



Queen's Own Highlanders: A Concise History

Trevor Royle

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Created in 1961 as a result of the amalgamation of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the Seaforth Highlanders, the "Queen's Own Highlanders" embody the history and traditions of some of Scotland's oldest Highland regiments. Two great Highland families - Cameron of Lochdarroch and Mackenzie of Seaforth - were involved in the formation of the antecedent regiments and their tartans were incorporated in their successor's uniform. During its long history, the regiment has served in the Napoleonic wars, the Crimea, the Indian Mutiny, the Boer War and the two World Wars of the twentieth century. After the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, the Duke of Wellington specifically mentioned the Cameron Highlanders in his dispatches as a result of the bravery shown by Piper Kenneth Mackay, who left the safety of the regiment's defensive square to encourage the men by playing the traditional rallying tune 'Cogadh no Sith' (War or Peace - the True Gathering of the Clans). In 1994, the Queen's Own Highlanders amalgamated with the Gordon Highlanders and in 2006 they became the 4th Battalion of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. This new account of the regiment is therefore a timely memorial to its long and distinguished history.

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