

kilt, and the survivors landed in England in the kilt. Did any other Highland Regiment fight even one action in the last war in the kilt, let alone a complete campaign?

If the morale effect of the kilt was as great on the enemy as it was on our own troops, then the advantage of wearing the kilt was indeed enormous. The writer, being in the Anti-Tank Platoon, was often left to thicken up the meagre anti-tank resources of other divisions. The English Regiments were always overwhelming in the confidence they placed in the fighting qualities of the Jocks, and it is no exaggeration to say that the mere arrival of twenty kilted Camerons with their three small guns often had the effect of restoring the confidence of already rather badly shaken Infantry.

Similar confidence was shown in the kilt on Dunkirk beaches. Numerous individuals and bodies of troops, who had lost their officers, reported to the writer for instructions, though he had only the one pip of a 2/Lieut., and there were many more senior officers prowling the beach. Particularly striking was the arrival of the remnants of a Platoon of Welsh Guards, whose Sergeant reported in the traditional Guards style and finished with a "beg permission to join your Platoon, sir." Further volunteers had to be refused, as the Platoon had swollen from fifteen Jocks to close on fifty men, representing many of the Regiments of the British Army. It was to the Jocks the harassed Embarkation Staff and Navy turned, when they wanted men to organise and control the straggling hordes of troops which flooded the beach at the jetty end of Dunkirk. The wearing of the kilt also had a beneficial effect on the wearer. Who dressed as a Highlander in the famous 79th tartan could let the Regiment down? The appearance of the 1st Battalion at Dunkirk, correctly dressed, shaved, fully armed, complete with anti-gas capes correctly rolled with the quick release string: this—after three weeks' fighting—was proof of the discipline and training of the 1st Battalion, to which must be added the enormous effect of the wearing of the kilt.

Alas, Dunkirk was the end of the kilt as far as the 1st Battalion was concerned. The casualties had been such that never again could kilts be found for the whole Battalion.

Valiant efforts were made to find more kilts, and the officers and W.Os. continued to wear the kilt at all times until the Battalion's embarkation for the Far East in the spring of 1942. The new reinforcements, who now joined the Battalion, had only the tartan patch and the Blue Hackle, apart from their cap badge, to show they were Camerons, and shortly the Blue Hackle was itself to be withdrawn.

The withdrawal of the Blue Hackle came about as follows. The Blue Hackle, as we have seen, was given to the Regiment as a result of a conversation between Lieut.-Col. Wimberley and our Royal Colonel-in-Chief. However, the War Office had not given official approval or formally approached His Majesty on behalf of the Regiment through the proper channels, and further, some newspaper articles had appeared stating that the Blue Hackle had been given for valour in battle, which the Regiment had never for one instant claimed. As a result, the War Office ordered that the matter must be left dormant till after the War; and so, sadly, the Camerons, on the orders of the Colonel of the Regiment, took down the Blue Hackle, hoping to raise the matter again when the War was won and peace once more reigned. After the War, it is understood, some prominent Camerons, including, of course, the then Colonel of the Regiment, General Drew, again took up the matter, and at last A.C.I. 218 of 1951 confirmed our ultimate success.

It is hoped that the origin of the Blue Hackle has been made clearer—that the Blue Hackle is the emblem which denotes a Cameron, even when he is not dressed in the kilt, and so remember keep the Blue Hackle flying in your balmoral at all times.

We left the battle dress tartan patch as a balmoral patch sewn on to the sleeve above the elbow. After Dunkirk the large patch remained and appears to have been taken into general use by the Regiment at home. As field force units were built up in the U.K. a positive rush of formation, arms of the service, war service, wound, etc., signs broke out. Either longer arms would have to be issued to soldiers to allow them to wear the multiplicity of insignia or the signs would have to shrink. Our tartan patch shrank to its present size, which is the same as that worn on the pagri of the