



Scot Pourri



Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 200 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our on line Scotpourri form at <http://www.scottishbanner.com>, alternatively you may post or fax your letters to us. Please ensure you include your full contact details, when emailing it is best to include your post address for those without internet access.

'Scottish Banner' October Edition Cover Picture



I am intrigued to see the Pipe Major in this picture is wearing a red sash with silver braid commonly referred to as a Drum Major's baldric. The correct sash for a Pipe Major is the red highland sash. This is in silk or worsted that is tied in a half knot and has long tassels. This is an officer's sash that was worn by officers throughout the British Army but ceased to be worn by English Regiments with the introduction of the Sam Brown belt. It then was only worn by officers and WO1s of Scottish regiments being referred to as the Highland Sash. Pipe Majors are usually the Platoon Commander of the Pipes and Drums so wear this officer's sash. Drum Majors and Drum Sergeants wear a similar red sash from the right shoulder to left hip with the tassels just going through a loop. Sergeants originally wore the sash from the left shoulder the same as officers but the sash had a stripe down the middle of it, blue for Royal regiments and buff/yellow for the remainder. In the heat of battle it was sometimes difficult to pick up this stripe so after the Napoleonic wars the stripe was deleted and the sash changed shoulders. The sergeants red sash is part of his badge of rank. The Drum Major's baldric is a badge

of office. The baldric is trimmed with gold or silver braid and fringe. A regimental baldric would have EIIR (in Australia we now have the Australian coat of arms), regimental badge and battle honours embroidered on it. This is usually in gold wire bullion. Miniature drum sticks are fixed to the baldric either side of the badge alluding to the drummers' original role as a signaller who carried their drum sticks in loops in their drum sling when not in use, ready to beat out a drum signal across the battlefield. Civilian Drum Majors often have the band badge or a generic device embroidered on their baldric. While civilian bands are not bound by military dress rules, traditions and customs it is a courtesy when wearing military accoutrements to do so. I assume the picture was put together by Homecoming Scotland 2009. It is a fact that photographers and those including photos in various publications are not aware of these customs. The most common mistake is to mirror image a photo so that sashes go the wrong way, badges are on the wrong side, pipes on the wrong shoulder or tails of a feather bonnet hang on the wrong side. I could tell you which side they should be but it is better if readers take the

trouble to inform themselves of these facts, then, they will always remember. I'm certainly planning to go back to Scotland next year for the Gathering and a number of highland games.

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Scottish Veterans in Victoria, Australia

I am the leader of the Scottish Veterans in Victoria and am a little worried about the numbers of veterans who march with me each year on the ANZAC parade in Melbourne is falling.

I realise that time must take its toll, but with help from "the Scottish Banner", we may find new blood for our march.

Any man or woman, who has served in a Scottish Regiment, or Corps would be made most welcome to march with us in the parade.

Also welcome will be the next of kin, and other relatives. Medals or ribbons should be worn on the right side of the body.

If you are in possession of a kilt, please wear it.

Further information can be had by contacting me and all queries will be answered.

Bert Nicholson
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Para. Regiment. R.A.M.C
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Happy Hogmanay

Wishing you all a guid Christmas and a happy and healthy Hogmanay.

Thank you for sending me my favourite paper every month.

Here's Tae Us,
Wh'as like us!

Catherine Hay
Cromer Heights, NSW
Australia

Island of Coll

I am writing this letter to ask if anyone knows of the Island of Coll. Can you get the ferry from Oban to the Island of Coll? Has the island still got people living on it and is the shop come post office still there?

I have a friend who died many years ago Katie McGuinness, who is buried on the Island of Coll. I visited the island over 30 years ago, but wondered if anyone still lived on the island and does the ferry still leave from Oban?

I hope someone can tell me, thanks
Rose May Aikenhead
5-93 Ruahine St
Palmerston North
New Zealand

Re: Letter from B.Kelly December Issue

With reference to the above letter #19 national service did end in 1960, I reported to Cattrick Camp, Yorkshire, as one of the 3rd last intake to the Royal Signals, October 1960, November 1960 it was all over however because National Service had ended the army was now short of people and the last 3 intakes had an extra 6 months added on being demobbed from Germany May 1963. With regards to his second point Edward Balliol was the son of John Balliol who acknowledged Edward the 1st, Edward Balliol acknowledged Edward 3rd per your article.
A.Morrison
Kelowna, B.C
Canada

Clarification on The RCMP Tartan Shown in the December Edition

Lochcarron wove the RCMP tartan & Burnetts & Struth made the kilts, but the Tartan was designed by Violet Holmes of British Columbia, who's husband was in the RCMP.

Gaelic and a Toast

For Mr. Sean Thompson of Canada, who wants "FOREVER" in Gaelic, I think "Gu Bra-th" would fit, as in "Alba Gu Bra~th" Scotland for ever. I Enjoy your paper and have done since it has been obtainable in New Zealand. Maybe your readers would like this little imitation of a toast.

Here's to you and yours
No forgettin' us an' oors;
An' whenever you an' yours

Comes to see us an' oors,
Us an' oors'll be as guid
To you and yours,
As ever you an' yours
Was to us an' oors,
Whenever us an' oors Cam
to see you an' yours.

Thank you for bringing Scotland a wee bit nearer to us.

Grateful Scot
Christchurch,
New Zealand.

End of National Service

My name is George Moore and I have been a subscriber to the Scottish Banner since the late 70's or early 80's and have often thought about e-mailing you regarding Family Names and Tartans, but have procrastinated. However, I saw something in the December 2008 Banner that has finally moved me to a response.

An item on page 5, from Bill Kelly, which referred to the end of National Service in the UK, caught my attention. He is correct regarding being called up at the age of 18, however, if someone was in a Trade Apprentice Program, his call up would be deferred until his Apprenticeship was completed, usually at the age of 21.

I happened to be one of those deferred and I distinctly recall receiving my call up papers, as I approached the end of my apprenticeship in mid 1961. I don't recall the exact dates, but I do recall that National

Service was cancelled before I reached age 21 in 1961, the year I was planning on getting married. My good friend, who was the same age as myself, did get called up in 1958, since he was not in an Apprentice program, and spent two years in Cyprus with the Cameronian Scottish Rifles. So, despite the fact that I cannot remember exactly when I got my call up papers, I can give absolute assurance that it had to be in late 1960, not 1958.

Thanks,
George Moore
Conception Bay South
Newfoundland, Canada

Remember Us?

I was born in the City of Glasgow on the 3rd of April, 1923. We lived at 202 Woodside Road..

The only one listed at this address was my Father, Abraham Sykes. I have since discovered that the family moved to Kilmarnock just three weeks after I was born.

If anyone can remember our family in Glasgow, please contact me collect as I would love to communicate with you!

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Tel. 250-763-5267

Kilt Making Course, Brisbane, Australia

Step by step instructions for making traditional kilts. (Early 2009 enquiries welcome)

This course will be run over a period of one week in which a kilt will be completed by each student.

We would be more than happy to assist with any enquiries regarding this course.

For further information please contact: Gwynn or Roweena on (07) 3369 4014 or 0408694014.