

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE SCOTTISH REGIMENTS,
WITH THE STATISTICS OF EACH, FROM 1808
TO MARCH 1861. COMPILED FROM
THE OLD REGIMENTAL RECORD BOOKS, AND
MONTHLY RETURNS OF EACH REGIMENT,
NOW RENDERED TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT**

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An account of the Scottish regiments, with the statistics of each, from 1808 to March 1861. compiled from the old regimental record books, and monthly returns of each regiment, now rendered to the War Department by Peter Handyside Mackerlie

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It is with no intention to make invidious distinctions between English, Scotch, and Irish Regiments, that we have taken up the subject of the nationality of the Scottish Regiments; neither is the comparison of the number of Regiments, and resources of each country, which it is necessary to draw, done with any other motive than to clear up a prevailing error to the disparagement of Scotsmen of the present century, as being devoid of martial spirit. But the warlike feelings that used to animate Scotsmen of old are not yet extinct; and in these pages it will be proved, by official figures, that even now the martial spirit exists in Scotland to a greater degree than either in England or Ireland.

It has, indeed, often been a matter of surprise to those acquainted with the truth, how the assertion that the Highland Regiments were destitute of Scotsmen, and principally composed of Irishmen, could be so generally believed, and echoed by military men, who, of course, carry weight from their calling, the public not being aware that, in many instances, officers know very little of the men in their Regiments, and in not a few cases even of those in their own companies or troops, beyond the characters the sergeants give them, arising from a want of interest in the men.

The erroneous assertion applies equally to the Peninsular

and Waterloo campaigns, between 1808 and 1815, as it does to the Russian, between 1854 and 1856. We have all along entertained a contrary opinion, grounded on a personal knowledge of the Regiments for many years, coupled with inquiry; but we felt desirous of testing the fact, first of all by obtaining access to the old Regimental Record Books, and also by the Monthly Returns now rendered by each Regiment. Through the courtesy of the War Office authorities, this was kindly allowed, and by these records the erroneous idea so much indulged in is refuted.

The old Record Books, which are clear, explicit, and well made out, have been very carefully inspected, for, without the numbers being given with care, we feel certain that any mere statement would not be credited, so deeply is the error rooted. In each case the county and parish in which the soldier was born are stated; and also other particulars are given, as where enlisted, date, by whom, and previous trade or occupation. Therefore the whole acted as a check on any man not a Scotsman, being passed as such. In cases where the particulars of the place of birth, &c., could not be learned, it is left blank. The Highlanders are not given separately, but included with the Lowlanders as Scots. However, the number of each could have been ascertained, if our time had admitted of it.

As it is only from the Peninsular war of 1808 that the nationality of the Highland Regiments has been questioned, we will divide the present statement into three periods as regards them.

- I. From 1808 to 1815, which embraces the Peninsular and Waterloo campaigns, the American war, and active service in India.
- II. From 1854 to 1857, which will give the Scottish Regiments, as they were before embarkation for the Crimea, when there, and after their return to this country.
- III. The Scottish Regiments as they were on the 1st March 1861. Also of the recruits, &c.

IV. We will close with a list of some of the old Regiments, disbanded previously and at the end of last century, upon the termination of hostilities; and of the Highland Fencible Regiments.

Perhaps it may not be generally known, that during the wars from 1808 to 1815, Scotland had one Cavalry and nineteen Infantry Regiments, and Ireland four Cavalry and nine Infantry Regiments. We refer to those distinguished as national. Almost all had second battalions, excepting the Royal Scots, which had four. Of these battalions, Scotland had eight engaged in the Peninsula; and at Waterloo, the Scots Greys, and six battalions. Ireland had in the Peninsula three Cavalry and five Infantry Regiments, and at Waterloo one Cavalry and one of Infantry. In 1811, the population of

England and Wales was	10,150,000
Scotland,	1,805,000
Ireland,	5,937,000

It will thus be seen that Scotland, with a very limited population, had then a greater number of Regiments than Ireland had. It is therefore not surprising, that with so few Regiments, and a population scarcely a half less than England and Wales, wherever men were required, Irishmen were in plenty to fill up the gaps. But we will prove that they numbered few in the Highland corps, although, we believe, latterly they were numerous in many English Regiments. Instead of the men in the Highland Regiments, that retained that designation, being principally Irish, of those not Scots, there were and are English, as well as Irish, while in each Regiment the mass of the men were and are still Scots; and we may add, that up to the end of the wars, which finished with Waterloo, in most cases they were true mountaineers.

The martial spirit that appears to have stimulated Scotsmen during the old wars is almost incredible. From 1740 to the end of that century, excluding Lowland Regiments, it is stated

that fifty Highland battalions alone were raised, thirty-four of which were employed in the Continental and American wars, and in India. The most of them were reduced at the termination of hostilities. The number of Highlanders raised for different Regiments north of the Tay in 1779-80, in eighteen months, was 13,586. In addition to this, the volunteers in the Highlands and Islands, previous to the peace in 1801, exceeded 11,500, and when the war recommenced, they amounted to 13,323. In part of 1803 and the year 1804, another batch of 8615 Highlanders were raised for different Regiments. In 1811, the local Militia was instituted, and the Volunteers and Militia in the Highlands then numbered 34,784 men. Only the native Highlanders are given. From 1793 to 1811, the population in the Highlands alone furnished for the national defence 74,442 men for Regiments of the line, Fencibles, Militia, and Volunteers. We give these particulars, as it is or should be known that the Regiments of the line in the field were, in many instances, principally filled up from the Militia and Volunteer forces.

We are indebted for this information to Major-General David Stewart's interesting history of the Highland Regiments,—a book little known now. We may here state, that we have availed ourselves from the same source of whatever we thought touched on the point, as well as what could be gleaned from the histories of those Regiments published in 1837, under the authority of the Adjutant-General.

In 1808, the Scottish Regiments were the 2d Dragoons, or Scots Greys;* 3d Foot Guards; 1st Royal Regiment, or Royal Scots; 21st North British Fusiliers; 25th King's Own Borderers; 26th Cameronians; 42d Royal Highlanders; 70th Glasgow Lowland Regiment; 71st, 72d, 73d, 74th, 75th, 78th, and 79th Highlanders; 90th Perthshire Volunteers; 91st, 92d, 93d, and 94th Highlanders. As will be shewn as we go along, the

* The 7th Hussars were originally Scots, having been raised in Scotland in 1690 as Scots Dragoons. They were disbanded after the peace in 1713, and reformed in 1715, by the transfer of three extra troops from the Scots Greys, two troops from the Royal Dragoons, and one newly raised, which made up the Regiment.

70th, 73d, 75th, and 94th Regiments are no longer known as Scots. The 99th is now called the Lanarkshire Regiment. Although bearing a Scottish name, the Coldstream Guards are English. Colonel Mackinnon, in his history of the Regiment, mentions that they were originally formed from five companies of Hesilrige's Regiment, quartered at Newcastle, and five companies of Fenwick's, at Berwick, which formed part of Cromwell's army before invading Scotland, and which he placed under General Monk. They were embodied at Coldstream as a Regiment, and hence the name. They have never recruited in Scotland.

With war for such a lengthened period, and so many Highland Regiments in the service, it is not surprising that at last there was a scarcity of men; and consequently, on the 7th April 1809, an order from Head-Quarters was issued, stating, that as the population of the Highlands of Scotland was found to be insufficient to supply recruits for the whole of the Highland corps in his Majesty's army, and as some of these corps, by laying aside their distinguishing dress, which was objectionable to the natives of South Britain, would induce the men of the English Militia to enter, the 72d, 73d, 74th, 75th, and 94th Regiments were ordered to discontinue wearing the Highland dress for the future. In addition to the above, the 91st also discontinued it in 1809. The 71st, on being made Light Infantry in 1810, substituted the tartan trews for the kilt.

The Scots Greys, and the present kilted Regiments, which are the 42d, 78th, 79th, 92d, and 93d, and those wearing the tartan trews, viz., the 71st, 72d, and 74th, may now strictly be called the only national corps, those which are Lowland being dressed like other line Regiments, (although pipers have been given to them,) and having as many English and Irish as Scots in their ranks, have thereby, in a great measure, lost their nationality, except in name. Examples of this will be given after the statement shewing the composition of the Highland Regiments on the 1st March 1861.