

The military uses of Holyrood Park, Edinburgh in the First World War

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ABSTRACT

This paper tells the story of the ephemeral and relatively fleeting use of Holyrood Park, Edinburgh between 1914 and 1919. The domestic life and training regime of the units who camped in the Park, in particular the 10th (Liverpool Scottish) King's Regiment (Liverpool), are described using contemporary documents and photographs. The practice trenches and anti-invasion defences in the south-east corner of the Park are described, along with the large First World War infantry training camp, rediscovered during the research, in the grounds of Duddingston House. The paper also considers the interaction between the soldiery and the city, within the constraints imposed by paucity of evidence – with individuals and with the city's civic life and its role in the war. Light is cast on socially conservative and morally judgemental views of the interaction between soldiers and young women – the 'khaki fever' of the early months of the war.

INTRODUCTION

This article has been developed from a research report prepared for Historic Environment Scotland in 2018 to investigate the military uses of Holyrood Park, in the heart of the city of Edinburgh, in the First World War (Barclay 2018). That report, based on an extensive search of contemporary sources, included a wider survey of the military use of the Park between 1850 and 1939, as few of the military activities in the Park began or ended during the war. The firing range, for example, had been established and was in a mature form long before 1914, and continued in use until the 1950s. The Park also hosted four immense set-piece Royal Reviews between 1860 and the First World War (1860, 1881, 1905 and 1911) with a fifth in 1937.

The First World War began on 28 July 1914, and Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August. Within days of the declaration of war, men were camped in the Park. As the war proceeded and as the infrastructure of military accommodation and

training grew, camps like Duddingston replaced temporary expedients like the tented camps or the repurposed pleasure park at Seafield, of which more below. Piecing together the military use of the camp during the war has not been easy. The use of the Park by the Liverpool Scottish in the autumn of 1914 is exceptionally well documented, in stark contrast to other periods of use. For example, the huge Duddingston Camp, built next to the Park in 1915 had, before the research project, slipped entirely from memory: it is mentioned in a couple of books, shown in a handful of photographs, and recorded in an unregarded plan in an archive in which it did not actually belong. The sparsity of the record, especially about the relationship between city and soldiery, is shown by the shortness of the list of primary sources at the end of the paper and the limited number of newspaper accounts mentioned in the text. Archives that produced rich material for the period before 1914 and after 1918, for example, the Royal Collections and the National War Museum, Edinburgh, were silent on the war.

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THE PARK'S MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE

THE PARADE GROUND

The most long-lived area of the Park with an explicitly military purpose is the 'Parade Ground', the large flat area immediately to the east of the Palace of Holyroodhouse (Illus 1). It has been used for over a century for a wide range of military inspections, drills and parades. The Parade Ground was the site of the Liverpool Scottish camp in the early months of the First World War, and of the King's Own Scottish Borderers in the summer of 1915 (see below). It began to develop its current form in the mid-19th century and was the site of the Royal Volunteer Review in

1860. It took its modern form with the purchase and incorporation of the houses and grounds of Bellfield and Clockmill at some point after c 1860 (mapped by 1880). The enlarged Parade Ground was used in the Royal Review of 1881.

FIRING RANGES

The firing ranges in Hunter's Bog were in use, in a formal and permanent sense, from 1855, although the area was used for firing before then. Permanent targets were needed owing to the 'adoption of the rifled musket for the Infantry ... the lines of range being nearly the same as that heretofore used by the troops for practice with the common musket' (MW3/43 1852–1910). Ministry of Works files for the period before



ILLUS 1 Holyrood Park and environs as shown on the Bartholomew Post Office Plan of Edinburgh, published 1917–18, with author's additions. The red line marks the approximate boundary of the Park and royal estate at Holyrood, in 1914. (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

1914 document the gradual extension and improvement of facilities: further targets, shelters and magazines (MW3/43 1852–1910); *Evening News* 3 April 1888; 30 July 1889; 2 April 1902).

A feature of correspondence over the years was the concern for the protection of the public from mis-aimed balls and ricochets; as early as 1860 it was noted ‘that occasional balls are projected over the hill in rear of the target, to the great danger of the inhabitants and persons walking and driving in the neighbourhood’ (MW3/43 1852–1910). The longest closure because of concerns over public safety was in 1884–87 (*ibid.*). The problem was eventually solved by changing the axis of the range, from approximately north/south, to north-west/south-east (Illus 2).

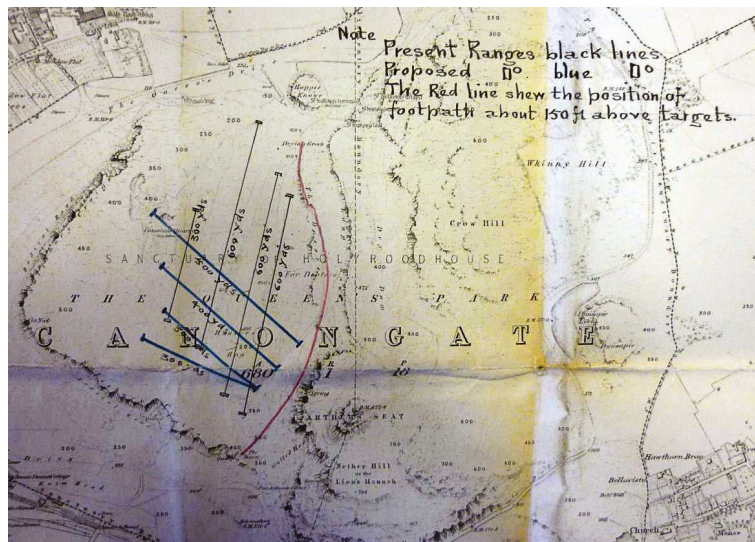
The Hunter’s Bog range was used during the Boer War for the shooting trials undertaken by recruits joining at the recruiting office at 6 Pitt Street (*Evening News* 22 January 1901) and during the First World War by the troops camped in the Park (Davidson Letters, below). Although it was described as ‘a most useful and handy range’, its location in an enclosed valley meant that it had notoriously unpredictable air currents. One witty account in the *Chronicle*, the magazine

of the Queen’s Royal Rifle Brigade, described the wind blowing ‘straight up in the air’ with the flags ‘blowing steadily in three different directions’ at once (‘Victim’ 1905).

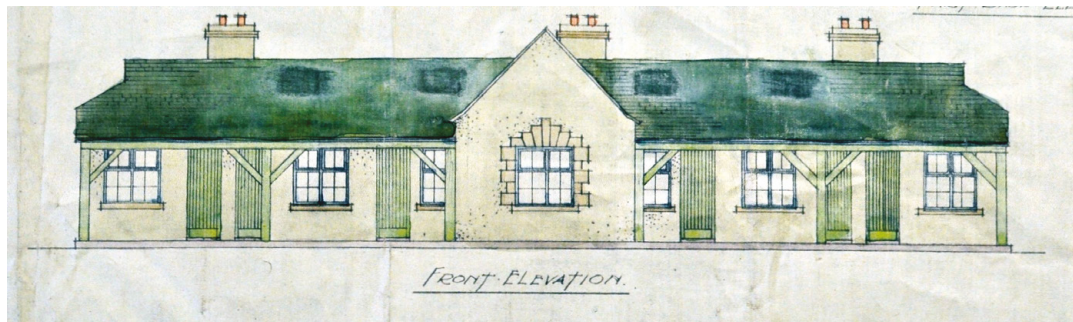
In 1913 the City of Edinburgh Territorial Association sought permission for the erection of a simple single-storey ‘Shelter Hut’ for the Hunter’s Bog Rifle Range and a design was prepared by the distinguished architect Sir Thomas Duncan Rhind in August 1913 (MW3/80 1913–17; RHP141699 1913). The design originally submitted was considered ‘very unsightly’ (drawings on NRS RHP141699) and a revised design, apparently as built, dated January 1914, survives in HES’s own archives (Folder 046/132 Dr 4; Illus 3).

Remodelling of the 300 yard range was agreed at the end of July 1914 (MW3/80 1913–17) but further developments and the use of the ranges during the First World War have left no documentary trail.

In mid-1923 a ‘30 yards machine gun range’ was constructed about ‘100 yards south of the existing targets’ (MW3/81 1923–25), by the City of Edinburgh (Fortress) Engineers, but by October concern was being expressed about the lack of



ILLUS 2 Map showing the proposed realignment of the ranges from north/south to north-west/south-east. (National Records of Scotland File MW3/43)



ILLUS 3 Extract from the plans etc for the shelter hut at Hunter's Bog showing the building's elevation. This appears to be the revised design, which is held in the archive of Historic Environment Scotland. (HES Folder 046/132 Dr 4)

protection against ricochets provided by the corrugated iron roof of the target, which was 'badly perforated' (MW3/81 1923–25). The firing range as a whole was taken out of use in the mid-1950s and the infrastructure was removed in the years following (Illus 4).

PARK CLOSED
FOR
MILITARY PURPOSES

BY ORDER
HM OFFICE OF WORKS

It is possible that this relates to signage during the closure of the Park during the First World War.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND BEYOND 1914–21

The best-recorded events in the Park during the First World War are those surrounding the camp of the Liverpool Scottish in the summer of 1914. By contrast, the presence of the camp of the King's Own Scottish Borderers in the Park in the early summer of 1915 is poorly documented, as is an artillery camp in 1916. The Park was used for recruiting parades and for training activities, but once again documentation is sparse.

A Ministry of Works file (now MW3/160) concerns the possible retention of water piping that 'had been laid for the use of the Military during the War'. This water supply was presumably laid on at some point for one of the tented camps. There is no information on how solid waste was removed from the site.

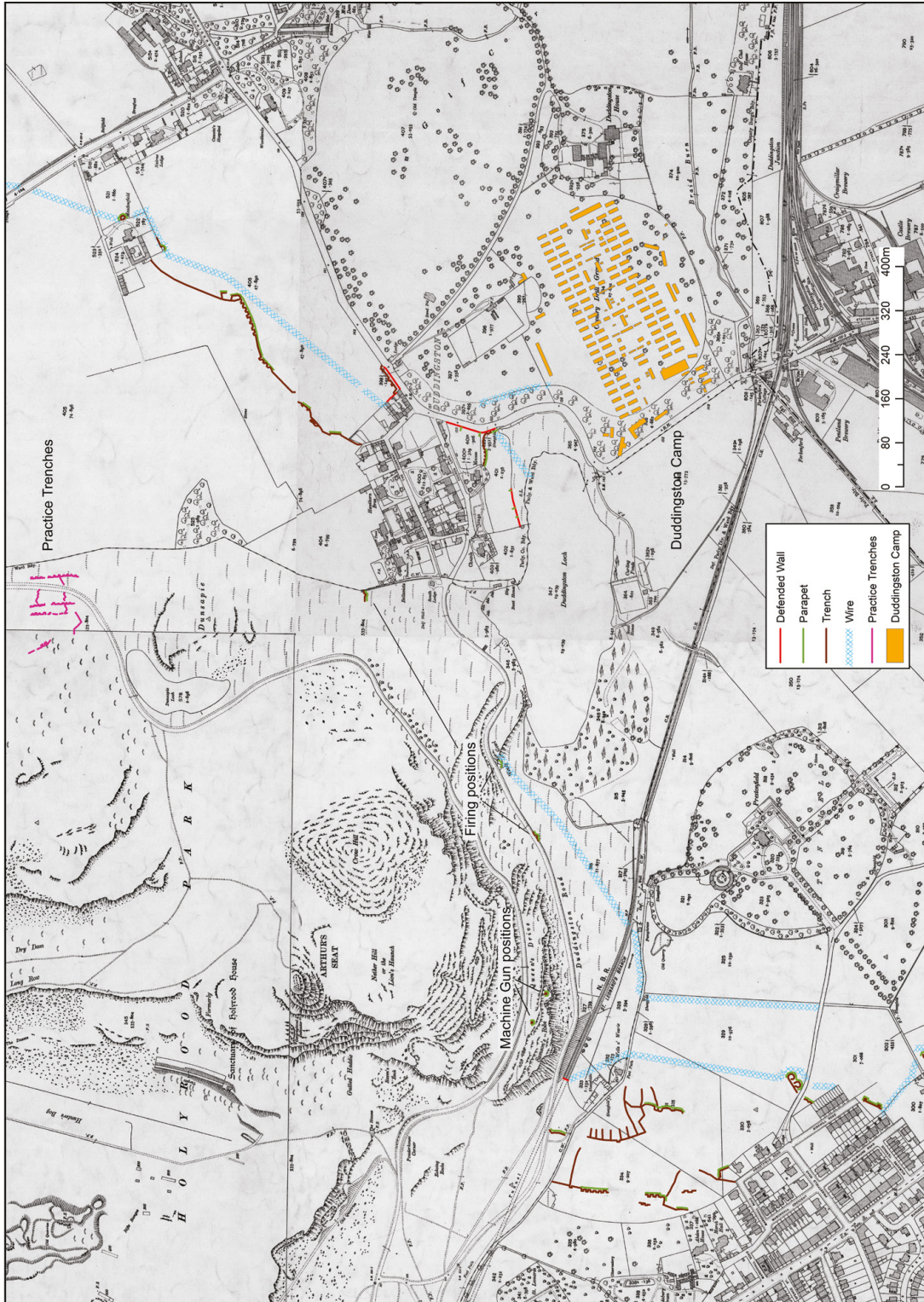
The HES drawings archive includes two undated designs for warning signs. One is of a rough unfinished design stating:

THE MILITARY CAMP – AUGUST TO OCTOBER 1914 – THE SOUTH LANCS BRIGADE

The Liverpool Scottish was the name given to the 10th (Scottish) Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment of the Territorial Force. The Liverpool Scottish was part of the South Lancashire Brigade on the outbreak of war. The Brigade comprised the 9th and 10th (Liverpool Scottish) Battalions of the King's Regiment (Liverpool) and the 4th and 5th Battalions of the South Lancashire Regiment.

When war was declared in August 1914, the Liverpool Scottish (1st/10th) mobilised and moved to Scotland under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel William Nicholl. Duplicate battalions (2nd/10th and 3rd/10th) were formed in Liverpool from personnel unable to volunteer for overseas service.

Considered by contemporaries to be socially elite (*Evening News* 17 October 1914; McCartney



ILLUS 4 Map of the southern part of the Park and its environs showing (a) the location of the practice trenches; (b) the defences recorded in 1915–16 across and within the Park; and (c) the buildings of Duddingston Camp. Elements of the firing ranges are visible at top left. The map base is the out-of-copyright 1914 edition of the 1:2500 map. (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

2005: 25) and reasonably well trained compared to other Territorial units, the 1st/10th volunteered for overseas service and became the seventh Territorial battalion to be dispatched to the Western Front. The battalion took passage to Le Havre aboard the SS *Maidan* at Southampton on 1 November 1914, arriving on the 3rd.

The stay of the Liverpool Scottish in Edinburgh between 13 August and 19 October 1914 is recorded in considerable detail, in contrast to the activities of other units: in a large collection of photographs, the regimental history, a diary and local newspapers. Additionally, letters from Major Davidson to his wife are filled with circumstantial detail about life in the camp, the difficulties of men suddenly removed from home, training and other matters. He was left at the depot in Liverpool until 2 September, when he joined the battalion in Edinburgh. His entries record the varying daily routine of the camp, from reveille at 5.30am to lights out at 10.15pm, and including specialist training, such as ‘movements by night’.

At least part of the 5th Battalion the South Lancashire Regiment was also quartered in the Park, for at least part of the time, although some or all of that battalion is recorded as being billeted in Edinburgh Castle.

Images of the Liverpool Scottish August to October 1914

About 60 images are known which relate to the time spent in Edinburgh by the Liverpool Scottish and, in the case of three images, of the South Lancashire Regiment (included below), between August and October 1914. Most were printed as photo-postcards by Scott & Co, 7 Thistle Street, Kirkcaldy. Eighteen are held in the Imperial War Museum as the Macfie Collection (available online); others are held in the Liverpool Scottish Museum and Archive; yet more turn up on the internet.

A small selection of the cards is included here (Illus 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13 & 14). A number of the images are annotated with the names of the people in the photograph, or locations, such as ‘our tent’. The cards are marked on the back with the date they were received from Scott & Co. Scott & Co described themselves as ‘Press & Military Photographers’ but nothing else is known about them (pers comm Local Studies Dept, Fife Council).

Press coverage

The first mention of the camp in the press is in the *Evening News* of 20 August 1914. Surprisingly, it



ILLUS 5 Scott & Co No. 1099. ‘Having a Wash’. A group of over 20 men, most in their shirtsleeves, washing in basins placed on specially built wooden stands. They stand on raised platforms to keep their feet out of the mud. Behind are the tenements of Waverley Street. (Imperial War Museum Macfie Collection)



ILLUS 6 Scott & Co No. 1785. Marked 'Church Parade' in ink. A column of men pass shops on Princes Street. The names of four men are marked in ink: 'Gordon', 'Cox', 'Miller' and 'Ward'. Reverse marked 'Recd. Aug 28, 1914'. (Imperial War Museum Macfie Collection)

concerns the way in which 'Military camps seem after certain hours to be overrun by all sorts of people, especially impudent young females ... The military authorities would be doing no more than their duty if the Park were closed in the evening altogether' (the Park then had working gates, which could be closed and locked by the Park Keepers). 'The rabble business of the last few nights is neither seemly nor a credit to the city.' The drunkenness of a minority of Territorial soldiers was deprecated.

The *Evening News* returned to the subject on 21 August 1914 with a letter under the subheading 'The Morals of the Territorials'. The writer, 'Justice' of Broxburn, suggested that the straight-laced critics of the men should look at the matter from both sides, and consider the situation the men found themselves in, away from home and sleeping on the bare earth. Another correspondent, also using the pseudonym 'Justice', described giving a piece of his/her mind to 'these flirts that patrol the King's Park' who were endangering the good name of the nation's capital.

'It is quite time the business was stopped.' A third correspondent had had the sense to go himself to see what was afoot and:

Instead of being the saturnalia your correspondent would make it out to be I saw an orderly good humoured crowd talking and laughing with those of the Territorials who were on the encampment, but there was nothing I could see, and I was all over the place, in the least objectionable or that could offend the most fastidious taste ...

The statements in those letters are in my opinion after personal observation nothing but the outpouring of narrow-minded fanatics who always object to the natural fun and liveliness of young people.

A fourth correspondent described the original complainant as a miserable 'killjoy', asking if 'this prying prudery [is] not a little out of date ...?'. Scanning the pages of the *Evening News* for the first months of the war, it is noticeable how the opportunity was being taken to promote socially conservative views on sexual behaviour,



ILLUS 7 Scott & Co No. 955. Men sitting and lying on the grass. Ten are named. Behind, many civilians sit on the rising slope. Marked in pencil on the reverse: 'Recd. 28 Aug 1914'. (Imperial War Museum Macfie Collection)

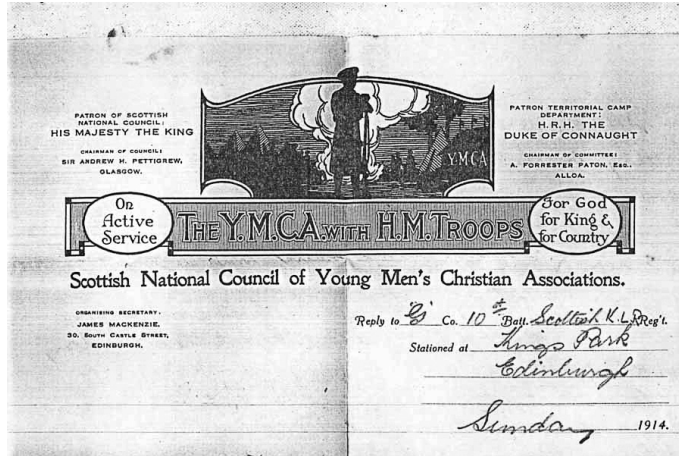
and to police women's behaviour generally, a subject examined in more detail by Woollacott (1994) and Moss (2008).

Surprisingly, given the lack of secrecy in such matters in the earlier part of the First World War, there is little in the Liverpool press about their men stationed in Edinburgh: I found only one mention, in the *Liverpool Echo* of 15 October 1914, in which a photograph of 12 men of the battalion, and two men in civilian clothes, was published. The photograph is clearly one of the 'Scott & Co' postcards, more of which are reproduced below, and is captioned 'Our photograph shows a group of the Liverpool Scottish', but does not say where the men were. McCartney (2005: 21) notes that the Territorial Force was never popular in pre-war Liverpool, and the sparse coverage may reflect this.

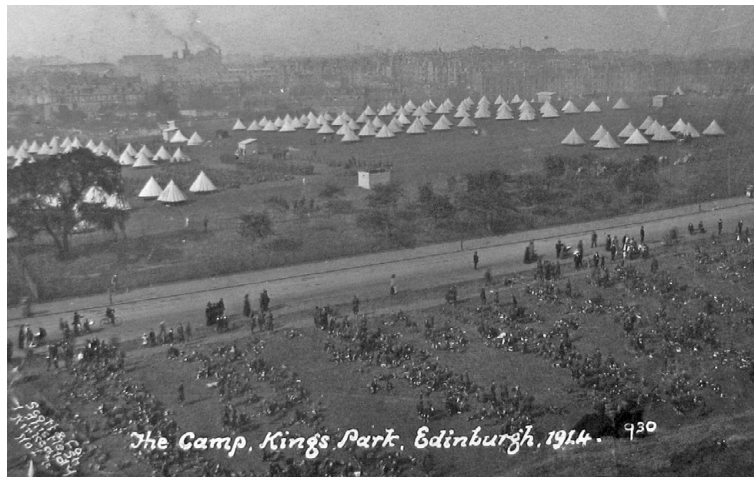
In an article on recruiting in Edinburgh, the *Evening News* on 10 September stated that 'Edinburgh was not doing its duty' and asked why the 'big lazy fellows' who had swarmed into the Park to look at 'that splendid corps, the Liverpool Scottish and others' had not volunteered. The Liverpool Scottish was involved

in a number of events in Edinburgh, directly or indirectly associated with recruiting, notably through the performance of their band leading in parade a contingent of men from Manchester for other Scottish units (*Evening News* 28 September 1914). The battalion and its band also took part in parades explicitly intended to promote recruiting (eg *Scotsman* 5 and 7 September 1914).

The *Evening News* of 3 October 1914 reported the success of the YMCA in providing facilities in marquees in the camp in the King's Park. In the days before the NAAFI, the YMCA (along with the Church of Scotland) was a leader in providing facilities for quiet, non-alcoholic recreation for soldiers. The article noted that 'the troops in the King's Park will [soon] go into winter quarters'. The YMCA tents had been on site for three weeks, and had 'been used to their utmost capacity for writing, reading, temperance refreshments, &c'. Some 750 gospels had been given to men asking for them, and nearly 500 New Testaments had been sold. More than 20,000 letters and cards had been written and posted in the tents (Illus 8).



ILLUS 8 Photocopy of headed paper or letter card provided by the YMCA at their recreation tent in the Park. (Liverpool Scottish Archive)



ILLUS 9 Scott & Co No. 930. The tented camp taken from the high ground to the south. The following text has been scratched on the negative: 'The Camp, King's Park. Edinburgh, 1914'. On reverse in pencil, 'Recd 28 August 1914'. IWM index no. 'Q114676' along the bottom. (Liverpool Scottish Archive)

On 15 September 1914 the *Scotsman* reported the trial of two boys shooting with air-guns a number of soldiers and civilian children in Edinburgh, including a sentry of the Liverpool Scottish. On 17 September and on the two subsequent days the *Evening News* carried an advertisement for a 'Grand Promenade Concert' at the Waverley Market on Saturday 19 September,

by the band and pipers of the Liverpool Scottish. The concert was under the auspices of the Lord Provost in aid of a fund to provide comforts for soldiers.

On 17 October 1914, the *Evening News* reflected on the origins of the Liverpool Scottish in the Boer War, and described certain aspects of the unit:

for the most part the men are of a good stamp, being the sons or grandsons of Liverpool's great merchant class. Others represent the younger mercantile and professional classes, and, generally speaking, the Liverpool Scottish compare in personnel with the Edinburgh Highlanders [the 9th Battalion the Royal Scots] ...

The unusual demographic of the Liverpool Scottish is illustrated by Robert Macfie, who had been an active member of the Liverpool Scottish in the first decade of the century and rejoined in 1914 at the age of 44, first as a private, then his former rank of Colour Sergeant and then Quartermaster Sergeant (McCartney 2005: 6). This NCO was also, however, the managing director of a sugar refinery in Liverpool, part of Liverpool's and Glasgow's 'sugar aristocracy', a graduate of both Cambridge and Edinburgh universities and an internationally renowned expert on Roma life and language. Macfie's collection of photographic postcards of the camp is in the Imperial War Museum (see Illus 5, 6, 7, 10 & 13).

The Davidson letters (below) record preparations being made for a move by both the Liverpool Scottish and the 5th South Lancashire from the Park to a camp in the Marine Gardens at Seafield, a large pre-war amusement park and gardens, closed for the duration. Before this could be carried through, the Liverpool Scottish left Edinburgh on 19 October 1914, going to Tunbridge Wells, prior to being posted to France in November. The King's Own Scottish Borderers did in fact move into the Marine Gardens in 1915.

Regimental history

McGilchrist's regimental history (McGilchrist 1930) has a short section on the battalion's time in Edinburgh, albeit in rather lyrical language:

on 18 August it entrained for Edinburgh where, with the remainder of the South Lancashire Brigade, it formed part of the Forth Defences, the Liverpool Scottish and the 5th South Lancashires being

encamped in the King's Park close to Holyrood Palace, and the other half of the Brigade being stationed at Dunfermline.

It was a disappointment to the Liverpool Scottish that they were not quartered in the historic Castle, which was occupied by a khaki battalion. The Civil Authorities approached the Scottish Command and suggested that as a kilted battalion was available it should become the garrison of the Castle, but the necessary permission was not forthcoming.

Training was now begun in earnest. A severe programme of work was laid down calculated to weed out the weaklings, if any, and the Battalion proceeded to get fit. The day started at 6.45 a.m. with an hour's physical drill which frequently took the form of company races to the top of Arthur's Seat. After breakfast, company and battalion training continued till 4.30 p.m., and lectures after tea were not unknown. Discipline was tightened up, only 20% of the trained men and 25% of the uniformed recruits being allowed leave out of camp after parade. The recruits still awaiting uniform fared better. They were all allowed out after duty, to the envy of their less fortunate comrades, and they were able also to slip over the wall, at the morning break, to a shop nearby where they consumed vast quantities of soup washed down by a schooner of ale each. The Battalion threw on the hard work, every man was keen and a genuine trier, the intercompany rivalry was prodigious, and the rapidity with which partially trained civilians were turned into a very fair imitation of wholtime soldiers was really astonishing.

... All who served with the Liverpool Scottish in Edinburgh will look back to those days with pleasure and a wistful longing that the clock could be put back and that they might again camp in the King's Park and relive the old life. But of all the memories of that time the one which will stand apart in the minds of many is that of the Church Parades in St. Giles' Cathedral. The noble setting, the almost overpowering weight of tone in the singing of the soldiers' hymns by the huge congregation led by the splendid brass band of the Battalion, and the everpresent thought at the back of everyone's mind of the future and what it might hold, combined to make these services both moving and memorable.



ILLUS 10 Scott & Co No. 1420. Soldiers, probably E Coy, on kit inspection parade, between two lines of tents. The tall sergeant nearest the camera labelled 'R.A.S.M.' in ink, with an arrow, is Macfie himself. (Imperial War Museum Macfie Collection)

Diaries

Two extracts from Lionel Ferguson's less rose-tinted account, quoted on the Liverpool Scottish website, provide a perhaps more realistic view (Ferguson nd):

12th September 1914 (Edinburgh): The men, not yet served out with greatcoats have much to grouse about; in fact the temper of all in camp is far from good. We are only half-equipped and each day we have something more taken from us. Capt. Fairrie thinks K of K [Field Marshal Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, and War Minister] means to shelve Territorials for the new army being formed. They refuse to give us more rifles and equipment.

6th October: Dinner was disgusting and the Orderly Officer advised us not to eat it, grand advice when you feel starving ... battalion 'scouts' got a good tea at Porto Bello baths. ... We 'sent out' for a 2d fish and chip supper.

Captain Dickinson's diary (Dickinson nd) includes the period 2 August to 19 October 1914, starting with mobilisation in Liverpool on the 5th. The annual camp had begun on the 2nd at Hornby, near Lancaster, and the men were recalled to Liverpool in the early hours of the 3rd.

When the battalion went north to Edinburgh (in two trains on the morning of 13 August), Captain Dickinson was left in charge of the depot in Liverpool, and spent the next few days sending recruits, equipment and horses north, and being involved in rounding up German and Austrian seamen, who were naval reservists in their native countries. He was responsible for the arrangements for advertising for additional recruits, 300 of whom had been attested within four days, by 1 September. On the 2nd he travelled to Edinburgh, where he recorded, day by day, the camp and training routine. A few samples are printed below, recording the routine pattern, and exceptional events.

Thursday 3 Sep 1914

Reveille 5:30am

Parade 6:45am – 7:45am

Running & Bayonet Fighting

Breakfast 8am

Guard Mounting 9am

Orderly Room 9:15am

Route March 10am – 1pm

Dinner 1pm

Parade 3pm – 3:45pm Musketry

Parade 3:45pm – 4:30pm Squad Drill

Parade 6pm Lecture on March discipline by OC Companies

Officers Mess 7:30pm

Teas 5pm

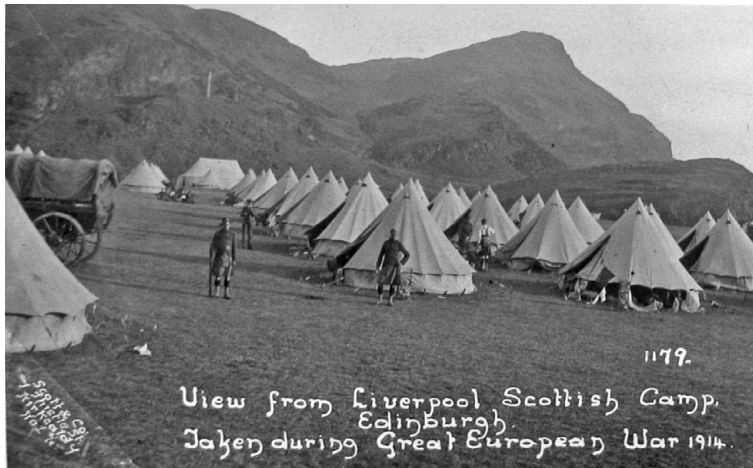
Retreat 6:30pm

First Post 9:30pm

Last Post 10pm

Lights out 10:15pm

All camp parades etc in future to be the same times as today.



ILLUS 11 Scott & Co No. 1179. View of the tented camp towards Arthur's Seat. Unusually, it is captioned on the negative 'View from Liverpool Scottish Camp, Edinburgh. Taken during Great European War 1914'. The caption may suggest that this print was made after the war. (Liverpool Scottish Archive, 'Pre-WWI postcards')

To this pattern were added lectures on march discipline, tactics, movement by night, direction of fire, the effect of artillery, handling of arms, entrenching, semaphore and so on. There was also a court martial. The men were vaccinated

(Illus 12 & 13). Dickinson recorded meeting Edinburgh friends, dining with them at local hotels and clubs and at their homes (including the intriguingly named Lieberhof family) and the visit of family members from Liverpool.

Wednesday 7 Oct 1914

4:30am Night alarm. Mustered at once on company parade grounds (every available man, pack animals loaded with ammunition & picks & spades, piper & bugler for each company) & marched off in pitch darkness & thickish fog to Dunsappe [Dunsapie] Loch. False alarm so returned to camp at 8am.

10am – 12noon Practised company in the attack

12 – 12:30pm Instruction in Semaphore

2:30pm – 5:45pm Route March & Judging distance

6:30pm went into town for shopping & a bath

7:30pm Dined with the Le Marcs [sic] 84 Murrayfields Gardens. Miss Murray there.

Returned to camp 11pm

Saturday 17 Oct 1914

7am – 7:45am Bayonet Exercises

9am Inspection of Lines

9:15am Orderly Room

9:30am Inspection of Lines by CO

10am – 12:15pm Route March to Portobello for bathing parade (I & K Coys) Saw Marjorie Forwood



ILLUS 12 Part of the medical element of the battalion in the camp. Surgeon Kitson sits on a box. Some medicines and bottles are displayed. Captioned on the mount (not visible here): ‘At King’s Park – Edinburgh’ and ‘No. 1223’. (Liverpool Scottish Box 10; Acc 0476, Cuttings)



ILLUS 13 Scott & Co No. 1397. Seventeen men in two lines in the camp, in shirtsleeves with their left arms bared for vaccination. IWM index No. 'Q114677' (Imperial War Museum Macfie Collection)

Major Ian Riley of the Liverpool Scottish Museum and Archive has kindly permitted me to include an extract from his as yet unpublished analysis of the military activities recorded in Dickinson's diary.

The diary ... identifies fifty-one days which could be described as 'training days'. His company's training regime ... seems comprehensive, progressive, quite physical and full but there are only eight days that appear to feature field tactical exercises such as 'night operations' or 'company in attack' (and each only over, at most, half a day). It is possible that some of this sort of work could have taken place on some of the thirty-four route marches he lists although he generally details any other training undertaken during these marches. In Edinburgh, relatively untroubled by demands of trench-digging and guarding vulnerable points, they had the opportunity of relatively serious training: they were disturbed more by the fact that their 'khaki' rivals from St. Helens, 5 SLR [South Lancashire Regiment], had been installed in the Castle rather than their own kilted Caledonian-selves, and were having to camp in King's Park. Route marches took up about 30% of their time. In September, over

25% of their time was involved in physical training or drill but in October this dropped to under 20%. Inversely, tactical training rose from 1% to 11% over that period and night-work nearly trebled in proportion if only to 8%. There is no mention whatsoever of 'grenade' or 'bomb' training. 'Musketry' occupies 17% of September training time and 9% in October and with 'Judging Distance' being a regular but unquantified feature of the frequent route marches. It is often referenced to specific sections of *Musketry Regulations Part 1 (1909)* (War Office 1909–10). Despite being frequently mentioned, there is no explicit or implied reference to live firing whilst the battalion is in the UK, other than occasional revolver practice for officers.

Major Riley (pers comm) has subsequently noted the account of Sgt W G Bromley in the *Liverpool Regimental Gazette*, September 1931, who was a recruit who did undertake live firing practice. Major Riley also notes that:

The "musketry" training is musketry in its widest sense, weapon handling, fire positions, fire orders and target indication. The regimental historian of 10 KLR makes specific mention of the lack of adequate

range accommodation in the battalion's locations in Edinburgh and Tunbridge Wells and says that nearly 300 men (many of them August recruits) were unable to accompany the battalion to France as 'they had not fired their musketry course' (McGilchrist 1930, 15–16). The thousand men who did sail for France on 1 November 1914 had presumably fired their course at home but almost all would have done so in pre-war training as existing members of the Territorial Force.

The letters of Major Jonathan Davidson

The letters of Major Jonathan Davidson of the Liverpool Scottish to his wife at home in Liverpool provide the most circumstantial detail for the day-to-day life of an officer in camp. Only limited extracts of this rich source are included below, chosen to illustrate as many types of activity as possible, and to give an impression of camp life for a Field Officer.

13-8-14

Edinburgh

... Last night we were very busy getting ready to start. I did not turn in until 2.30 and then only took boots and coat off. Up at 4.30. We left Lime Street about 7 o'clock with very few people to see us off ... Did not arrive at E. [Edinburgh] until 5 this afternoon. Very slow and hot journey. All ordinary traffic was held up. Saw Rogers at Preston who said large number of troops were being moved. Blair and I came in second train. We found the St. Helens Battalion had arrived before us and were quartered in the Castle. We have been put in what is known as the Synod Hall. The staff here were very sick when we arrived as it was not possible to send us to the castle. They had not expected to find a kilted Battn. in the South Lancs Brigade. Personally I think we will be more comfortable here, tho' for sentimental reasons it would have been a great thing to have had the old castle.

I understand that tomorrow we are to go under canvas in the Queens Park. Evidently we have been brought here on coast defence work. I hope we get moved to some station soon. Blair and I went to the Caledonian Hotel tonight. Had hot bath, shave, boots cleaned and something to eat and now back at quarters (10 o'clock). Will turn in early as sleep was rather limited last night.

Saturday 15-8-14

Kings Park, Edinburgh

We are at last under canvas. We marched out from Edinburgh yesterday at mid-day. Waited until nearly 4 o'clock when we took over the camp from the Sherwood Foresters (Regular) who had only come in the previous day. The park we are in is just behind the Holyrood Palace and right under Arthurs Seat. Situation very nice. The St. Helens Battalion are immediately adjoining and a Brigade of Territorial Artillery is in the same field. Our canvas is rather limited. The men are 14 or 15 in a tent. I am sharing one with the Doctor. He snores somewhat but a tent peg mallet soon stops him. Splendid things, I must bring one home. Yesterday we did nothing but shake down into camp. The Battalion looked very well marching along Princes St. The length of the column was very striking, we have never seen a full battalion of nearly 1000 men before. We have no mess tent, the officers all sit in the grass for their meals and we have to turn in early as it is too cold to sit outside at night. Am very glad we have our beds etc. with us. I have my sleeping valise on top of the bed and it is quite snug. The other things I brought are most useful. Lanterns, looking glass, while my map case is the envy and admiration of all. This morning we all went for a route march some 6 miles. The whole country round is full of troops while trenches are being dug on the side nearest the sea and miles of barbed wire entanglements are being erected. The authorities certainly consider that a raid may possibly be made. The point which would be gone for is probably Rosyth, the new naval base on the Firth of Forth.

I have got what appears to be a good charger. I picked him out of a lot of over a dozen which Fred Harrison had in a dark stable. He was the largest of the lot and will I think turn out well. I had a good canter

yesterday the full length of the Park and this morning I had quite a lot of riding. His only fault is that he neighs loudly when he sees another horse or when the band strikes up. Unless this is cured he will be useless for night work.

... Some heavy guns were firing last evening but I have heard nothing as to what it was about. This afternoon a military kite is up right in front of the Camp, probably carrying an aerial for wireless work. ...

Monday 17-8-14

Kings Park, Edinburgh

Yesterday the battalion went to church at St. Giles Cathedral, the old Scottish Cathedral. Most interesting building. We had a most stirring address from Mr Hamilton our chaplain who is with us. Also a few words from the resident minister. Did us all a lot of good. In the afternoon we had kit inspection etc. Late in the afternoon Fred Harrison and myself went with Sandy Anderson by motor to Haddington a place on the coast about 20 miles South of Edinburgh. Sandy's brother is there with his battalion of Royal Scots. They have been digging trenches etc. for over a week. They had all sorts of reports about Germans having landed from some trawlers last Thursday and of a number of transports with German troops having been sunk some distance to the South. This morning the battalion had a route march of 6 miles with full marching order which means carrying greatcoats and all the odds and ends which weigh a lot. We also took out some of our pack animals, horses – 2 to each company which carry spare ammunition and entrenching tools. Had rather a job to keep their loads on but we will get it right with practice.

This afternoon the Colonel, [Captain] James [Adjutant, seconded from the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders], [Major] Blair [then second-in-command of the battalion] and self, accompanied the Brigadier on a tour of inspection of the whole of the defences of the city. I drove our lot in Buchanan's motor and brought them all back safely ... Our fellows seem to get on very well with the local lasses. The first night we arrived they all had at least one, many of them two walking out with them, while those who are not allowed out have any number to see them at the fence which surrounds the Park. The presence of an unclimbable iron fence between them appears to be very little hindrance to embracing.

The band is just striking up in Camp to amuse the men. The weather yesterday and today has been lovely, brilliant sunshine. We are all getting very brown. ...

25-8-14

Edinburgh

... You are anxious about our food. It is plain but plentiful. We drink our tea and coffee out of enamelled tin cups and have ditto plates. The mess sergeant draws our rations the same as the mens, and cooks it nicely in stews etc. He gets plenty of Scotch baps and scones. We started having our meals on the grass. Then the Colonel got a beer case to put his food on and afterwards another to sit on. As cases of beer and other drinkables became empty more of us got seats. Then the Edinburgh Highlanders sent up and erected for us a fine mess tent. A plank table appeared and finally some benches covered with red cloth. Now we all sit down and with a row of candles stuck in empty whisky bottles (which we had to send into town for) the table at dinner is absolutely resplendent.

26-8-14

Edinburgh

We had a little excitement last night, I had turned in and was just dropping off to sleep when the 'Alarm' suddenly sounded on the bugles. We all tumbled out and hastily mustered on the parade ground. I put a pair of trows over my pyjamas, a sweater, frock and greatcoat. With a pair of socks and brogues I was ready for any distance or time. My revolver was in the bottom of my kit bag and took some finding in the dark. However we all appeared in all sorts of costumes in a very short time. Some of the men had nothing

beyond their rifles and bayonets but pyjamas. The whole excitement was caused by a sentry at the bottom end of the Park being shot. I will enclose newspaper cutting of this. We turned in in about ½ an hour and slept none the worse. [*Evening News* 26 August 1914: the culprit was not apprehended.]

Sunday 30-8-14

Edinburgh

... Fortunately the weather improved and it is now fair tho' no great shakes as a day. The camp is getting very muddy particularly near the entrance. As our tents are the highest up the field with no traffic thro' it we are the best off. But the motors, waggons, horses and all men passing thro' the St. Helens and Artillery lines are cutting the ground up badly. Still it is to be hoped the fine weather comes back, as our men are very cramped in their tents.

14-9-14

Edinburgh

Today has been showery and windy while tonight is blowing hard and the large tent is fairly rocking and is very draughty. I am sitting with greatcoat and glengarry on and am quite comfortable except for the wind blowing on feet and up the legs. I don't think I really want an extra blanket yet, but it still might be a good thing to have it ready.

Our officers who were dashing across the parade ground a few days ago are better now. One or two others had slight doses of the same complaint but it appears to have died out now. Expect there will be a few more soon as many of the younger officers are being inoculated against typhoid. A lot of the men are also being done as well as vaccinated. The doctor says it is not done when over 25 years of age as one is not then likely to get enteric.

There is no chance of our being sent abroad at present. We have such a lot of recruits untrained and without uniform and equipment. We have had to take rifles and bayonets from those men who have not volunteered, so that they now have nothing but the clothes they stand up in. Only hope my tent is not blown away. Several in the lines have already come down. I have laid out the vacant half of my tent as a dressing room with bath included. It makes the morning tub much warmer.

16-9-14

Edinburgh

As regards sickness, the doctor has knocked out nearly half the battalion by vaccination and typhoid inoculation, but this will only be for a few days. A certain number of chills are always with us. Today we have succeeded in getting tent floors for the men. This should improve matters. We have had heavy rain tonight but I hear it has cleared up now.

17-9-14

Edinburgh

There is some talk now of sending us down to billet in the Marine Gardens at Portobello. The buildings are the same type as those at the L'pool Exhibition. They appear to be fairly comfortable, tho' how we would divide them up between the South Lancs and ourselves I do not know. Our movement will probably depend on the weather.

20-9-14

Edinburgh

This afternoon I took the Col., Blair and Adjt. down to Portobello in Buchanan's motor and had a look over the Marine Gardens where it is proposed to billet us. I think we should be fairly comfortable there, tho' it

will be very comical with Japanese tea houses, shooting galleries, scenic railways etc. all about the place. We are to have a very large dancing hall.

Monday morning

It is evident that the men will have to lie very close in the large dancing hall. Giving each man a space of 8ft by 2ft6in for himself and his kit it will just be possible to get 1000 men into the hall. The remainder will have to be stowed away in smaller places and rooms. From what I hear we will probably move there next Monday, but this requires confirmation.

4-10-14

Edinburgh

This afternoon I have been to the Marine Gardens with the Col. and Adj. Campbell is busily engaged in marking white lines on the floor setting out each man's plot. We will be very closely packed. The sanitary arrangements do not look as tho' they would be ready for another week, but I fancy the authorities will want to have us down there sooner than that. When the Col. was over the other side of the Forth yesterday, he gathered that the Coast Defence people still think a German raid possible. A German aeroplane has been seen off the coast and they have proof that submarines have been about. I fancy that 4 torpedoes have been found up by the bridge and they are trawling lower down where it is said that 8 have been seen fired. From the German point of view it would be well worth risking a few thousand men in the hope that there would be such an outcry by the public as would stop any more of our men being sent to France. I believe the South Lancs send cyclist patrols along the beach every morning at daybreak.

8-10-14

Edinburgh

I had for the first time for some nights stripped before getting into pyjamas and hardly seemed to have got to sleep before the Brigade turned us all out between 4.0 and 5.0 o'clock. I did not hurry but it took me ½ an hour to get dressed. We were marched round Arthur's Seat and back to Camp. In the morning I was on the hills watching the Coys, and a route march in the afternoon kept us out to 6.0. At 6.30 I had to go to Portobello to decide what arrangement of lighting we require. This is not so easy as it sounds as we are to show no lights to seaward.

9-10-14

Edinburgh

... I went in with James and Thin to have a bath and haircut and had dinner in town. I have only had one hot bath here, in spite of which no very great quantity of dirt appeared to come off.

We are going out for night work this evening. Blair and I are each to handle our ½ battalions. This morning we were route marching. The country looks beautiful, but the leaves are coming down and winter will soon be on us when the wind and rain get to work.

Still no definite news of Portobello. Our doctor is strongly against our going there as he says the men will be too close together. Anyhow the South Lancs will be much closer. To add to the joy of the place it appears to be infested with rats. The South Lancs had a haunch of venison sent them which they hung at Portobello so as to be ready for them when they went. Next morning it had disappeared with the exception of the bones. So how we are to keep our rations from one day to another I don't know.



ILLUS 14 Scott & Co No. 141? Nine men standing and two sitting in the camp, in a mixture of military and civilian dress. Three smartly-dressed women stand among the men, linking arms with them, and two women sit beside the sitting men. One couple has arms linked. The photograph perhaps records the visit of wives and friends from home. (Liverpool Scottish Box 10; Acc 0476, Cuttings)

This portion of Major Davidson's correspondence with his wife continued until the battalion departed for Kent, with a final telegram, dated 27 October 1914: 'Under orders leave for continent Friday. Think you had better stay at home. Jock.' Major Davidson went to France as second-in-command, but within a fortnight had been appointed as commanding officer, as a Lt Colonel. He commanded the battalion until 1917, when he returned to Liverpool to become the city's Chief Engineer. He was knighted in 1942.

THE SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

The 5th Battalion (1st/5th) of the South Lancashire Regiment was sent to Scotland as part of the same South Lancs Brigade as the Liverpool Scottish, as part of the Forth defences. The 1st/4th South Lancs was sent to Dunfermline. The regimental history of the South Lancashire Regiment provides more information (pers comm Lancashire Infantry Museum):

When Britain declared war on 4th August, 1914, the 5th Battalion, like the 4th, had just started its annual training in camp. On mobilization being ordered, the unit was at once embodied and sent to King's Park, Edinburgh, for training, where it remained until

October, in which month it was moved to Tunbridge Wells.

On arrival at Edinburgh the Battalion was billeted in the Castle, the first time for over a hundred years that a non-Scottish regiment had garrisoned this historic stronghold.

Part of the battalion is recorded, however, as occupying the camp in the Park, and was even photographed there (Illus 15 & 16).

OTHER UNITS

Major Davidson's letter of 15 August 1914 refers to the presence not only of the 'St Helens Battalion' (the 5th South Lancs) but also a brigade of Territorial artillery. The regimental history of the 2nd West Lancashire Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery records:

The order for mobilisation of the Territorial Force came as the Brigade was on its way to camp at [Barry] Buddon [east of Dundee, on the Tay] in Scotland. After a few weeks near Holyrood Park in Edinburgh ... the Brigade moved south to ... Kent (Simpson 1960).

Even after the soldiers had left, controversy surrounded the military use of the Park. On



ILLUS 15 Men of the 1st/5th South Lancs Regiment in Holyrood Park, reportedly from a newspaper article in the *St Helens Chronicle*. (Photo courtesy of Lancashire Infantry Museum)



ILLUS 16 Officers of the 1st/5th South Lancs Regiment in Holyrood Park, August or September 1914, reportedly from an article in the *St Helens Chronicle*. (Photo courtesy of Lancashire Infantry Museum)

9 November 1914 the *Evening News* published the first of a number of letters on the continued closure of the Park. 'Working Man' was concerned by the serious inconvenience caused by the gates of the Park being closed at sunset, as it meant that working people could not take their accustomed way home. The editor added, 'The Park was closed for military reasons at sunset. With the "lights out" order it is probably not convenient to re-open it again.' Three further letters were published the next day in support of the original correspondent, including the suggestion: 'would it not be advisable to reopen the Park as usual, seeing the military have vacated the ground, to all appearances, for good?' In passing, the *Evening News* of 4 December 1914 recorded that 'At the beginning of October the Edinburgh battalions were moved into better quarters' (unspecified).

On 17 December 1914 the *Evening News* welcomed the belated introduction of 'Women Patrols' to control 'the conduct of girls in the vicinity of military settlements', referring explicitly to the situation in the King's Park earlier in the year. The patrols could give 'advice to foolish girls and go a step further if required'. It is not clear whether these were conducted by the two very different forms of voluntary women 'police' organised in the early part of the war by the National Union of Women Workers and the more militaristic, indeed increasingly authoritarian, Women Police Volunteers (Woodeson 1993; Cartron 2015). The object of the patrols was 'to act as a steadying influence on girls and young women, and in general to look after their interests', seeking 'to impose a code of conduct which they deemed moral and respectable' – that is, the imposition of a middle-class morality on largely working-class girls (Woollacott 1994: 335, 340).

In the same month, the British Women's Temperance Association opened an 'Army and Navy Rest' in Croall Place, primarily for the comfort of men of the King's Liverpool (another battalion of the regiment, not the Liverpool Scottish) and South Lancashire Regiments at Shrubhill (*Scotsman* 10 March 1915).

On 11 July 1915 a large open-air public recruiting meeting was held at the Haggis Knowe

in the Park. 'One of the largest audiences addressed in Edinburgh for recruiting purposes was that which was assembled at a special demonstration held yesterday at the Haggis Knowe, Holyrood Park.' Around 10,000 people attended to hear speeches encouraging men to join 'The New Armies' (*Scotsman* 12 July 1915). A further recruitment meeting in the Park took place on 26 September 1915 (*Scotsman* 27 September 1915).

THE MILITARY CAMP – SUMMER 1915

The King's Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB)

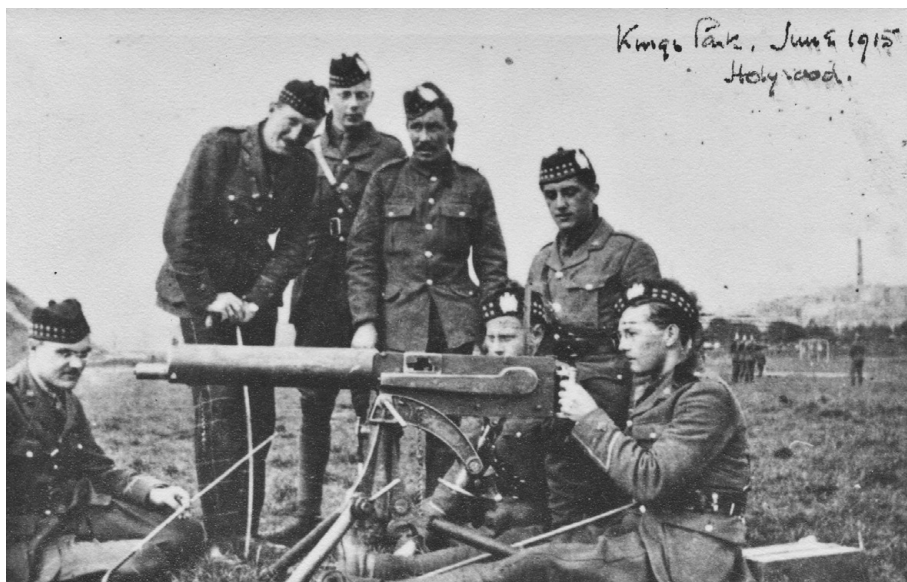
The Park was again the site of a tented camp in the summer of 1915. I reproduce here a quote from a regimental history:

Before June 1915 the 3rd K.O.S.B. camped in the King's Park, Holyrood, thereafter moved to the Marine Gardens, Portobello, with HQ and one company in the hideous chocolate factory just W. of the town. When the winter was over, a fresh move was made to huts erected by themselves (K.O.S.B.) in Duddingston Park. (Gillon 1930: 450)

The museum of the KOSB could find only one image from this period, showing a group of men being trained on a Vickers medium machine gun, dating from June 1915 (Illus 17).

Duddingston Camp

In the First World War most infantry regiments had a 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, the role of which was to induct, equip and train recruits, and to prepare drafts of men to go off to the operational battalions of the regiment. This role was, in peacetime, undertaken by the regiment's depot, but the task in the First World War was too great for the peacetime structure to cope. Most of these battalions were accommodated in due course in large hutted camps, and the Duddingston Camp follows this general pattern (Illus 18). As noted above, the camp at Duddingston was provided with a 'military institute', a teetotal recreational facility usually provided by a religious charity (for example, the YMCA or the Church of Scotland).



ILLUS 17 Men of the King's Own Scottish Borderers being trained on a Vickers machine gun in the Park, June 1915. The Nelson Tower on Calton Hill is visible in the background. (KOSB Museum)



ILLUS 18 'Scrubbing up' at Duddingston Camp. (KOSB Museum)

The national heritage database, Canmore, records (NT27SE 5900) a Second World War camp in the grounds of Duddingston House, made up largely of Nissen huts, appearing on post-war aerial photographs, centred approximately on NT 2860 7270, the northern area of the former Cavalry Park, close to the modern boundary of

Holyrood Park. This camp remained in use after the war as emergency civilian housing.

The Historic Environment Scotland architects' drawing archive, however, contains a plan on heavy drawing film of a different camp, located in the southern part of the Cavalry Park. Examination of RAF photograph 106G/Scot/

UK/0118 Frame 6094 (12 June 1946) shows no such camp in this area at that date. The style of lettering, the layout of the camp and the limited documentary references to the presence of a large camp in the grounds of Duddingston House, leads me to believe that this plan is of the First World War army infantry base camp – Duddingston Camp.

References to Duddingston Camp are few and far between. The *Berwick Advertiser* of 17 May 1918 recounts events in the military career of Private Dunlop, a recipient of the Military Medal: he had been called up as a reservist and served at the Retreat of Mons. He was wounded in 1915, and was invalided home. After convalescence he did garrison duty at Inchkeith, Inchgarvie, Kirkcaldy and Leith. Returning to Duddingston Camp, he was then passed fit for duty and proceeded with a draft of the KOSBs to France.

The plan of Duddingston Camp in the HES archive records around 150 individual structures, of which around 90, in four rows, are probably accommodation huts. The remainder, by analogy with other camps (for example, Stobs, near Hawick (Barclay 2015)), will have been cook houses, toilet blocks, ablutions, bath houses, drying rooms, administrative offices, lecture rooms, and stores of food, fuel and equipment (Illus 4, 18). Duddingston House itself is shown as being broken up into stores and officers' accommodation.

One of the huts was clearly a YMCA recreation hut. The KOSB archive contains a flier for the hut: 'YMCA Hut, Duddingston Camp. In the handsome YMCA Hut in the Duddingston Camp the Association through the General Secretary, carries on all the year round an interesting programme of religious, social, and educational work of a varied character on behalf of the troops located there.'

The museum of the KOSB at Berwick-upon-Tweed has provided a number of images relating to the camp, but only one provides any topographical information.

The camp at Duddingston was not identified in the survey of *The Built Heritage of the First World War in Scotland* (Barclay 2013) and at the time of writing has not yet been recorded on

Canmore, the national database of Scotland's historic environment.

THE MILITARY CAMP IN THE PARK – SUMMER 1916

There is a single reference to a further tented encampment in the Park in July 1916, when it seems to have been used to accommodate a siege battery during its formation. The history of No. 178 Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, records the battery's establishment on 16 June 1916, and the arrival of its 'advance party' 'at King's Park, Edinburgh' on 3 July. On 5 July, the 'Main body arrived at King's Park from Firth of Forth Defences' and on the 20th 'Bere Island signallers from Bexhill-on-Sea arrived Edinburgh'. Finally, the battery left for Ramillies Barracks, Aldershot, on 28 July 1916 (Webber 2009: 85).

Siege batteries were armed with heavier weapons than the normal Royal Field Artillery batteries: 6-inch, 8-inch, 9.2-inch and even 12-inch guns. They were raised from the coast defence units of the Royal Garrison Artillery. Four batteries are known to have been raised from the Forth defences: 99, 108, 178 and 181. These units' War Diaries, unfortunately, only begin with their arrival in France.

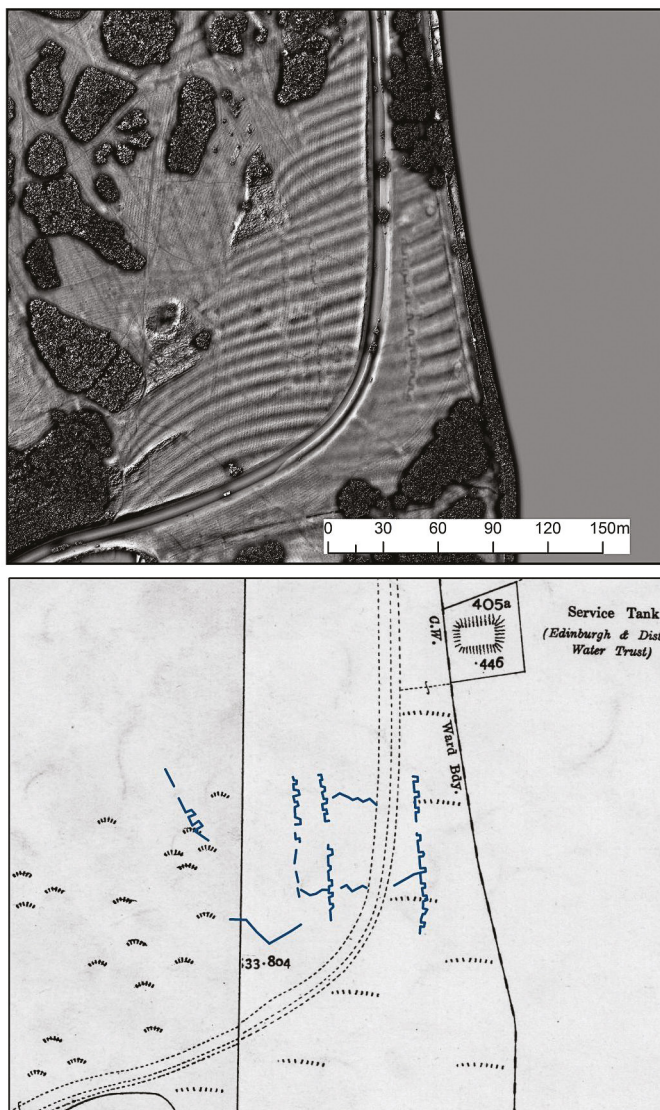
OTHER MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE PARK 1914–19

The Royal Scots

The local infantry regiment had strong connections to the Park, with its use of the ranges and frequent use of the Parade Ground. The Royal Scots Club holds a photograph of the 1st/4th Royal Scots parading at St Leonard's, on the edge of the Park, in April 1915.

Training: the First World War trenches

First World War practice trenches were first noted in 1949 (Stevenson 1949). They were not visible in 1998 when an attempt was made to locate them (Sagrott pers comm) and they were only rediscovered in 2017 by a LiDAR survey of the Park (Illus 19). The complex comprises



ILLUS 19 LiDAR image from HES (above) and a speculative plot by the author (below)

three parallel lines, running almost north/south, each 80–90m long. The trenches are laid out as straight segments each about 6m long, separated from each other by projections eastward. Long straight lengths of trench were avoided, so that the effects of blast could be restricted to small areas, and to make it more difficult to dominate a trench by fire from a single point.

Two of the lines lie to the west of the public road. They are about 16m apart. The third line

lies east of the public road, about 50m to the east of the middle line of trenches. The two western trenches seem to be linked to each other by a single east/west zig-zag trench near their southern end. This line seems to continue eastward towards the third, easternmost, trench.

Further to the west there are hints in the image of another trench with the same general characteristics, and also a hint of what may be a communication trench, at the south.

Straight and zig-zag communication trenches are a feature of the practice and anti-invasion trenches in eastern Scotland. A number of First World War practice trenches are included on maps of the anti-invasion defences of eastern Scotland, and are explicitly mapped as practice trenches (Barclay & Morris 2019).

The three clearly visible lines reflect British defensive doctrine early in the war, which called for a main trench system of three parallel lines, interconnected by communications trenches. The front trench would be lightly garrisoned and typically only occupied in force during 'stand to' at dawn and dusk. Between 65m and 90m behind the front trench was located the support (or 'travel') trench, to which the garrison would retreat when the front trench was bombarded. Between 90m and 270m further to the rear was located the reserve trench, where the reserve troops could be concentrated for a counter-attack if the front trenches were captured. The fourth line of trenches noted on the LiDAR survey may represent the 'enemy' trench line.

VICTORY PARADE 1919

While the main British Victory Parade was held in London on 19 July 1919, a parade was also held in Edinburgh on the same day, with the Duke of Rothesay (later Edward VIII) taking the salute. The large number of service personnel, with their vehicles (armoured cars, ambulances) and equipment mustered in the Park, prior to the parade through the city (*Scotsman* 21 July 1919). Six tanks joined the procession when it reached Regent Road. The paper covered both the London and Edinburgh Victory Parades, giving over a whole page to reports of both. I located few images of the parade, and none of the muster in the Park: Edinburgh City Libraries hold an image of three tanks parading past the Royal High School in Regent Road (Barclay 2020).

THE PARK IN ANTI-INVASION PREPARATIONS 1900–19

The anti-invasion defences of the Firth of Forth area between 1900 and 1919 have been described

elsewhere (Barclay & Morris 2019). The Park appears in a number of the pre-war schemes, as the location of the local army reserves. The contemporary sources, notably Dickinson's diary, mention the likely role in coast defence of the Liverpool Scottish, in case of an invasion.

During the First World War the defence line covering the eastern approaches to Edinburgh ran from Seafield, on the coast, to Meadowhead Farm, on the southern outskirts of the city, passing across the south-east corner of the Park, where two of the original subdivisions of the defences, 'Section 1' and 'Section 2', met (see Illus 4). The defence line comprised a continuous single line or multiple lines of barbed wire entanglements, extensive firing trenches, machine gun positions and command posts.

The map of the defences shows two machine gun emplacements above the main positions, on Samson's Ribs. Two small firing positions were located on the edge of 'Duddingston Road' in the Park.

CONCLUSION

The aim of this paper has been to document the use of an iconic part of Edinburgh's civic landscape during the First World War, which has faded from popular memory. It is clear that the presence of the Liverpool Scottish, so publicly visible in the Park and in the streets of the city in the early days of the war, had a considerable impact at the time. One has merely to look at the crowds watching the life of the camp from the heights of the Park, in the background of Illus 7 (and in many of the similar unpublished photographs in the archives). The use of the Park in 1914 (and to a certain extent in 1915) highlights the improvisation of the time, prior to the establishment of semi-permanent base camps, like that in Duddingston Park.

The letters and diaries used in the article, the practice trenches in the Park, and the Duddingston camp shed light on the training of great numbers of men needed for the fighting in France and, in due course, for trench warfare.

Contemporary press reports shed light on aspects of the relationship between the soldiery and local people, in formal and informal contexts. Notably, the supposed impropriety of relations between the men and local women illustrated the divisions in society between those who took a laissez-faire attitude and those who wanted to use wartime conditions to promote their own conservative morality and to police the behaviour of women. We see here a reflection of the widespread fear of ‘blatant, aggressive and overt’ harassment of soldiers by young working-class women or ‘the running after soldiers’ by ‘head-strong, impressionable, undisciplined girls’, who at that stage in the war had few opportunities to make their own contribution to the war effort (Woollacott 1994: 326, 331).

It is a matter of regret how few contemporary sources were found, during a thorough search of archives and published materials, that might have added greater depth to our understanding of the local impact of the military presence in the city. The conclusions drawn are necessarily constrained by this lack of evidence.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The archive and museum of the Liverpool Scottish provided an extraordinary amount of material and information, and I am particularly grateful to Major Ian Riley for the archive’s

generous help. Major Riley also kindly made the necessary approaches to Trish Davidson, who has kindly given her permission to publish a small sample of Captain Davidson’s letters, and to Peter Dickinson to confirm the permission to publish Captain Dickinson’s diary, initially given by his father, the late John Dickinson MBE.

ABBREVIATIONS

HES: Historic Environment Scotland
 HQ: head quarters
 IWM: Imperial War Museums
 KLR: King’s Liverpool Regiment
 KOSB: The King’s Own Scottish Borderers
 LiDAR: light detection and ranging
 NAAFI: Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes
 NCO: non-commissioned officer
 RAF: Royal Air Force
 SS: steam ship
 SLR: South Lancashire Regiment
 YMCA: Young Men’s Christian Association

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MW3/80 1913–17 Holyrood Park. Hunter’s Bog: agreement between Office of Works and Edinburgh Territorial Force Association

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