

1ST BN RETURN OF COLOURS 30 NOV 1948

On this day the Colours of the 1st Battalion would be returned, they had been in safekeeping at RHQ since 1939.

The Battalion under command of Lt Col FMV Tregear was drawn up in line and Major General EG Miles CB DSO MC, Colonel of the Regiment was received with a general salute. The General then inspected the Battalion. The Battalion formed three sides of a square, the drums were piled, the Colours uncased and placed on the drums. The assistant Chaplain General Scottish Command, The Reverend A Cross CF, blessed the Colours and immediately afterwards General Miles handed the King's Colour to Lt Lear and the Regimental Colour to 2Lt Cran.



The Colours having been first presented.

In his address General Miles said:

“Today is St Andrews day and a very fitting occasion for a Scottish Regiment to receive back its Colours after nine years safe keeping at Regimental Headquarters, whilst the Battalion has been on active service. Although the personnel of a unit change, its entity and identity remain constant.”

In 1939 you went to France and in 1940 took part in the withdrawal to Dunkirk. In 1944 you landed on the coasts of Normandy with the leading assault Divisions and avenged that earlier defeat. After heavy and gallant fighting around Caen, you fought your way across Northern France, through Belgium and Holland and into Germany. You were near Bremen, in contact with other Battalions of the Regiment, when final surrender of the German Army took place. After that you were moved to Palestine, where your task was by no means easy. You performed it to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

On behalf of the whole Regiment, I take this opportunity to thank you for the magnificent way in which you have upheld the great traditions of our Regiment.

Our 1st Battalion has been in being for 260 years, since 1689, when the Earl of Leven raised this Regiment under the title Leven's or Edinburgh Regiment, in defence of Edinburgh and the Lowlands against the enemies of King William 111. For gallantry at Killiecrankie, their first action, the Regiment was granted and enjoys to this day, the honour and privilege of marching through Edinburgh with bayonets fixed and Colours flying.

Many of you will not have seen your Colours before today. The King's Colour bears the Royal crown on the Union Flag, on which are also borne the Battle Honours won by the Regiment in the First World War. This Colour represents the King and is

accordingly especially honoured and is always carried on the right of the Regimental Colour.

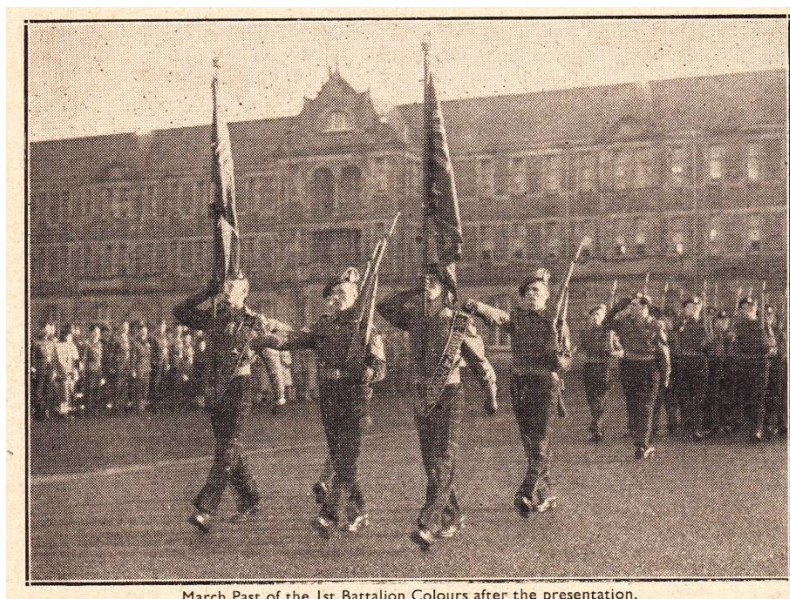
The Regimental Colour is of Royal Blue, because we are a Royal Regiment, and bears in its center the Royal Crown above the Arms and Motto of The City of Edinburgh, "**Nisi Dominus Frustra**", which has reference to psalm 127, "**Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the City, the watchman waketh but in vain.**" In the 1st and 4th corners is the Royal crest, over the motto; "**Inveritate Religionis Confido,**" which means "**I believe in the truth of this faith.**" This motto has reference to the first mentioned one and was granted to the Regiment by King George 111 in 1805. In the second and third corners is the White Horse of Hanover, over the motto "**Nec aspera terrent.**" Which means "**They do not fear danger.**" This Colour also bears the "**Sphinx, superscribed Egypt**" and the Battle Honours won by the Regiment in earlier wars.

Throughout the ages, I trust and hope that we have lived up to our mottoes. During the First World War our 1st Battalion, in one action, on one day in 1917, gained two Victoria Crosses. This was a remarkable achievement; and during the recent war many gallant actions were fought by this Battalion.

Guard these Colours and honour them, remembering always that a Regiment is judged by the actions of each individual member of it, both on and off parade.

Tomorrow you will have the honour of parading with your Colours before our Royal Colonel in Chief. On that occasion, and at all times, take pride in the fact that you belong to a Regiment which for 260 years has given continuous loyal and devoted service to King and Country.

Our thoughts today are concerned with the health of His Majesty, and I say, with profound feeling, on behalf of the whole Regiment: "God save The King."



March Past of the 1st Battalion Colours after the presentation.