the enemy penetrated our line, and the flank of the 61st Division became exposed. Lieut. Ker, with one Vickers gun, succeeded in engaging the enemy's infantry, approaching under cover of dead ground, and held up the attack, inflicting many casualties. He then sent back word to his Battalion Headquarters that he had determined to stop with his Sergeant and several men who had been badly wounded, and fight until a counter-attack could be launched to relieve him. Just as ammunition failed his party was attacked from behind with bombs, machine guns and the bayonet. Several bayonet attacks were delivered, but each time they were repulsed by Lieut. Ker and his companions with their revolvers, the Vickers gun having by this time been destroyed. The wounded were collected into a small shelter, and it was decided to defend them to the last and to hold the enemy as long as possible. In one of the many hand-to-hand encounters a German rifle and bayonet and a small supply of ammunition was secured, and subsequently used with good effect against the enemy. Although Lieut. Ker was very exhausted from want of food and gas poisoning, and from the supreme exertions he had made during ten hours of the most severe bombardment, fighting and attending to the wounded, he refused to surrender until all his ammunition was exhausted and his position was rushed by a large number of the enemy. His behaviour throughout the day was absolutely cool and fearless, and by his determination he was materially instrumental in engaging and holding up for three hours more than 500 of the enemy."

#### PRIVATE GEORGE ALLAN MITCHELL

"On the night 23rd/24th January, 1944, six days after the assault crossing of the River Garigliano, A Company, 1st Battalion, The London Scottish, was ordered to carry out a local attack to restore the situation on a portion of the main Damiano ridge.

"The Company attacked with two platoons forward and a composite platoon of London Scottish and Royal Berkshire in reserve. The Company Commander was wounded in the very

early stages of the attack. The only other officer with the Company was wounded soon afterwards.

"No. 9 Section of No. 9 Platoon of this Company was ordered by the Platoon Commander to carry out a right flanking movement against some enemy machine-guns which were holding up the advance. Also as soon as he had issued the order, he was killed. There was no platoon sergeant.

"During the advance, the enemy opened heavy machine-guns at point-blank range. Without hesitation, Private Mitchell dropped the 2-inch mortar which he was carrying, and seizing a rifle and bayonet, charged, alone, up the hill through intense Spandau fire. He reached the enemy machine-gun unscathed, jumped into the weapon pit, shot one and bayoneted the other member of the crew, thus silencing the gun. As a result, the advance of the platoon continued, but shortly afterwards the leading section was again held up by the fire of approximately two German sections who were strongly entrenched. Private Mitchell, realising that prompt action was essential, rushed forward into the assault, firing his rifle from the hip, completely oblivious of the bullets which were sweeping the area. The remainder of his section, inspired by his example, followed him and arrived in time to complete the capture of the position, in which six Germans were killed and twelve made prisoner.

"As the section was reorganising itself to continue to its objective, yet another enemy machine-gun opened up on it at close range. Once more Private Mitchell rushed forward alone and with his rifle and bayonet killed the crew.

"The section now found itself immediately below the crest of the hill, from which heavy small-arms fire was being directed and grenades were being thrown. Private Mitchell's ammunition was exhausted, but in spite of this he called on the men for one further effort and again led the assault up the steep and rocky hillside. Dashing to the front, he was again the first man to reach the enemy position and was mainly instrumental in forcing the remainder of the enemy to surrender.

"A few minutes later, a German, who had surrendered, picked up a rifle and shot Private Mitchell through the head. Throughout this operation, carried out on a very dark night, up a steep hillside covered in rocks and scrub, Private Mitchell displayed superb courage and devotion to duty of the very highest order. His complete disregard of the enemy fire, the fearless way in which he continually exposed himself, and his refusal to accept defeat, so inspired his comrades, that together they succeeded in overcoming and utterly defeating an enemy superior in numbers, and owning all the advantages of the ground."

(Extract from original citation).

## THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

### COLONELS IN CHIEF

11th June, 1898, to 6th May, 1910

Field Marshal His Royal Highness Albert Edward Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O. His Majesty King Edward VII.

12th March, 1937, to Date

Field Marshal His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.

### COLONELS

#### 75th Regiment

12th Oct., 1787—

Gen. Sir R. Abercromby

10th Nov., 1827—

Lt.-Gen. J. Dunlop

9th April, 1832—

Lt.-Gen. Sir J. Fuller

26th Oct., 1841—

Gen. Sir W. Hutchinson

16th Sept., 1845—

Major-Gen. S. H. Berkeley

22nd March, 1858—

Major-Gen. Sir J. A. Clerke

18th Jan., 1870—

Major-General D. Russell

24th Oct., 1872—

Lt.-Gen. J. T. Hill

#### 92nd Regiment

3rd May, 1796—

George, Marquis of Huntly

3rd Jan., 1806—

Lt.-Gen. Hon. Sir John Hope

29th Jan., 1820—

Lt.-Gen. John Hope

6th Sept., 1823—

Lt.-Gen. Hon. Alex. Duff

20th July, 1831—

Lt.-Gen. Sir J. Hamilton

Dalrymple

31st May, 1843—

Lt.-Gen. Sir W. Macbean

20th June, 1855—

Lt.-Gen. Sir John MacDonald

25th June, 1866—

Field-Marshal Rt. Hon Hugh,  
Lord Strathnairn

3rd March, 1869—

Lt.-Gen. J. Campbell

29th Dec., 1871—

Lt.-Gen. G. Staunton

16th April, 1880—

Gen. M. Kerr Atherley

### THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

1st July, 1881—Lieut.-General J. T. Hill } Joint  
12th March, 1884—General J. A. Ewart }

30th June, 1895—Lieut.-General C. E. P. Gordon

20th August, 1897—General Sir G. S. White

25th June, 1912—General Sir Charles Douglas

1st June, 1914—General Sir Ian Hamilton

1st June, 1939—Major-General Sir James Burnett of Leys, Bart.

1st April, 1948—Colonel W. J. Graham

# LIFE IN A MODERN INFANTRY BATTALION

This is an account of the life of a soldier in a present-day Infantry Battalion. Not always an easy life, but the life of a man amongst men, prepared to go anywhere or do anything, as the Infantry has always done with pride.

After his call-up and medical inspection by the recruiting authorities, the young recruit reports to his Regimental Depot. In the case of the Gordon Highlanders this is located at the spacious and comfortable Gordon Barracks, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen. Here he will spend the first ten weeks of his Army career.

On arriving at the Depot he will find himself looked after by a firm but friendly lot of instructors, and will be put through a logical process of introduction to the ways of the Army and of the Gordon Highlanders in particular.

In company with any other recruits certain essential documents will be prepared on information given by him. He will then draw his bedding from the store and be issued with his uniform and equipment. A further more detailed medical examination and dental inspection, this time by our own doctor and dentist, will be followed by an interview with the Personnel Selection Officer (PSO). The PSO is a specialist whose job it is to see that each man is, where possible, allotted to the most suitable form of employment during his service. It is at this stage that potential officers and NCOs are initially selected, and any useful tradesmen earmarked so that they will not get overlooked. The recruit who is medically or educationally below standard is then sent to a special Army School where his physique will be scientifically built up, or his neglected education repaired, until he is ready to start his recruits training as an Infantryman at Gordon Barracks.

He is now ready to start learning to be a soldier. He will be placed in a squad which, as far as possible, contains other recruits of the same age and mental and physical level. The Instructors whom he meets then will be with him during the whole ten weeks of his Depot training.

During this time he will be taught to march, drill, handle and fire a rifle, machine carbine and bren gun. He will receive physical training and be instructed how to look after his clothing and equipment. He will learn the elements of military law, the Army pay code, some first aid and medical training (so that he can keep himself healthy wherever he may be sent), and be given lectures on national and world affairs to broaden his outlook. He will also be conducted round our very fine Regimental Museum, which contains relics from the Gordons' past, so that he may learn to take a pride in the great Regimental family of which he is now a member.



*Depot — The reading room in the N.A.A.F.I.*



*Depot — The N.A.A.F.I. Restaurant*



*Depot — the Cinema.*



*Depot — The Corporal's Club in the N.A.A.F.I.*



*Depot — A typical recruit barrack room.*



*Depot — The Sergeants' Mess.*



*The Assault Course.*

*Toughness and agility are vital for the Infantryman*



*Recruits firing their rifle course on Blackdog Range.*



*A corner of the Regimental Museum.*

At the end of this basic ten weeks of training, having passed his tests and reached the necessary standards, a "Passing-Out" Parade will be held to which he can invite friends or relatives, and the Depot holds a luncheon party for them. After the Parade it is usual for the Soldier — a recruit no longer — to go straight away on leave before joining the 1st Battalion.

#### **LIFE IN THE 1st BATTALION**

On arrival at the Battalion the young soldier will find that he has still much to learn. He will again be interviewed, this time by the officer commanding the platoon in which he is to serve. His PSO and Depot training reports will be examined, and he will be asked his views about his employment. There is a variety of jobs open to him in an Infantry Battalion, and he will be selected for (or if vacancies exist be allowed to choose) one for which he is suitable.

The following are some of the jobs open to him:—

- (a) **Rifleman** — The basic fighting Infantry soldier and the most important man in the Army. Jack of all trades, seven to ten weapons to master, handling wireless sets, map reading, field-craft, mine-laying, field works, cooking, etc., and in fact a little of all the following, which are designed purely to support **him** in battle. He is the key man of all, and typified by the frequently met tough No. 1 of a Bren Gun who firmly refuses to allow anyone else to touch or carry his precious weapon — and rightly so.



*The Colonel of the Regiment inspects a Depot Passing-out Parade*

*Recruits led by Boy Pipers and Drummers.*



- (b) **Clerk** — Clerical duties in the Battalion Orderly Room, Company or Quartermaster's Offices, or in the Pay Office.
- (c) **Medical** — Stretcher Bearer, or Medical Orderly to the Doctor in the Regimental Aid Post.
- (d) **Storeman** — In charge of some of the huge quantity of clothing, weapons, ammunition, equipment, petrol, or motor transport stores required to keep a Battalion of nine hundred in good trim.
- (e) **Driver** — Driving motor-cycles, jeeps, 1-ton and 3-ton trucks. There are approximately 100 drivers in each battalion.



*Vehicle Maintenance on a Jeep.*

- (f) **3 inch Mortar Platoon** — Mortar-man or driver.
- (g) **Medium Machine Gun Platoon** — Machine-gunner, Rangefinder, or Driver. The machine gun used is the famous Vickers Gun.
- (h) **Pioneers** — Carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, demolition by explosive, mines, assault boats, bridging, construction.
- (i) **Signal Platoon** — Wireless operator, telephone exchange operator, line layer, coding and decoding, despatch rider, clerk, driver.
- (j) **Intelligence Section** — Map reading and making, map marking for operations, interpretation of air photographs, interrogation of prisoners, sniping with special rifles and telescopic sights.
- (k) **Regimental Police** — Route marking, traffic control (particularly important on operations), discipline.

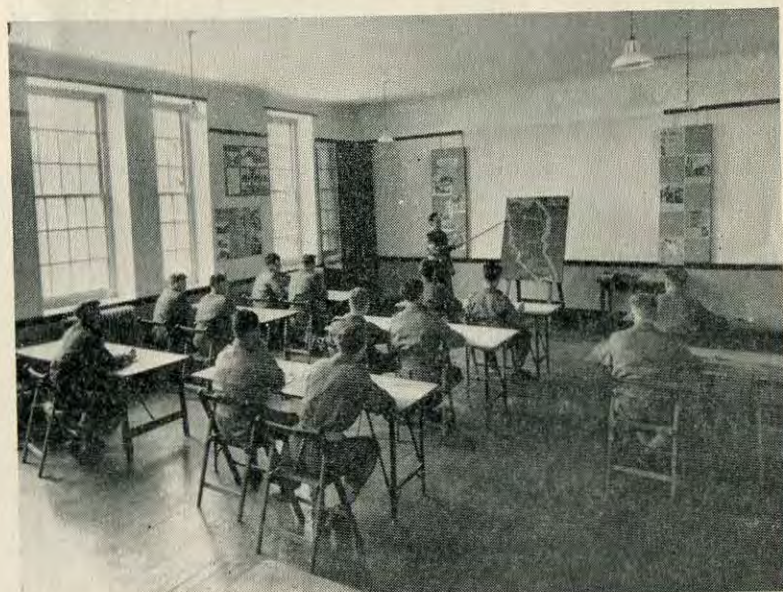
(1) **Regimental Band and Pipe Band** — Musician, piper, bugler, drummer, cornet, saxophone, trombone, etc. The pipers, buglers and drummers, in addition to their musical duties, also have important tasks in battle, such as stretcher bearing and the defence of Battalion Headquarters.

For whatever job the young soldier is finally selected, he will find that there is an immense amount to learn. Nor need he be disappointed if at first a vacancy does not exist in what he wants, as there will be ample opportunity to transfer before long.

The modern Infantry soldier is a specialist, and equally skilled in his branch as the Royal Engineer or the man in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. His training is more intense and varied, and a higher degree of initiative and leadership and character is required.

**The Infantryman can, by work and knowledge, increase his pay to a level equivalent to any tradesman in any branch in the Army.**

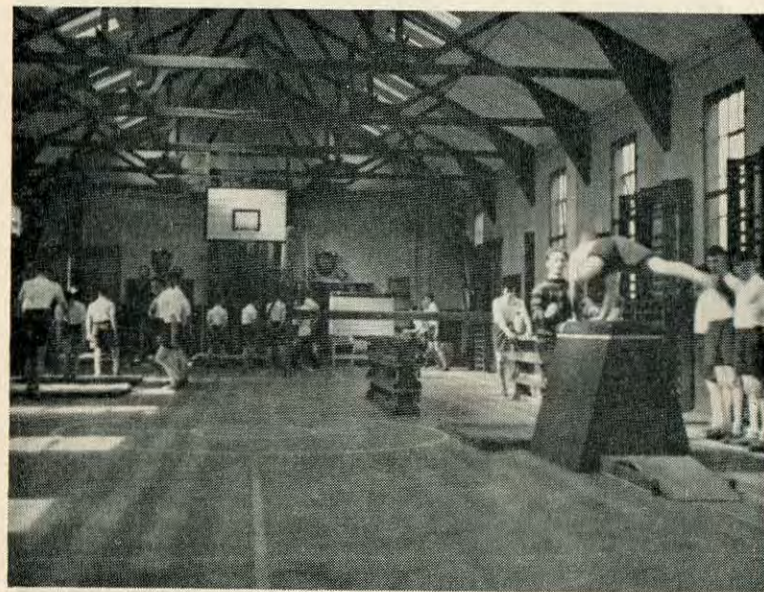
For the Regular Soldier there are special courses of instruction in all the employments mentioned above, and for training potential NCOs. Each man is encouraged to continue his education, and will be taught by qualified instructors of the Royal Army Education Corps. The Army 1st Class Certificate of Education and the Forces Preliminary Examination are equivalent to School and Higher School Certificates. They are both recognised by the civilian authorities.



*Depot — A class of recruits in the Education Centre.*

## PHYSICAL TRAINING

A large number of periods are devoted to Physical training, which is designed to bring a man quickly to a high standard of fitness and mental alertness. The gymnasium and its equipment is up-to-date, and the instructors in Physical Training are men who have undergone intensive courses of instruction at the Army Physical Training School at Aldershot.



*Physical Training for recruits in the gymnasium.*

Physical fitness leads to men becoming mentally alert, therefore the underlying principle is . . . "A sound mind in a sound body."

Every exercise is planned and, as will be seen in the following pictures, the exercises depicted bring about physical fitness and unity of movement which means that every man has to be mentally alert during the whole of the time spent in physical training.

## SPORT

All work and no play would soon make the soldier a very dull fellow, so his sports and games are the subject of careful thought. He is able to play every game in the sporting calendar in its season. Our Depot is well equipped in the matter of sports grounds, and the recruit

in the Gordon Highlanders has every opportunity of showing his skill in every kind of sport. We aim at the team spirit in all our games, but the outstanding performer is encouraged in every way. Opportunities always present themselves for representative honours, and these honours reflect credit on the Regiment as well as on the individual. Sport costs the soldier very little, and Regimental funds provide his expenses when playing for his Depot.



*Basketball.*

## FOOD

It is a well known fact that one of the main essentials for a fit and efficient unit is good food. The question of food, its quality and quantity, is given primary consideration in the Gordon Highlanders, whether they be stationed in barracks, on training, or on active service.

The food served in the Army is intended to give maximum amount of nourishment and to obtain those building properties so essential to any young man and particularly to young soldiers.

Meals are cooked in the most modern cookhouses supervised by trained N.C.O.'s who have passed intensive courses at the Army School of Cookery. Cookhouses and Dining Halls are kept scrupulously clean.

Meals are served at regular hours which helps considerably towards improving the general fitness of the young soldier.

A Messing Meeting is held once a fortnight under the chairmanship of a senior officer attended by representatives from all companies. Every encouragement is given for putting forward constructive ideas for improving the food and the general standard of living.

The meals at the Gordon Highlanders Depot have a reputation which is the envy of many others.



*Depot — The new cookhouse.*



*Depot — The Dining Hall.*

# CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR REGULAR SOLDIERS

The following is a summary and guide to the terms of service for Regular Soldiers from 1st January, 1957.

<i>Period of Engagement</i>	<i>Special conditions</i>	<i>Age limits</i>
<b>MEN</b> — either		
(a) 3 years with the Colours and 4 years in the Royal Army Reserve,	A soldier on this engagement may change to the 22 year engagement at any time.	Lower limit — 17½.
<b>or</b>		
(b) 22 years with the Colours.	A soldier enlisting on this engagement may terminate his colour service at the end of every period of 3 years. But if he does so he will have certain liabilities with the Royal Army Reserve, as follows:—  (i) At the end of 3 years—4 years with the Reserve.  (ii) At the end of 6 years—3 years with the Reserve.  (iii) At the end of 9 years and thereafter—No reserve liability.	Upper limit (if he has no previous service) — 30 years.  If he has previous service and is over 30, the number of years of previous service may be deducted from his present age for the purpose of assessing eligibility for enlistment.



*A group of Band Boys in the Highland Brigade Junior Training Unit, which is run by the Gordon's Depot. Here Boys can also learn to pipe, bugle and drum.*

## BOYS

Up to the age of 18 serves with the Colours, and thereafter:	A boy 'comes of age' in the Army (i.e., comes on to man's rates of pay) at 17½ years of age.	Lower limit — minimum school leaving age.
(a) Apprentice boys — 9 years with the Colours and 3 with the Reserve.		Upper limit —  (a) 16½ for apprentices or Infantry Junior Leaders unit.
(b) Regimental boys — 6 years with the Colours and 3 with the Reserve.		(b) 17½ for Band, Piper, Drummer or Tailor boys.

# RATES OF PAY FOR REGULAR SOLDIERS

When you consider the Army rates of pay, you must bear in mind that the actual cash you receive over the pay table is, in fact, **pocket money**, because there are no fares to and from work, no meals to buy, and that uniform and all clothing is provided free. Married men are provided with houses or an allowance in lieu.

The '5 Star System' referred to in the following pay tables refers to the grading system whereby a soldier is awarded 'Stars' for proficiency and skill. Each 'Star' represents a different degree of military trade proficiency or skill, and as the soldier's knowledge increases so does his pay.

The following table shows how much pay is earned each week by all ranks up to Warrant Officer Class I, under what is known as the **1956 Pay Code**.

Table A

## Rates of pay for those who undertake to serve :—

	For less than 6 yrs. (" 3 year rate ")	For less than 9 yrs. (" 6 year rate ")	For 9 yrs. or more (" 9 year rate ")	For 15 yrs. or more having completed 9 years' service. (" 15 year rate ")	For 21 yrs. or more having completed 15 years' service. (" 21 year rate ")
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Recruit	63 0	77 0	91 0	91 0	91 0
Private :					
1 Star	70 0	84 0	101 6	101 6	101 6
2 Star	73 6	87 6	108 6	108 6	108 6
3 Star	84 0	98 0	119 0	119 0	119 0
4 Star	87 6	101 6	126 0	126 0	126 0
5 Star	94 6	108 6	133 0	133 0	133 0
Lance-Cpl. :					
1 Star	84 0	98 0	115 6	115 6	115 6
2 Star	87 6	101 6	122 6	122 6	122 6
3 Star	98 0	112 0	133 0	133 0	133 0
4 Star	101 6	115 6	140 0	140 0	140 0
5 Star	108 6	122 6	147 0	147 0	147 0

Corporal :					
1 Star	98 0	112 0	129 6	140 0	140 0
2 Star	101 6	115 6	136 6	147 0	147 0
3 Star	112 0	126 0	147 0	157 6	157 6
4 Star	115 6	129 6	154 0	164 6	164 6
5 Star	122 6	136 6	161 0	171 6	171 6
Sergeant (other than Class I Tradesman)	164 6	164 6	185 6	199 6	206 6 (plus 7/- after com- pleting 22 years)
Staff Sgt. (other than Class I Tradesman)	185 6	185 6	206 6	220 6	227 6 (plus 10/6 after com- pleting 22 years)
Warrant Officer Cl. II (other than Class I Tradesman)	217 0	217 0	217 0	238 0	248 6 (plus 10/6 after com- pleting 22 years)
Warrant Officer Cl. II (RQMS) (other than Class I Tradesman)	224 0	224 0	224 0	245 0	255 0 (plus 10/6 after com- pleting 22 years)
Warrant Officer Cl. I (other than Class I Tradesman)	231 0	231 0	231 0	252 0	262 0 (plus 10/6 after com- pleting 22 years)

Table B

## PENSIONS AND TERMINAL GRANTS

### Pensions

These consist of an element for length of service and an element for years in the rank of Corporal and above. Pensions are not normally awarded until completion of 22 years service, when the rates are calculated as follows :—

Years of Service	Weekly Rate s. d.
1-22	1 6 for each year of service.
23-27	5 0 for each of these years.
28 onwards	4 0 for each subsequent year.

Rank Element	per week for each year of service in the rank	
	s.	d.
Corporal ... ..	8	
Sergeant ... ..	1	3
Staff Sergeant ... ..	1	10
Warrant Officer, Class II ... ..	2	2
Warrant Officer, Class I ... ..	2	8

#### Terminal Grants

	after 22 years service	for each additional year's service
	£	£
Private and Lance-Corporal ...	125	12
Corporal ... ..	175	15
Sergeant ... ..	225	20
Staff Sergeant ... ..	275	24
Warrant Officer, Class II ...	300	28
Warrant Officer, Class I ...	330	32

The terminal grant is a tax-free lump sum, which Regular Soldiers get in addition to their pension, to assist them in setting up in Civilian Life after leaving the Army. They also get 28 days leave on full pay and allowances on completion of their Colour Service, and a free outfit of civilian clothes.

Table C

#### BOYS

##### Weekly Rates

Qualifications	On entry	After 6 months	After 1 year	After 2 years
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
(a) No qualifications ... ..	31 6	31 6	38 6	45 6
(b) Junior Certificate of Education plus Military Proficiency Stan- dard "A".	31 6	35 0	42 0	49 0
(c) Intermediate Certificate of Educa- tion plus Military Proficiency Standard "B".	31 6	38 6	45 6	52 6
(d) Three passes in Senior Certificate of Education (two compulsory subjects) plus Military Pro- ficiency Standard "A".	31 6	45 6	52 6	59 6
(e) Complete Senior Certificate of Education plus Military Pro- ficiency Standard "B".	31 6	52 6	59 6	66 6

#### Marriage Allowance

The weekly rates for Regular Soldiers are :—

	s.	d.
For Corporals and below ... ..	42	0
For Sergeants ... ..	49	0
For Staff Sergeants ... ..	52	6
For Warrant Officers ... ..	56	0

This rate applies whether there are children or not, and there are additions for the second and subsequent children. In addition the husband must allot a proportion of his pay to his wife when she can not be in the same station as him. In certain foreign stations a cost-of-living allowance is paid as well.

#### Leave

A soldier up to the rank of Corporal may have thirty days' leave a year; this rises to forty-two days on promotion to Sergeant. In addition, short leave at week-ends and public holidays is allowed at Commanding Officers' discretion. When on leave the man draws full pay and allowances. At home, a man gets three free railway warrants a year; and in overseas commands special free leave-travel concessions are allowed.

#### Travel Whilst on Leave — Family Travel

Reduced fare for private journeys are granted by the Railways at half single fare for single journey and at single fare for return journeys. These concessions are also available for soldiers' wives and children for all journeys of thirty miles or more.

#### Pay on the Reserve

On transfer to the Royal Army Reserve, a man may receive weekly pay because of his reserve liability :—

Private, 7/- or 10/6. Corporal, 8/9 or 12/3. Sergeant and above, 10/6 or 14/-.

Whilst in the Reserve a man is free to follow his civil employment wherever he likes in this country.

## OVERSEAS SERVICE

One of the major factors that will be uppermost in the mind of a young man and the minds of his family, who is contemplating a career in the Regular Army, is "where am I likely to serve abroad and what is it like there?" The former is, of course, uncertain and entirely dependent upon prevailing world circumstances or whether his Regiment is abroad now or due for foreign service. The latter, can, to some extent, be dealt with reasonably simply.

Firstly, however, it may be necessary to comment upon the somewhat prevalent and erroneous second-hand "stories" which have circulated either in print or by word of mouth — the music hall's legacy from the past. These are the stories of the crowded troopships, indifferent food, lack of amenities for soldiers abroad and, worst of all, boredom and inactivity. There is no doubt that a great many such stories had their origin — and were often true, during war. They were the dictates of necessity generally, and whilst untrue today, have unfortunately been kept alive.

Since 1945, the official troopships have once again been returned to their proper role and a great deal of time and money has been devoted to their reconversion. This has been done with special attention to accommodation space, feeding and amenities on board. Such ships as the s.s. "Dunera" which, in 1949, carried some two thousand odd troops to the Far East in somewhat cramped conditions, has now been reconverted and has a total capacity of about nine hundred. This reduction in capacity has been used to provide additional sleeping space with spring bunks, an ultra modern canteen and kitchens, cafeteria restaurant system and other amenities. This reconversion continues rapidly, and more and more of the "troopers" are appearing with new interiors in old frames. The young soldier today can look forward, when travelling on these boats, to a sea voyage which favourably compares with a civilian second-class cruise.

A trip now to the East is without a doubt a most interesting experience. Restrictions on shore leave at ports of call en route are almost non-existent and many pleasant hours can be spent ashore in all the major ports between the United Kingdom and Japan. Money changing facilities are provided on board the ship and everyone can go ashore with sufficient local currency for buying or making gay as the mood dictates. In all these ports there are N.A.A.F.I.s or Soldiers Clubs, which include restaurants, bars and swimming pools, etc., at inexpensive prices if sight-seeing holds no delight for the individual.

For the average person, a voyage to the Far East is a wonderful opportunity; the chance of exploring en route and seeing, in fact, the peoples and places of the school geography text book. This is not normally possible to most young men and cannot help but broaden the outlook and provide an invaluable fund of personal knowledge.

A proportion of trooping to overseas stations is now done by air, and the soldier may well find himself doing a journey in 3 or 4 days which normally takes as many weeks — but of course he misses in this way the fun and interest of a sea voyage.

So much for the transportation and voyage, but what now can the soldier expect to find on arrival at his overseas station? It is, of course, not possible here to deal with all overseas stations individually, their climates, interests and good or bad points. However, some mention can be made in general as to what the average overseas station has to offer.

On arrival, a young soldier will, if the climate is tropical, be given a varying period of light and non-arduous duties, in order to complete what has begun on the ship, namely, becoming accustomed to the new climate. He will most probably be housed in barracks superior to most of those in the United Kingdom. In tropical climes he will find his barrack room light and airy, fitted with large windows and ceiling fans, providing a cool haven from outside heat.

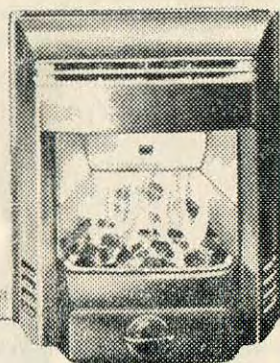
Once acclimatised he will find himself extremely well occupied in adapting both himself and his previous training to the climate and local conditions. His training will be hard and strenuous, and of that there must be no doubt. But what of leisure hours and leave? Our young soldier will find that here, too, he has been well catered for and that there are numerous ways in which he can occupy himself. He will also receive an overseas allowance to supplement his pay, which is tax free, the amount dependent upon the station, but will average about a pound a week in addition to normal pay.

In all the major, and indeed most of the minor centres where troops are stationed, there are a variety of Service or N.A.A.F.I. Clubs which provide numerous amenities for leisure hours. These include cheap accommodation for leaves on a hotel basis and, dependent on the station, shooting, hunting, riding, ski-ing, boating and sailing, swimming pools, dances, libraries, free or reduced rates at cinemas or theatres, suggested sight-seeing tours and free or concession rates for travel, etc., in neighbouring countries whilst on leave. All these are well within the soldier's pay packet.

Within the soldier's own unit he will find that there are ample opportunities to partake in sport of all kinds. The unit will also provide a variety of welfare amenities for the shorter periods of relaxation. The young soldier will find, too, that the comradeship developed in a unit overseas will well compensate for the lack of his own home life.

For the sceptics who feel that this article paints a too rosy picture, or is written with too much enthusiasm, it may be well to conclude with the following points. The picture here painted is not over enthusiastic nor is it true of all stations overseas, but it is a fair description of the majority, which do include all or some of the amenities mentioned. No one would call the jungles of Malaya an ideal

station, but even here such facilities do exist. They may not be available to every soldier all of the time, but are available to each soldier some of the time. Soldiers are not, nor ever will be, sent overseas for health or holiday. There is always a job to do, a big job, for all over the world the British soldier is, and always will be, the unofficial ambassador of his country. His job may be unpleasant, and often is, but the Army does, and will continue to, make the leisure hours compensate to some extent for this. It would, in addition, be well to remember that most of the enjoyment from service Overseas or indeed enjoyment anywhere depends on the individual himself. If the young soldier wants to make the most of a wonderful opportunity he will be assisted to do so. If he doesn't and is miserable, then without exception he will have no one but himself to blame.



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39

## RETURNING TO CIVILIAN LIFE

When the time comes to close your Army career you are sure to find that civilian life has not stood still, any more than you will be the same man who enlisted years before.

You will have bigger and better ideas about your civilian employment and you may be certain that jobs and cost-of-living and the thousand-and-one other factors that make up life outside the Army will have changed almost out of recognition.

What will the Army do about it?

Well, first of all, Army officers and men can be found employment, according to age, abilities and experience.

After you have served three years you will be interviewed once a year about your civilian hopes and prospects. You will be encouraged to use the Army education facilities. These cover a wide field and help you to study for qualifications which will improve your chances of getting the type and level of employment you want.

There will be educational classes in your unit, in education centres, in evening institutes and polytechnics, and during your last year of service you may be able to take courses at an Army Resettlement College. At a nominal fee you can prepare throughout your service for professional and vocational examinations by means of the Forces Correspondence Course Scheme.

The War Office and the Ministry of Labour and National Service are in the closest co-operation over this resettlement. When you reach the end of your service you will be put in touch with the Ministry of Labour and Forces Employment Association officials. It is a very important point with resettlement that your Service training and experience will be linked with the requirements of civilian employment, so that it would be just as easy for you as a civilian to become a soldier as for you, as a retiring soldier, to be placed in civilian life.

The Trade Unions have already recognised 120 Army trades, covering more than 20,000 skilled men, which allows you, if you are a Regular Army craftsman, to gain employment in industry at levels suited to your experience and ability.

The Civil Service permits you, in applying for almost all appointments, to deduct your years of service from your actual age in order to qualify you to compete in the normal competitions. In the executive class 15 per cent. and in the clerical classes 10 per cent. of annual vacancies are reserved for ex-Regulars. About 10,000 vacancies a year are given to ex-Regulars in departmentally recruited classes.

79

**Public Bodies** are expected to follow the lead of the Civil Service in giving ready access to employment at all levels.

The **Business Training Course**, run by the Ministry of Labour in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, may be attended at the end of your service. This course is proving a most useful lead to appointments in commerce and industry.

**Government Vocational Training Courses** are available and ex-Regulars have first priority after disabled men. Similarly, as an ex-Regular you will be welcome upon the Ministry of Agriculture's **Farming Courses**.



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# EX-SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The Gordon Highlanders' Association, which now has its headquarters at 151 King Street, Aberdeen, was instituted on 1st April, 1930, and it incorporates the old Gordon Highlanders' Institute, which was formed in Aberdeen after the South African War. Its membership today stands at close on 3,500.

There were also, and still are, in existence Original Associations in Edinburgh, London and Glasgow. In addition there are branches at Arbroath and Perth as well as within the regular units of the regiment. All have as their common object:—

- (a) To foster esprit de corps and keep alive by reunions on return to civil life the comradeship which has always been so strong among officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the regiment.
- (b) To assist members, on leaving or who have left the regiment, to find employment.
- (c) To impress on serving members the importance of applying for civilian employment during the last six months of their service, and to assist them in this by advice, recommendation and the influence of the Association.
- (d) To assist members, on leaving, or who have left, the regiment, and who have, through no fault of their own, fallen on hard times.
- (e) To assist the widows and children of deceased members.
- (f) To ensure that all pensioners and veterans of the regiment are well cared for, and to arrange for the Gordon Highlanders at Chelsea and Whiteford House, Edinburgh, to be visited from time to time.
- (g) To look after the interests of the wives and families of the regiment during war.
- (h) To recommend the regiment to any respectable young man who may wish to join the Army.

At 151 King Street, Aberdeen, the regiment has a fully licensed residential Club, which was opened in 1923 as a memorial to the men of the regiment who gave their lives in the 1914-18 War. Today the membership stands at 802. There are also Club premises in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

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## The Volunteer Forces and the Territorial Army

The Volunteer spirit has always been strong in the North East of Scotland. At the Battle of HARLAW in 1411 the citizens of Aberdeen defended their homes under Provost Robert Davidson. Two hundred years later Montrose was opposed by the citizen soldiers of Aberdeen. During the wars with Napoleon and again during the Boer War, the Aberdeenshire Volunteers were in action in support of their country.

In 1908 the Territorial Army was formed and the volunteers were incorporated as follows:—

Unit	Location	Date of Raising	TA 1908
1st Volunteer Bn. City of Aberdeen		1859/60	6 Companies 4th GORDONS
The Gordon Highlanders.			
2nd	" " Old Meldrum	1861	} 5th GORDONS
3rd	" " Buchan	1862	
4th	" " Donside	1860	
5th	" " Deeside	1861	4 Companies 6th GORDONS
			7th GORDONS 4 Coys., Aberdeenshire 4 Coys., Kincardine
6th Volunteer Bn. Banffshire		1861	4 Companies, 6th GORDONS
The Gordon Highlanders.			
7th	" " Shetland	1900	2 Companies, 4th GORDONS

The role of the Territorial Bns. in the two world wars is outlined in the historical section. Today the proud descendants of these Volunteer and Territorial Battalions are the 4th/7th Battalion and the 5th/6th Battalion, and in the South are the London Scottish.

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## 4th/7th and 5th/6th BATTALIONS THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS (TA)

There are vacancies in the Territorial Battalions of the Regiment for men with the following qualifications :—

Volunteers — first class men with or without previous army experience who are keen to join and wear the uniform of the Gordon Highlanders.

Men who have completed their National Service and particularly those who were NCOs during their full-time service.

Specialists, such as drivers, signallers, machine gunners, mortarmen, pipers, drummers and bandmen.

These Territorial Battalions are located as follows :—

### 4th/7th Bn. The Gordon Highlanders (TA) :—

Headquarters — TA Centre, Woolmanhill, Aberdeen.

Drill Halls — TA Centre, Gt. Southern Road, Aberdeen.  
TA Centre, Banchory.  
TA Centre, Peterculter.  
TA Centre, Stonehaven.  
TA Centre, Laurencekirk.

### 5th/6th Bn. The Gordon Highlanders (TA) :—

Headquarters — TA Centre, Union Street, Keith.

Drill Halls — TA Centre, Aberlour.  
TA Centre, Turriff.  
TA Centre, Church Street, Dufftown.  
TA Centre, Bucksburn.  
TA Centre, Inverurie.  
TA Centre, Alford.  
TA Centre, W. Church Street, Buckie.  
TA Centre, Portsoy.  
TA Centre, New Drill Hall, Catto Drive, Peterhead.  
TA Centre, Old Meldrum.  
TA Centre, Ellon.  
TA Centre, Gratton Place, Fraserburgh.  
TA Centre, Huntly.

Applications to join should be made to any of the above Headquarters or Drill Halls.

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### Training Obligations

1. Attend 40 Annual training periods as a recruit and 30 Annual training periods as a trained soldier. (2 training periods can be done in an evenings attendance and 8 over a week-end).
2. Attend Annual Camp for 15 days each summer.
3. Fire the annual range course on the open range.

### TA Soldiers earn the following Rates of Pay and Allowances for each day's training

	Daily Rate of Pay	Marriage Allowance
Three Star Private	12/-d.	6/-d.
Three Star L/Cpl.	14/-d.	6/-d.
Three Star Cpl.	16/-d.	6/-d.
Sergeant	21/-d.	7/-d.
Col./Sergeant	23/6d.	7/6d.
Warrant Officer II	26/6d.	8/-d.

The above rates are basic, there are increased rates for all ranks depending on their previous Regular and TA Service.

Marriage Allowance is admissible for periods of training of three days or more.

Ration Allowance of 4/10d. a day is admissible for each days training where rations are not provided by the unit.

Training Expense Allowance is paid for training periods of at least 2 hours but under 5 hours, as follows :—

W.O. and Sgts.	- 3/-d.
Cpls., L/Cpls. and Ptes.	- 2/6d.

### Annual Bounty

The following rates of Bounty are paid on completion of yearly training commitments :—

On completion of 1-3 years TA Service — £12.

After 3 years TA Service — £20.

Previous Regular Service counts as qualifying service towards bounty.

### Conditions of Service

Age limits for enlistment are :—

Men 17½ and 40 years of age.

Boys 15 and 17½ years of age.

### Period of Engagement

Men 2, 3 or 4 years initially.

Boys 4 years initially.

### Re-engagement

For 1, 2, 3 or 4 years.

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### Medical Requirements

A1 Except in the case of Military Bandmen and certain Specialists.

### Sports and Social Activities

#### Social

The Club atmosphere is encouraged in both Battalions. Each Drill Hall has a comfortable Club Room, with bar facilities, darts and in certain cases, billiards and T.V. available for the use of Members, their wives and guests. Dances and Social evenings are regular features.

#### Sport

Many forms of Sport are encouraged in the battalions such as Badminton, Basketball, Tug of War, Motor Cycling and Miniature Range Shooting. Both Battalions have achieved considerable success in local competitions.

### THE LONDON SCOTTISH, THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS (TERRITORIAL ARMY)

In the year 1859, Lord Elcho, Sir Heron Maxwell and Sir Charles Forbes held a meeting in the Freemason's Tavern, London, and as a result the London Scottish Regiment was formed. Forty years later the regiment's service began when a Volunteer Company joined the Gordon Highlanders in the South African War.

When the 1st Battalion went into action at Messines on Hallowe'en, 1914, they were the first Territorial Infantry Battalion to engage the enemy in that war, in which three battalions of the regiment served and earned the right to bear on the colours the memorable battles of Messines 1914 — Ypres 1914, '17, '18 — Givenchy 1914 — Loos — Somme 1916, '18 — Arras 1917, '18 — Cambrai 1917, '18 — Valenciennes — Doiran 1917 — Jerusalem.

Again in 1939/45 the regiment raised three battalions and men of the London Scottish gave excellent service in Sicily and Italy and it was here in January, 1944, after the crossing of the Garigliano that Private G. H. Mitchell of the 1st Battalion performed those acts of gallantry which won him the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross. The following Battle Honours were earned by the Regiment in Sicily and Italy:—Primosole Bridge, Sicily 1943, Teano, Monte Camino, Calabritto, Garigliano Crossing, Damiano, Anzio, Carroceto, Gothic Line, Coriano, Croce, Senio Pocket, Rimini Line, Ceriano Ridge, Valli Di Commachio, Argenta Gap, Italy 1943-45.

### ALLIED REGIMENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH FORCES

In 1904 the 48th Highlanders of Canada became allied to the Regiment and between the wars they were joined in the Corps of Gordon Highlanders by the 5th Battalion of Australian Infantry (The Victorian Scottish Regiment), and the Queen's Own Cape Town Highlanders of the Union of South Africa Defence Forces.

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## ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS (T.A.)

It is only very recently that this corps has become officially affiliated to the Regiment though it was as long ago as 1897 that an Aberdeen University detachment of the 1st Volunteer Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders was recruited under Captain W. O. Duncan and eventually became 'U' Company 4th Battalion The Gordon Highlanders.

After 1918 interest in military training at the University completely waned and it required some years of effort before application was granted on 1st February, 1924, for the formation of an Infantry unit and they were given the right to wear Gordon tartan, and shortly afterwards a Pipe Band was instituted.

At this time the authorised establishment was 3 Platoons of Infantry and 1 Platoon of Machine Gunners, but the contingent gradually grew in strength until in 1943, on an establishment of three companies, the strength was close on 500.

Today, though naturally smaller in numbers, the corps with its more generous establishment of regular permanent staff officers and instructors, continues to train many potential officers.

## THE ARMY CADET FORCE

The Scottish North Eastern Area of the Army Cadet Force was formed in November, 1942, with headquarters in Aberdeen and six units are affiliated to the Territorial Battalions. These are as follows :—

Affiliated to 4th/7th Battalion :—

City of Aberdeen Battalion—Aberdeen

5th Kincardineshire Battalion—Stonehaven

7th Deeside Battalion—Banchory

Affiliated to 5th/6th Battalion :—

2nd Aberdeenshire Battalion—Bucksburn

3rd Banffshire Battalion—Portsoy

6th Aberdeenshire Battalion—Strichen

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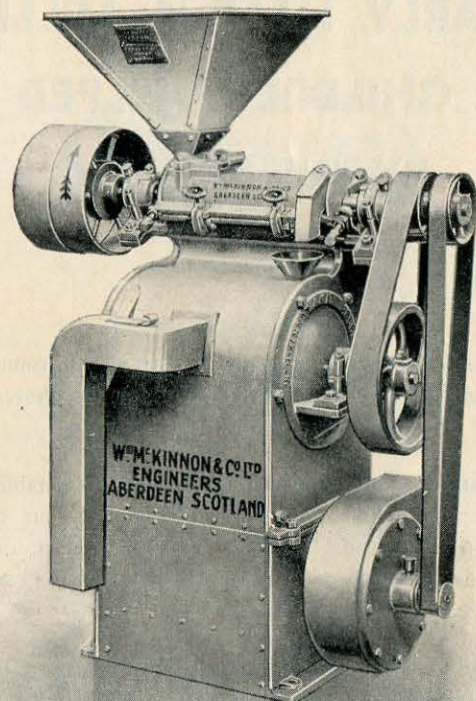
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