



**THE
STORY OF THE FLAGS**

*Being an Account of the Colours of the
15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th Battalions,
The Highland Light Infantry,
now deposited in the
Glasgow Cathedral*



THE ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (Glasgow)



P.S. The Block of the Caledonian
boar and that of the poppies
are my own designs. J.E.H.

45 WEST NILE STREET
GLASGOW, C.1.

16th January 1933.

Harry Lumsden, Esq., LL, B.
Clerk.
The Trades House of Glasgow.

My dear Mr Lumsden,

Will you please accept of my
most sincere thanks for your great kindness in
sending me a copy of the catalogue of books in
the Trades House Library, a kindness which I very
much appreciate.

I had no idea that the bookcase contain-
ed so many interesting volumes to which, no
doubt, many additions have been made since the
catalogue was printed.

The catalogue makes more poignant than
ever, my great regret at the foolish, ill-con-
ceived, altogether maladroit, interference with
the Library of the House, and the eviction there-
from of the bookcase to make of the apartment
what is merely a useless unit of the suite.

I wonder whether the enclosed brochure
will be of any interest to you? In a search
the other day, I came across a few remaining cop-
ies, and I will be delighted if you will accept
of this one as a souvenir of one event in the
life of our great city.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

J.W. Peacock

Collector.

With the author's compliments
J.W. Peacock

The Story of the Flags

Being an Account of the Colours of the 15th, 16th, 17th,
and 18th Battalions, The Highland Light Infantry,
now deposited in Glasgow Cathedral

THIS an old and true adage which says that the flag is the
soul of the regiment and that so long as the flag exists
the regiment never dies. It may, at the end of a terrific
struggle between rival peoples, or for national economic
reasons, throw off its corporate existence, but it retains its
immortality in our stormy national story. Yet, when the
clarion call "To Arms!" went forth to the manhood of our
nation, and the creation of the new army went rapidly for-
ward, the British War Office, with that fatuous ineptitude and
contempt of sentiment which has so peculiarly characterised
it, decreed that no new formation should be permitted to
bear colours or possess a band of musicians. The St. Andrew
Society (Glasgow), however, held different views, and at a
Meeting of Council called specially for the purpose, remitted
to their British Services Committee very definite instructions
to use every available means in an effort to have rescinded
this very stupid War Office decree, for which, it is with
considerable reason believed, the late Lord Kitchener was
primarily responsible.

Those of us who witnessed the scene will never forget
that memorable dark, drizzling day in the late autumn of
1914, when the newly formed 2nd City of Glasgow Battalion,
The Highland Light Infantry, as the battalion was then
designated, marched from St. Andrew's Halls via Sauchiehall
Street to their first Review Parade in George Square, where

they were presented to Lord Provost Stevenson and the Magistrates and Corporation of Glasgow, a complete unit, not in being only, but in actual existence. This glorious band of brothers, ex-members of the Boys' Brigade, marched bare-headed and in civilian attire, not to beat of drum and thrilling skirl of the pipes of war, nor to the sound of the brazen-throated battle trumpet, but to the heaven-given music of their own young voices as they sang those anthems of the modern Scottish crusader, "Annie Laurie" and "The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond."

Possessing no banners of their own, they paraded that day under the King's and Company Colours of the 5th Glasgow Company of the Boys' Brigade which had been presented to the Company at Cathcart Castle the previous year by Mrs. Cameron Black of Crosshill. And after all, when one considers the composition of the battalion, it was a wise inspiration that caused the Colours of the senior colour-bearing company of the Boys' Brigade, whose Captain became the Major of the battalion, to be used at the first official parade of the Boys' Brigade, Battalion of H.L.I., the first occasion, perhaps, since 1707 on which the national flag of the Scottish people has been displayed on parade by a battalion of Scottish Infantry.

Meantime, the Convener of the British Services Committee of the St. Andrew Society (Glasgow) had set about carrying out the terms of his remit. A long correspondence with the Army Council and with the Secretary of State for War, ensued. Questions were asked in the House of Commons, letters to the editors, and paragraphs innumerable appeared in the public press, but without avail. With wooden-headed stubbornness the Army Council refused to be moved. They declined to recognise the sentimental pride, failed to realise the sublime effect which a flag, if only a tiny piece of printed cotton, will create in the soul of a soldier; a pride and effect wonderfully exemplified by the 7th Camerons when at Loos they followed into the reality of a terrestrial hell a fragment of tartan torn from a regimental kilt and displayed from a branch wrenched from a shell-riven shrub that grew on the battle ground.

The reasons advanced by the War Lords for their adamant refusal were puerile and childish. Proper material, it was alleged, could not be obtained. It was necessary to exercise economy in men and material, etc. The St. Andrew Society met these excuses by a definite guarantee to procure gifts of Colours to the three civic battalions then forming, but the offer was contemptuously rejected on the ground that only the King can present Colours to a British regiment. In reply, the Convener of the Society's British Services Committee pointed out to the Army Council that precedents innumerable existed where British regiments were presented with Colours by others than the Sovereign. That indeed it was a very usual and ancient custom for even private individuals to provide, at their private cost, Colours not only for newly raised, but also for old established regiments, whereas the intention of the St. Andrew Society was that the Colours which they offered would be gifted through public bodies. Still the Army Council remained obdurate.

Recognising that no concession from the War Office was to be hoped for at that time, yet determined that Glasgow's civic battalions should not lack battle flags to hand down to posterity as historic and visible memorials of their regimental existence, the Convener of the B.S. Committee adopted another line of action and advised his Council that they themselves should prepare and gift to the Corporation of Glasgow a stand of Colours for the then 1st City of Glasgow Battalion H.L.I. (The Tramway Battalion), and that the Committees of the Trades House of Glasgow and of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce should be invited to prepare and gift similar stands of Colours to the 2nd and 3rd civic battalions respectively.

Several members of Council of the St. Andrew Society expressed the opinion that it was useless proceeding further in the matter, since the obdurate attitude of the War Office made success seem hopeless, but in the end the B.S. Convener's proposals were approved of and he was directed to carry on.

When matters had reached this stage, the Manager of the Glasgow Corporation Tramways—James Dalrymple, C.B.E.

—who was most enthusiastic and indefatigable in everything that affected the Tramway Battalion, approached the then President of the St. Andrew Society—Mr. George Eyre-Todd—and advanced the suggestion that the creation of the Tramway Battalion afforded the Society an excellent opportunity of providing at least one Scottish battalion with a stand of national flags correctly designed and made. The President heartily approved of the suggestion, and explained what had already been done towards the end in view.

No time was lost in laying the scheme before the Deacon-Convener of the Trades House, Mr. William Beattie, and Mr. Montague Baird, Chairman of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce. Both gentlemen took up the scheme warmly. Mr. Baird agreed to gift Colours to the 17th Battalion on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce as a personal contribution towards the equipment of the battalion, and the Platform of the Trades House requested the B.S. Committee of the St. Andrew Society to prepare a stand of Colours on their behalf for presentation to the 16th Battalion.

Under the direction of the Heraldry and British Services Committees of the Society, designs were immediately prepared by Graham Johnston, Heraldic Artist to the Court of the Lord Lyon, Edinburgh, for two stands of Colours, that is for the 15th and 16th Battalions respectively, and the actual making and embroidery of the flags were placed in the hands of Misses MacBeth and Arthur of the Glasgow School of Art.

Meantime, Mr. Montague Baird had entered into correspondence with the War Office anent his proposed gift of Colours to the 17th Battalion, and had designs for such Colours prepared, but he met with a similar stern refusal to that received by the St. Andrew Society. Mr. Baird then intimated to the Convener of the B.S. Committee that he could not, in view of the War Office attitude, proceed any further in the matter. Shortly after this Mr. Baird unfortunately died, and the question of providing flags for the 17th fell into abeyance for a time. But Sir Archibald MacInnes Shaw, Colonel John Roxburgh and other members of the Chamber of Commerce, and no less Mr. Thomas

Cameron, Clerk to the Chamber, were enthusiastically determined that War Office or no War Office, their battalion should be provided with Colours, and so they arranged with the Convener, British Services Committee, of the St. Andrew Society for the making of the flags. Again the designs were prepared by Graham Johnston, but the banners were made and embroidered by Miss Heatley of Mr. Johnston's department.

By this time the 18th Battalion H.L.I. (The Bantams) had been raised, and the Convener of the British Services Committee of the St. Andrew Society, feeling that something of a stepmother's attitude would be shewn by the citizens of Glasgow if the little heroes were not provided with regimental banners corresponding to those possessed by their bigger brothers, presented to them a stand of Colours as a personal gift, but in name of the Scottish Shipmasters' Association of which body he had been President for many years. These flags were likewise designed by Graham Johnston and made and embroidered by Miss Heatley.

The Colours of the 15th, 16th and 18th Battalions were formally presented to the Corporation of Glasgow in the Banqueting Hall of the City Chambers in the presence of representatives of the three battalions and of important public bodies, together with a large number of ladies.

Then followed a long correspondence between the Town Clerk of Glasgow and the War Office relative to permission for the battalions to carry the flags. The War Office for a long time stuck stubbornly to their refusal, though in the end they gave way so far as to permit the banners to be carried by the battalions as "flags," but they were not to be carried in "Review Order" as Colours—mark the fine distinction—nor were they to be accorded the "Honours" usually accorded to Colours on parade.

After having been displayed once or twice at public functions in the Banqueting Hall of the City Chambers, and once in company with those of the 17th Battalion—at the last service on the anniversary of the outbreak of war—in Glasgow Cathedral, where they were displayed in front of the organ loft, the Colours of the 15th and 16th were taken to

their battalions in France, and were carried by them on their advance into Germany.

The Colours of the 17th and 18th were never carried on service, these battalions having, as a consequence of terrific losses due to their dauntless valour, been broken up and such few men as remained transferred to other units some time before the armistice. The flags of the 17th remained in the custody of the Chamber of Commerce until they were deposited in the Cathedral Church of Glasgow, while those of the 18th remained in possession of the Corporation.

On the return of the 15th and 16th to Scotland, their Colours were returned to the Corporation, and, together with those of the 18th Battalion, were consigned to the cellars of the City Chambers where they remained until April, 1922.

The negotiations for the rescue of the Colours from this unworthy resting place and their removal to the Cathedral originated in a conversation between the Convener of the British Services Committee and Mr. James Dalrymple, C.B.E., at a function of the St. Andrew Society, when both agreed to make every possible effort to have the banners deposited in St. Mungo's ancient Church. Much spade work had to be done, and many meetings held, but in the end the Colours were delivered into the custody of the Minister and Kirk Session of Glasgow Cathedral on the afternoon of Sunday, 5th November, 1922.

The banners of each of the four battalions are made of British woven silk and embroidered in bullion and silk with bullion and silk fringes, cords and tassels. They are heraldically correct and uniform in size and design, save, of course, for the difference in titular number, and the coat of arms embroidered on the base triangle of the regimental colour. Each of the banners is borne on a mahogany pole surmounted by the Lion sejant, the Royal Crest of Scotland. It is believed that these four battalions were the first Scottish troops since the Union, maybe the first in all time, to display on their Colour poles the crest of the King of Scots, as it is likewise believed that they were the first infantry battalions since the Union to carry the national banner of Scotland as a Regimental Colour.

The King's Colour or Union is of the usual army pattern but having the crosses of St. George and St. Patrick and the titular circlet blazoned in scarlet instead of crimson.

The Regimental Colour is the ancient national flag of the Scottish people. Each bears embroidered on the top triangle the badge of the Highland Light Infantry. The Colours of the 15th and 18th bear on the lower triangle the Arms of the City of Glasgow, that of the 16th bears the Arms of the Trades House of Glasgow, an old but bad form of the City's Arms, and that of the 17th bears the Arms of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.

The Roman numerals I, II, and IV, placed within the titular circlets of the Colours of the 15th, 16th and 18th battalions respectively, may appear a little puzzling, but the explanation is a simple one. When the 15th and 16th Battalions were raised, they were at first given the titles of First and Second City of Glasgow Battalions The Highland Light Infantry, and this designation they bore at the time the flags were made. Similarly the 17th and 18th Battalions were generally known as the 3rd and 4th Glasgow. But very strong objections to these numbers were raised not only by the two line battalions of the regiment, but by the territorial battalions likewise, with the result that the new formations were numbered 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th respectively, and these numbers were subsequently embroidered on the upper part of the left limb of the Scottish saltire by Miss Mary Henderson of 5 West Regent Street, Glasgow. In the case of the 17th, the correct number is borne in the centre of the circlets, this number having been bestowed upon the battalions before the Colours were made.

Prior to the march to the Rhine, an edict emanated from the War Office under which certain service battalions were supplied with a Union flag. Of very inferior material and workmanship, they are glaring examples of uniformity and economy run mad, and betoken to the man in the street a fear on the part of the War Office shoguns that if better were given the service battalions would, by their Colours, be placed on an equality of status with the regular units, a

jealousy that was blatantly apparent from the first creation of the service battalions.

Supplied by the score from the Ordnance Department, they are paltry affairs which resemble nothing so much as joy-flags at a Sunday School excursion. Without titular markings of any kind, when issued to the units entitled to receive them, they are mounted on pine sticks without the dignity of a crest, but furnished with a spear head which still further accentuates their resemblance to a child's toy. Any one flag might belong to any battalion or regiment: they could be chopped and changed about and no one be the wiser. Flags of this type were supplied to the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th H.L.I., and funny caricatures of Colours they are. Without regimental designation or battalion number for identification, present or future, no man could tell which was which, and, as a matter of fact, it is not known with any degree of certainty whether the two Ordnance Store Unions now placed with the Colours of the 15th and 16th H.L.I. belonged originally to these battalions, or to some other Scottish or English unit.

Ordnance Store Unions (King's Colours) were handed over to the 15th and 16th battalions H.L.I. on parades of these battalions at the Hofgarten, Bonn University, when they were holding the Cologne Bridge Head on the Rhine. On the return of the battalions to this country, these flags were placed in store at Maryhill from whence they were retrieved during the summer of 1922, and apparently that is all that is known of them.

After their receipt, however, the Ordnance Store flags issued to the 15th and 16th H.L.I. had titular circlets embroidered on them by Miss Mary Henderson, Glasgow, the cost thereof being defrayed respectively by friends of the "Tramway Battalion" and by the Platform of the Trades House of Glasgow.

The Ordnance Store Union given to the 18th H.L.I. was handed over on the return of "all that was left of them" from service in France in 1919. The lady friends of the ex-officers of the battalion raised sufficient money among themselves—all praise be to them for their gracious act—and had titular

circlets embroidered on the flag passed on to "The Bantams" by a generous (!) War Office.

The Commissioners of His Majesty's Office of Works and Public Buildings, having consented to the depositing in the Cathedral of the Colours of the 15th, 16th and 18th, there along with similar regimental emblems, to enshrine the patriotism and the valour of the men of Sanct Mungo's town who fought and conquered in the Great War. And the Minister and Kirk Session of the Cathedral being willing to accept their custody, it was determined to make the occasion of their delivery an act of high symbolism associated with an appropriate ceremonial parade from the City Chambers to the High Church, and so mark this last public act of the battalions with the importance which it deserved.

At 1.15 on the afternoon of Sunday, 5th November, 1922, representatives of all ranks who had served in either of the three battalions, together with the Band of the 1st Battalion, specially brought from Edinburgh for the occasion and wearing scarlet uniforms, assembled in the Quadrangle of the City Chambers, the Colour Party assembling five minutes later in the main Entrance Hall. Lt.-Col. Robert Kyle, C.M.G., D.S.O., 16th H.L.I., acted as Marshall and Lt.-Col. George Brown as Assistant-Marshall. On the Bugler sounding the "Advance," the battalions moved out of the Quadrangle—18th leading—into George Street and thence to the main front of the City Chambers in George Square, where they were halted. The 15th were represented by about 300 men, the 16th by 400 and the 18th by 150, a total of about 850. The Colour Party now advanced from the main entrance of the City Chambers and took up position between the 16th and 18th battalions, the respective Colours being borne by the following officers:—

15TH BATT. H.L.I.

Captain J. C. Thomson, 1st Union Flag.
Captain A. W. Cave, M.C., 2nd Union Flag.
Lieut. E. W. Miller, Battalion Flag.

16TH BATT. H.L.I.

Lieut. Robert Wylie, M.M., 1st Union Flag.
Lieut. Harry Cross, M.M., 2nd Union Flag.
Lieut. James Miller, Battalion Flag.

18TH BATT. H.L.I.

Captain James Barrie, 1st Union Flag.

Captain A. C. Balfour, 2nd Union Flag.

Captain Leslie Duncan, Battalion Flag.

Promptly at 1.30 p.m. the Parade moved off from George Square in the following order, marching via George Street and High Street to Cathedral Square :—

Mounted Police.

Band of 1st Batt. H.L.I. playing the Regimental March.

15th Batt. H.L.I.

16th Batt. H.L.I.

Colour Party and Escort, with Colours at the "Carry."

18th Batt. H.L.I.

The Lord-Lieutenant (Lord Provost Sir Thomas Paxton, Bart.), supported on his right by Major-General Granville Egerton, C.B., Colonel of the Highland Light Infantry, and on his left by Colonel Prentice, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding 1st Batt. H.L.I.

Officers of Regular and Territorial battalions.

Magistrates of the City and Members of the Corporation.

Representatives of the University, of the Trades House, of the Scottish Shipmasters' Association and of the St. Andrew Society (Glasgow).

Representative Citizens of Glasgow.

Officers of Territorial battalions.

Lord Lieutenant's Escort of Mounted Police.

On arriving at the Cathedral gate, the Band advanced inside and took up position on the left while the remainder of the Parade came to a halt. The 15th formed two deep and opened ranks, thus creating a lane which was prolonged by the 16th making a similar movement. The 18th battalion forming two deep and "open ranks" moved to both sides of the Colour Party and closing on the left flank of the 16th further prolonged the lane. The Lord Lieutenant and party then moved forward up the lane and when they were about three paces off the Colour Party the latter stepped off, the Band playing the Regimental March. All moved along the lane through the gateway to the West Entrance of the Cathedral and up the centre aisle to the Chancel. When the Colour Party and the Lord-Lieutenant and party had moved into the Cathedral, the sides of the lane closed, turned, and

moved in file through the gateway into the Cathedral. These later movements became somewhat difficult owing to the dense crowds of enthusiastic onlookers, but the police escort were able to close up and keep the way reasonably clear.

Inconvenient for the men on parade may have been the massed density of human beings who lined the way from the City Chambers and filled Cathedral Square. But who could blame their anxiety to witness the last act in a sublime drama, remembering that the Highland Light Infantry in all its many battalions is to the citizens of Glasgow flesh of their flesh and bone of their bone. The locus of the Parade. The drab November Sunday in 1922, with its leaden sky, its cold biting wind, and its spitting raindrops as the men moved off from George Square, awakened by their vivid likeness of things, haunting memories, many painful yet all intensely proud, of that other dreary day eight years earlier, when the first of our civic battalions paraded in the same spot—a spot now hallowed by memory of them—and freely offered their services, their lives, to the City and the Empire; the first scene as it were in a long drawn-out drama of self-abnegating sacrifice and glorious adventure, just as this latter Parade aptly portrayed the final setting in the last act. And yet as an eye-witness of both scenes, I saw much in the latter that was different. The men were older and of sterner visage. There were absent the spiritual looks which on that earlier day shewn forth from their youthful countenances, and the happy boyish laughter and song that made light of every hardship and cheered them as they marched sans Band, sans uniform, sans Colours, sans everything that betokens the soldier except that indescribable thing, a heroic soul. The last parade was one of veteran soldiers who had dared much, suffered much, and accomplished much. On this latter occasion wearing the decorations that they had so nobly won, they marched under their battle-flags to the voice of the strident trumpet and to the beat of the warlike drum. Yes! a difference was there.

The officiating Clergy at the Service within the Cathedral prior to the acceptance of the Colours were the late Rev. James MacGibbon, M.C., D.D., Minister of the Cathedral,

and the Rev. Alexander Moffat, B.D., Minister of Anderston Parish Church. The Service opened by singing the 145th Psalm (Second Version) to the tune "Duke Street," and on the conclusion of the second Psalm—Old 124th (Second Version)—Dr. MacGibbon ascended the pulpit and addressed the men thus:—

"Patches of colour on these grey walls with the deepened tint of seven centuries, these flags of the 15th, 16th and 18th Battalions of the H.L.I. are welcome, were it only for their brightness. Lilies of the field introduced into the Father's Home lest age should make the Home too sombre; for Christ meant Religion to be touched with joy. We welcome them as an addition to our treasures of the same kind, banners of a distinguished Scottish regiment. We have already old Colours of the H.L.I., of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, of the Scots Guards, and of the Cameronians (late Scottish Rifles). Each with its hallowed associations, each appealing specially to the heart of the true soldier who honours all, but is thrilled by the name of the regiment which he proudly calls his own.

"But there is something distinctive about the Colours which we receive to-day. Along with the Colours of the 17th Battalion which were presented earlier in the year, they stand as parables of extra service. The battalions which they represent were raised as additional battalions to a regiment—already proved in valour—identified more closely than any other with the City of Glasgow, whose ranks were already supplied with men. They represent, we venture to say, the overflow of Glasgow's loyalty. Men who, had they wished to evade military service, could have pardonably pled that their services at home were indispensable. Men who nobly resented exemption or disqualification, determined undaunted to take their share in the hazard and the hardship which the times demanded.

"Of the Highland Light Infantry as a whole, their services, and the colossal cost involved in the Great War, this is not the time to speak. Opportunity will come before long, when the Memorial of the Regiment, now in preparation, is set and dedicated in this place. Enough to say that in

November, 1914, they received from a great General the signal compliment, 'There is no position which the H.L.I. cannot capture,' and the four new battalions strove to maintain that high repute.

"As permanent parables of Glasgow's extra service we receive them into the city's oldest sanctuary, emblems of that something more than custom or law demands which sweetens and quickens life. The something more which the man of honour feels he dare not withhold when God and country require it rendered in no bravado, but in that fine spirit of humility enjoined by our great Captain Christ. 'When ye shall have done all these things which are commanded ye say we are unprofitable servants. We have done that which was our duty to do.'"

During the singing of the Hymn beginning "Lord of all power and might" and founded on the text "In the name of the Lord we will set up our banners," which followed Dr. MacGibbon's Address, the Colour Party advanced up the centre aisle and took up position in line in front of the Chancel steps, the Colours of the 15th being on the right of the line, the Colour Escort in rear of the Colours. At the conclusion of the Hymn, the congregation remained standing while the Band of the 1st Battalion played the Regimental March followed by "Auld Langsyne."

The strains of this grand old melody ended, a melody sacred to the heart of every Scot, Dr. MacGibbon, addressing the Officers and Colour Party, said:—

"Gentlemen, Officers in command of the 15th, 16th and 18th battalions of the Highland Light Infantry—I as Minister of the High Church of Glasgow, and Moderator of the Session thereof, gratefully accept guardianship of these Colours which you have so graciously presented. To them, within the walls of this venerable cathedral, shall be accorded the honour and reverence which is their due, as the standards of battalions which eminently proved their valour in the Great War, and as a memorial of those citizens of our city who loyally rendered service to their country in their country's need."

Thereafter the Colours were handed over to Dr. MacGibbon,

who received them individually on behalf of the Kirk Session of the Cathedral, and laid each reverently on the Communion Table, one on top of the other as he received it, and in such manner as to display the banner in front of the congregation, until finally, and not perhaps without symbolic, though unintentional, significance, the battalion Colour of the junior battalion, the 18th, the younger brethren so to speak, lay on top and in front, displaying in all its artistic beauty of heraldic symbolism the national banner of the Scottish people, charged in chief with the Badge of the H.L.I. and in base with the Arms of the City of Glasgow.*

The various banners were handed over by the following officers who received them from the Colour Bearers in order of battalion seniority thus:—

15TH BATTALION.

1st Union Flag (Ordnance Store) by Major John Grant.
2nd Union Flag (The St. Andrew Society) by Col. F. J. Stevenson, V.D.
Battalion Flag " " " " "

16TH BATTALION.

1st Union Flag (Ordnance Store) by Lt. Col. R. Kyle, C.M.G., D.S.O.
2nd Union Flag (Trades House of Glasgow) by Col. D. Laidlaw, V.D., T.D.
Battalion Flag " " " " "

18TH BATTALION.

1st Union Flag (Ordnance Store) by Lt. Col. V. E. Gooderson, D.S.O.
2nd Union Flag (Scottish Shipmasters) " "
Battalion Flag " " " "

The banners were received on behalf of H.M. Office of Works
by J. Wilson Paterson, Esq., A.R.I.B.A.

The Second Paraphrase sung, the Benediction said, and a few moments of silent prayer, followed by the glorious soul-stirring trumpet notes of "Scots Wha Hae" reverberating again and again through the arched aisles of Saint Mungo's ancient fane as if conveying a message of eternal remembrance to our immortal heroes in the spirit world, brought to an end the last public act of those superbly magnificent battalions who by their glorious and inextinguishable battle record of undying gallantry have set a still higher standard of chivalry and honour to the youth of the Scottish nation, and have

proved themselves worthy of the great city which brought them into being. Autocrats and officials may regulate and order as they will, but human nature and human sentiment will ever remain the same down the aeons of time. The rather stupid and inane attempt of the War Office junta to create a wide distinction between the three banners possessed by each of the three battalions, and differentiate as between the words "Colour" and "Flag" was puerile and deservedly failed. To the soul of the soldier who served in the battalion they memorialise, the trinity of banners were, and ever shall be, "the Colours of my battalion," irrespective of whether they were the gift of his fellow citizens anxious to do him honour, or were drawn from the Ordnance Store. Likewise, enshrined in the hearts of citizens centuries hence, and sacred relics in the minds of pilgrims to the homeland from every near and distant outpost of the British Empire, they will be venerated conjointly as the "Colours," the battle-flags of our twentieth century crusaders, those very gallant gentlemen whose glorious story of self-sacrifice and unquenchable valour will be told by sire to son, by mother to daughter, from generation unto generation, so long as the name of Scotland is spoken and a shred of the British Empire survives.

And the Poppy shall ever be their flower of Remembrance.

JOHN CAMERON BLACK,

Convener,

British Services Committee.



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