

MILITARY BADGES OF THE SUTHERLAND'S

My interest in Military Badges connected with the name Sutherland started in about 1996 when visiting an antiques centre in Breedon on the Hill in Derbyshire. I came across what was obviously a cap badge representing the Sutherland Crest. The stall owner did not know what it was, and so I duly bought it for the princely sum of £2.00.

When I returned to work, the badge was shown to the Curator of Military History at the Castle Museum, York, which was my place of employment at the time. He eventually identified it as the 4/5th Battalion, The Seaforth Highlanders T.A. (The Caithness & Sutherland Volunteers). This started my interest.

Regiments

In my search, I found that only five regiments wore badges that had anything to do with our name, and they were as follows:

- a) 93rd Regiment of Foot, The Sutherland Highlanders (1799-1881)
- b) The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders (1881-Present Day)
- c) The Seaforth Highlanders (4/5th Battalion) (1908- 1946?)
- d) The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada
- e) The 41st Battalion (The Byron Regiment) Australian Army

Of course if anyone knows of further Regiments or units that are linked to us, I would be pleased to hear from them. I am always willing to add to what is already known.

93rd SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS

Although the regiment dates from 1799, its history in Sutherland could be traced to the old "Sutherland Fencibles" who were disbanded for the third time in April 1799, and paid up to the 22nd of that month. Shortly after that date, a letter was received, dated the 16th April from the War Office, requiring the Colonel of the "Sutherland Fencibles" to raise a Regiment of Infantry from the Fencibles, and other recruits from that County, and to be ready for inspection within three months of the letter. This was done as would have been under the old "Clan System" A census was taken of every parish, and a quota was decided by the chief's representative. Then Major General Wemyss went along with a large snuff box, and a supply of whisky. To every man whom he wished to enter the regiment, he offered the snuff and whisky, and the clerk took the man's name. When the time came for the regiment to be formed in Inverness in August 1800, not one man was missing. This was the last Regiment of the British Army thus raised, and can therefore be classed as the last true Clan Regiment. It was also the first regiment in the British Army to have its own Padre. When serving in South Africa, each man in the Regiment paid towards the stipend of a Minister. It was also unique in having very few breaches of discipline, Courts Martial, or floggings being virtually unheard of in the Regiment.

Badges

93rd Regiment of Foot, The Sutherland Highlanders

1837-1845 Officers Feathered Bonnet: Within a wreath of Thistles a circlet inscribed "**SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS**" and surmounted by a crown. In the centre the numerals **93**. Below the wreath a scroll inscribed "**CAPE OF GOOD HOPE**" Frosted silver disc.



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Another badge similar to that above is described with the circlet in silver, the remainder in gilt.

1837-1856 Other Ranks

A wreath of Thistles surmounted by a Victorian Crown. In the centre, a circlet inscribed "**SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS**" and in the centre the numerals **93**. a scroll at the base inscribed "**CAPE OF GOOD HOPE**". All in brass

1856-1881 Other Ranks

Design similar to that described above but two scrolls at the base; the first inscribed "**CAPE OF GOOD HOPE**", the second "**BALACLAVA**"

No Date but obviously prior to 1881

A complete wreath of Thistles. On this a strap inscribed "**SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS**" in the centre the numerals **93**. All in brass.

During the Crimean War authorization was given for the Officers of Highland Regiments to wear on their Shako's or Forage Caps an embroidered Thistle with the regimental number in the lower part, instead of just the regimental number.

In 1881 the 93rd Regiment of Foot, the Sutherland Highlanders were amalgamate with the 91st Regiment of Foot, Princess Louise's Argyll Highlanders to form the "Sutherland & Argyll Highlanders. I have been told that this was because the Sutherland's were a kilted regiment, whereas the Argyll's wore the trews. Two years later, the Argyll's claimed precedence, being the 91st, and the name of the regiment became "The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders" the name that the regiment still bears today. The first battalion was called the 91st, and the 2nd the 93rd, and it continued as such until after WW1.

ARGYLL & SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS

1882 (Officers Solar Toppee)

A wreath of thistles mounted on a star, surmounted by a Victorian Crown, within the wreath a circle inscribed **Argyll and Sutherland**. Within the circle, the double cypher of H.R.H. the Princess Louise. To the left of the cypher, the Boar's Head; to the right, the Cat. Above the cypher and on the circle, the Coronet of the Princess. Silver Plate with a gilt crown.

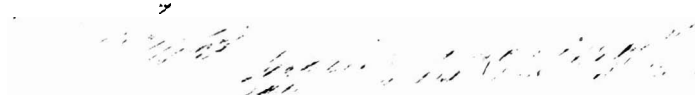
For Highland head-dress and white helmet

A Thistle wreath: within the wreath a circle inscribed **Argyll and Sutherland**. Within the circle the double cypher of H.R.H. the Princess Louise. To the left of the cypher the Boars Head; to the right The Cat. Above the Cypher, and on the circle, the Coronet of the Princess. In silver

1882-1900

as described above, but in white metal. This badge can be either, solid or with a half or fully fretted centre.
1st War Issue (Glengarry Badge)

as described above, but in brass



MILITARY BADGES OF THE SUTHERLAND'S

2nd War Issue (Glengarry Badge)

as described above, but in plastic

Officers Collar Dogs

Within two joined laurel wreaths the Boars Head in one, the Cat in the other. In Bronze

O.R. Collar Dogs

As described above, but in White metal.

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 3rd Volunteer Battalion

As described above, but at the base a scroll inscribed 3rd Volunteer Battn

The battalion was formed in 1881, and had its origins in the Fifeshire Regiment of the North British Militia, which was raised in 1797. It was subsequently named the Stirling, Dumbarton, Clackmanan and Kinross Militia in 1803, and finally changed to the Highland Borderers Light Infantry in 1884. It was finally disbanded in 1967

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 7th Volunteer Battalion

As described above, but at the base a scroll inscribed V11 Volunteer Battln

Originally raised in 1853 in the Volunteer Force, and transferred to the Territorial Force in 1908, the battalion was raised in Stirling and Clackmanan. It saw service in both World Wars, and was disbanded in 1967

1860 1st Admin Bn of Stirlingshire R.Vs formed at Stirling

1880 Bn consolidated as the 1st Stirlingshire R.V.C.

1887 Redesignated 7th (Clackmananshire and Kinross) V.B. Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

1908 4th & 7th V.Bs amalgamated as the 7th Bn (TF) HQ Stirling

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 8th (Argyllshire) Battalion

As described above, but at the base, a scroll inscribed **8th A&SH**. In white metal.

This badge was in use by the Territorial Forces between 1908 and 1920

The 8th Battalion was raised in Argyll, and saw service in both wars, being disbanded in 1967

1861 1st Admin Bn of Argyllshire R.Vs formed at Oban, the senior corps being the second which was raised in 1860

1880 Bn consolidated as the 1st Argyllshire R.V.C.

1887 Redesignated 5th V.B. Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

1908 Became the 8th Bn (TF) H.Q. Dunoon



MILITARY BADGES OF THE SUTHERLAND'S

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Dumbartonshire Volunteers

Within a wreath of thistles a circle inscribed *DUMBARTONSHIRE VOLUNTEERS* and in the middle the Coat of Arms of Dumbartonshire. In Brass

1860 1st Admin Bn of Dumbartonshire R.Vs formed at Balloch

1880 Bn consolidated as the 1st Dumbartonshire R.V.C.

1881 Became a volunteer bn of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

1908 Became the 9th (Dumbartonshire) Bn (TF). H.Q. Helensburgh

1938 Transferred to the Royal Artillery

The above four badges, I assumed were issued in the First World War, but I have been in touch with the Regimental Museum at Stirling Castle, and at the present moment they cannot date these badges for me, but they think that it was prior to the First World War. I did not realise that prior to 1914, the Regiment had so many Battalions. It could be that they were all of the Territorial Force 1908-1920, as in the 8th Battalion.

THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS

1st Sutherland Highland Rifle Volunteers 1880-1908

Other Ranks (Glengarry Badge)

Within a strap inscribed *Sans Peur* a cat-a-mountain. in white metal.

This badge was worn as the 5th Battalion Territorial Force from 1908 until 1920. Which, I suspect means that both badges (within the Strap/within the circlet) were worn by this battalion during the First World War

4th (Duchess Harriet's) Coy (Rogart) Sutherland Rifle Volunteers

Officers Pouch Belt Badge: Within a wreath of Thistles, a strap inscribed *Duchess Harriet's Company (Rogart)*., Surmounted by a Victorian Crown, and in the centre the Duchess's Coat of Arms

5th (The Sutherland and Caithness Highland) Battalion T.A.

The Officers of this Battalion were unique within the British Army, as their rank could be discerned by their hat badge.

Officers Badges

Subaltern: Within a strap inscribed *Sans Peur* a cat-a-mountain, with one silver feather behind the strap

Captain: as above but with two silver feathers

Field Officer: as above but with three silver feathers

Full Colonel: as above but with four silver feathers

The badges were made in either silver or white metal



MILITARY BADGES OF THE SUTHERLAND'S

Other Ranks

- 1) Within a strap inscribed *Sans Peur*, a cat-a-mountain. In white metal (- 1908)
- 2) Within a circlet inscribed *Sans Peur*, a cat-a-mountain. In white metal (1908-
- 3) Within a circlet inscribed *Sans Peur*, a cat-a-mountain. In brass (WW1 economy issue)
- 4) Within a circlet inscribed *Sans Peur*, a cat-a-mountain. Anodised
within my collection, I have a solid badge, as of 2 above. I have been told that this badge would have been made locally during service in India, but this has still to be verified. Having corresponded with the curator of the "Highlanders" museum, which is housed in Fort George, I have been informed that the 5th Battalion, being a "Territorial" Battalion, never served in India, therefore the origin of this badge is still a mystery.

The battalion was disbanded after the Second World War, but the Sutherland Cadets used the badge until about 1975, and it is probable that this is where the anodised badge originated from.

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada

A strap inscribed *Argyll and Sutherland Canada*. The strap surrounded by Thistles and surmounted by a crown in the centre a cats head. at the bottom on the left a scroll inscribed *Albainn*. At the bottom on the right a scroll inscribed *Gu-Brath*

The Regiment was gazetted in 1903, as the 91st Regiment Canadian Highlanders. In June 1905, by Royal Warrant, it became affiliated with the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders adopting, except for the cap badge, the full highland dress of its parent Regiment. The Regiment acted as a recruiting depot during the First World War, providing men for service in the 16th, 19th, 36th, 58th, 76th, 86th, 92nd, 120th, 173rd Highlanders and the 205th numbered battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The Regiment perpetuates the 19th and 173rd

- 1903 - 91st Highlanders
- 1904 - 91st Regiment Canadian Highlanders
- 1919 - The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada
- 1920 - Princess Louise's Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada
- 1927 - The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's)
- 1936 - The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's) (Machine Gun)
- 1941 - The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada

41st (The Byron Regiment) Australian Army



MILITARY BADGES OF THE SUTHERLAND'S

A Thistle wreath: within the wreath a circle inscribed **Byron Scottish**. within the circle the double cypher of H.R.H. the Princess Louise. To the left of the cypher the Boars head; to the right The Cat. Above the cypher, and on the circle, the coronet of the Princess.

The regiment is perpetuated in The Royal New South Wales Regiment.

1914 - raised as the 12th Infantry

1915 - The 12th (Byron) Infantry

1918 - Becomes the 2nd battalion the 41st Infantry (Byron Regiment) on amalgamation with the 35th Infantry Batt

1921 - Joins with 16th Field Ambulance to become 41st battalion

1929 - Joins with 2nd Bn to form 2nd/41st battalion#1937 - Unlinked to from 41st Battalion

1942 - 41st battalion Australian Imperial Force (AIF)

1943 - Linked with the 2nd battalion (AIF)

1945 - Disbanded

1948 - Re-raised as the 41st Infantry battalion, the Byron Scottish Regiment

1960 - Reduced to "E" Coy (The Byron Scottish Company) 1st g the Royal Queensland Regiment

1965 - Re-raised as 41st Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment

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Updated 28 July 2001



- (2) As above but with the scroll inscribed *South Africa 1900-02*. In white-metal (Fig. 1750).

9th (Glasgow Highland) Battalion

- (1) The Star of the Order of the Thistle. On the Star a thistle-wreath enclosing an oval inscribed *Nemo me impune lacessit* and surmounted by an Imperial crown. Within the oval St. Andrew and Cross. Across the top of the wreath a two-part scroll inscribed *Glasgow Highlanders* and a similar scroll at the base inscribed *9th Batt H.L.I.* with, between the two parts, the Sphinx on a blank tablet (Fig. 1751). In white-metal; also in silver-plate. Both types are found with the alternative spelling of *laccessit* and *laccesset*.
- (2) Similar to above but with longer scrolls, the top one inscribed *The Glasgow Highlanders* and the bottom *9th Bn H.L.I.* (Fig. 1752). For officers: St. Andrew and Cross and the title-scrolls in silver, remainder in gilt.

Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's)

5th (The Sutherland and Caithness Highland) Battalion

- (1) Within a strap inscribed *Sans peur* a cat-a-mountain. In white-metal (Fig. 1753).
- (2) Within a circlet inscribed *Sans peur* a cat-a-mountain. In white-metal (Fig. 1754).

Officers' badges

Subaltern: Within a strap inscribed *Sans peur* a cat-a-mountain, with one silver feather behind the strap (Fig. 1755).

Captain: As above but with two silver feathers (Fig. 1756).

Field officer: As above but with three silver feathers (Fig. 1757).

Full colonel: As above but with four silver feathers (Fig. 1758).

Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders)

8th (Argyllshire) Battalion

A circlet inscribed *Argyll and Sutherland*. Within the circlet the letter *L*, the cypher of the late Princess Louise, interlaced and reversed. Within the circlet and on the left of the cypher the Boar's Head and on the right of the Cypher the Cat. Above the cypher the Princess's coronet, the whole within a wreath of thistles. At the base, a scroll inscribed *8th A & SH*. In white-metal (Fig. 1759).





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THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS
 (Ross-shire Buffs Duke of Albany's)

1861:—	1st Admin Batt Ross-shire Rifle Volunteers	1864:—	1st Admin Batt Sutherland Rifle Volunteers
1880:—	1st Ross-shire (Ross Highland) Rifle Volunteers	1880:—	1st Sutherland (Sutherland Highland) Rifle Volunteers
1887:—	1st (Ross Highland) Volunteer Battalion Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs Duke of Albany's)	1908:—	5th (Sutherland & Caithness) Batt Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs Duke of Albany's) (TF)
1908:—	4th (Ross Highland) Batt Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs Duke of Albany's) (TF)		

72nd Highlanders
 O/R's Feather Bonnet
 Badge Brass QVC
 Pre 1881

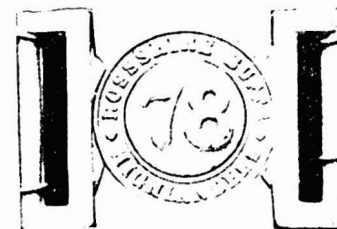
78th Highlanders
 O/R's Glengarry Badge
 Brass Pre 1881

78th (Ross-shire Buffs)
 O/R's Waist Belt Clasp
 Brass Pre 1881

1st Admin Batt Elginshire
 Rifle Volunteers
 Officers Helmet Plate
 Silver Plated QVC
 1879 - 1886

4th (Duchess Harriets) Coy
 (Rogart) Sutherland Rifle
 Volunteers
 Officers Pouch Belt Badge
 Silver Plated 1860 - 1863

1st Sutherland Highland Rifle
 Volunteers
 O/R's Glengarry Badge w.m.
 1880 - 1908
 (As The 5th Batt TF they still
 wear the same Badge)



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1747



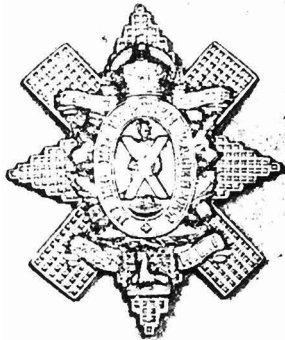
1748



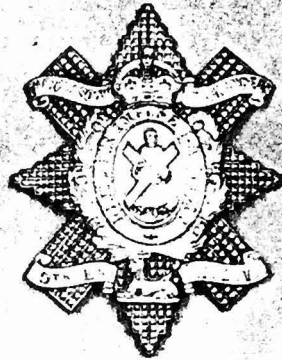
1749



1750



1751



1752



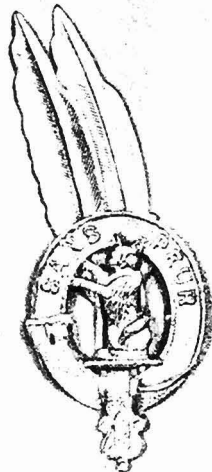
1753



1754



1755



1756



1757



1758



1759