



THE ROYAL BURG

# LANARK

EST 1140

## The Cameronians The Burgh & the Barracks



# The Cameronians

**The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)** can be traced back as far as 1689.

Richard Cameron, a Presbyterian, was an ordained minister in the Scots Kirk, and was branded a traitor for his religious teachings. He openly incited rebellion against King Charles II for religious prejudice, and during an ensuing battle with Government troops, he was killed at the Battle of Aird's Moss, Ayrshire, in 1680. His Covenanter followers were granted amnesty when King William II came to the throne, and the Cameronian Regiment was created from them. They can be traced back to 1689 when they were known as The Earl of Angus's Regiment (The Douglas family).

On joining the Cameronians, a bible was issued to each new recruit and every Cameronian carried it with his kit. This dates back to Richard Cameron, founder of the Regiment. The bible had the last four numbers of the soldier's army number stamped on inside back cover, and the Cameronian logo on the front.



In 1881, the amalgamation of the 1st Battalion 26th (The Cameronian) Regiment of Foot and the 2nd Battalion 90th Regiment of Foot (Perthshire Royal Volunteers Light Infantry), became **The Scottish Rifles**, and were based at Hamilton Barracks, which had originally been a Cavalry Barracks.

In 1891, permission was given for the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) to wear the Douglas Tartan, which they did from 1892.

The Cameronian badge, incorporates the **Douglas Star**, one of the oldest emblems in Scottish history, it is in fact a roundel, which is the wheel of a spur. It is flanked by a garland of five Scottish thistles on either side, and at the bottom is a bugle and ribbon, to signify that it is a Light Regiment (Rifle Regiment).

Hamilton Barracks fell into disrepair and the new Winston Barracks was to become their new home.

The Cameronian (Scottish Rifles) was renowned for being the fastest marching army in the country - 140 paces per minute. They were invited to take part in the Edinburgh Tattoo, and marched so quickly, they left everybody behind!



The Cameronian Badge



Douglas Tartan

## Winston Barracks

On 17th July 1937, the **War Office** bought a 55 acre site on Hyndford Road, Lanark, from Lanark Provost Magistrates and Councillors, for £773.3 shillings (15 pence in new money). This was to be the new Barracks to house the Cameronian (Scottish Rifles) Regiment, and the building costs were estimated at approximately £150,000.

Previously, the ground was farmed by local man Tom Hislop. This is a photo of Tom and his son Robert, working on the site which became Winston Barracks.



On the site, the War office built the new Winston Barracks. There were officers' quarters, non-commissioned officers' quarters, barracks blocks, stores, boiler houses, medical block, gymnasium and it also included an assault course and firing and rifle ranges. All mod cons for the times!

Most of the buildings were completed in 1939, with the complex totally finished in 1941.



Winston Barracks

In 2007, hidden in a wall of the main block, a broken bottle was found by workers. Inside the bottle was an envelope torn open, and this message had been written on the inside:

***'Greetings to whoever finds this bottle, this was inserted into the wall on the 2nd June 1939. Hitler is upsetting the peace of the world with his dictatorship!'***

Then three signatures:

John Fletcher, Edward Irons and Pat Quinn.

The envelope had been addressed to: Mr John Fletcher, c/o Mrs Paterson, 143 St Leonard Street, Lanark.

**How true was this message in the bottle!**



**The Cameronians** were just ready to move into their new headquarters in 1939, when the Second World War broke out.

Instead of it being home for the Cameronians, it became a primary training centre. The adjacent racecourse was also used during the war, as a training area, including practice trench-digging and overspill accommodation.

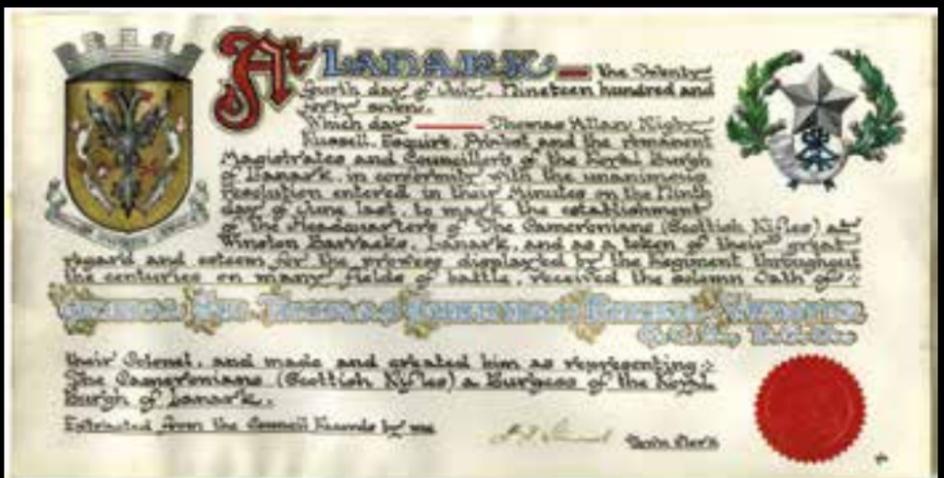
The regiment was abroad for a number of years and were renowned as fearsome fighters throughout the world.

They didn't take up residence in Winston Barracks until 1947.

# The Royal Burgh of Lanark

The Royal Burgh of Lanark welcomed the Regiment into their hearts when they returned in 1947. The Town Council unanimously approved that the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) be awarded the **Freedom of the Burgh**, and on Friday 24th July 1947 they were presented at Lanark Cross, in front of the Parish Church (St Nicholas Church), with a silver casket containing the **Burgess ticket**.

On the lid of the casket, the inscription reads:  
'Presented to General Sir Thomas S. Riddell-Webster, G.C.B., D.S.O., Colonel of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) by the Royal Burgh of Lanark, upon the occasion of the conferring of the **Freedom of the Burgh** on the Regiment. 24th July 1947. Thomas A. R. Russell, Provost'



The Burgess ticket



Silver casket



Receiving the Burgess ticket

# Rifleman Khan

Rifleman Khan, a German Shepherd dog known as War Dog 147, was also given the **Freedom of Lanark** that day, and led the parade through the town.

Khan was trained to find explosives and lived with a family in Surrey, but worked with Corporal Muldoon of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). During a battle at Walcheren Island near the port of Antwerp, the boat that Corporal Muldoon and Rifleman Khan was in, capsized under heavy fire. Khan swam for shore but Corporal Muldoon could not swim, and would surely have drowned. Amidst falling shells, Rifleman Khan swam back to pull Corporal Muldoon, his handler and friend to safety.



Jimmy and Khan



Khan leads parade in Lanark

In 1944, Khan was awarded the Dickin medal. The Dickin medal **'is awarded to animals that have displayed conspicuous gallantry or devotion to duty while serving or associated with any branch of the Armed Forces or Civil Defence Units'**.

Khan was returned to his family in Surrey, but was reunited with Corporal Muldoon, when they led the parade of Dickin medal winners in the National Dog Tournament.

The bond between Khan and Jimmy Muldoon was so strong and obvious, that his owners gave Khan to Jimmy for permanent care. They lived out their lives together in Strathaven.



Jimmy and Khan

There was a great relationship between Lanarkians, the Cameronians and the Barracks.

There were numerous 'canteens' set up in the town for the soldiers eg: the church halls and Kingdom Hall in the High Street.

At Winston Barracks, a Christmas party was held every year for all the children of the military personnel and the children of the civilian workers.

This photo was taken in front of the large fireplace in the Sergeant's Mess.



**A memory:** on a Friday the Regiment marched from the Barracks and returned marching up the High Street, winking at the girls on route!

There were local dances in Lanark Memorial Hall, the Loch Palais, and on a Friday night at Winston Barracks. Indeed, many a romance blossomed and even led to marriage within the Burgh and beyond!



This is photo of local girl Sarah Hislop, known as Cissie, with her husband Roy Swiffen in Cameronian uniform, taken in Castlegate, Lanark on Lanimer Day 1954.

Cissie and Roy met at local dance hall, The Loch Palais and married in St Kentigerns Church, Lanark in February 1954.

**A memory:** on a Thursday, which was the Merchants' Holiday in Lanark, the Rookies (the new arrivals), arrived into Lanark station and had to march out to the Barracks.

The young ladies of the town, not working on a Thursday, would do a bike ride out Hyndford Road to have a look at the new 'talent'. It was believed that if one of the new recruits was wearing brown shoes he must be well off!



# Lanark Golf Club has a long association with the Cameronian (Scottish Rifles)

## Army Cup

In 1893 Lieutenant Colonel Gray-Buchanan Commanding Officer, presented the Army Cup to the officers of the 3rd and 4th Battalions for an annual competition. At the time the Regiment was camped on Lanark Moor which eventually formed part of the current golf course, between the 2nd hole and the practice ground.

Upon disbandment of the Regiment in 1968 the cup was held in the Regimental Museum in Hamilton, until 1983, when it was handed over to Lanark Golf Club for safe-keeping. Since 1984 it has been awarded to the winner of an annual invitation of a foursome competition. (Silloth format)



Army Cup

Cameronian Bowl

Winston Trophy

Aitken Trophy

## Cameronian Bowl

In 1947 Colonel Buchanan Dunlop presented this trophy to Lanark Golf Club. Currently it is a 36 hole event played over two days.

## Winston Trophy

In 1945 this trophy was presented by No 5 Army Physical Training Corps in thanks for the courtesy of using the course, whilst stationed at Winston Barracks.

## Aitken Trophy

In 1947 Mr William Aitken presented this trophy for foursome play, amongst pairings, from members of the Club and military personnel from Winston Barracks. Nowadays the Territorial Army and members of the now disbanded Cameronian Regiment make up the team from the military.

On 1st April 1952, The Commander of the Regiment at Winston Barracks Major Sir Edward M. A. Bradford, was killed in a horse riding accident at Lockerbie. He was buried at Lanark Cemetery, with full military honours.



**An old soldier's memory:** rough outline of my time at Winston Barracks as a National service man.



Raymond Kelly in Malaya

Living in New Lanark in 1952, I received a letter stating that under the National Service Act, I was to report to the Cameronian Scottish Rifles Depot at Winston Barracks on the 7th February 1952.

There were about 14 recruits in the squad and a corporal in charge of the room and we were issued our uniforms and kit.

Next we were led to the bedding store to be issued with blankets, sheets and pillow-cases. Further essentials was a cutlery set of knife, fork and spoon ('eating irons') and mess tins, a small wallet called a house wife containing thread and some sewing needles, boots, socks and pyjamas. We were also given a small Bible.

The corporal was an old soldier and told us what to do: shine up the brass on our equipment, blanco it, shine up our boots and how to iron our uniform, (the tartan trousers were a bit of surprise). I made friends with two Glasgow chaps, one of whom died of wounds later on

in Malaya. Next morning we were taken to the arms store and given a rifle covered in grease and a bayonet: the rifle had to be completely cleaned and was later inspected by an officer.

Next day we began rifle training and drill. Later on we went to the rifle range: we were told how to lie on the ground, aim at the target and fire. The noise was deafening and the sergeant and corporal were screaming at us when we missed the target, but in the end everyone passed. Maybe by the promise that whoever got a bull's eye got a shilling.



Winston Barracks Parade ground

I lived just two miles from the barracks and some nights me and my two pals asked if we could go for a run, we changed into P.T. kit and jogged down to my parent's house, got our tea and jogged back to the barracks. After our training we passed out. Marching behind the pipe band at the regimental march at 180 steps a minute, we felt proud as punch.

During my training at Winston Barracks the commanding officer died, I think it was an accident horse riding. We had to attend the full Military funeral in Lanark Cemetery.

## Presentation of Pipe Banners



Royal Burgh of Lanark Pipe Banner presented to Cameronians

On a sunny afternoon, on Saturday 23rd April 1960, eight new Pipe Banners were presented to the Cameronian (Scottish Rifles) from Lanarkshire County Council, and seven of the Burghs of Lanarkshire: the Royal Burghs of Lanark and Rutherglen, and the Burghs of Airdrie, Biggar, Coatbridge, Hamilton and Wishaw.

It was reported at the time as being a most impressive ceremony, at the bottom of Lanark in front of the Parish Church (St Nicholas), under the gaze of William Wallace from the steeple and with the streets decorated with bunting.

At the end of the ceremony, the Colonel of the Regiment, General Horatius Murray, addressed the spectators and guests.

'We have just witnessed the presentation of the Pipe-Banners to the 1st Battalion, the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). These banners will provide an essential link between the County and the 1st Battalion, which we in the Regiment will deeply cherish.'



Presentation of Pipe Banners

These are lines of poem, written by a lady in Lanark, who was present at the Banners ceremony.

### Another link forged

A day, long to remember,  
In the history of the Town,  
The day, the Cameronians  
And bands, came marching down,  
Everything in rhythm,  
Each spat, each step, each line,  
The Regiment - a credit,  
Proud joy may well entwine.

And as the years go forward, in many a different clime,  
The thoughts may often linger,  
On this historic time.

*A small token of gratitude from a Lanarkian - signed  
Maisie Martin*



On Wednesday 29th July 1953, the Queen and Prince Philip arrived in Lanark by train from Edinburgh. The Cameronian (Scottish Rifles) was the Guard of Honour and was inspected by Her Majesty.

In 1961 the Royal Highland Fusiliers also moved to Winston Barracks. In 1964 both Regiments moved to Glencorse Barracks, Edinburgh.

# Disbandment of the Cameronian (Scottish Rifles) Regiment

On returning home in 1967 from a two year tour abroad, it was announced that the Cameronian (Scottish Rifles) Battalion was to be disbanded due to Government defence cuts.

Since 1947 the Battalion had only been stationed at home for about three years, a fine record of overseas service probably unequalled by any other Regiment.



Cameronian flag

The disbandment parade to mark the occasion, in the form of a Conventicle, was held on the 14th May 1968 at Castle Dangerous Douglas Dale. The area, fittingly where the Cameronian Regiment was created in 1689, and culminated with almost 300 years of service to the Crown.

Appropriately the salute was taken by the then Earl of Angus, the 14th Duke of Hamilton (1903-1973).

**Any man should be proud to say 'I served in the Cameronians'.**

Colour Sergeant Bill Tilley was given permission to wear his Cameronian uniform for an extra ten days while acting batman to Lord Reith, Lord High Commissioner at the General Assembly.



Lone farewell of the last Cameronian, Bill Tilley

# The Cameronians, the Burgh and the Barracks

A bond will always be between the Cameronian Regiment, Winston Barracks, (their home in Lanark), and the Royal Burgh of Lanark.

- Lanark Golf Club has a Cameronian Lounge overlooking the 18th hole
- Lanark Golf Club has trophies donated for, or by the Regiment, with tournaments being played annually
- There is a street in Lanark named Cameronian Court
- Quinn Court - local resident requested that her grandfather's surname is used in a street in the Barracks development as he was a member/fought for the Cameronians
- The Roundabout at Winston Barracks was named 'The Cameronian Roundabout' on 10th November 2018
- On 18th May 2019 five sculptures were unveiled. Silhouettes of four Cameronian soldiers in various uniforms and the cap badge, stand on the grass verge beside the Cameronian Roundabout



Naming of the Cameronian Roundabout 10/11/18



The Cameronians in front of refurbished Winston Barracks 2018



Royal Burgh of Lanark Coat of Arms



Cameronian Badge

## Thank you to:

Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and Families Association; Douglas Heritage Museum, Douglas; South Lanarkshire Leisure Low Parks Museum, Hamilton; South Lanarkshire Council; Lanark Golf Club; Lanark Library; Hamilton Library; Lanark Museum; Peter Magnus of Stallan-Brand and Jim Murdoch, Carluke.

Photos courtesy of : Douglas Torrance, Raymond Kelly, Edward Boyle, Tom Hislop, the Swiffen family, Nan Kirk, John Prior, Daily Record, Lanark Golf Club and South Lanarkshire Leisure Low Parks Museum, Hamilton.

## Many thanks to everyone for their memories.

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For more information on The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) or the story of South Lanarkshire, visit Low Parks Museum, 129 Muir Street, Hamilton ML3 6BJ - free entry or visit the Cameronians website:

[www.sllccameronians.co.uk](http://www.sllccameronians.co.uk)

Douglas Heritage Museum, Bells Wynd, Douglas, Lanarkshire ML 0QH, the link between the Douglas family and the Cameronian Regiment.

(Opening times: Easter to end of September, Saturday and Sunday from 2pm-5pm or visits by appointment. Telephone 01555 851243

## Toilets available for use by the public

- South Lanarkshire Council offices, South Vennel
- South Lanarkshire Leisure Harry Smith Centre, South Lanarkshire Leisure Swimming Pool, both in Thomas Taylor Avenue, behind Rail and Bus Station
- Morrisons, St Vincent Place
- Tolbooth, High Street
- Lanark Library, Hope Street
- Tesco, Gallowhill Road
- Memorial Hall, St Leonards Street

## Where is Lanark?

Lanark is 25 miles southeast of Glasgow and 28 miles southwest of Edinburgh. From Glasgow and Edinburgh follow the M8 to junction 6 and then the A73 via Newmains and Carluke. Alternatively follow the M74 south to junction 7 and then the A72 to Lanark by the Clyde Valley tourist route.

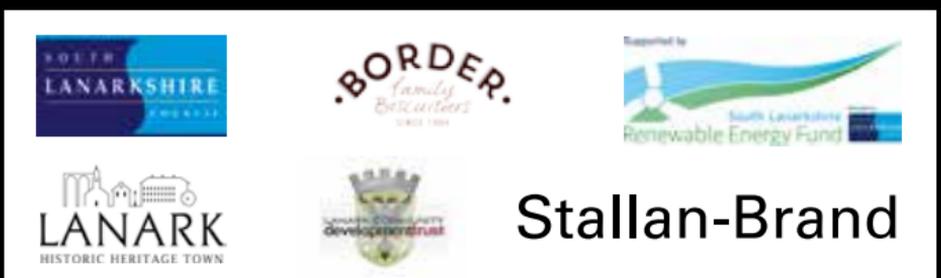
## By train

From Glasgow Central via Motherwell. From Edinburgh Waverley to nearest town, Carluke or Carstairs, then bus link to Lanark. More details: [www.scotrail.co.uk](http://www.scotrail.co.uk) and [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

## By bus

Lanark is connected to other Lanarkshire towns and Glasgow by an excellent bus network. More details: [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

Thanks to Eleanor McLean



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