

**HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE 71ST
REGIMENT HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY,
FROM ITS FORMATION IN 1777, UNDER
THE TITLE OF THE 73RD, OR MCLEOD'S
HIGHLANDERS, UP TO THE YEAR 1876**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649461721

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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COMPILED BY

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71st H.L.I.



London:

HARRISON AND SONS, 59, PALL MALL,

Booksellers to the Queen, and H. H. the Prince of Wales.

1876.

231 . a . 113

LONDON :
HARRISON AND SONS, PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HER MAJESTY,
ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

SUCCESSION OF COLONELS
IN THE
71ST HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY.

1777. John Lord McLeod.
1789. The Hon. Wm. Gordon.
1803. Sir John Francis Cradock, G.C.B.
1809. Francis Dundas.
1824. Sir Gordon Drummond, G.C.B.
1829. Sir Colin Halkett, K.C.B.
1838. Sir Samuel Ford Wittingham.
1841. Sir Thomas Reynell, Bart., K.C.B.
1848. Sir Thomas Arbuthnot, K.C.B.
1849. Sir James Macdonell, K.C.B. and K.C.H.
1857. Sir Thomas Napier, K.C.B.
1863. The Hon. Charles Grey.
1871. Robert Law, K.H.
1874. The Hon. Sir George Cadogan, K.C.B.

The Seventy-first Highland Light Infantry bears the following honorary records of its varied services on the regimental colour and appointments:—

“Hindoostan,” for its distinguished services in India, between 1780 and 1797.

“Cape of Good Hope,” for its part in the capture of that colony in 1806.

“Roleia,”

“Vimiera,”

“Corunna,”

“Fuentes d'onor,”

“Almaraz,”

“Vittoria,”

“Pyrenees,”

“Nive,”

“Orthes,”

“Peninsula,”

“Waterloo,” for its share in that battle in 1815.

“Sevastopol.”

“Central India.”

} For its several actions in which it was engaged in Spain and the South of France from 1808 to 1814.

HISTORY

OF THE

71ST HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY,

*Formerly numbered the 73rd Regiment, and
called McLeod's Highlanders.*

TOWARDS the end of the year 1777 every effort was made ^{1777.} by the British Ministry to encourage the country to raise troops voluntarily for the prosecution of the war then being waged between Great Britain and her American Colonies. Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, each raised a regiment of a thousand men at its own expense, and several independent companies were formed in Wales. In this manner 15,000 men were raised and presented to the State, of which upwards of two-thirds were obtained from Scotland, and principally from the Highland clans.

At this time Lord McLeod, the eldest son of the Earl of Cromarty, whose title had been attainted and his estates forfeited for his participation in the Rebellion of 1745, returned to England from Sweden, having attained in its service the rank of Lieutenant-General. Being well received by His Majesty King George II, and finding his influence in the Highlands still considerable, although destitute of property, he offered his services to raise a regiment. The offer was accepted, and such was the respect entertained for his family and name, that in a short time 840 Highlanders were recruited and marched to Elgin.

1778. Here they were joined by 236 Lowlanders, raised by Captains the Honorable John Lindsay, David Baird, James Fowlis, and other officers, and by 34 English and Irish, who had been recruited in Glasgow. They amounted in all to 1,100 men, and were embodied at Elgin under the name of McLeod's Highlanders in April 1778, where they were inspected by General Skene, and approved by him as an excellent hardy body of men, fitted for any service. Immediately after the completion of this battalion, letters of service were granted for the creation of a second battalion, which was raised in like manner, with nearly the same expedition and in equal numbers. There is no record extant to show the different nationalities of which this battalion was formed, but it is probable that its composition was very similar to that of the first battalion when raised. Thus in the course of a few months Lord McLeod from being an exile without fortune or British military rank, found himself at the head of upwards of 2,200 of his countrymen, of whom nearly 1,800 were from that district and neighbourhood in which his family had once possessed so much influence.

Each battalion consisted of 50 sergeants, 50 corporals, 20 drummers and fifers, 2 pipers, and 1,000 privates, and was officered as under.

Colonel, John Lord McLeod.

FIRST BATTALION.

Lieut.-Colonel, Duncan McPherson.

Majors.

John Elphinston | James Mackenzie.

Captains.

George Mackenzie.		Hugh Lamont.
Alexander Gilchrist		Hon. James Lindsay.
John Shaw.		David Baird.
Charles Dalrymple.		

Captain Lieutenant and Captain, David Campbell. 1778.*Lieutenants.*

A. Geddes Mackenzie.	Simon Mackenzie.
Hon. John Lindsay.	Philip Melvill.
Abraham Mackenzie, <i>Adj.</i>	John Mackenzie.
Alexander Mackenzie.	John Borthwick.
James Robertson.	William Gunn.
John Hamilton.	William Charles Gorrie.
John Hamilton.	Hugh Sibbald.
Lewis Urquhart.	David Rainnie.
George Ogilvie.	Charles Munro.
Innes Munro.	

Ensigns.

James Duncan.	George Sutherland.
Simon Mackenzie.	James Thrail.
Alexander Mackenzie.	Hugh Dalrymple.
John Sinclair.	

Chaplain, Colin Mackenzie.*Adjutant*, Abraham Mackenzie.*Quartermaster*, John Lytrott.*Surgeon*, Alexander M'Dougall.

SECOND BATTALION.

Lieut.-Colonel, The Hon. George Mackenzie.*Majors.*

Hamilton Maxwell		Norman McLeod.
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Captains.

Hon. Colin Lindsay.	Mackay Hugh Baillie.
John McIntosh.	Stair Park Dalrymple.
James Fowlis.	David Ross.
Robert Sinclair.	Adam Colt.