The Anthology of Bagpipe Music and Military History

Collection 2—World War One

Volume 1: The Battles

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and

So many other distinguished pipers from around the globe

Dedicated to the “Greatest Generation” who are quickly and have almost faded into a new story.
Their sacrifice preserved the “better nature” of our common humanity.
We *pipe in the “Footsteps of Giants”*

First Edition

OVERVIEW

This anthology covers military history as told through the lens of bagpipe music, its composers, and the tunes they honor and remember.

The Anthology comprises eight collections:

Collection 1: Pre-World War One (*1750 through 1905*)

Volume 1: 1750 to 1900 Wars in North America

Annex A: History of US Military Pipe Bands

Volume 2: Wars on the Continent (*Napoleon and Crimea)*

Volume 3: India and Afghanistan

Volume 4: Africa and Boer War

Collection 2: World War One

Volume 1: The Battles (*1914 to 1918 and Occupation*)

Volume 2: Leaders and Heroes

Volume 3: The Military Units (*Army, Navy and Air Force)*

Volume 4: Special Occasions *(Anniversaries and Memorials)*

Collection 3: World War Two

Volume 1: Northern Europe

Volume 2: Africa

Volume 3: Far East, China, Burma, India, New Guinea

Volume 4: Italy

Volume 5: Leaders and Heroes

Volume 6: Anniversaries and Memorials

Collection 4: Post World War Two (*1950 to present*)

Collection 5: Regimental Marches and Duty Tunes

Volume 1: United Kingdom

Volume 2: Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, USA

Collection 6: Special Collection

- Prisoners of War
- Paratroopers/Commandos
- 51st Highland Division

Collection 7: Military Units *(Army, Navy and Air Force)*

- **Collection 8:** Piobaireachds (*1750 to Present*)

INTRODUCTION

Collection Two of the Anthology provides the epic story of World War One as seen thru the lens of our bagpipe music and its composers. In volume one here, we begin this story with the "Guns of August 1914" starting with German invasion of Belgium, Luxenberg and France and then follow the sounds of the pipes to the Dardanelles, Middle East, Jerusalem, Macedonia, Balkans, Africa and then thru the most terrible display of man's wartime insanity onto the Western Front, into the nightmare trenches and across "No Man or Pipers Land." We are there again to joyfully watch the story unfold to its hollow epilogue on the 11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month, November, 1918 "Armistice Day" and then with Allied occupations of Germany and Turkey. Finally, we bring the honored veterans back home to families and grateful nations.

Collection 2, World War One, is broken into three volumes and volume one here covers the battles in five chapters, 1914 to 1918. Separate volumes will cover famous leaders, heroes, Army, Royal Navy, beginning of the RAF, battlefield and home tunes, and finally anniversaries and memorial tunes written long after the Armistice.

The tunes here were most often found in Scottish, Canadian and Irish Regimental Standard Settings and includes tunes from around the Commonwealth, especially New Zealand. There are tunes from private collections, manuscripts and never published and personal stories. Sadly, much of the tune's history and composer's personal stories are now lost or are hidden in regimental or family archives.

Interesting to note the Battle of the Somme has more tunes named after it than any other military battle in the entire Anthology and its hallmark tune Battle of the Somme by Pipe Major William Lawrie, remains the most common tune found in the most source books. While the majority of the tunes are quick and slow marches, there are reels, jigs, hornpipes, and strathspeys in this collection.

From M J Grant's excellent history research on "Bagpipe's at the Front, Pipers and Piping during the Great War" --"*Certainly, from the American War of Independence and particularly during the period of the Napoleonic Wars, the Highland soldier was gradually rebranded – no longer the uncouth savage of the north, the Highlanders' supposedly innate bravado and fighting skill were now celebrated and promoted, as were all the trappings that marked his difference. These included the pipes, though as with so many military music traditions, official recognition of and financial support for their deployment were not immediately forthcoming. The most important change in this regard came with the assignment of one pipe major and five pipers to Highland regiments in 1854, on the eve of the Crimean war; in 1882, an order was issued approving a similar set-up in Lowland regiments, but without providing the necessary funding. Traditionally, each company would be served by one piper for the charge, a company having around 200 men. The combined pipers also formed the backbone for the emerging tradition of pipe bands. In Highland regiments, funding for these six pipers in total was guaranteed, but any further pipers were to be maintained by the regiment itself. This led to the distinction between "full" and "acting" pipers, the latter also serving in the ranks."*

During WW1, the role of the piper continued to change as the battlefields became so deadly to all using archaic Napoleonic Age tactics meeting modern weapons and piper casualties became such that a generation of piper's were almost brought to a total end. By mid-1915 losses of so many accomplished military pipers and also the loss of so many ancient historical sets of pipes became irreplaceable. This caused another major change in the roles of pipers so that pipers

were then ordered to remain in usually safer rear areas and they could no longer be first in their regiments across “No Man’s or Piper’s Land.” The sound of the pipes certainly had a disturbing effect on German and Turkish morale. Two pipers were honored with the award of the Victoria Cross: Kings Own Scottish Borderer Danial Laidlaw and Canadian Seaforth James Richardson. The piper’s impact on friend and foe is best told-- “*And with them marched Piper Daniel Laidlaw, playing them on. Who need be afraid of gas, artillery, death, defeat, when such magical, mystical powers were at work for the British cause?”*

There is very little mentioned in historical archives on what tunes pipers actually played on World War One battlefields. The Scottish Regiments did have regimental marches and duty tunes. There were also Irish pipe bands present with their traditional tunes. Some of those rare piper battlefield stories are included in this collection. Grant again summarized it best-- *“The repertoire of the Highland bagpipes in Scottish regiments is drawn largely from the wider repertoire of Scottish songs and tunes, supplemented with newer tunes written specifically for the pipes and often commemorating certain campaigns, events or persons. As with the tunes used to signal different day-to-day events in camp, tunes used by different regiments as their regimental marches often have a connection to the history or geographical home of the regiment involved.”*

In 2018 we concluded the Centennial Anniversary of the “Great War.” It is hoped this collection will give today and tomorrow’s pipers honored tunes from our rich military piper history to keep past generations of piper’s noble sacrifice and memory alive and the tunes played in future memorial events.

Now begins the story and its tunes.

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By 1914, the European great powers were divided between the Triple Entente, comprising France, Russia, and Britain, and the Triple Alliance, containing Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. Tensions in the Balkans came to a head on June 28, 1914 following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the Austro-Hungarian heir, by Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb. Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia, which led to the July Crisis, an unsuccessful attempt to avoid conflict through diplomacy. Russia came to Serbia's defense following Austria-Hungary's declaration of war on the latter on July 28, and by August 4, the system of alliances drew in Germany, France, and Britain, along with their respective colonies, although Italy remained neutral. In November 1914 the Ottoman Empire, Germany, and Austria-Hungary formed the Central Powers, while in April 1915, Italy joined Britain, France, Russia and Serbia as the Allies of World War I.

Facing a war on two fronts, German strategy in 1914 was to concentrate its forces on defeating France in six weeks before moving them to the Eastern Front and doing the same to Russia. However, the German offensive in France failed to achieve this and by the end of 1914, the two sides faced each other along the Western Front, a continuous series of trench lines stretching from the English Channel to Switzerland that changed little until 1917. By contrast, the Eastern Front was far more fluid, with Austria-Hungary and Russia gaining, then losing large swathes of territory. Other significant theatres included the Middle Eastern Theatre, the Italian Front, and the Balkans Theatre, drawing Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece into the war.

The Highland Heroes of Mons

Soldiers of the 1st Gordon Highlanders and 2nd Royal Irish Regiment at Mons

The Battle of Mons (August 29, 1914) was the first major action of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in the First World War. It was a subsidiary action of the Battle of the Frontiers, in which the Allies clashed with Germany on the French borders. At Mons in Belgium, the British Army attempted to hold the line of the Mons –Condé Canal against the advancing German 1st Army. Although the British fought well and inflicted disproportionate casualties on the numerically superior Germans, they were eventually forced to retreat due both to the greater strength of the Germans and the sudden retreat of the French Fifth Army, which exposed the British right flank. Though initially planned as a simple tactical withdrawal and executed in good order, the British retreat from Mons lasted for two weeks and took the BEF to the outskirts of Paris before it counter-attacked in concert with the French, at the Battle of the Marne.

The "Highlanders" referred to in the title, ***The Highland Heroes of Mons*** refers to the Cameron Highlanders. It's composer, Robert Meldrum (1851-1941), was a celebrated, highly-decorated piper.

He was born in Tomintoul, Banffshire on May 13, 1851, and in 1868, at the age of 16, he enlisted in the 78th Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs). He was transferred to Halifax, Nova Scotia the following year.

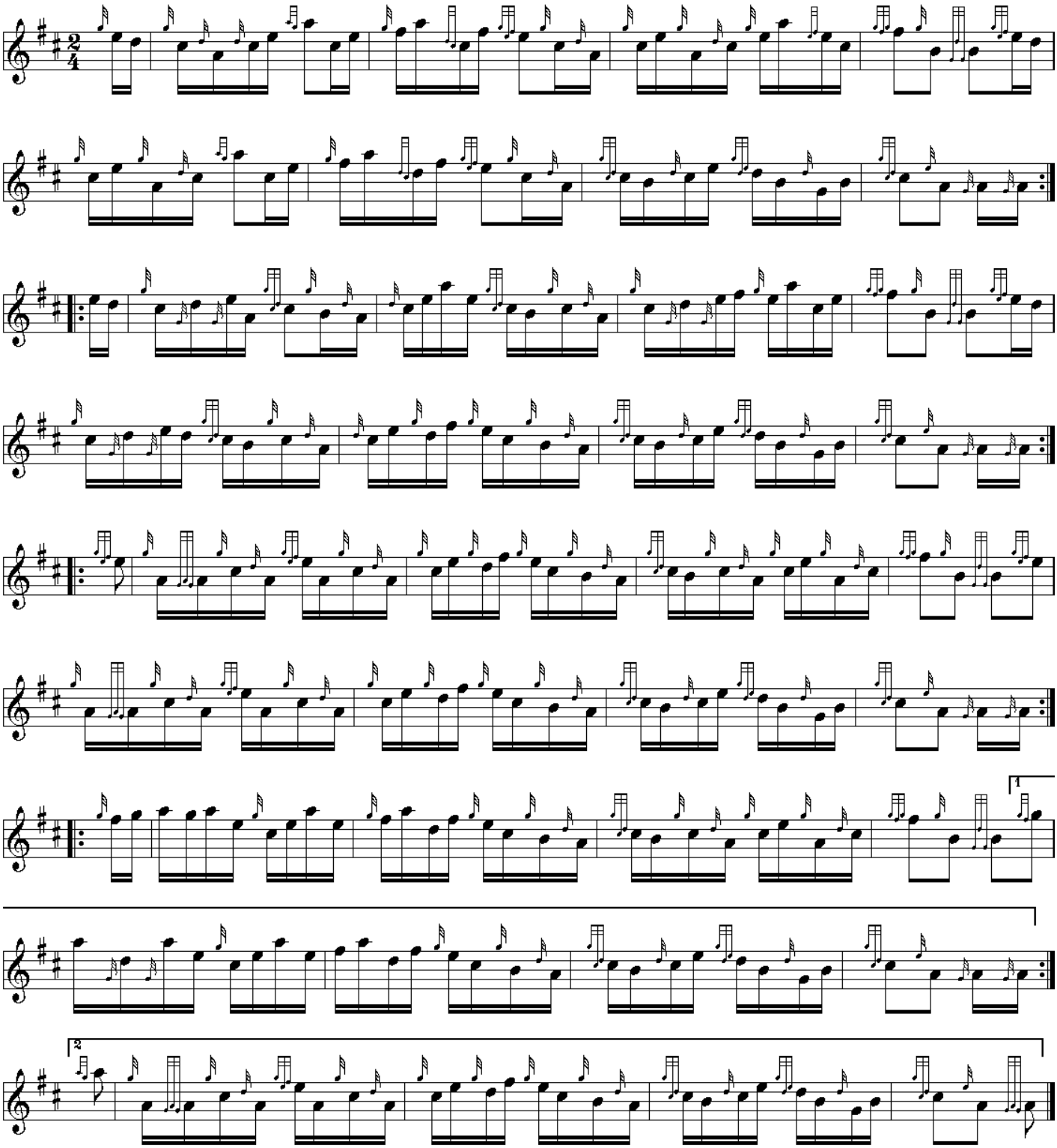
He served with the 78th until 1873, when he purchased his discharge, then he joined up again three months later. In 1875, he was appointed Pipe Major of the 93rd Highlanders, becoming, at the time, the youngest pipe major in the British army. He had been recommended for the post by Uilleam Ross, piper to Queen Victoria, who held Meldrum in such high esteem that he hoped for him to be his successor as Queen's piper.

From 1887, he was Pipe Major of the 3rd Cameron Highlanders until he retired in 1892. From that time until the outbreak of the Great War, he served as piper to the Earl of Ancaster at Drummond Castle. He would rejoin the Camerons in 1914.

Robert Meldrum circa 1880s

During the war years he formed a pipe band with the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion at Invergordon, consisting of wounded soldiers returning from the trenches. He was discharged in 1917 at age 65, and later became piping instructor at Queen Victoria School in Dunblane, teaching the sons of Scottish soldiers. He eventually retired to Inverness where he became pipe major of the Royal British Legion Pipe Band. He lived out his last years in Inverness, where he died on July 16, 1941 at 90. He is buried in Springbank Cemetery in Aberdeen.

The Highland Heroes of Mons March PM R. Meldrum



The Heroes of Belgium

Belgium Soldiers during WWI

The German invasion of Belgium was a military campaign which began on August 4, 1914. Earlier, on July 24, the Belgian government had announced that if war came it would uphold its neutrality. The Belgian government mobilized its armed forces on July 31 and a state of heightened alert (*Kriegsgefahr*) was proclaimed in Germany. On August 2, the German government sent an ultimatum to Belgium, demanding passage through the country and German forces invaded Luxembourg. Two days later, the Belgian government refused the demands and the British government guaranteed military support to Belgium. The German government declared war on Belgium on August 4; German troops crossed the border and began the Battle of Liège.

German military operations in Belgium were intended to bring the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Armies into positions in Belgium from which they could invade France, which, after the fall of Liège on August 7, led to sieges of Belgian fortresses along the river Meuse at Namur and the surrender of the last forts (August 16-17). The government abandoned the capital, Brussels, on August 17 and after fighting on the Gete river, the Belgian field army withdrew westwards to the National Redoubt at Antwerp on August 19. Brussels was occupied the following day and the siege of Namur began on August 21.

After the Battle of Mons and the Battle of Charleroi, the bulk of the German armies marched south into France, leaving small forces to garrison Brussels and the Belgian railways. The III Reserve Corps advanced to the fortified zone around Antwerp and a division of the IV Reserve Corps took over in Brussels. The Belgian field army made several sorties from Antwerp in late August and September to harass German communications and to assist the French and the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), by keeping German troops in Belgium. German troop withdrawals to reinforce the main armies in France were postponed to repulse a Belgian sortie from September 9 to 13 and a German corps in transit was retained in Belgium for several days.

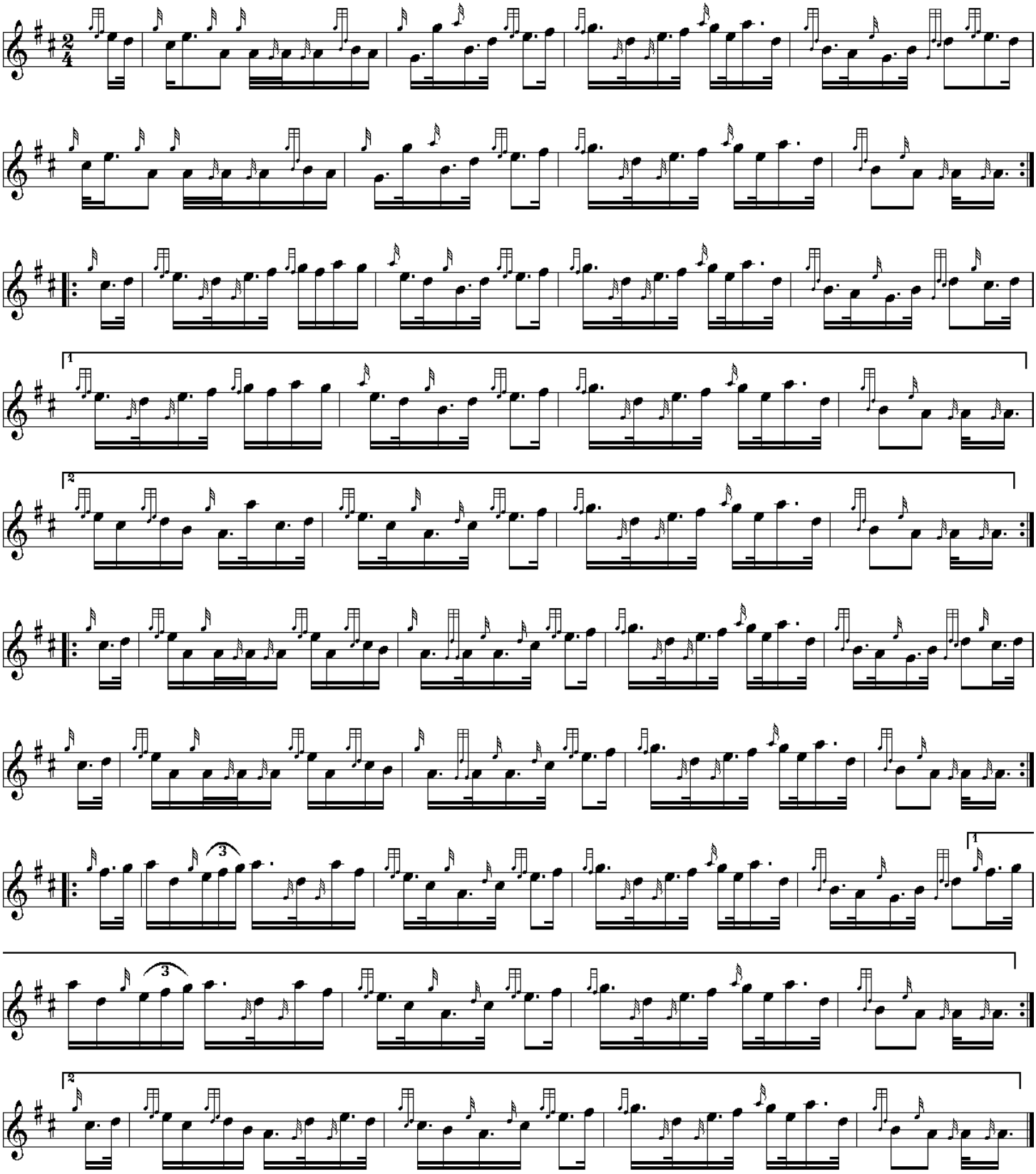
After the Battle of the Frontiers ended, the French armies and the BEF began the Great Retreat into France (August 24– September 28), the Belgian army and small detachments of French and British troops fought in Belgium against German cavalry and *Jäger*. On August 27, a squadron of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) flew to Ostend, to conduct air reconnaissance between Bruges, Ghent and Ypres. Royal Marines landed in France on September 19-20 and began scouting unoccupied Belgium in motor cars; an RNAS Armoured Car Section was created by fitting vehicles with bulletproof steel. On October 2, the Marine Brigade of the Royal Naval Division was moved to Antwerp, followed by the rest of the division on October 6. From October 6 to 7, the 7th Division and the 3rd Cavalry Division landed at Zeebrugge and naval forces collected at Dover were formed into the Dover Patrol, to operate in the Channel and off the French–Belgian coast. Despite minor British reinforcement, the siege of Antwerp ended when its defensive ring of forts was destroyed by German super-heavy artillery. The city was abandoned on October 9 and Allied forces withdrew to West Flanders.

At the end of the Great Retreat, the Race to the Sea (September 17 – October 19) began, a period of reciprocal attempts by German and Franco-British forces to outflank each other, extending the front line northwards from the Aisne, into Picardy, Artois, and Flanders. Military operations in Belgium also moved westwards as the Belgian army withdrew from Antwerp to the area close to the border with France. The Belgian army fought the defensive Battle of the Yser (October 16-31) from Nieuwpoort (Nieuport) south to Diksmuide (Dixmude), as the German 4th Army attacked westwards and French, British, and some Belgian troops fought the First Battle of Ypres (October 19 – November 22) against the German 4th and 6th Armies. By November 1914, most of Belgium was under German occupation and Allied naval blockade. A German military administration was established on August 26, 1914, to rule through the pre-war Belgian administrative system, overseen by a small group of German officers and officials. Belgium was divided into administrative zones, the General Government of Brussels and its hinterland; a second zone, under the 4th Army, including Ghent and Antwerp and a third zone under the German Navy along the coastline. The German occupation lasted until late 1918.

The tune, ***The Heroes of Belgium*** was composed by New Zealander Alexander Taylor Cameron. His parents, Alexander and Elizabeth Cameron, had seven sons and three daughters. Five of their sons were pipers: Duncan Cameron, Alexander Taylor Cameron, Donald Duncan Cameron, John Angus Cameron and William McKay Cameron. Another son, Angus Frank Cameron was a drummer and was killed on the Somme in World War One.

Alexander Taylor Cameron (1868 - September 2, 1957 aged 89), commonly called Sandy but he often signed his tunes Alick or Alex, lived for many years in Balclutha. He married late in life and had no children. He was a prolific composer and in 1934 published 188 tunes in A New Zealand Collection of Bagpipe Music. He followed it two years later in 1934 with 15 more tunes in The Second New Zealand Collection of Bagpipe Music. Both of these books were privately published.

In later life, he started to show the effects of excessive alcohol consumption. He also had a strong religious bent and the writer has some documents in his collection that attest to this. He would write out music and other material for anyone who wanted them, and many have found their way into the writer's collection. Those that were written in his last few years show a very shaky hand .



The 8th Argyll's Farewell to Dunoon

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) was a line infantry regiment of the British Army that existed from 1881 until amalgamation into the Royal Regiment of Scotland on March 28, 2006. The regiment was created under the Childers Reforms in 1881, as the Princess Louise's (Sutherland and Argyll Highlanders), by the amalgamation of the 91st (Argyllshire Highlanders) Regiment of Foot and 93rd (Sutherland Highlanders) Regiment of Foot, amended the following year to reverse the order of the "Argyll" and "Sutherland" sub-titles. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was expanded to fifteen battalions during the First World War and nine during the Second World War. The HQ of the 8th (Argylshire) Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was at Dunoon.

John McLellan at the time of the Great War

The tune, ***The 8th Argyll's Farewell to Dunoon*** was composed by Pipe Major John McLellan (1875-1949) of Dunoon. The music of John McLellan is part of every piper's repertoire. "Lochanside," "The Highland Brigade at Magersfontein," "The Road to the Isles" and "South Hall" are staples written by creative genius, who was born in 1875 in Dunoon, Scotland. At age eight, after his father died, he moved with his family to his mother's native the Isle of Jura, eventually returning to Dunoon.

John joined the Highland Light Infantry at the age of 17 in 1892. In the early part of his service with the HLI, he was stationed in Malta where he composed the 2/4 march entitled *The Bells of Malta*. The H.L.I. saw service in Crete, during the rebellions there, before moving to Egypt. In 1899, the HLI were bound for the South African War as one of the units of the Highland Brigade. It was at one of these famous actions that John won the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He also composed the famous and well-loved Retreat Air *The Highland Brigade at Magersfontein* to commemorate the battle.

He left the army in 1903 and joined the Govan Police Pipe Band. Later this band became the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band and eventually the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band. A number of John's tunes were published in the old Henderson Books under J. McLellan Govan Police.

On his return to Dunoon, he started to teach and was probably the only teacher in the Cowal area at that time. In 1905 or 1906, John compiled and arranged *The Cowal Collection*. Most of the tunes in this collection were composed by John himself and being published for the first time, *Lochanside*, *Heroes of Vittoria* and *Cowal Society* among others.

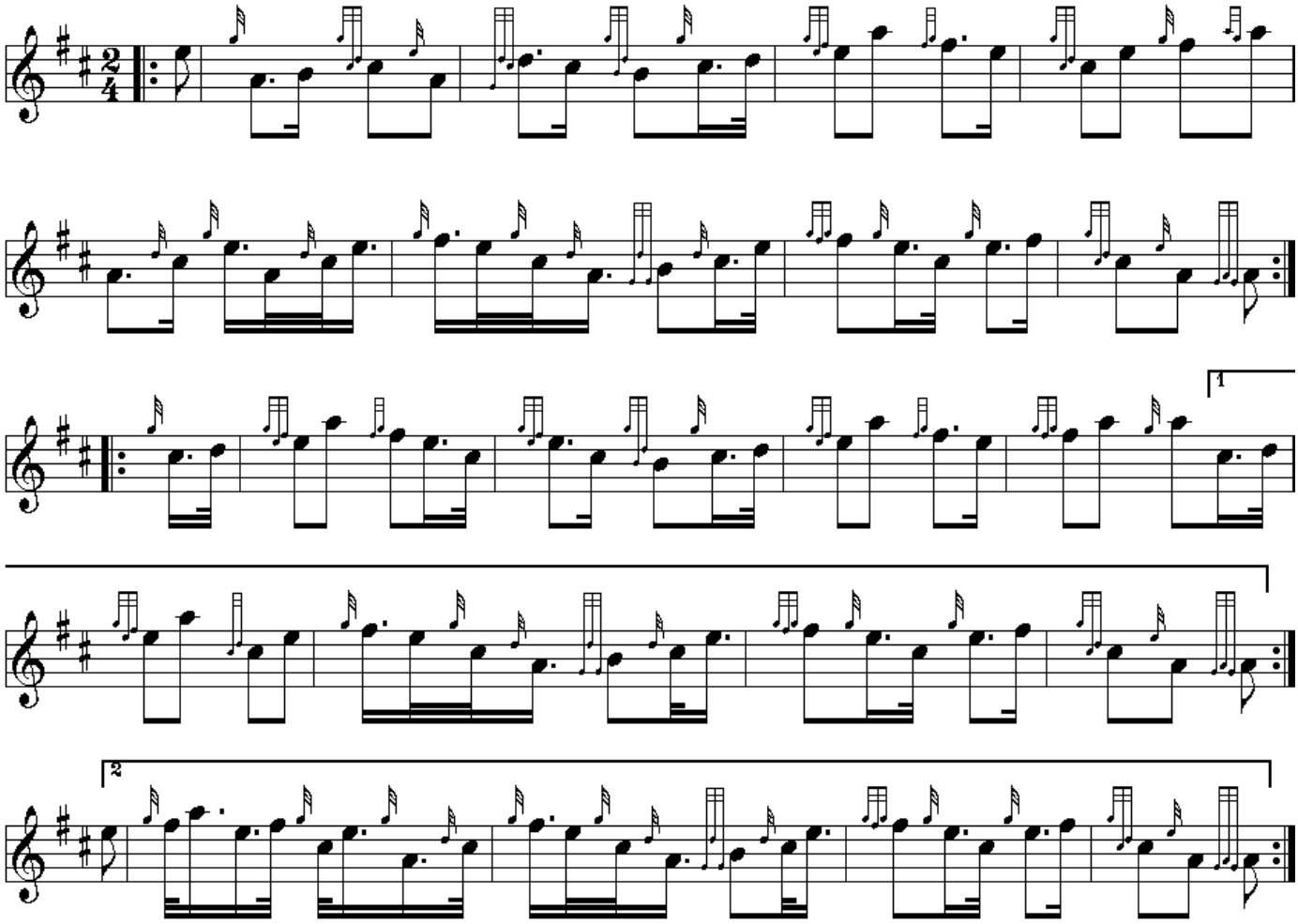
John joined the 8th Argylls (TA) in 1912. They were the successor to the old 5th Volunteer Battalion A&SH, some of whom had fought in the Boer War. Two years later, the 8th Argylls, along with all the other TA units, were mobilized and before long were sent to France at the start of the Great War. John was off to war again at the age of 39.

He was in the band at the beginning of the war under Pipe Major George Ross. Pipe Major Willie Lawrie took over the band in 1915. About this time John was wounded at Laventie in north-west France. In 1916, Pipe Major Willie Lawrie died suddenly. Contrary to popular belief, however, John did not succeed him as Pipe Major. The reason for this is unknown but the post was taken over by the aforementioned James Wilson of Dunoon, John's pupil, who was at that time the youngest Pipe Major in the army at 19 or 20. John became Pipe Major of the 8th Argylls in 1919 and remained in post through the reconstitution to being a TA unit again and finally retired from the 8th in 1930.

When John retired from the 8th Argylls his successor was Pipe Major George MacDonald. George had been a very successful Pipe Major with his previous band, Millhall Pipe Band, winning the World Pipe Band Championships on three occasions at Cowal Games. Soon after taking over the 8th Argylls he set about publishing a book of pipe tunes composed by members and former members of the 8th. Of the 65 or so tunes published in this book, 40 were penned by John McLellan.

During the 30s and 40s John helped to teach the Dunoon Grammar School Cadet Pipe Band. He died suddenly on July 31, 1949, at Dunoon Cottage Hospital after a short illness. He was buried, with full Military Honors, in Dunoon Cemetery.

The 8th Argyll's Farewell to Dunoon March John McLellan (Dunoon)



The Royal Scots Fusiliers' Advance on Mons

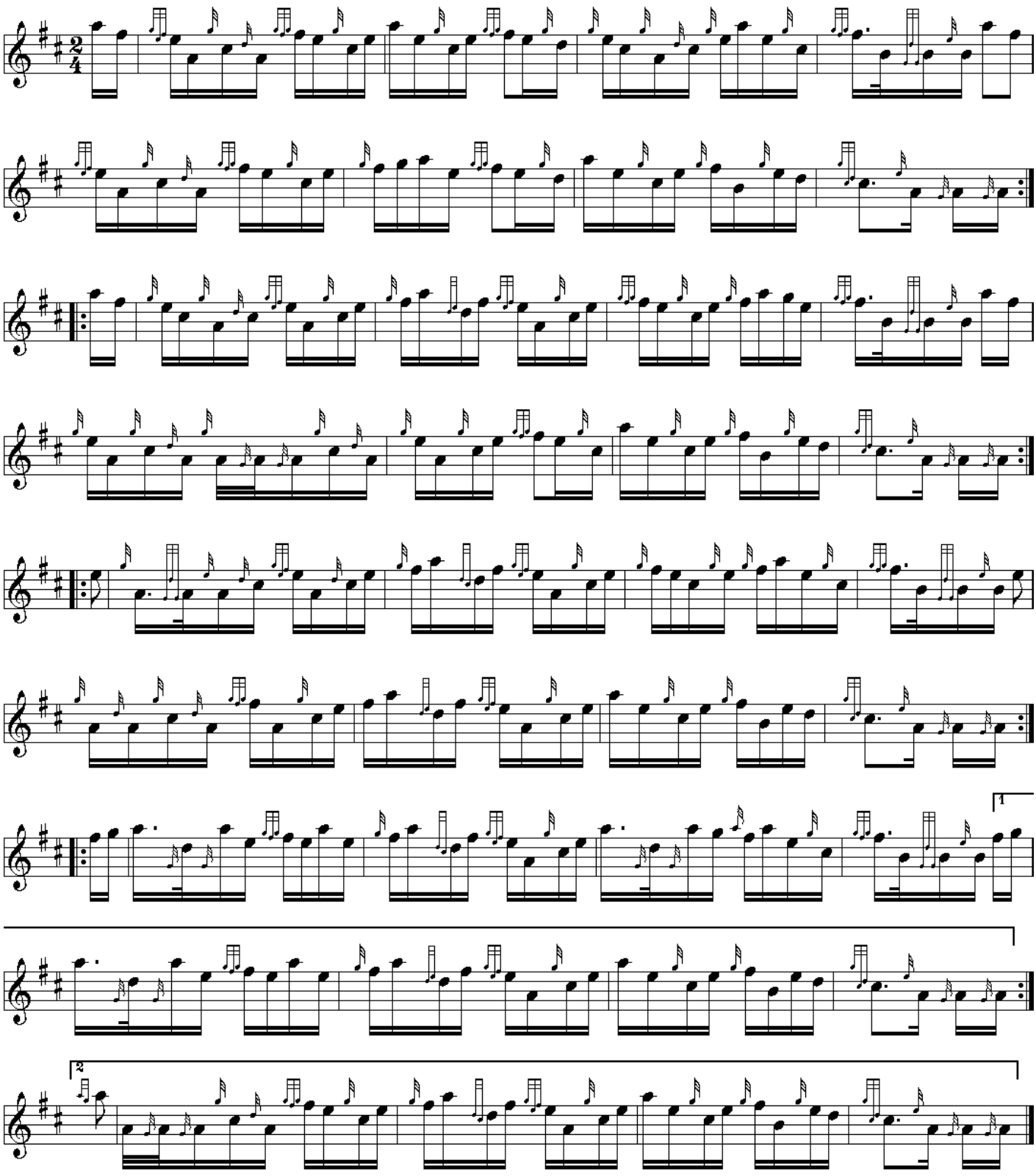
Royal Scots soldiers in WWI

The Royal Scots Fusiliers was a line infantry regiment of the British Army that existed from 1678 until 1959 when it was amalgamated with the Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) to form the Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment) which was later itself merged with the Royal Scots Borderers, the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons) to form a new large regiment, the Royal Regiment of Scotland. The name "Fusiliers" dates back to 1685, when they were armed with the new flintlock musket, or 'fusil'.

The 1st Battalion landed at Le Havre as part of 9th Brigade in the 3rd Division in August 1914 for service on the Western Front.It saw action at the Battle of Mons in August 1914, the First Battle of Ypres in October 1914, Battle of the Somme in Summer 1916, the Battle of Arras in April 1917 and the advance to the Hindenburg Line in September 1918.

The tune, ***The Royal Scots Fusiliers' Advance on Mons*** was composed by Pipe Major (Sergeant Piper) Alexander Rose MacLeod of the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He was a native of Perth, but of Skye parentage. MacLeod composed one piobaireachd ("MacLeod of Roag's Lament") and a great number of marches, strathspeys, reels and jigs; many of which have never been published. He was also a good reed maker. He died in Edinburgh July 22, 1922 at the age of 67 and had a military funeral to Dalry Cemetery.

The Royal Scots Fusiliers' Advance on Mons March PM A.R. MacLeod



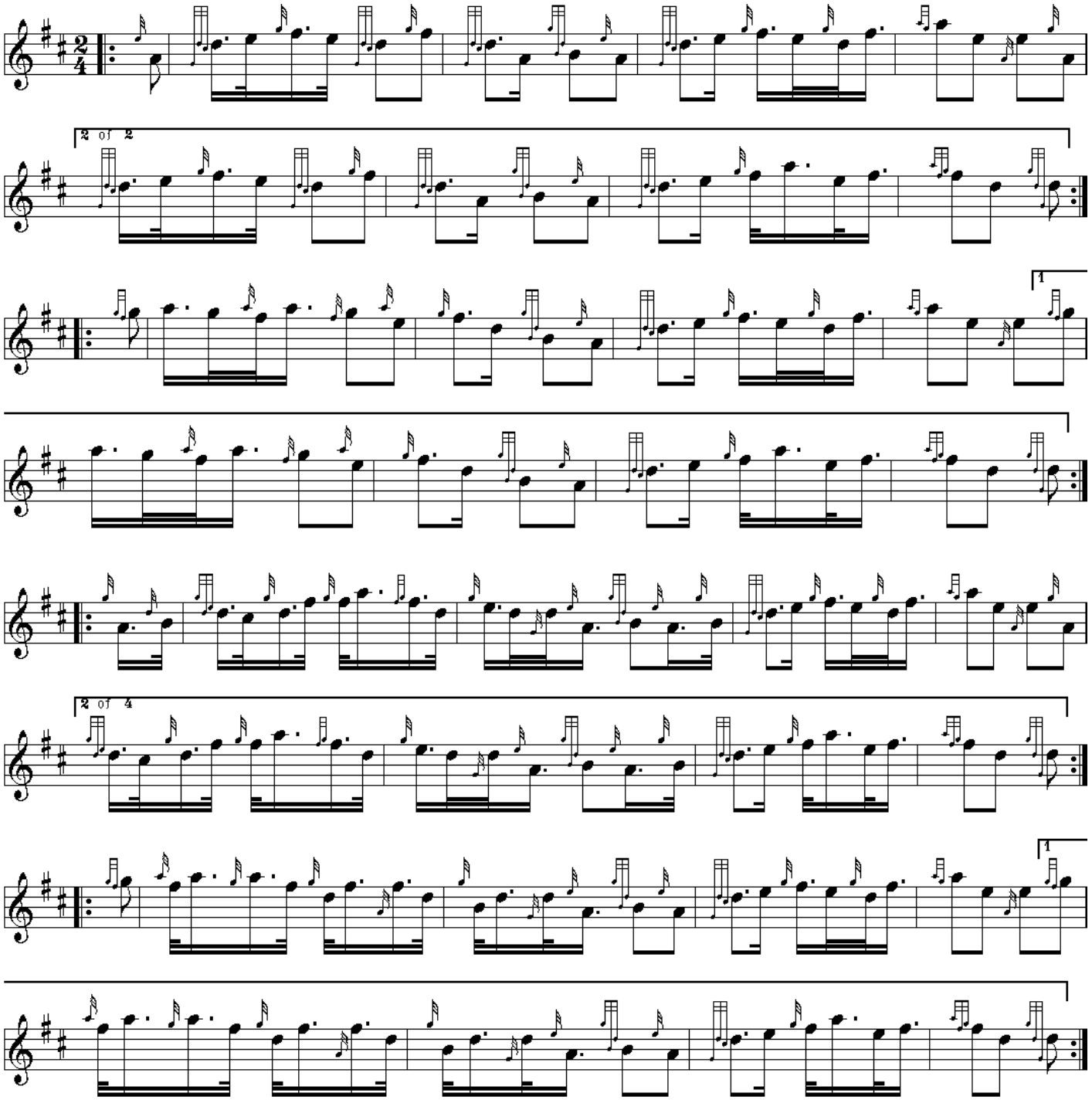
Catterick Camp

Catterick Camp is a major garrison and military town 3 miles south of Richmond, North Yorkshire, England. The siting of the garrison was first recommended by Robert Baden-Powell who founded the Scouting movement in 1908 whilst he, as Inspector-General of Cavalry, was based at the army barracks—at that time located in Richmond Castle. On August 12,1914, the order was issued for the construction of the camp, following the outbreak of the First World War. The original intention was for Catterick to be a temporary camp to accommodate two complete divisions with around 40,000 men in 2,000 huts.

The base was originally named Richmond Camp but was changed to Catterick Camp in 1915, and later modified to Catterick Garrison in 1973. After serving as a prisoner of war camp at the end of the war, the idea to make Catterick a permanent military barracks was first suggested after the partitioning of Ireland in 1921. Today It is the largest British Army garrison in the world.

The tune, ***Catterick Camp*** was composed by Pipe Major Peter Roderick MacLeod (left). The composer was born in Aird, Uig on the December 13, 1878. joined the territorial army in the early 1900s, enlisting in the 17th Cameronians Scottish Rifles and achieved the rank of Pipe Major during World War One. He saw active campaign at that time in Egypt and Gallipoli. Apart from army service he was employed as a shipwright on the Clyde in Connell's Yard, Whiteinch and at Fairfields from 1900-1927. At this time he was involved in an accident which necessitated the amputation of his right leg. He did not work again until 1941 when he returned to the shipyards.

The story of PM Peter R Macleod's life are in the tunes he composed; about 200 tunes bear his signature.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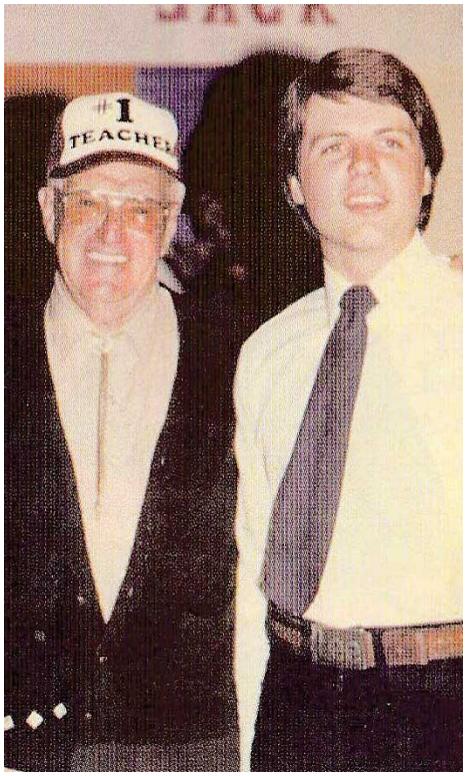
Pipe Major R. Meldrum's Welcome to the Cameron Highlanders (1914)

Robert Meldrum (right) was born in Tomintoul, Banffshire on May 13, 1851, and in 1868, at the age of 16, enlisted in the 78th Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs). He was transferred to Halifax, Nova Scotia the following year.

He served with the 78th until 1873, when he purchased his discharge, then he joined up again three months later. In 1875, he was appointed Pipe Major of the 93rd Highlanders, becoming, at the time, the youngest pipe major in the British army. He had been recommended for the post by Uilleam Ross, piper to Queen Victoria, who held Meldrum in such high esteem that he hoped for him to be his successor as Queen's piper.

From 1887, he was Pipe Major of the 3rd Cameron Highlanders until he retired in 1892. From that time until the outbreak of the Great War, he served as piper to the Earl of Ancaster at Drummond Castle. He would rejoin the Camerons in 1914. During the war years he formed a pipe band with the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion at Invergordon, consisting of wounded soldiers returning from the trenches. He was discharged in 1917 at age 65, and later became piping instructor at Queen Victoria School in Dunblane, teaching the sons of Scottish soldiers. He eventually retired to Inverness where he became pipe major of the Royal British Legion Pipe Band.

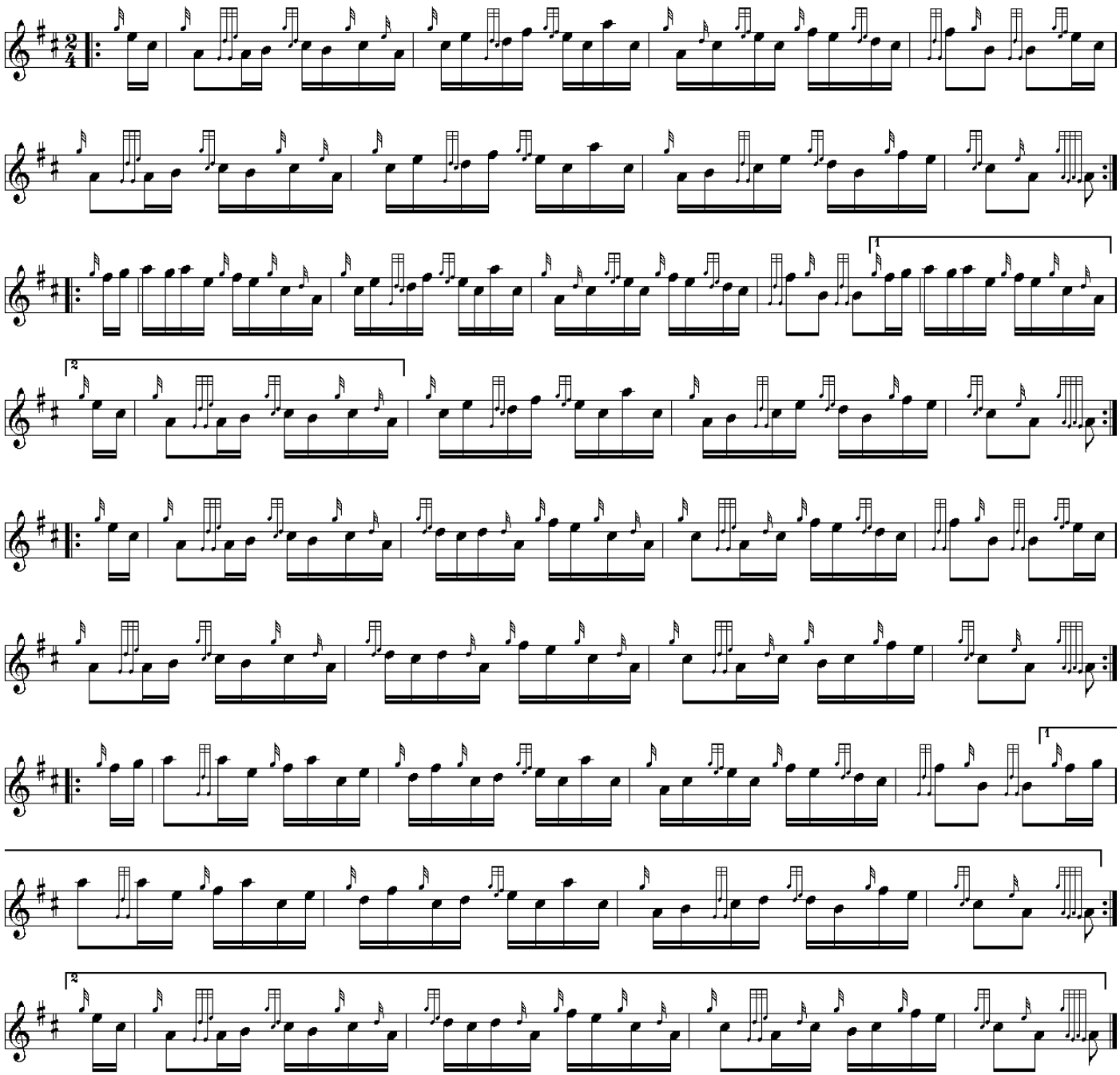


He won the Gold Medal at both Oban and Inverness in 1886, and the Clasp at Inverness in 1902. As the years went on, he became renown for maintaining a high standard of performance at an advanced age. He continued to compete until near the end of his life, and was second in the Clasp when he was in his 80s.

The tune, ***Pipe Major R. Meldrum's Welcome to the Cameron Highlanders*** was composed by Jimmy McMillan (1911-2005) - shown left with a young Jack Lee in 1981.Although born in Campbeltown, Scotland, McMillan emigrated to Victoria BC as a boy where he learned his piping. As a solo competitor Jimmy was very successful in British Columbia and won all the top prizes. had the rare honor of being selected for not one, but two, Pipe Major's courses at Edinburgh Castle with the great Pipe Major William Ross.

He was a piper who left an amazing legacy; he really cared about his students and would do just about anything to help them.

Pipe Major R. Meldrum's Welcome to the Cameron Highlanders (1914) March Sergt. J. MacMillan



The Burning Mill at Messines

The “mill” in question is the Messines Mill used as the subject for artist Richard Caton-Woodvile’s painting, *Hallowe’en 1914”* who worked from first hand accounts from London Scots who had survived the action on the Messines Ridge. The regiment found itself in Flanders, near the Belgian village of Messines, carrying old rifles fitted with malfunctioning magazines that forced them to load rounds one at a time. They fought, often hand-to-hand, through the night of Oct. 31 to hold an important ridge marked by a large wooden windmill in part of the larger first battle of Ypres. Of the regiment’s 700 men, 394 died or went missing that night, never to be accounted for.

Woodville (1956-1927) was the most prolific battle artist of the nineteenth and early twentieth century in Britain, producing countless oil paintings and drawings, many for the Illustrated London News. As was the case with several history painters of the Victorian period, he studied at Dusseldorf sometime with Wilhelm Camphausen, the great German military painter, and later in Paris. He experienced was first-hand in Albania and Montenegro towards the end of the Russo-Turkish War in 1877, and later in Egypt during the war of 1882. During the latter conflict, he made numerous sketches and obtained photographs of the trenches at Tel-e-Kebir for his friend, the French military artist, Alphonse de Neuville who had been commissioned to paint a scene of the battle. The fruits of both their labors were shown at the Fine Art Society in 1883, Woodville, exhibiting The Moonlight Charge at Kassassin. In 1884, Woodville exhibited by Royal Command, another picture relating to the Egyptian War; The Guards at Tel-e-Kebir. His first Royal Academy picture exhibited in 1879, was entitled Before Leuthen, Dec. 3rd, 1757. Thereafter, he was a frequent exhibitor at Burlington House, showing no less than 21 battle pictures, many dealing with contemporary events such as the Second Afghan War, Candahar and Maiwand; saving the Guns, the Zulu War - Prince Louis Napoleon in Zululand, and the Boer War - Lindley; Whitsunday 1900, and Dawn of Majuba (Canadian Military Institute). He painted many historical recreations both in oil and water-color including a series on famous British battles for the Illustrated London News. He depicted The Charge of the Light Brigade and The Charge of the 21st Lancers at Omdurman, Blenheim, Badajos and several Waterloo pictures. During the Great War, he turned his talents to depicting the current events, three of which were exhibited at the Royal Academy. The 2nd Batt. Manchester Regiment taking six guns at dawn near St. Quentin, Entry of the 5th Lancers into Mons, and Halloween, 1914: Stand of the London Scottish on Messines Ridge, exhibited in the year of his death.

The tune, ***The Burning Mill at Messines*** was composed by Pipe Major John Spoore, RVM (right). Spoore served in the Gordon Highlanders (Corporal) from 1957-1963 and as Pipe Major of the London Scottish Regiment from 1968-1990.

He was Piper to the Queen from 1985-1990. He and PM Christopher Macpherson played for the Queen Mother's funeral in 2002. He was awarded the Silver Medal of the Victorian Order.

The inspiration for the tune came from the Woodville painting of the 1st Battalion, London Scottish on the Messines Ridge on October 31, 1914. It was composed in 1984 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of that action. Spoore also penned the following at the same time to accompany the pipe tune.

The Burning Mill at Messines

Nineteen fourteen, on Hallowe'en, the dawn broke dark and still,
As seven hundred kilted soldiers, advanced on Wytschaete Hill.
They were not battle-hardened men; some were of tender years.
They were The London Scottish Volunteers.

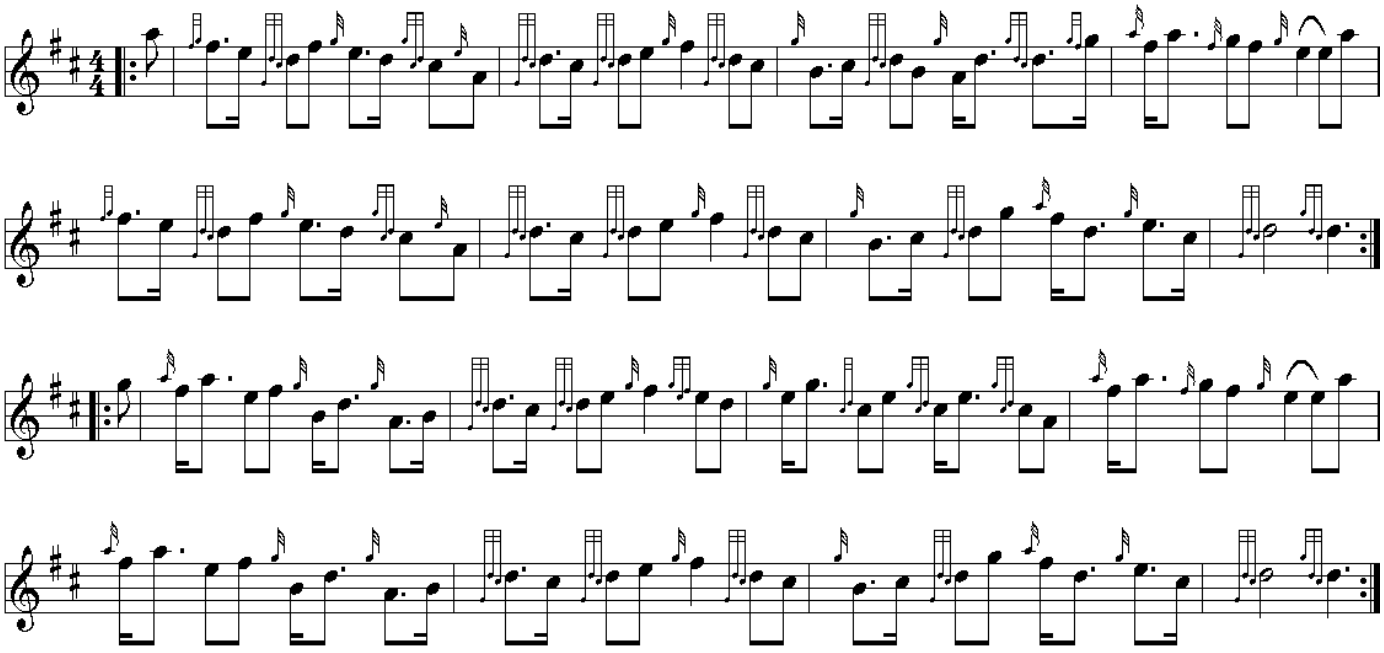
When the battle raged hand to hand, it was a bloody scene,
As they fought that day to hold the ridge, by the village of Messines.
Their rifles jammed and they seemed damned but they fought with iron will,
By the fiery glow of a shell struck burning mill.

They'd left their homes and ones they loved, not many days before,
To fight the enemy army, on a not too distant shore
Where the Belgian people were our friends and remain so even still.
They remember yet that battle on Wytschaete Hill.

At muster call at closing light, the men were filled with dread
At so many comrades wounded and so many lying dead.
They had no hero soldier's grave, indeed they never will,
Their headstone—just the ghost of the burned out mill.

Nineteen fourteen, on Hallowe'en the night grew dark and chill,
Three hundred kilted soldiers lying dead on Wytschaete Hill.
They'd been not battle-hardened men; some were of tender years.
God Bless those London Scottish Volunteers

The Burning Mill at Messines PM John Spoore R.V.M.



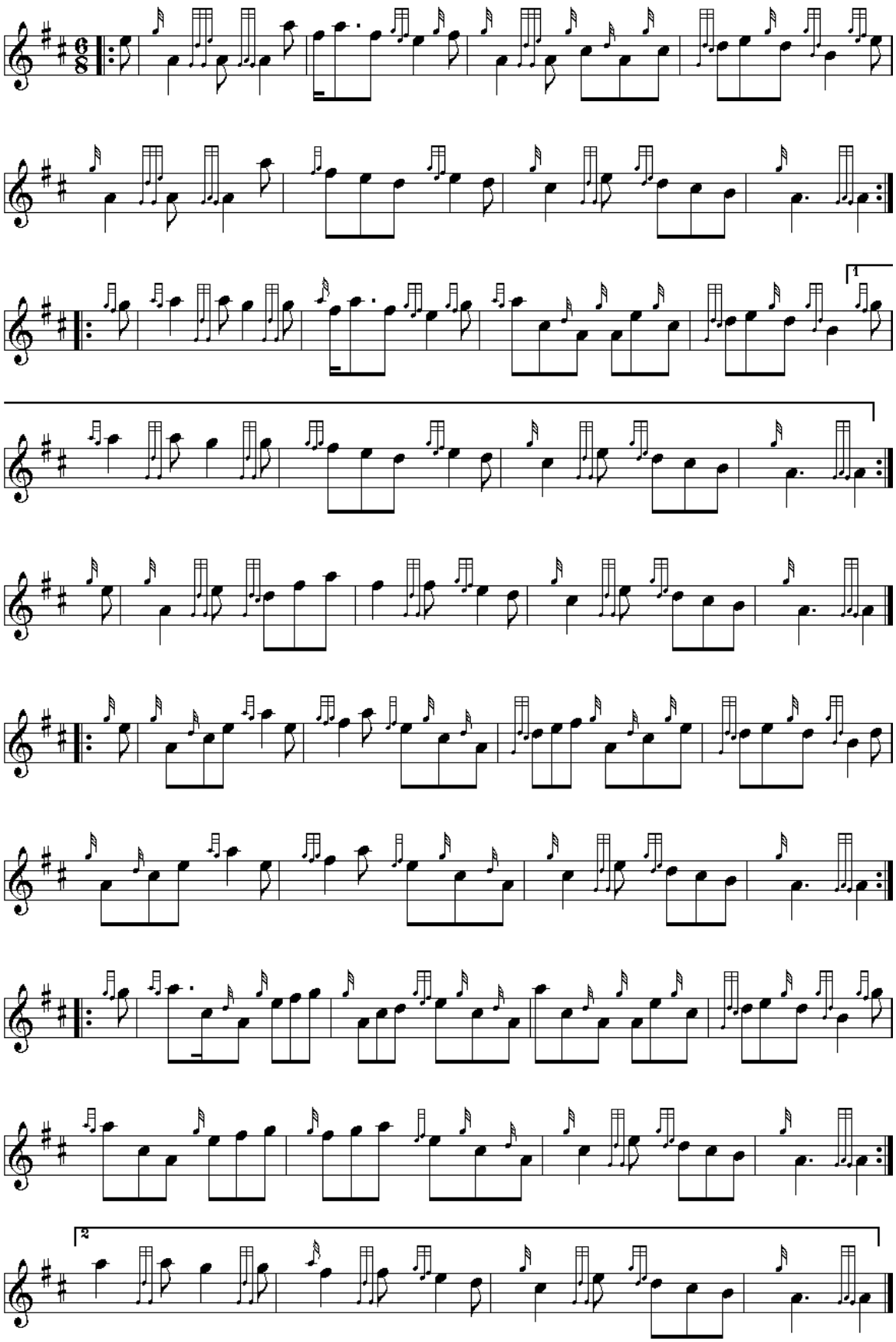
Mont St. Eloi

The abbey of Mont St Eloi is located on a ridge north of the city of Arras. An abbey was first built here in the seventh century but the buildings that became a landmark on the Arras front date from the eighteenth century. Fighting raged around St Eloi in 1914 and 1915, as the French advanced on the nearby Notre Dame de Lorette and Vimy Ridge. Shells damaged the main towers and much of the main abbey building.

When the British came to Arras in 1916 they established billets in Mont St Eloi, medical facilities, gun sites and a Royal Flying Corps aerodrome beneath the twin towers of the abbey. Thousands of troops were here in the lead-up to the Battle of Arras in April 1917 and again when the fighting returning in 1918.

In early 1916 the British Army relieved French troops in the sector. The latter had established an extension to the local cemetery in Ecoivres, at the foot of the hill, to bury 786 of their soldiers who died there, mostly in the fighting of 1915. A military tramway used to carry supplies to the troops at the front also served as an ambulance to bring back the dead and wounded. This transport system conferred on Ecoivres Military Cemetery an unusual feature in that, from the French extension to the Cross of Sacrifice, the graves of the mostly British and Canadian soldiers are in chronological order relating to the date of death: the graves of the men of the 46th North Midland Division who relieved the French in March 1916 are followed by those of the 25th Division who fell in the German attack at the foot of Vimy Ridge in May 1916; next come the men of the 47th London Division who died between July and October 1916 and finally the graves of the Canadians who lost their lives in the successful assault on Vimy Ridge in April 1917.

Mont St. Eloi March



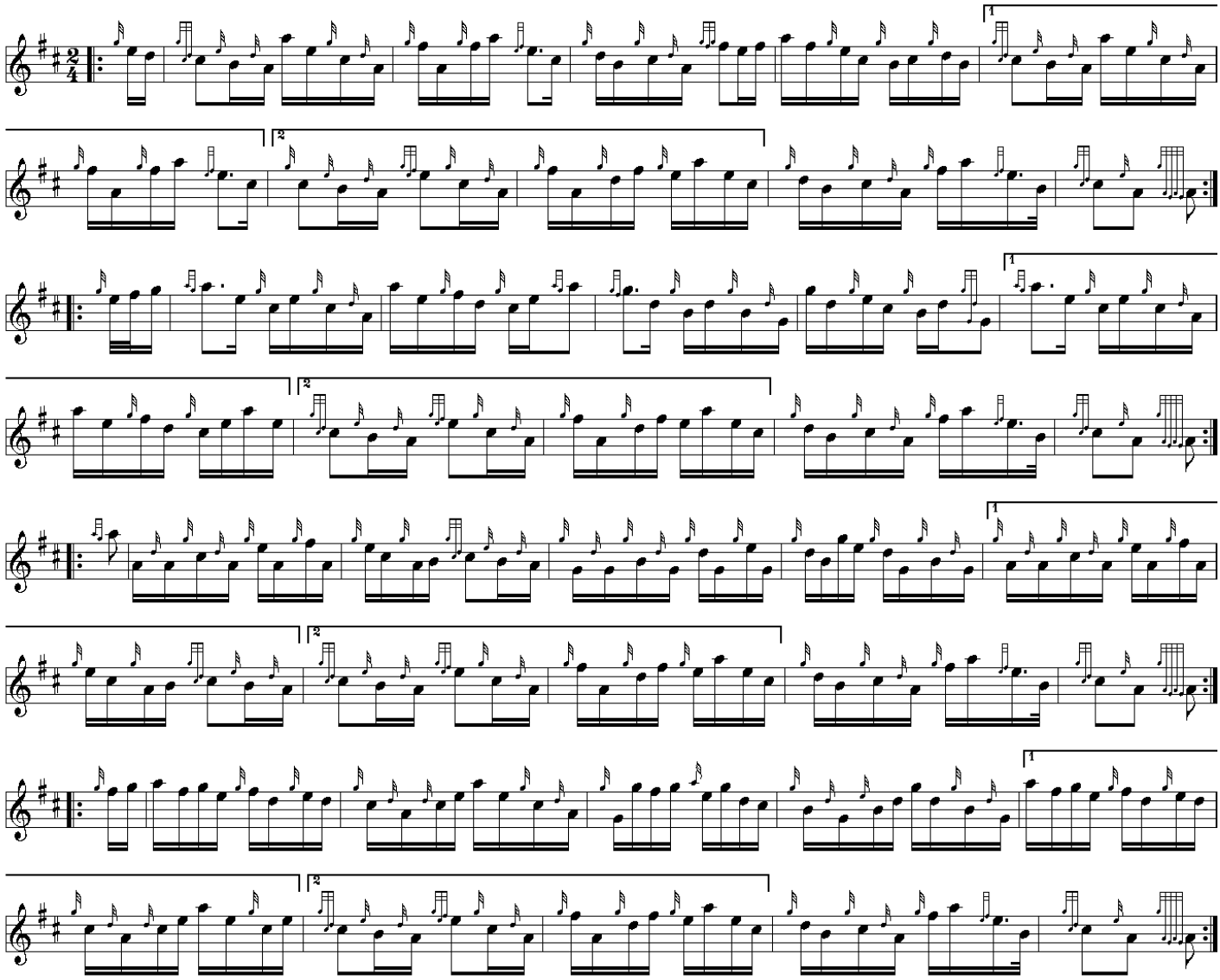
The London Scottish Advance to Messines

The London Scottish were founded on the formation of the Volunteer Force in 1859. Originally as part of the Volunteer Force sponsored by The Highland Society of London and The Caledonian Society of London, a group of individual Scots raised The London Scottish Rifle Volunteers under the command of Lt Col Lord Elcho, later The Earl of Wemyss and March. The regiment became the 7th (London Scottish) Middlesex Volunteer Rifle Corps and then, in 1908, the 14th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Scottish).

The London Scottish were the first Territorial unit to go into action alongside Regular soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force. On October 31, (Hallowe'en) 1914, they went into action at Messines, in the south of the Ypres Salient. The Scots went moved to Wystschaete from 8 a.m. to reinforce the 4th Cavalry Brigade (who were fighting as infantry). They advanced into a dangerous gap in the British line, suffering casualties all the way and resisted attacks by the Germans through the night, denying them access to the road to Ypres.

The efforts of the London Scottish had won time and ultimately prevented a far superior force breaking through to Ypres. The Scots had lost 394 of their 700 officers and men in their short time on the ridge including 4 pipers. Of the original pipe band that embarked in 1914, only one was to survive the first six months of the war unscathed. In total 11 London Scottish pipers were killed before strenuous efforts were made to keep them out of the frontline, much to the pipers' frustration.

The London Scottish Advance to Messines Quistep Percy W.A. Scott



Christmas Truce

Late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches.

The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man's land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts. After Boxing Day, meetings in no man's land dwindled out.

The truce was not observed everywhere along the Western Front. Elsewhere the fighting continued and casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit.

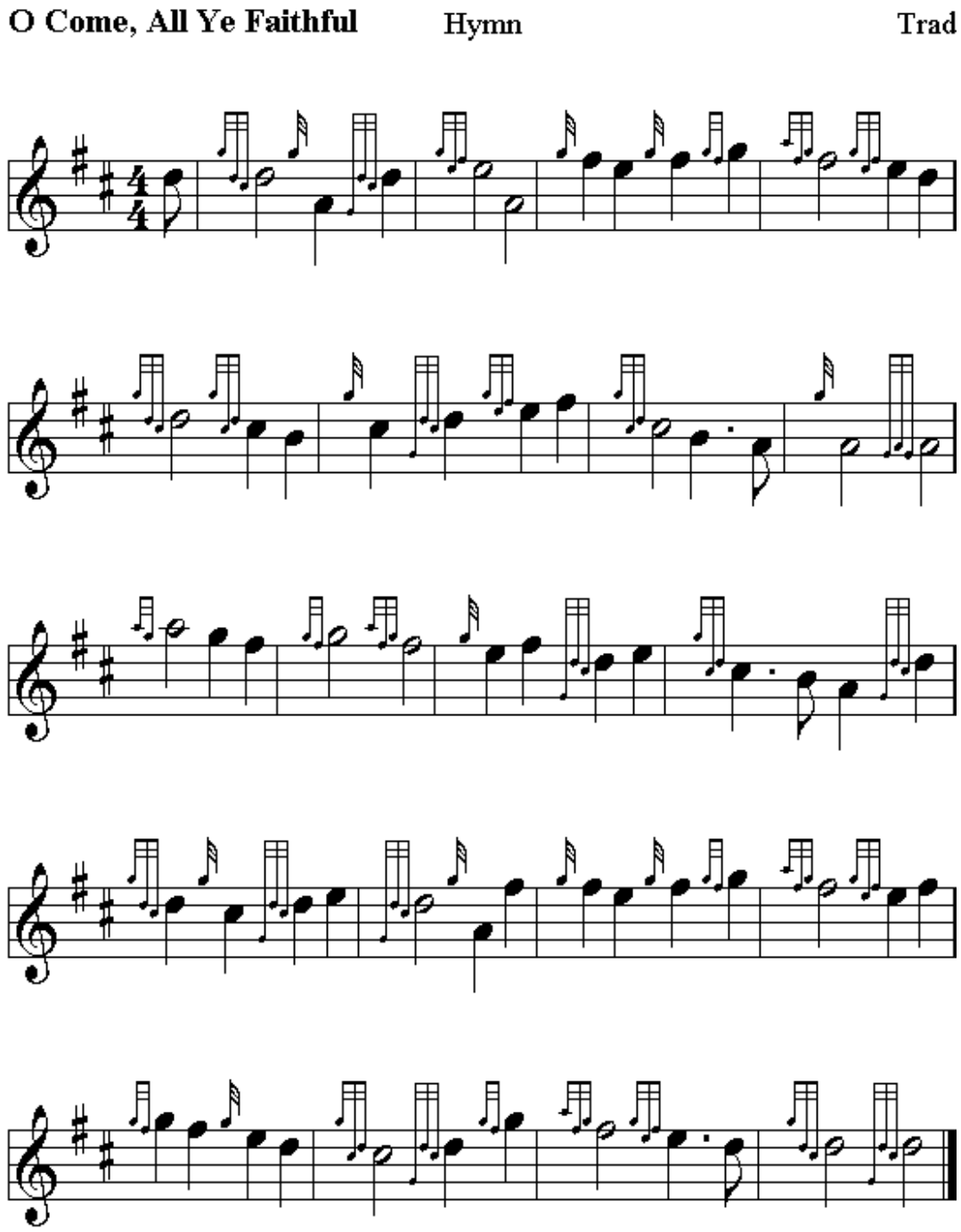
After 1914, the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again. Despite this, there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war, and not only at Christmas.

In what was known as the 'Live and Let Live' system, in quiet sectors of the front line, brief pauses in the hostilities were sometimes tacitly agreed, allowing both sides to repair their trenches or gather their dead.

The following tunes were among those played and sung that night.

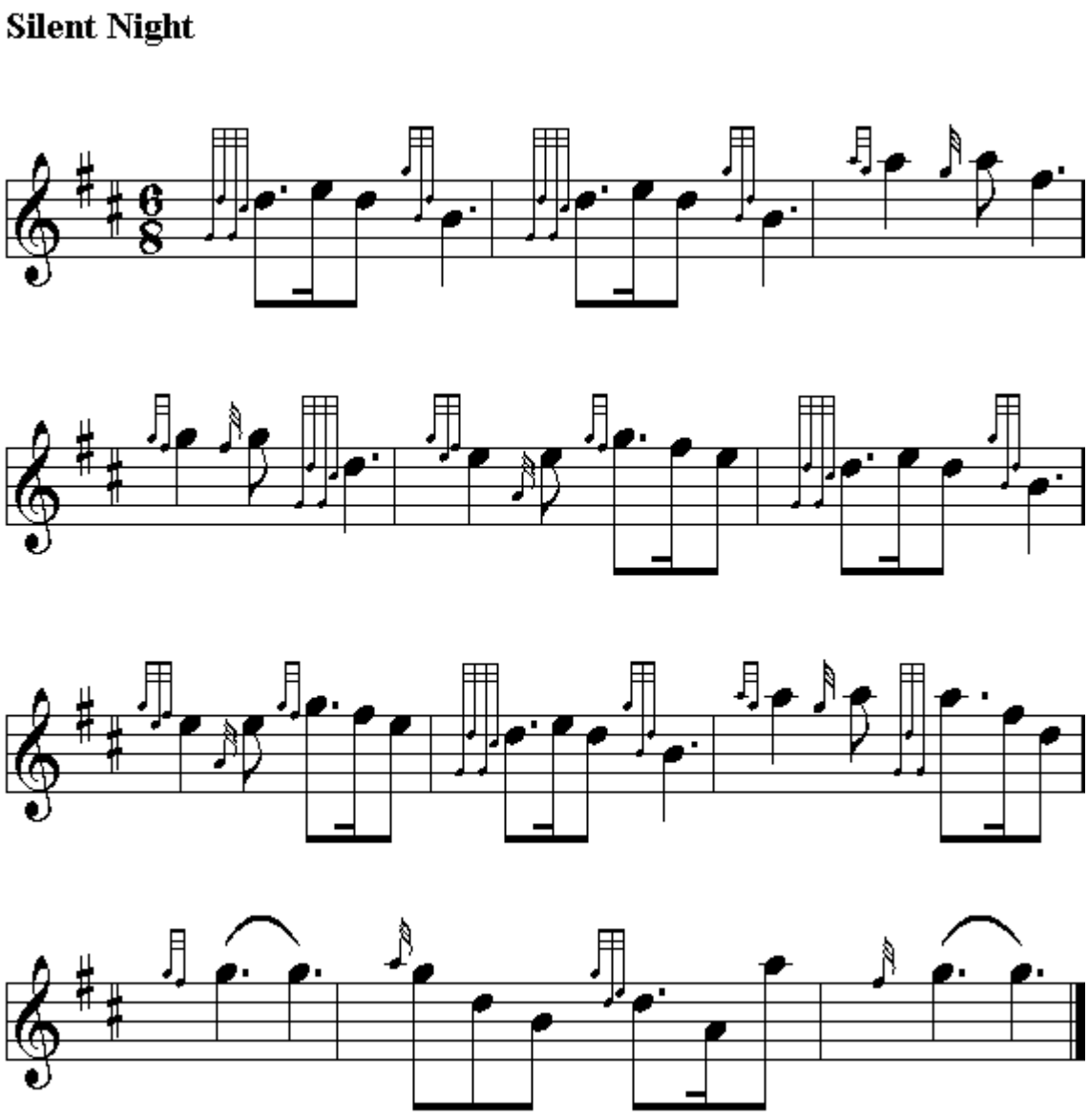
O Come, All Ye Faithful

O Come, All Ye Faithful (originally written in Latin as Adeste Fideles) has been attributed to various authors, including John Francis Wade (1711–1786), John Reading (1645–1692), King John IV of Portugal (1604–1656), and anonymous Cistercian monks. The earliest printed version is in a book published by Wade, but the earliest manuscript bears the name of King John IV, and is located in the library of the Ducal Palace of Vila Viçosa. A manuscript by Wade, dating to 1751, is held by Stonyhurst College in Lancashire.



Silent Night

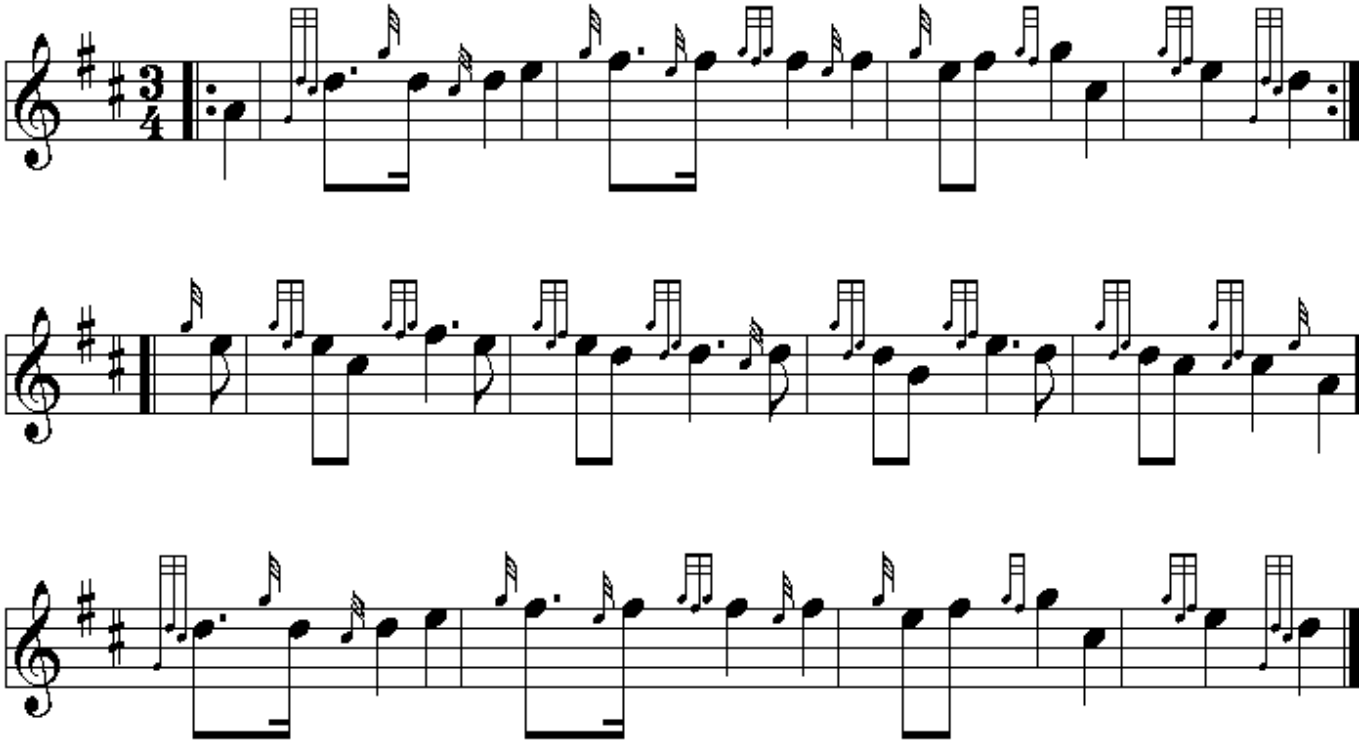
Silent Night was composed in 1818 by Franz Xaver Gruber to lyrics by Joseph Mohr in the small town of Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria. On Christmas Eve of 1818, Mohr, an assistant pastor at St Nicholas, showed Gruber a six-stanza poem he had written in 1816. He asked Gruber to set the poem to music. The church organ had broken down so Gruber produced a melody with guitar arrangement for the poem. The two men sang Stille Nacht for the first time at Christmas Mass in St Nicholas Church while Mohr played guitar and the choir repeated the last two lines of each verse.



O Tannenbaum

O Christmas Tree is based on a traditional German folk song (O Tannenbaum). The modern lyrics were written in 1824, by the Leipzig organist, teacher and composer Ernst Anschütz. The lyrics do not actually refer to Christmas, or describe a decorated Christmas tree. Instead, they refer to the fir's evergreen quality as a symbol of constancy and faithfulness. Anschütz based his text on a 16th-century Silesian folk song by Melchior Franck, "Ach Tannenbaum". August Zarnack in 1819 wrote a tragic love song inspired by this folk song, taking the evergreen, "faithful" fir tree as contrasting with a faithless lover. The folk song first became associated with Christmas with Anschütz, who added two verses of his own to the first, traditional verse.

O Tannenbaum

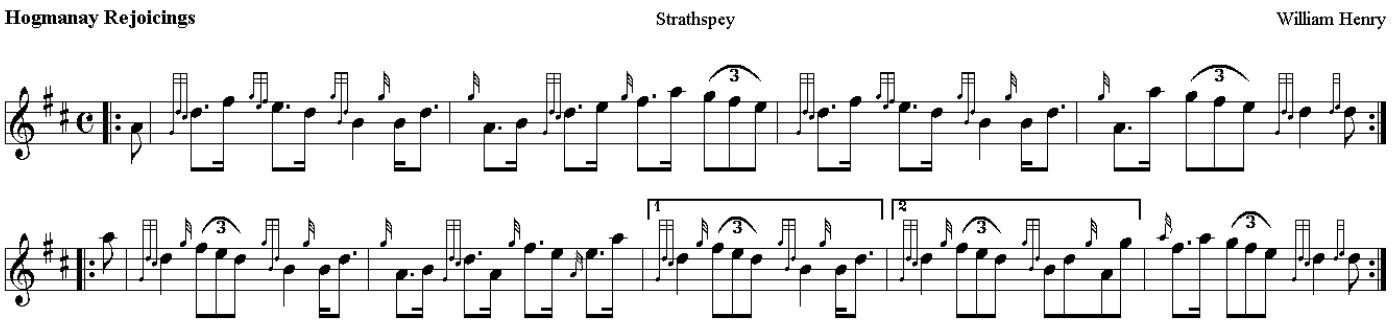


Hogmanay Rejoicings

The strathspey, ***Hogmanay Rejoicings*** was composed by William Henry of the Royal Scots. The Royal Scots, once the oldest infantry in the British Army, were involved in almost every major battle fought by the army from 1633 onwards. One of the most decorated regiments of World War I, an estimated 100,000 soldiers served with them during the conflict.

New Year's celebrations in the trenches are not as well recorded as Christmas celebrations but they occurred nevertheless. Both sides on the Western Front experienced the horrors of trench life in World War One and did what they could to relieve the monotony and tension. The Xmas truce in 1914 was one such example but it was followed by a New Year's truce as 1914 gave way to 1915. Karl Aldage, fighting in the German trenches, wrote about his experience.

> *"On New Year's Eve we called across to tell each other the time and agreed to fire a salvo at 12. It was a cold night. We sang songs, and they clapped (we were only about 60 to 70 yards apart); we played the mouth organ and they sang and we clapped. Then I asked if they hadn't got any musical instruments, and they produced bagpipes (they are the Scots Guards, with their short petticoats and bare legs) and they played some of their beautiful elegies on them, and sang, too. Then at 12 we all fired salvos into the air. Then there were a few shots from our guns (I don't know what they were firing at) and the usually so dangerous Verey lights crackled like fireworks, and we waved torches and cheered. We had brewed some grog and drank the toast of the Kaiser and the New Year. It was a real good 'Silvester', just like peacetime."*



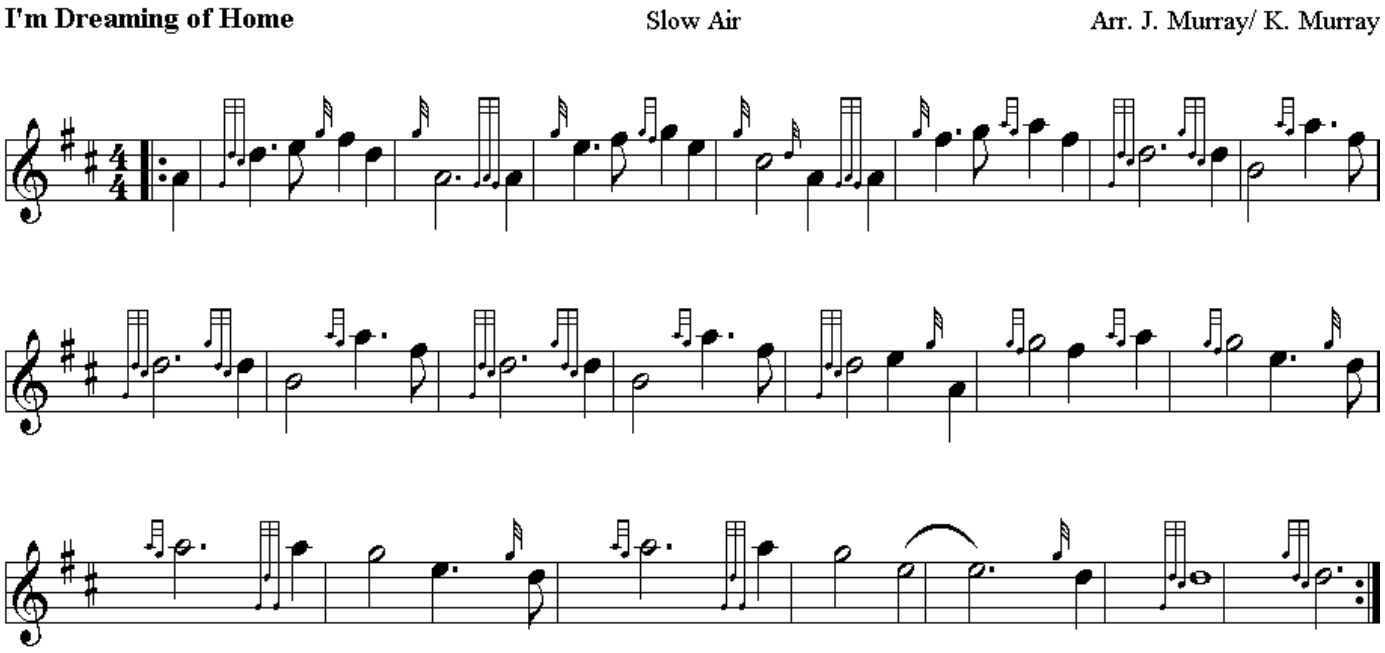
I'm Dreaming of Home

The song, ***I'm Dreaming of Home*** (Hymne des fraternizés), from the film Joyeux Noel, was adapted by French composer Phillipe Rombi from the poem by Lori Barth. Barth holds the position as Senior Editor for The Score, a quarterly journal for The Society of Composers & Lyricists, for which she earned two ASCAP-Deems Taylor literary awards. "I'm Dreaming Of Home" was nominated for a Golden Globe, Palme D'Or, The César du Cinéma and BAFTA awards. The theme has gone on to be performed at many prestigious events including the 2008 Music & Cinema Festival in Auxerre, France with a 100-voice choir. It was also the song chosen for the 90th commemoration of the Canadian Battle of Vimy Ridge and was selected for The British Armed Forces Tribute along with being performed by the acclaimed Cantabile Choir in Ontario, Canada.

I hear the mountain birds
The sound of rivers singing
A song I've often heard
It flows through me now
So clear and so loud
I stand where I am
And forever I'm dreaming of home
I feel so alone, I'm dreaming of home

It's carried in the air
The breeze of early morning
I see the land so fair
My heart opens wide
There's sadness inside
I stand where I am
And forever I'm dreaming of home
I feel so alone, I'm dreaming of home

This is no foreign sky
I see no foreign light
But far away am I
From some peaceful land
I'm longing to stand
A hand in my hand
… forever I'm dreaming of home
I feel so alone, I'm dreaming of home.



1915

By the end of 1914, the Allies and the Germans had established themselves in a line of trenches running from the Channel to the French-Swiss border. Until March 1915, artillery exchanges, sniping and mining operations were the main activities on the British Expeditionary Force's (BEF) front.

As both sides settled down for the first winter of the war, the weather proved harder to contend with than the enemy in some sectors. Artillery bombardment rapidly destroyed trenches, which had been built quickly and tended to be simple affairs. The bad weather and the destruction of pre-war drainage ditches also led to widespread flooding.

The first major British offensive of the First World War took place on March 10, when they attacked the salient around the village of Neuve Chapelle, midway between Bethune and Lille. The offensive showed that although it was possible to break into the German positions, it was not so easy to convert local success into a major breakthrough. It also showed that a heavier artillery bombardment and better communication were needed.

On April 22, the Germans attempted to capture the Ypres Salient, a bulge in the Allied line surrounding the Belgian town of Ypres. They used poisonous gas for the first time, exploiting the latest in scientific weaponry in the hope of breaking the stalemate.

On May 15, 1915, the British shifted the focus of the offensive southwards to the German positions near Festubert. Under the cover of darkness, the attacking divisions made some progress, but the barrage had failed to significantly damage the German lines.

The battles of 1915 showed both the Allies and the Germans how difficult it was to break through on the Western Front.

In most battles, the British and French had around a three-to-one superiority in men and artillery. But, although the German defenders gave ground, they did not break and were often able to retake some of their lost positions.

Both side drew lessons from this, the results of which would be demonstrated in the huge attritional struggles of the following year.

Devil's Porridge

Prior to the war, the name Gretna had been better known as a fabled place of romance where runaway lovers could wed legally in the face of opposition from friends or family. Then, in May 1915, the area had created headlines when the Quintinshill signal box close to Gretna became the scene of the worst rail crash in British history. The multi-train collision resulted in an official death toll of 227 people, though it is likely to be an underestimate. The dead included 215 soldiers from the Leith Battalion of the Royal Scots who had been on their way to Gallipoli.

Gretna Green is half a village in Dumfriesshire, the other half being Springfield. In 1915, the town of Gretna did not exist. The great shell crisis of 1915 was ostensibly a reaction to the disastrous events at Neuve Chapelle, which had seen the near destruction of Britain's professional army under the inept group of generals who were later stigmatized as "The Donkeys". Estimates for the number of navvies involved in the construction work vary, but there were at least 10,000 and many of them were Irish. HM Factory Gretna was constructed in nine months.

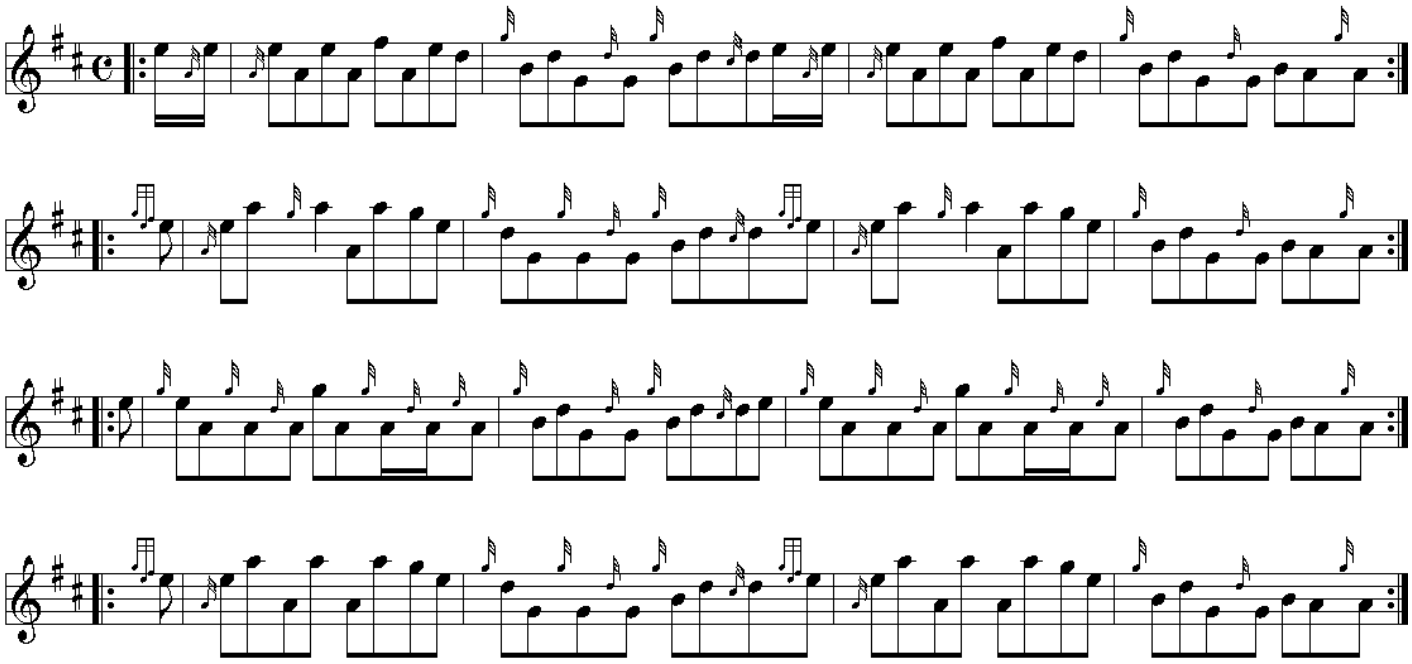
Housed at first in the wooden huts that quickly became known as "Timber Town", women were the principal workers on the dangerous, demanding process of producing cordite. Dressed in a uniform of trousers, crossover tunic and belt, with their hair often cut short but always completely covered in mob-style caps for safety reasons, the women collected the gun cotton from large heaps before tipping it into the vats and kneading it by hand. Their skin often turned yellow from handling the dangerous materials.

In theory, the young women were independent working class women with money to spend. Gretna offered its 20,000 workers purpose-built schools, shops, a hospital and cinema. In practice, the workers were kept under surveillance and Timber Town was enclosed by barbed wire.

When the war ended, much of HM Factory Gretna was dismantled. However, housing built for married couples remains, along with a fine architectural legacy in the form of magnificent churches, including the former St Ninian's RC Church, now the Anvil Hall. The River Esk pumping station north of Longtown is another local landmark and the heritage of the entire site is recreated in the new Devil's Porridge Museum.

The tune, ***Devil's Porridge*** was composed by Iain Bell in honor of the women who worked at Factory Gretna; some of his family worked at the plant. Iain Bell is a piper, composer, tune book publisher and the creator of the Donald Drone cartoon series that was a well-loved feature of the Piping Times magazine. Bell played this tune when the Devil's Porridge Munitions Museum was opened by HRH Princess Anne.

Devil's Porridge (H.M. Factory Gretna) Reel Iain Bell



New Zealanders at the Dardanelles

New Zealand's path to Gallipoli began with the outbreak of war between the United Kingdom and Germany in August 1914. Prime Minister William Massey pledged New Zealand's support as part of the British Empire and set about raising a military force for service overseas. The 8454-strong New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) left Wellington in October 1914, and after linking up with the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) steamed in convoy across the Indian Ocean, expecting to join British forces fighting on the Western Front.

The NZEF's wait in Egypt ended in early April 1915, when it was transported to the Greek island of Lemnos to prepare for the invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The peninsula was important because it guarded the entrance to the Dardanelles Strait – a strategic waterway leading to the Sea of Marmara and, via the Bosporus, the Black Sea. The Allied plan was to break through the straits, capture the Ottoman capital, Constantinople (now Istanbul), and knock the Ottoman Empire out of the war. Access to the straits and the Sea of Marmara would also provide the Allies with a supply line to Russia, and open up new areas in which to attack the Central Powers.

Following the failure of British and French warships to 'force' the straits, the Allies dispatched the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF) to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula. New Zealanders and Australians made up nearly half of the MEF's 75,000 troops; the rest were from Great Britain and Ireland, France, India and Newfoundland.

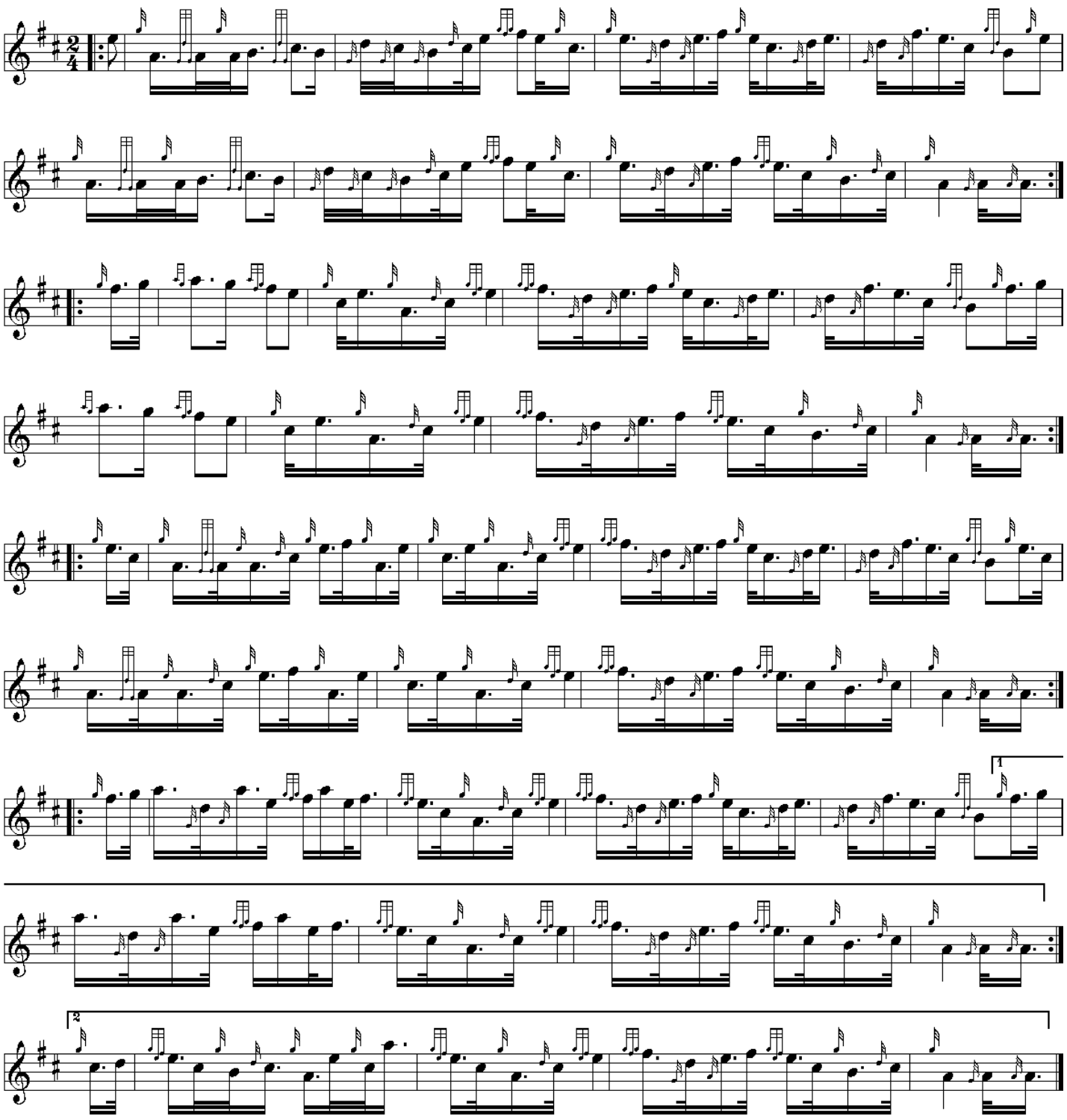
The tune, ***New Zealanders at the Dardanelles*** was composed by Alex Taylor "Sandy" Cameron. Alex , who died in 1957 aged 89, worked on the family farm, at Ferndale near Mataura, and around Balclutha. Many of his tunes were about local identities, friends encountered in piping competitions, and the news of the day - hence a Gallipoli sequence.

The Cameron family pipers: Alex, Donald, Duncan, Angus, John, William, and parents Alexander and Elizabeth

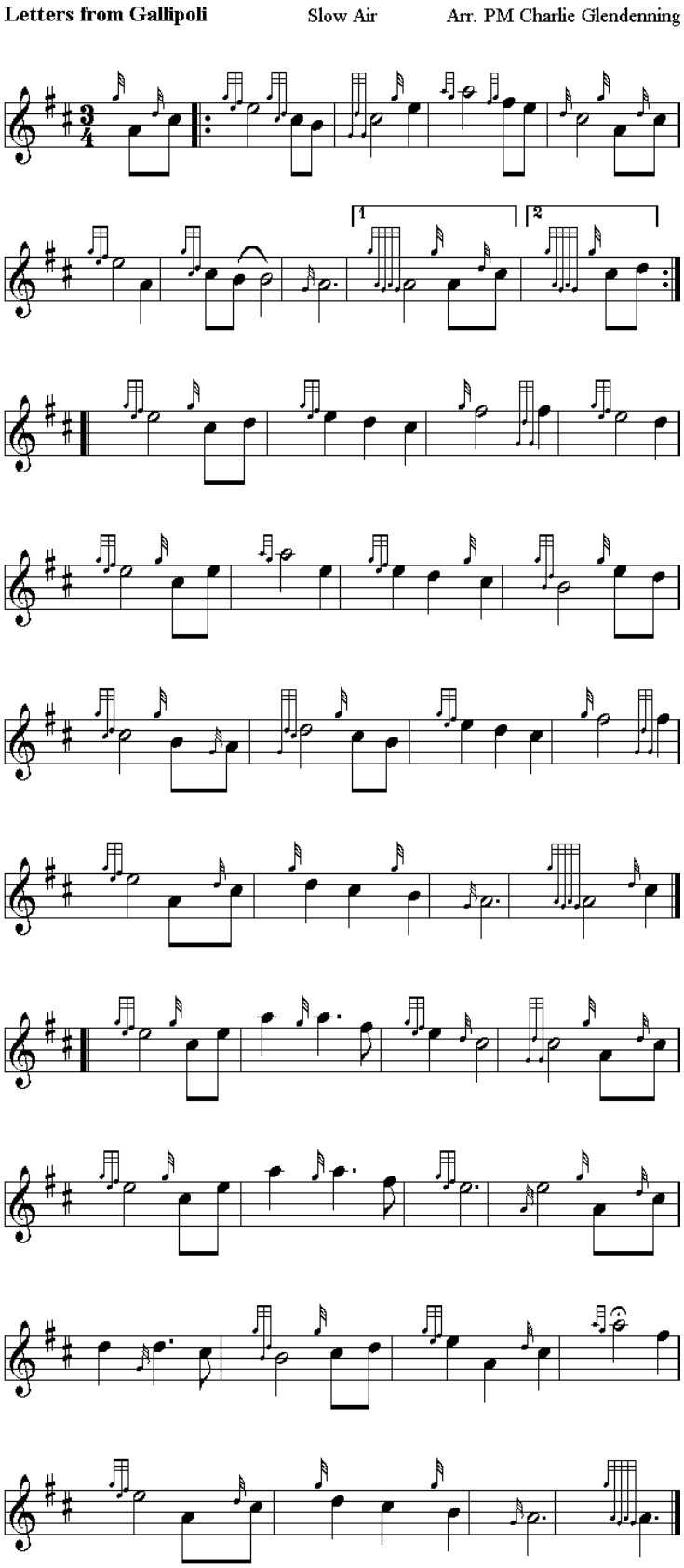
The Cameron boys were known to be fond of Hokonui moonshine and their father Alexander Sr even wrote into his will that two of them, Sandy and Donald, would be disinherited if they touched a drop in the six months after his death.

In later life Sandy Cameron started to show the effects of excessive alcohol consumption. He was a piping teacher whose pupils might, on occasion, find when they showed up for lessons that he was not available because of illness. They later found out he had been taken away to dry out.

He would write out music and other material for anyone who wanted them. Those that were written in his last few years show a very shaky hand.



Letters from Gallipoli



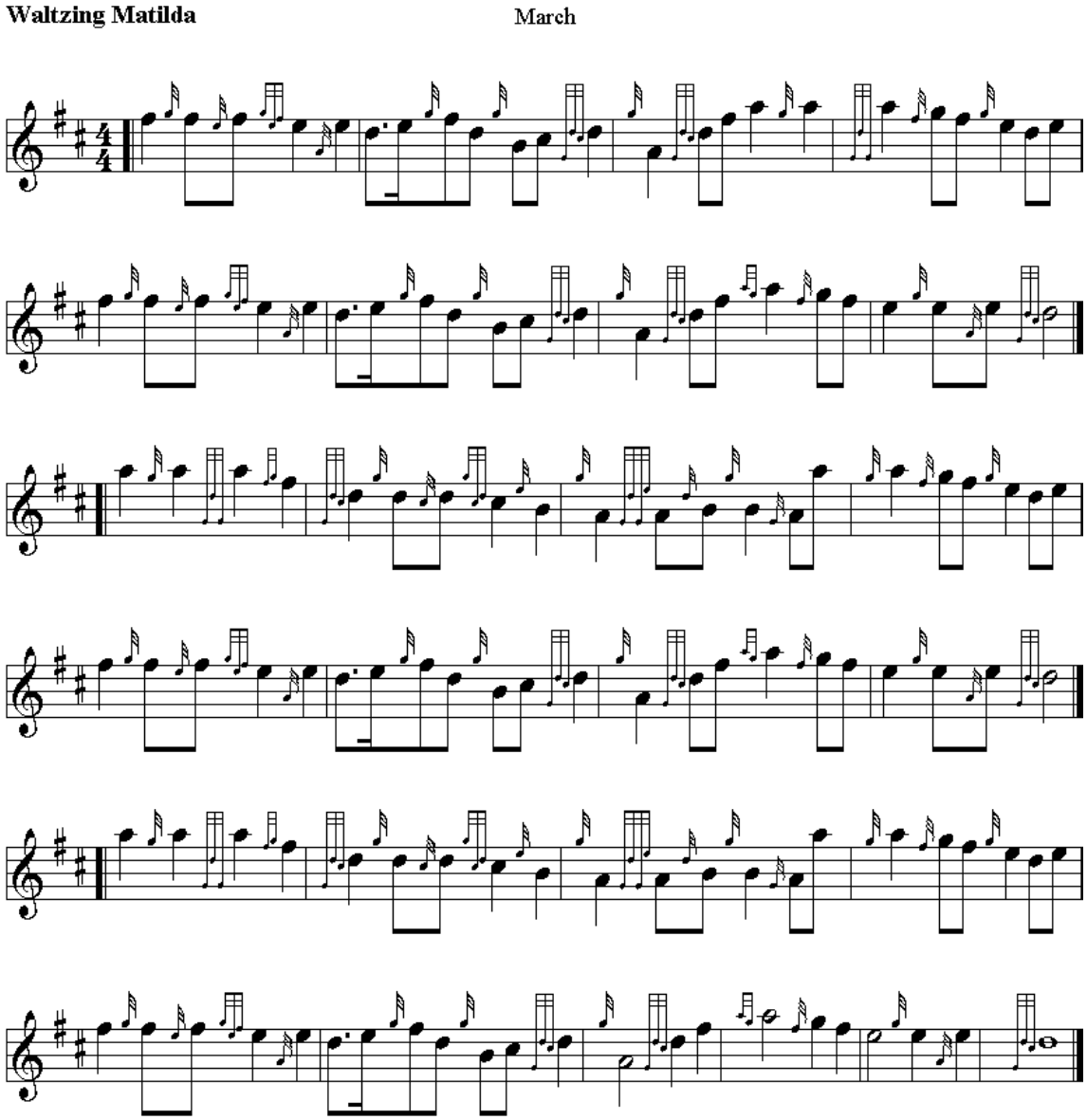
The tune, ***Letters from Gallipoli*** was arranged by Charlie Glendinning (right). Charlie Glendinning played with the City of Washington Pipe Band (through its many carnations, incarnations and reincarnations) for thirty years, serving most of that time as Pipe Sergeant with two separate tours as Pipe Major.

He began taking piano lessons when he was three, but in fifth grade met the violin and studied it seriously for the next eight years. He played with the Maryland Youth Orchestra, the Annapolis Symphony and the American Light Opera Company, and won the National School Symphony Award in his senior year of high school. That senior year was when he discovered the bagpipe. He and the violin settled amicably and are still very good friends.

Waltzing Matilda

Waltzing Matilda has been labelled Australia's 'unofficial' national anthem. The song (originally a poem) was written by Australian poet, Banjo Paterson in the late 19th Century while he was staying at Dagworth Station, a cattle station near Winton in Central West Queensland. Based on a true story, it is about a man who lives in the Australian outback in his swag, whereupon he gets himself into trouble by killing the sheep of a landowner nearby.

In the song, the man lives in the bush and sleeps under the stars (which is where the name comes from; 'Waltzing' meaning to travel by foot, and the 'Matilda' is his swag or tent). He captures and kills a sheep - or a jumbuck - as the song puts it, and finds himself face to face with a 'squatter' or rich landowner. The owner, clearly mad, gets the police after him. Rather than be captured, he kills himself in the nearby billabong or watering hole. While it all seems really straightforward and presents itself as a simple story of a man in trouble, it is actually referring to events that happened in the late 1800s involving a sheep shearers strike that turned violent and left a man dead.



1. When I was a young man I carried me pack
And I lived the free life of the rover.
From the Murry's green basin to the dusty outback,
Well, I waltzed my Matilda all over.
Then in 1915 my country said, “Son,
It's time you stop rambling, there’s work to be done.”
So they gave me a tin hat and they gave me a gun
And they marched me away to the war.
And the band played Waltzing Matilda,
As the ship pulled away from the quay
And midst all the cheers, flag waving and tears,
We sailed off for Gallipoli

2. It’s well I remember that terrible day,
How our blood stained the sand and the water
And of how in that hell that they called Suvla Bay
We were butchered like lambs at the slaughter.
Johnny Turk, he was ready, he primed himself well.
He rained us with bullets, and showered us with shell,
And in five minutes flat, he’d blown us all to hell,
Nearly blew us back home to Australia.
And the band played Waltzing Matilda,
As we stopped to bury our slain,
And we buried ours, and the Turks buried theirs,
Then we started all over again.

3. Those who were living just tried to survive
In that mad world of blood, death and fire.
And for ten weary weeks I kept myself alive
While around me the corpses piled higher.
Then a big Turkish shell knocked me arse over head
And when I awoke in me hospital bed
And saw what it had done, sure I wished I was dead.
I never knew there were worse things than dying.
For I’ll go no more Waltzing Matilda,
All around the green bush far and free
To hunt and to pace, a man needs both legs,
No more waltzing Matilda for me.

4. They collected the crippled, the wounded, the maimed,
And they sent us back home to Australia.
The armless, the legless, the blind and the insane,
Those proud wounded heroes of Suvla.
And when our ship pulled into Circular Quay
I looked at the place where me legs used to be
And thanked Christ there was no one there waiting for me
To grieve, to mourn and to pity.
But the Band played Waltzing Matilda
As they carried us down the gangway,
But nobody cheered, they just stood and stared,
Then they turned all their faces away.

5. So now every April I sit on my porch
And I watch the parade pass before me.
And I see my old comrades, how proudly they march
Reliving their dreams and past glory,
I see the old men all tired, stiff and sore
Those forgotten heroes from a forgotten war
And the young people ask “What are they marching for?”
And I ask myself the same question.
But the band plays Waltzing Matilda,
And the old men still answer the call,
But year after year, the numbers get fewer
Someday, no one will march there at all.

Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda.
Who’ll come a-Waltzing Matilda with me?
And their ghosts can be heard as they march by the billabong;
Who’ll come a-Waltzing Matilda with me?

The Comrades we left in Gallipoli

In Gallipoli, as on the Western front, pipers added luster to their reputation; and incidents which occurred to some of them showed that they were stout fighting men even after their pipes were put out of action.

The nature of the terrain generally precluded the more spectacular duty of playing their units to the attack, and the heavy casualties in the force and the constant demand for men resulted in their being frequently employed in the ranks; nevertheless, several cases did occur of company pipers acting as such.

On July 12, 1916, when the 6th H.L.I. captured three lines of Turkish trenches, Pipers W. Mackenzie and M'Niven played at the head of their companies; M'Niven was killed, and Mackenzie, putting down his pipes, took part in the fighting with a Turkish shovel and did great execution.

On the same day the pipers of the 7th H.L.I. led their battalion into action, and only one of them was wounded. Of these men one, Piper Kenneth MacLennan, was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal "for playing his pipes during the attack and advancing with the line after his pipes had been shattered by shrapnel, and heartening the wounded under fire." Another, Piper Cameron, played his company over three lines of trenches, with a revolver hanging on his wrist, and earned a mention in dispatches; and Piper Macfarlane played through two bayonet charges until two of his drones were blown off by shell fragments.

Writing of the fighting, a wounded officer writes: "The sound of the pipes undoubtedly stirred them on, a piper belonging to each of the two battalions, 5th Argylls and 7th H.L.I., having mounted the parapets of their own trenches, and there in full danger played their comrades on to victory."

In the attack on Achi Baba there was no opportunity for pipers as such, though Pipe Major Andrew Buchan played the 4th Royal Scots "over the top," and, as an officer writes: "fearless of all danger went along the line and did much to hearten the men." Buchan was killed.

Of the pipers of the 5th Royal Scots none survived the early days of the fighting on the Peninsula. An officer of the regiment wrote that they "gloriously upheld the traditions established long ago." In the Achi Baba fighting four were killed and four wounded.

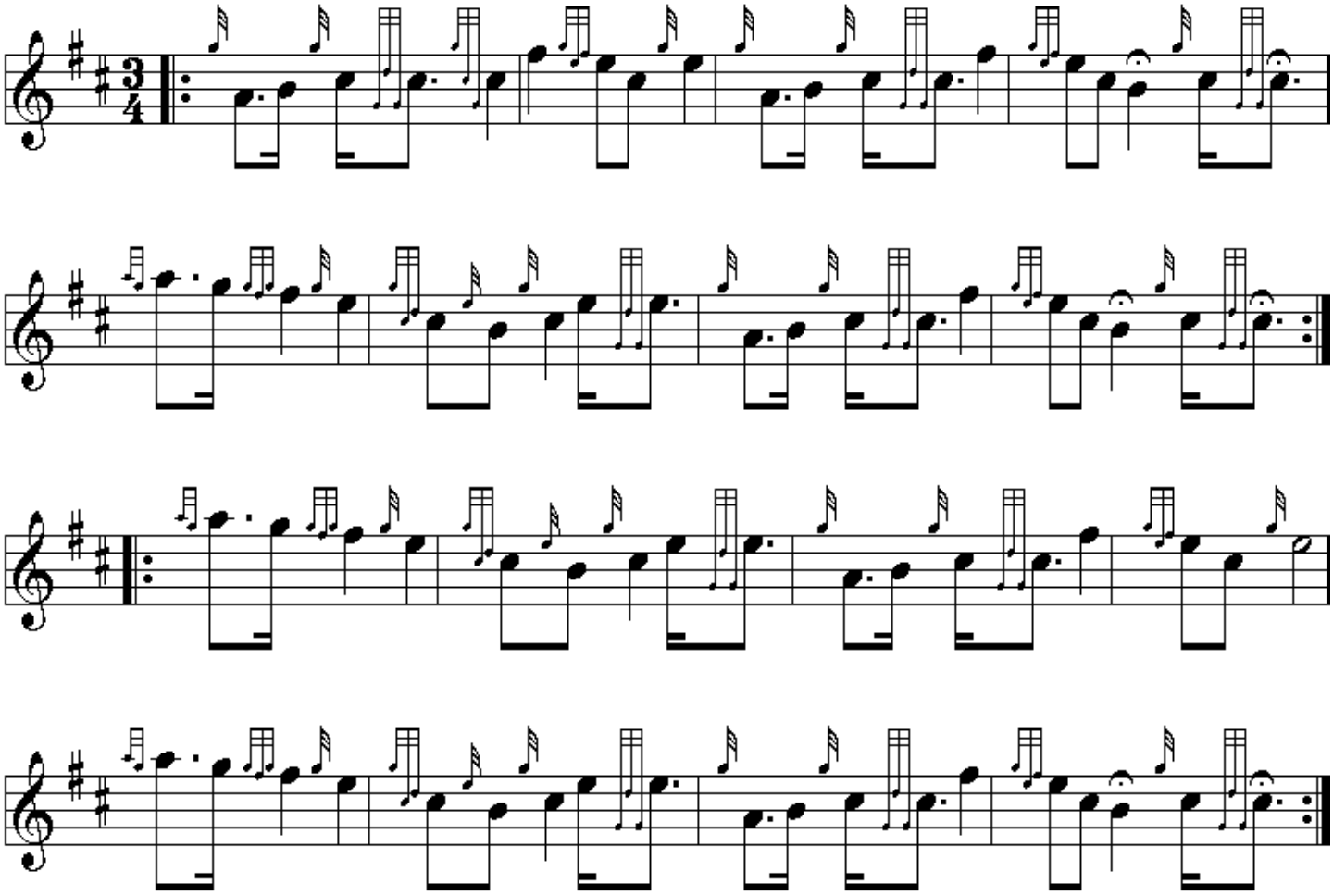
Casualties in action and by disease took heavy toll of the pipers of all these battalions, and after a few months on the Peninsula the pipe bands temporarily ceased to exist.

Even before the withdrawal of the force from Gallipoli it was found that so many casualties had occurred among the pipers of the battalions engaged that the bands were well on the way to extinction. Consequently, under the able management of Colonel Maclean of Pennycross a divisional band numbering twelve pipers and six drummers--all that remained--was organized out of the wreck of the pipe bands of the 52nd Division. That band, though never sent into action, individually or collectively played frequently under shell fire; and "Hey Johnnie Cope" could be heard quite distinctly every morning in the firing line up to within a few days of the evacuation.

The tune, ***The Comrades we left in Gallipoli*** was composed by Colonel Charles Alexander Hugh Maclean—mentioned above. Mr. Charles Maclean came to Canada, and joined the Forty-Eighth on November 3rd, 1893, as second lieutenant provisionally. On February 20th, 1894, his rank was confirmed, on a 1st Class R.S.I, certificate. He proceeded to the Royal Military College, Kingston, and took a brilliant course, qualifying for a commission in the British Army, and received an appointment to the 2nd battalion of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, which regiment he joined in India.

He later was a predominant figure and judge at the Argyllshire Gathering.

The Commrades we left in Gallipoli Slow Air C.A.H. Maclean

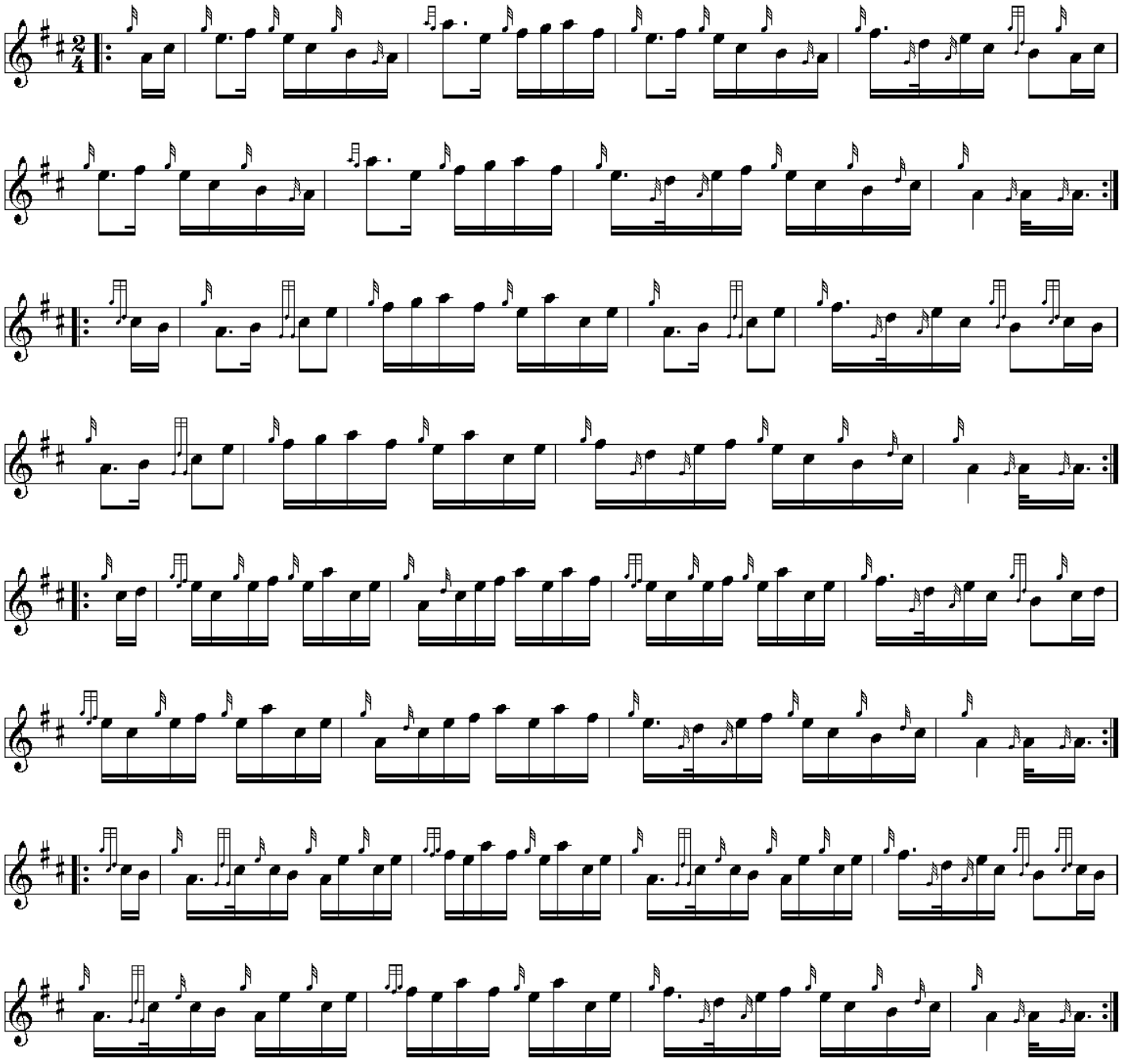


Piper Alick Murray's Farewell to Gallipoli

The tune, ***Piper Alick Murray's Farewell to Gallipoli*** was composed on December 14, 1915; assumedly by New Zealander Piper Alick Murray . The tune appears in The New Zealand Collection of Bagpipe Music, published by Alexander T. Cameron. Cameron came from a family of pipers and lived in New Zealand from around 1868 to 1957.

Alexander Cameron published two collections of tunes. The first was entitled "A New Zealand Collection of Bagpipe Music" and had 188 tunes; of which this is one. It was published in 1934.

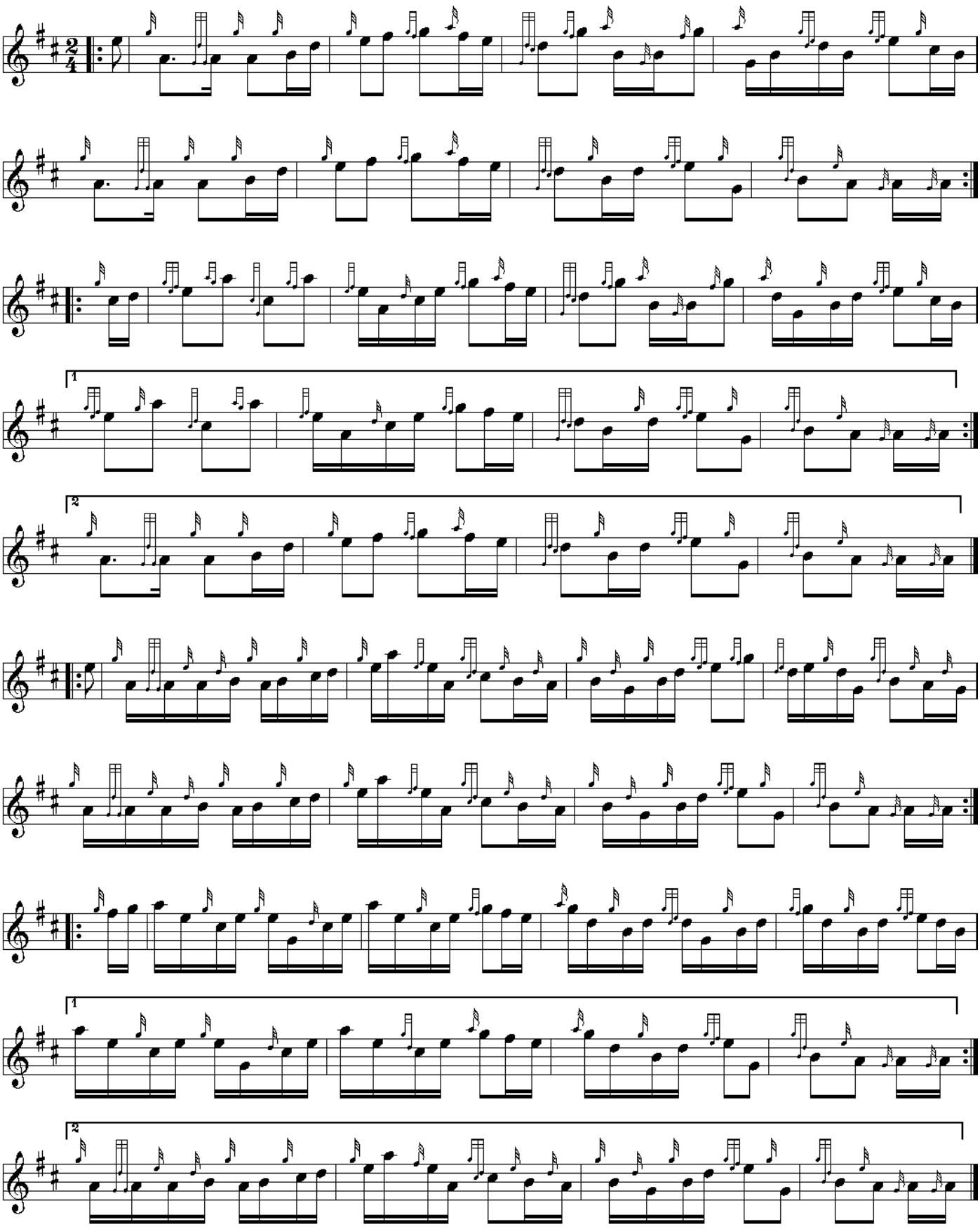
Piper Alick Murray's Farewell to Gallipoli March



6th H.L.I.'s Farewell to Gallipoli

The Highland Light Infantry (HLI) was a light infantry regiment of the British Army formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 71st (Highland) Light Infantry (as the 1st Battalion) and the 74th (Highland) Regiment of Foot (as the 2nd Battalion) as the city regiment of Glasgow, absorbing local Militia and Rifle Volunteer units. Its exact status was ambiguous: although the regiment insisted on being classified as a non-kilted Highland regiment, it recruited mainly from Glasgow in Lowland Scotland.

The 1/5th (City of Glasgow) Battalion, the 1/6th (City of Glasgow) Battalion and the 1/7th (Blythswood) Battalion landed at Cape Helles in Gallipoli as part of the 157th Brigade in the 52nd (Lowland) Division in July 1915; after being evacuated to Egypt in January 1916 they moved to Marseille in April 1918 for service on the Western Front.



Gallipoli

The Gallipoli campaign took place on the Gallipoli peninsula (Gelibolu in modern Turkey), from February 17, 1915 to January 19, 916. The Entente powers, Britain, France and Russia, sought to weaken the Ottoman Empire, one of the Central Powers, by taking control of the Ottoman straits. This would expose the Ottoman capital at Constantinople to bombardment by Allied battleships and cut it off from the Asian part of the empire. With Turkey defeated, the Suez Canal would be safe and a year-round Allied supply route could be opened through the Black Sea to warm-water ports in Russia.

The attempt by the Allied fleet to force a passage through the Dardanelles in February 1915 failed and was followed by an amphibious landing on the Gallipoli peninsula in April 1915. In January 1916, after eight months' fighting, with approximately 250,000 casualties on each side, the land campaign was abandoned and the invasion force withdrawn. It was a costly campaign for the Entente powers and the Ottoman Empire as well as for the sponsors of the expedition, especially the First Lord of the Admiralty (1911–1915), Winston Churchill. The campaign was considered a great Ottoman victory. In Turkey, it is regarded as a defining moment in the history of the state, a final surge in the defense of the motherland as the Ottoman Empire retreated. The struggle formed the basis for the Turkish War of Independence and the declaration of the Republic of Turkey eight years later, with Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who rose to prominence as a commander at Gallipoli, as founder and president.

The campaign is often considered to be the beginning of Australian and New Zealand national consciousness; April 25, the anniversary of the landings, is known as Anzac Day, the most significant commemoration of military casualties and veterans in the two countries, surpassing Remembrance Day (Armistice Day).

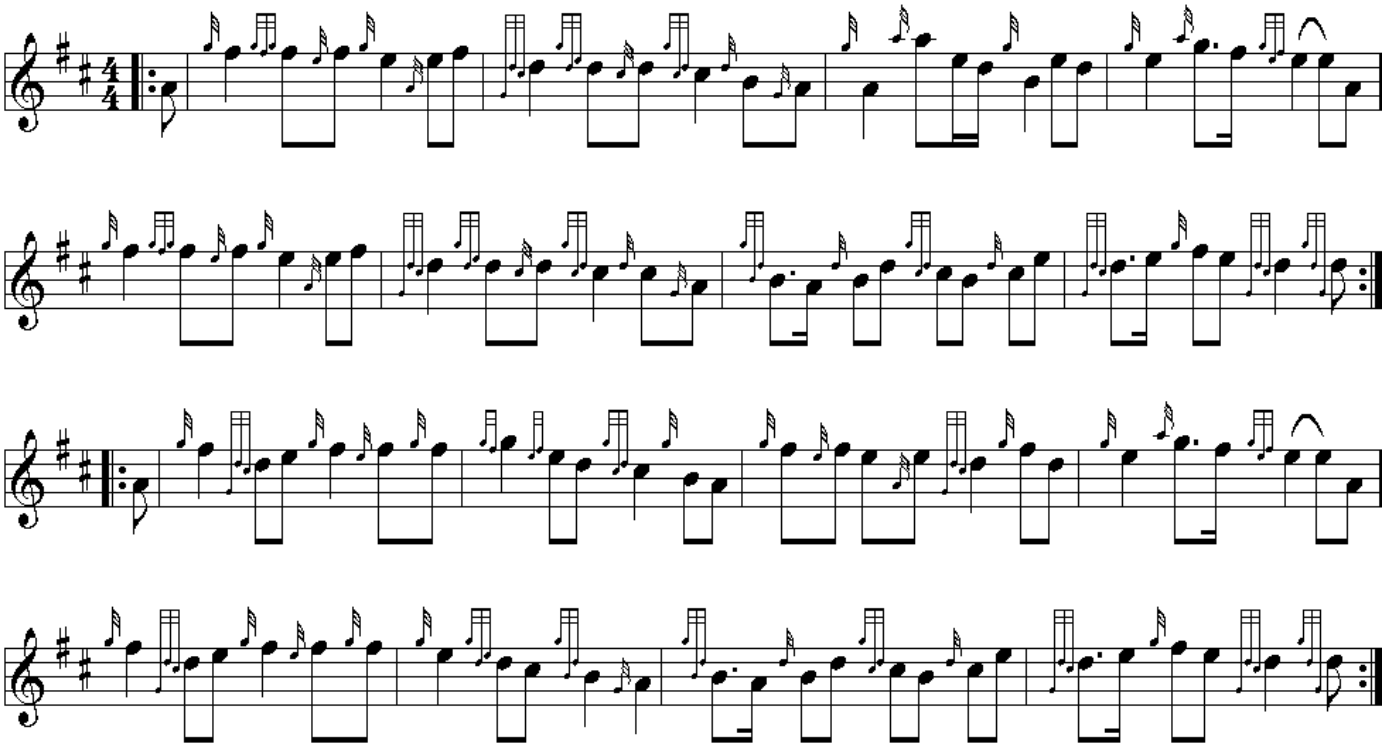
The slow air, ***Gallipoli*** was composed by John Haynes (left) in 2018 fir a New Zealand piper to play on Anzac Day. Pipe Major John Haynes was born in 1932 in Camberwell, London. The family moved to Hounslow, west of London, where John went to Grammar School. He apprenticed at an instrument maker before being called up for National Service in 1950. Being an Air Cadet got him into the Royal Air Force (RAF). He was sent to Singapore for three years where he learned to play the bagpipes from the RAF Seletar Pipe Band.

After returning to the UK, he joined the Pride of Murray Pipe Band where he stayed for 30 years leading the Grade 4 band and instructing; having passed the RSPBA Instructor's Exam.

Haynes is best known for his composition, *Cockney Jocks* composed in 1967 when the London Scottish, with whom he was guested, was to be disbanded.

Haynes has also played for the Surrey Pipe Band and the London Irish Rifles; where he was Pipe Sergeant and Instructor for 10 years.

Gallipoli Slow Air John Haynes

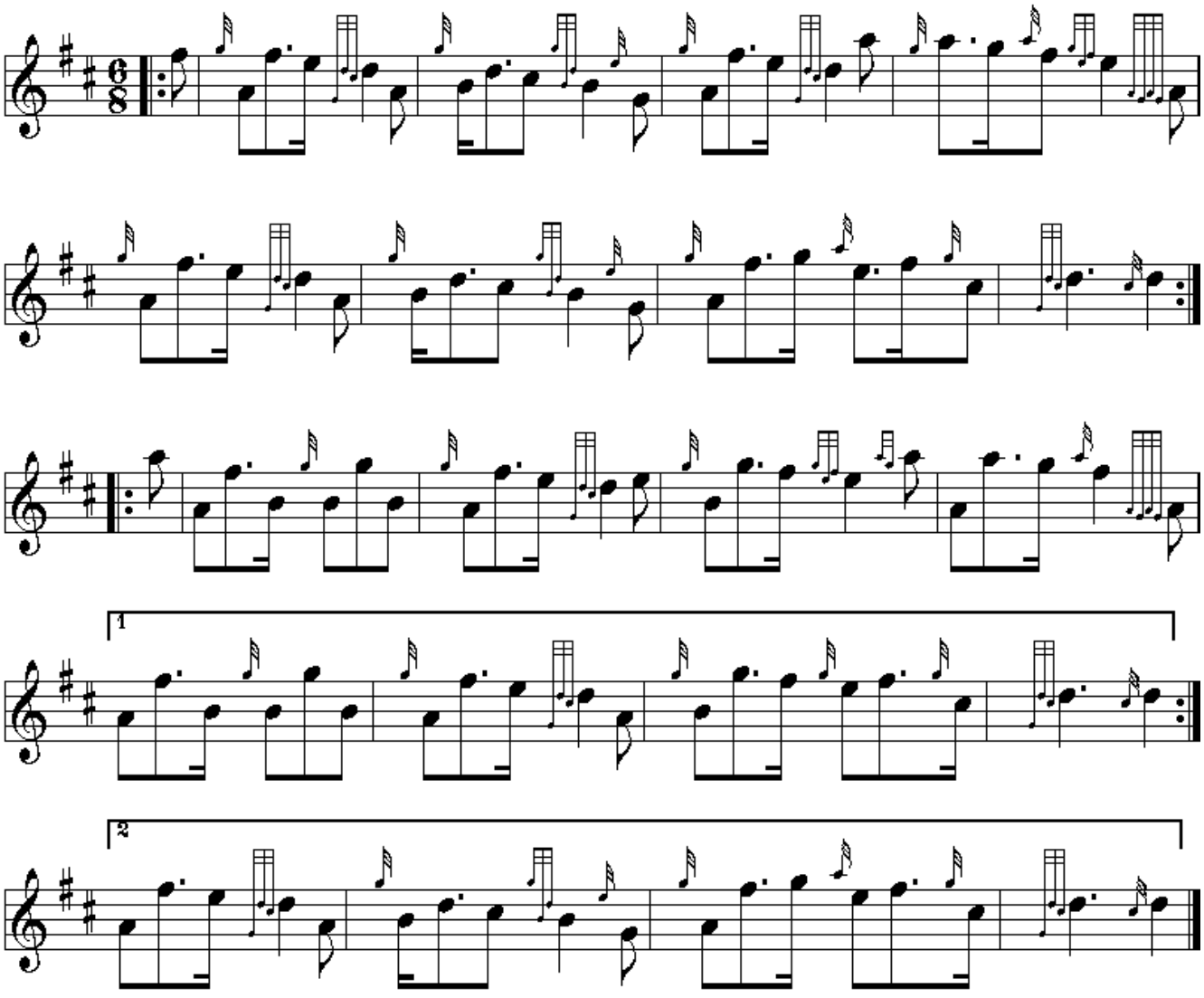


The Anzac Warrior

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) was formed in Egypt in December 1914, and operated during the Gallipoli campaign. General William Birdwood commanded the corps, which primarily consisted of troops from the First Australian Imperial Force and 1st New Zealand Expeditionary Force, although there were also British and Indian units attached at times throughout the campaign. The corps disbanded in 1916, following the Allied evacuation of the Gallipoli peninsula and the formation of I ANZAC Corps and II ANZAC Corps.

The tune, ***The Anzac Warrior*** was composed by Iain Bell.

The Anzac Warrior Slow March/Air Iain Bell

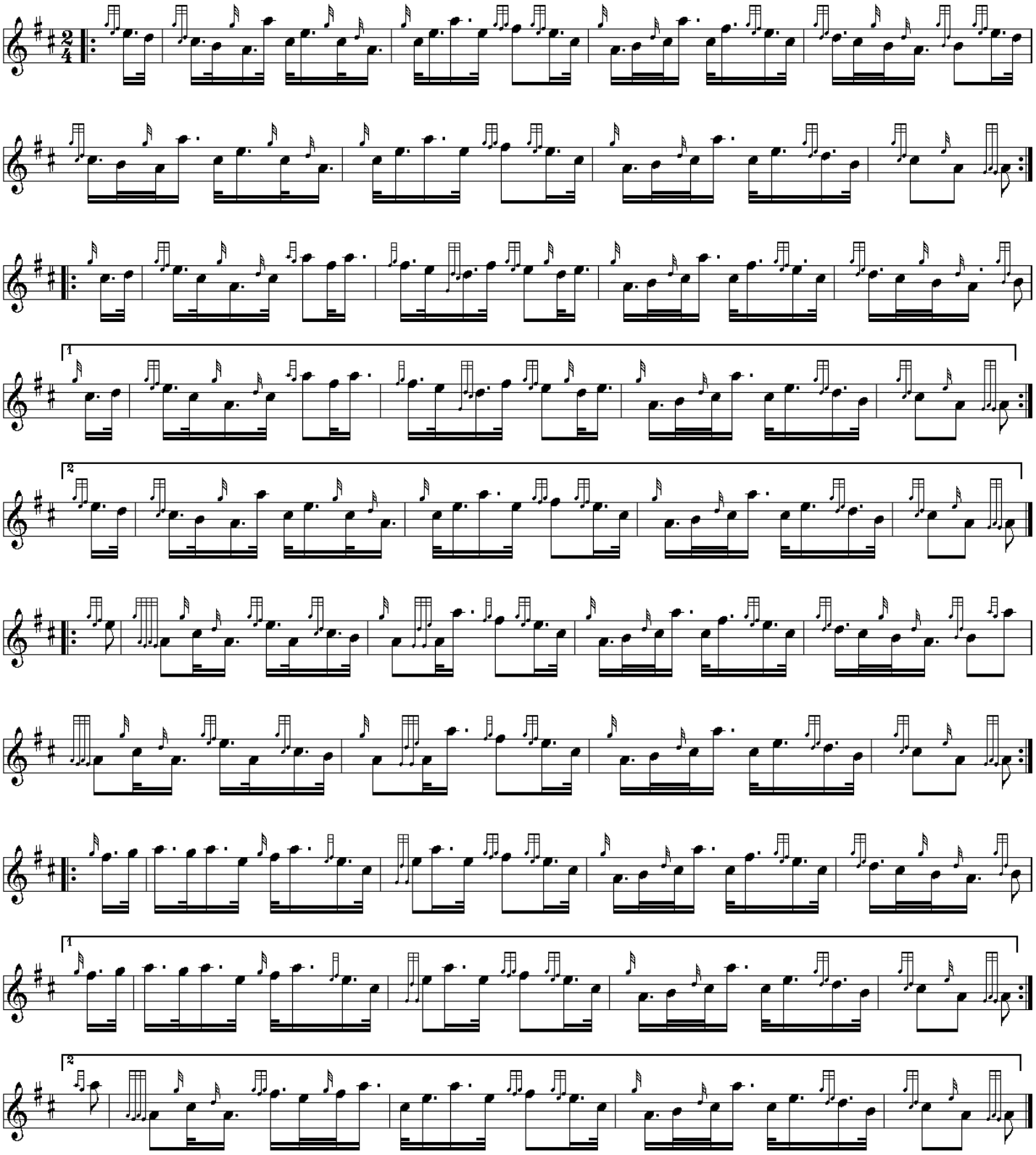


Lt. C. Maclean Younger of Pennycross's Welcome to the 93rd

The tune, ***Lt. C. MacLean Younger of Pennycross's Welcome to the 93rd*** or simply, ***MacLean of Pennycross's Welcome*** was composed by Pipe Major Archibald Ferguson for Lieutenant Charles MacLean, (seated front center) of the 93rd Highlanders.

Archibald Ferguson (May 14, 1871—March 27, 1907) was born in Piperhall, Kingarth, Bute, Scotland. He was Pipe Major with the 93rd Highlanders and then with the 4th Argyle and Sutherland. He died in Maryhill, Lanark, Scotland under "mysterious" conditions.

Lt. C. MacLean Younger of Pennycross's Welcome to the 93rd March PM Archibald Ferguson



The 6th NZ Reinforcement's Welcome to Egypt

The New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade was a brigade of the New Zealand Army. Raised in 1914 as part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, it was one of the first New Zealand units to sail for service overseas.

The brigade was formed from three regiments – the Auckland Mounted Rifles, the Canterbury Mounted Rifles, the Wellington Mounted Rifles – and smaller support units. Altogether the brigade had an establishment of 1,940 men and 2,032 horses and by the end of the war over 17,700 men had served in the brigade. However, the entire brigade's dismounted rifle strength was the equivalent of only a battalion of infantry.

By the end of 1914, the brigade had arrived in Egypt and was assigned to the New Zealand and Australian Division. Its first active service was, in a dismounted role, during the Gallipoli Campaign, where they fought against the forces of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Seven months later, after the evacuation from Gallipoli, the brigade returned to Egypt, and in 1916, became part of the ANZAC Mounted Division. The brigade was then used in defense of the Suez Canal. Then following an abortive Turkish attack in the Sinai Desert, it took part in clearing the invaders from Egypt. Then in the next two years, it forced the Turkish forces out of Palestine, collectively known as the Sinai and Palestine Campaign.

The tune, ***The 6th NZ Reinforcement's Welcome to Egypt*** was composed by Cuthbert Challis Selby (1895-1968), shown at right, in 1915 at Suez.

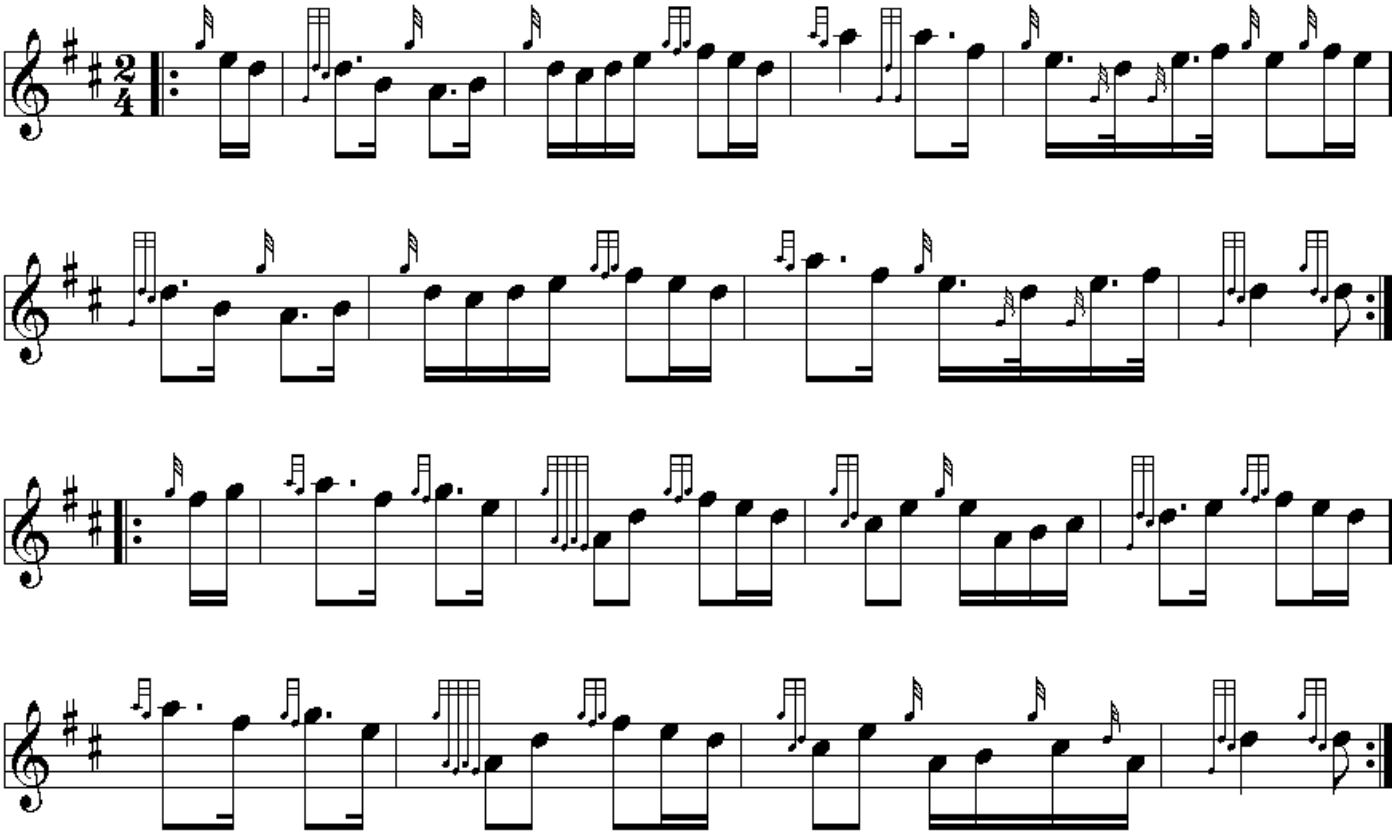
Cuthbert Challis Selby was born in 1895 in Lumsden in Southland, the youngest of nine children of an English migrant couple. Although there does not appear to have been any pipers in the family a number played the piano, including Cuthbert, but it was the bagpipes that became his instrument of choice. His first teacher was Pipe Major C W Wilson in the Invercargill Pipe Band in 1911.

When the Great War started in 1914, he was only 19 years old but enlisted at the first opportunity in April 1915 a couple of months before his 20th birthday. Soldiers were not allowed to take musical instruments with them, but family tradition suggests Selby smuggled his bagpipes on board the troop ship only to have them discovered by an officer who threw them overboard.

Selby was involved in the Gallipoli campaign, but his war was a very short one as he was invalided out and returned to New Zealand in March 1916.

Selby was actively involved in piping throughout his life and played in many solo competitions with a high level of success. Selby started composing early in life as some tunes are dated 1914. Twenty-two of his compositions are known to exist as well as a number of other people's compositions that he arranged for the pipes.

The 6th NZ Reinforcement's Welcome to Egypt March Cuthbert C. Selby

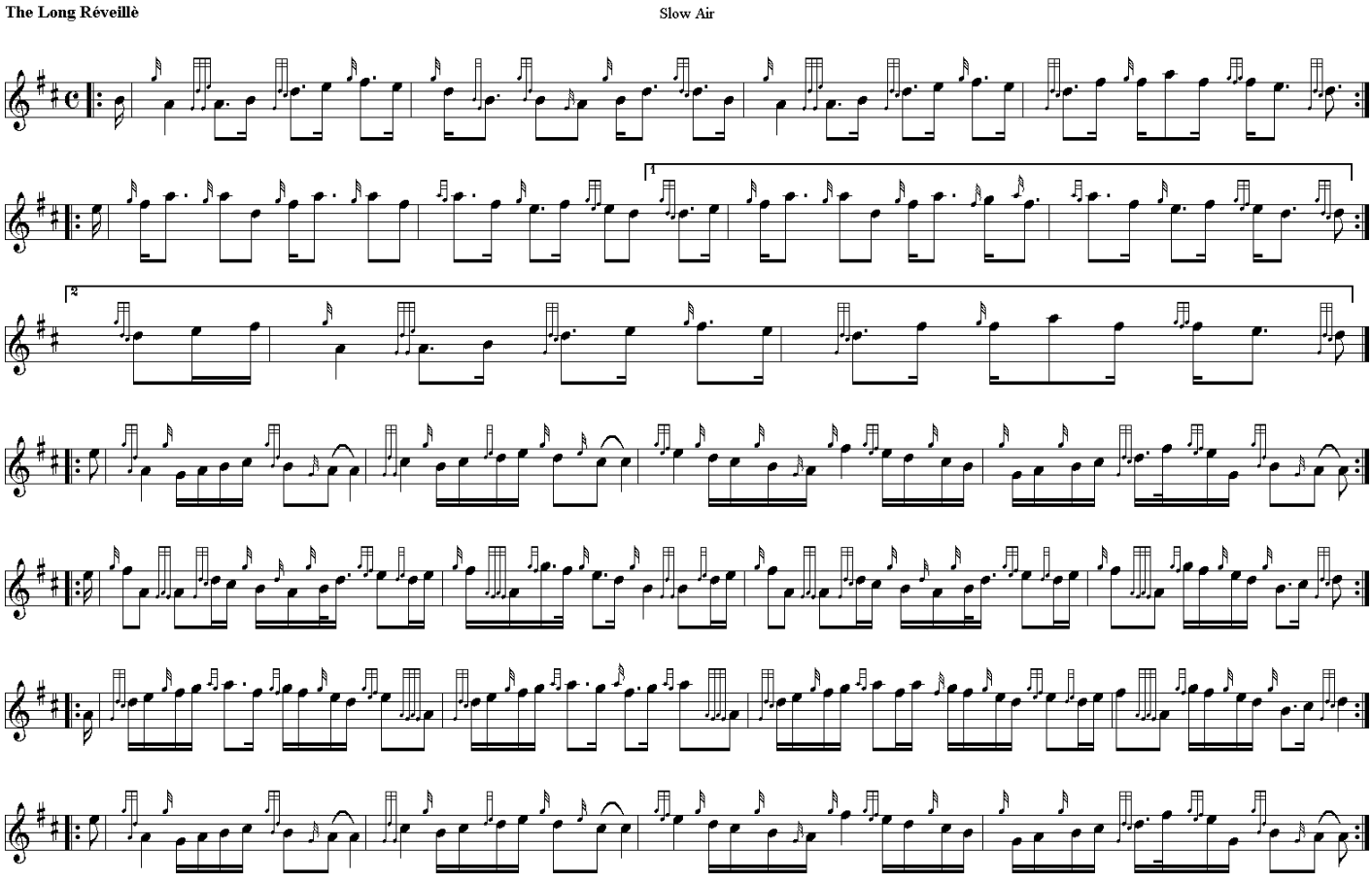


The Long Réveillè

The tune, ***The Long Reveille*** was played by the 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division at Gallipoli.

The 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division was originally formed as the Lowland Division, in 1908 as part of the Territorial Force. It later became the 52nd (Lowland) Division in 1915. The Territorial Force (TF) was formed on April 1, 1908 following the enactment of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act 1907 which combined and re-organized the old Volunteer Force, the Honorable Artillery Company and the Yeomanry. On formation, the TF contained 14 infantry divisions and 14 mounted yeomanry brigades. One of the divisions was the Lowland Division. In peacetime, the divisional headquarters was at 7 West George Street in Glasgow.

The division first saw action at Gallipoli. The division began landing at the Helles front, on the Gallipoli peninsula, in June 1915 as part of VIII Corps. The 156th Brigade was landed in time to take part in the Battle of Gully Ravine, where it was mauled, under the notorious Lieutenant-General Aylmer Hunter-Weston. Advancing along Fir Tree Spur, to the right of the ravine, the brigade had little artillery support and no experience of the Gallipoli battlefield. The brigade suffered heavy casualties.

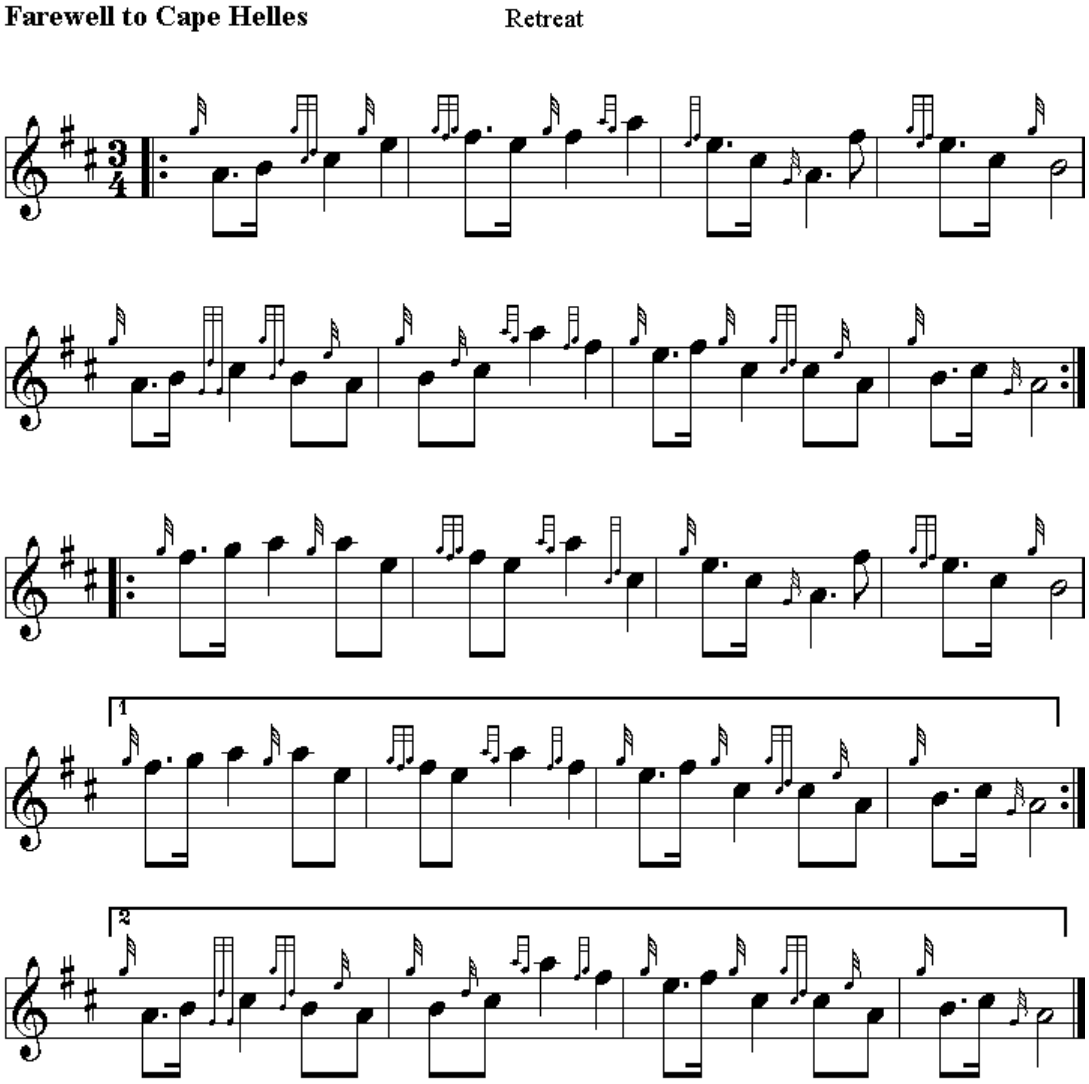


Farewell to Cape Helles

The landing at Cape Helles was part of the Gallipoli Campaign on the Gallipoli peninsula by British and French forces on April 25, 1915. Helles, at the foot of the peninsula, was the main landing area. With gunfire support from the Royal Navy, the 29th Division was to advance six miles along the peninsula on the first day and seize the heights of Achi Baba. The British then planned to capture the forts that guarded the straits of the Dardanelles.

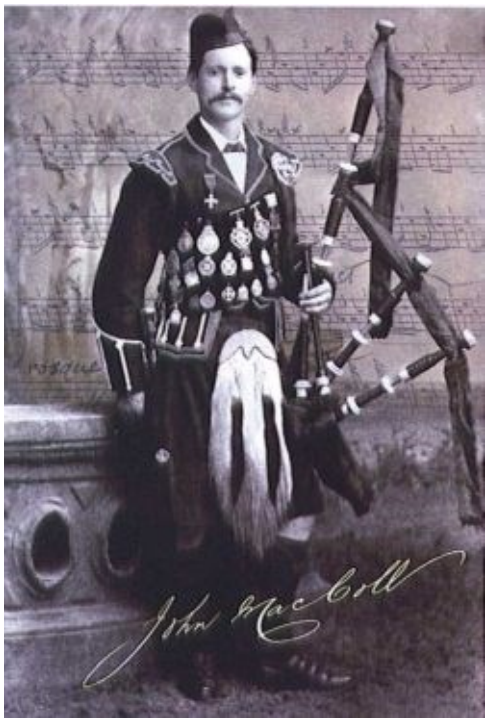
A feigned landing at Bulair, by the Royal Naval Division and a real landing at Anzac Cove were made to the north at Gaba Tepe, by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, before dawn; a diversionary landing was made by French forces at Kum Kale on the Asiatic shore of the Straits. After dark, another demonstration was made by the French in Besika Bay.

The Helles landing was mismanaged by the British commander, Major General Aylmer Hunter-Weston. V and W beaches became bloodbaths, despite the meager defenses, while the easy landings at other sites were not exploited. Although the British managed to gain a foothold, their plans were in disarray. For two months, the British fought costly battles to reach their first day objectives but they were eventually defeated by the Ottoman defenders.



Ach-a-Baba

Achi Baba is a height dominating the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey, located in Çanakkale Province. Achi Baba was the main position of the Ottoman Turkish defenses in 1915 during the Gallipoli campaign. Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Commander-in-Chief Sir Ian Hamilton had set the capture of Achi Baba as a stated priority for operations during the Allied landing at Cape Helles on April 25, 1915. Four separate attempts were made by the Allies to seize Achi Baba and the village of Krithia between April and July, but the heights remained in Turkish hands for the duration of the campaign.



The tune, ***Ach-a-Baba*** was composed by Pipe Major John MacColl (1860-1943), one of the greatest figures from what is often regarded as piping's 'Golden Age.'

The 4th son of Dugald MacColl, a tailor and an excellent piper from Kentallen, he distinguished himself from his piping brothers by a desire not just to do well, but to be the best. He would excel not just at composing, but as a piper, a fiddler, a Highland dancer and an athlete.

Instruction came initially from his father, and then from the famous pipe music editor and player Donald MacPhee (1841-1880) and finally from Pipe Major Ronald MacKenzie of the Black Watch (1842-1916), who won the Prize Pipe at Inverness in 1873 and the Gold Medal there in 1875. His initial forays into competitive piping starting when he was 17 in 1877 were not particularly successful. He was competing against piping immortals like Robert Meldrum and John MacDougall Gillies and success was not immediate. But in 1880 he became piper to MacDonald of Dunach and was able to devote his life to piping. He won the Gold Medal at Oban the next year, the Prize Pipe at Inverness in 1883, the Former Winners' Gold Medal at Inverness in 1884, the Clasp at Inverness in 1900 and first prize at the Paris Exhibition in 1902.

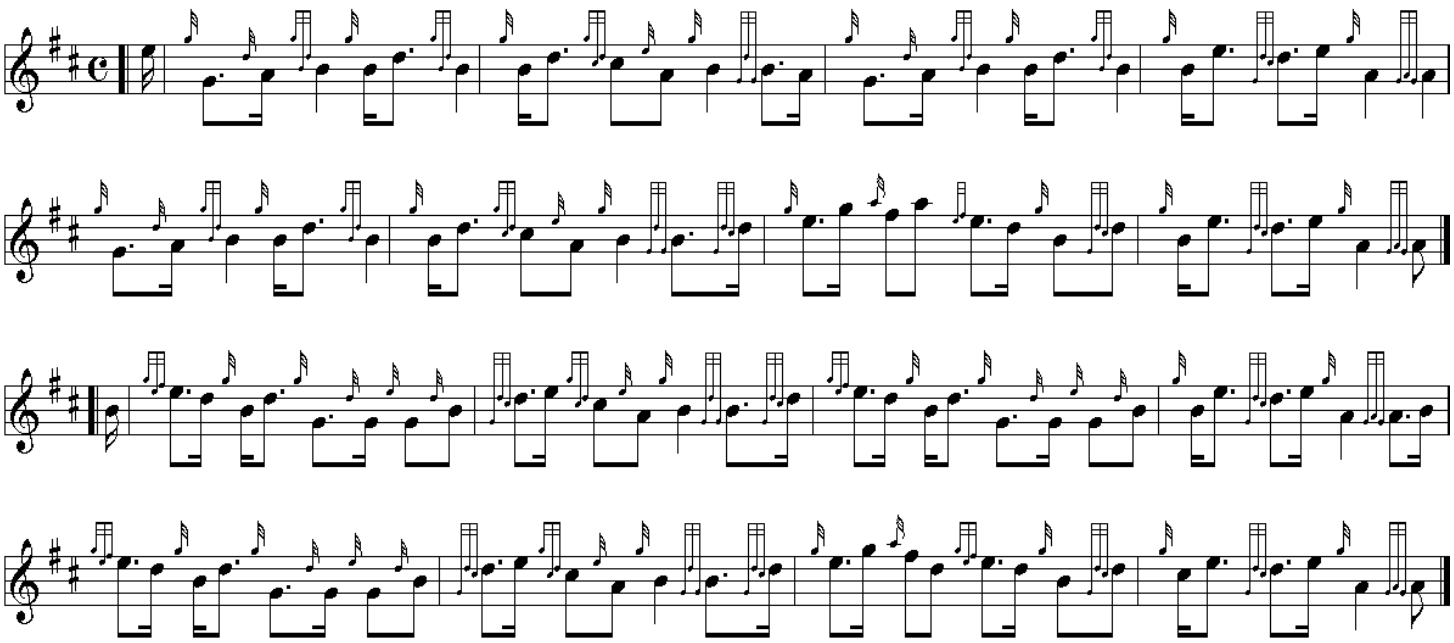
He served as pipe-major of the 3rd Battalion of the Black Watch and after that with the Scottish Horse. He trained pipers and taught piobaireachd for the Piobaireachd Society.

Around the turn of the century he, Willie Lawrie and G. S. McLennan revolutionized the composition of light music, and in particular took the competition march form to a level that has not been equaled.

His piobaireachd playing received mixed reactions. He won the major prizes, but never dominated the piobaireachd lists as he could in the light music, where he was considered the best march player of the time. Some thought his piobaireachd playing lacked the expressive feeling of his light music, but John MacDonald of Inverness called one of his performances of "I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand" at Birnam Games "one of the most harmonious performances I have ever listened to." He composed three piobaireachd, two of which (*Lament for Donald MacPhee* and *N.M. MacDonald's Lament*) won composing contests, and the third of which has been lost.

In 1908 he gave up the games circuit and joined the Glasgow firm of R. G. Lawrie as the manager of their new bagpipe making branch. John MacDougall Gillies was similarly in charge of Henderson's pipemaking shop, and as a result, some of the greatest sets of pipes ever made came from these two firms during this time. MacColl retired from Lawrie's in 1936. During those first few decades of the 1900s, he and MacDougall Gillies – who died in 1925 – helped build the Glasgow piping community into a center of piping excellence that has continued to this day.

Ach-a-Baba Slow March PM John MacColl



Major Findlay, 8th Scottish Rifles

By June 1915 all thoughts the Allies had of a swift decisive victory over the Ottoman Empire had vanished. The preceding Third Battle of Krithia and the attack at Gully Ravine had limited objectives and had much in common with the trench warfare prevailing on the Western Front. Unlike previous Allied attacks at Helles, the Gully Ravine action was largely successful at achieving its objectives, though at a typically high cost in casualties.

The third battle of Krithia on June 4 had made some progress in the center of the line at Helles but had failed on the left flank (west) along Gully Spur and Gully Ravine and on the right flank (east) where the French contingent were confronted by a number of strong Ottoman redoubts on Kereves Spur. As a prelude to a new offensive the commander at Helles, Lieutenant General Aylmer Hunter-Weston ordered separate limited attacks to advance the flanks.

On June 21, the French, with overwhelming artillery support, attacked two redoubts controlling the crest of Kereves Spur (*Kervizdere*). Over 40,000 shells fell on the Ottoman 2nd Division defending this area. They succeeded in capturing Haricot Redoubt but the second objective, the Quadrilateral, was not captured until June 30. Captain Kemal Bey commanding the troops from the line of fire was wounded and died the next day. The French suffered 2,500 casualties but the Ottomans on the receiving end of the bombardment suffered 6,000. Remnants of the Ottoman 2nd Division were pulled back to the Asian side after this battle. This minor gain was cause of much celebration for allies who were at that point very anxious for any good news. General Gourard received congratulatory telegrams from London and Paris, Lord Kitchener, Admiral Robeck, and General Hamilton. Colonel Girdon was awarded the Légion d'honneur.

On June 28, a similar attack was planned for the left flank along Gully Spur, Gully Ravine and neighboring Fir Tree Spur. The terrain around Gully Ravine was closer to the wild and rough terrain at Anzac Cove than to the ground elsewhere at Helles. The plan was for the British 29th Division and the 29th Indian Brigade to attack along Gully Spur and the ravine while one newly arrived brigade on loan to the 29th Division, the 156th (Scottish Rifles) Brigade from the British 52nd (Lowland) Division, would attack along Fir Tree Spur.

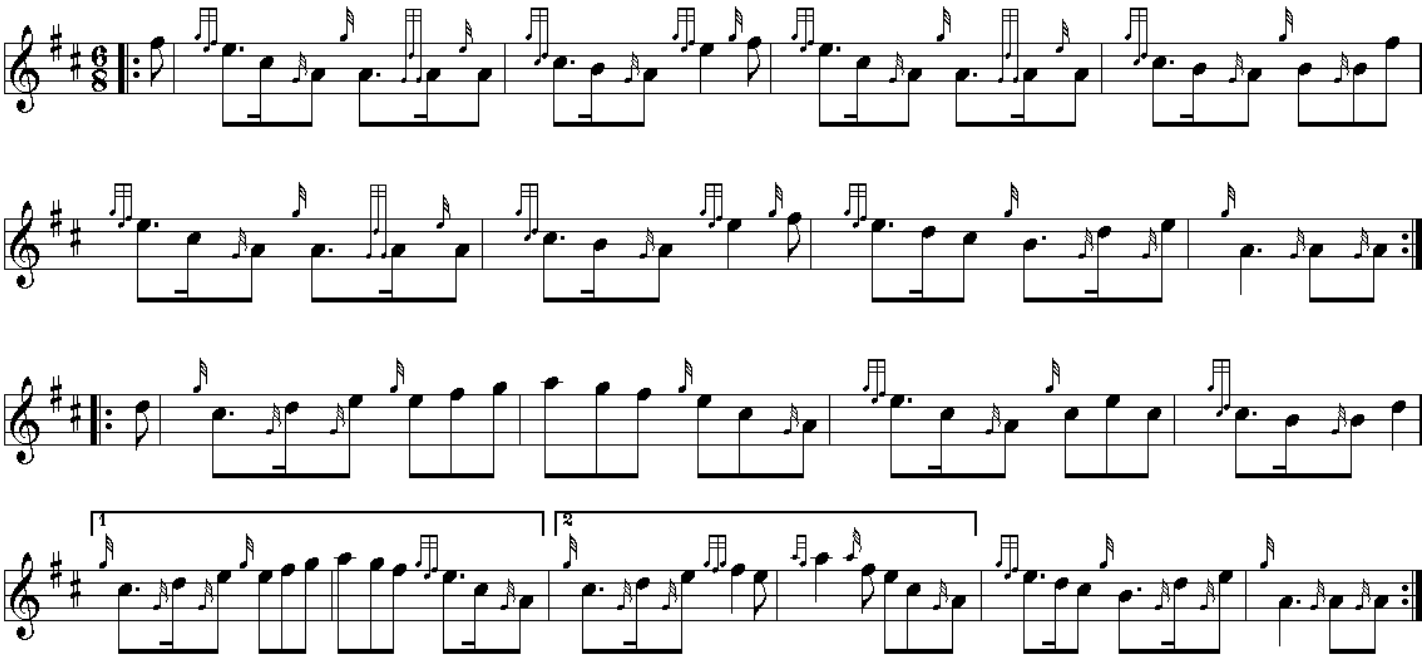
Although the attack on June 28, was a success on Gully Spur and at the Boomerang, it was a very different story for the 156th Brigade facing the H12 trench line on Fir Tree Spur.

Major James Findlay, 1/8th Scottish Rifles, 156th Brigade, 52nd Division, had only taken command of the 1/8th Scottish Rifles a week before, but now he had the responsibility of leading his inexperienced battalion into action on the right of the brigade front. Over the top went his men, to be met by a deadly stream of fire from all sides. Findlay soon realized that the attack was breaking down in No Man's Land. He sent back to brigade for reinforcements and moved forward up a sap with his Adjutant, Captain Charles Bramwell, and his Signal Officer, Lieutenant Tom Stout, to try and establish a forward headquarters. They did not get far and Findlay was wounded.

It was obvious to everyone around him that his wounds were serious, but Findlay was obsessed with the idea that he had to establish his forward headquarters and co-ordinate the next stage of the attack. He was carried 10 yards from direct line of fire but was hardly out of danger.

Findlay finally managed to stagger back to the lines. By then he was in a dreadful state: either very lucky or unlucky depending on one's viewpoint, having suffered some seven major wounds as well as a liberal sprinkling of minor scrapes from bomb fragments. His battalion had suffered over 400 casualties and 25 of the 26 officers had been hit. All in all the attack of 156th Brigade was a massacre with nothing achieved but a few insignificant gains on the left. Although more attempts to advance were ordered during the day they achieved nothing but further slaughter.

Major Findlay, 8th Scottish Rifles March PM D. MacDougall



Sir Ian Hamilton's Welcome to St. Andrews

Sir Ian Standish Monteith Hamilton (left), GCB, GCMG, DSO, TD (January 16, 1853 – October 12, 1947) was a British Army general who had an extensive British Imperial military career in the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

On August 5, 1914, with the declaration of hostilities between Britain and Germany, Hamilton was appointed as the Commander-in-Chief, Home Army. He also became commander of "Central Force", the predominantly Territorial Force military formation which was charged with repelling any seaborne German invasion of the east coast of England in the early part of the war.

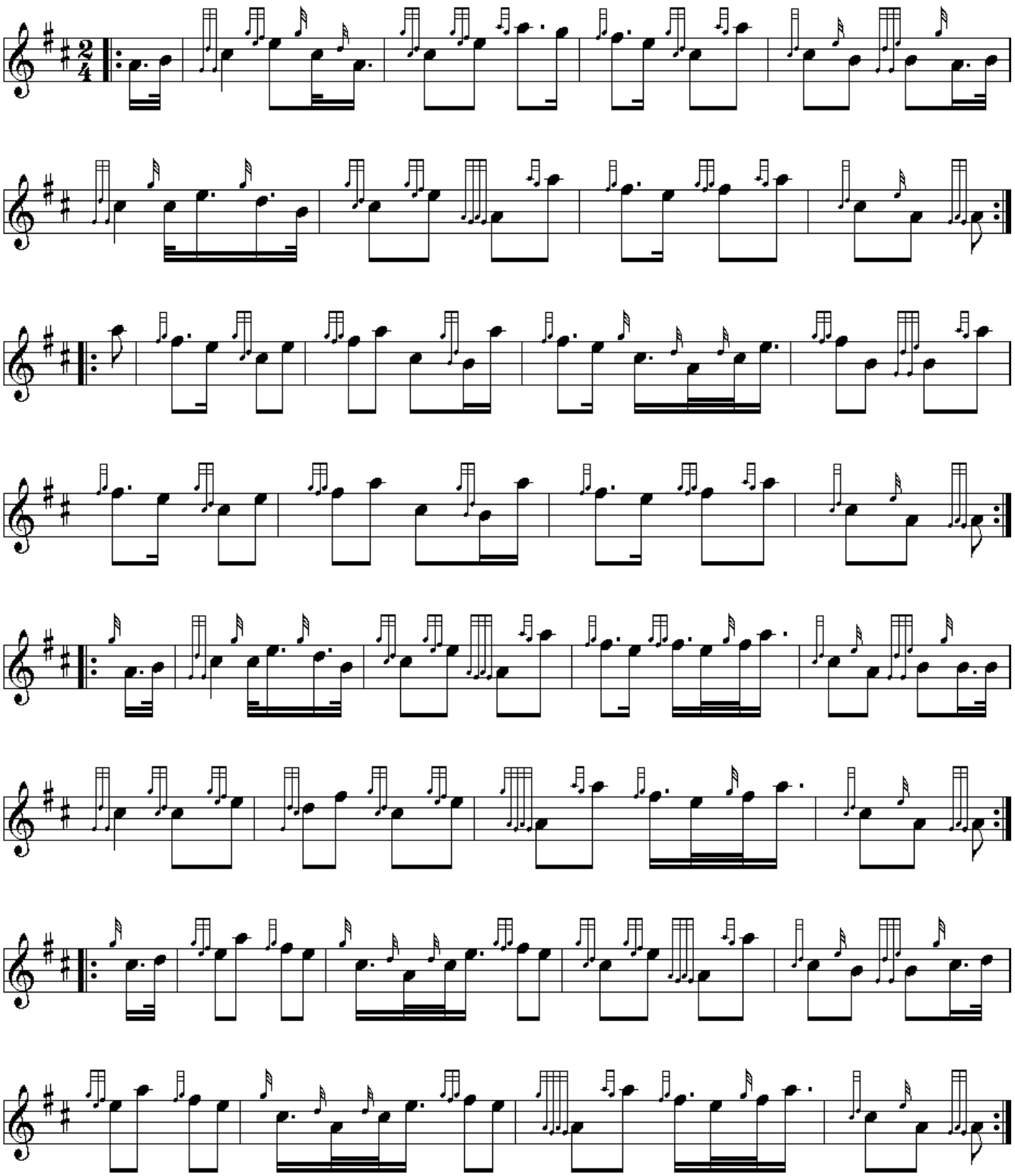
In March 1915, Lord Kitchener appointed Hamilton, aged 62, to the command of the Allied Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, with orders to gain control of the Dardanelles straits from the Ottoman Empire and to capture Constantinople. Whilst a senior and respected officer, perhaps more experienced in different campaigns than most, Hamilton was considered too unconventional, too intellectual, and too friendly with politicians to be given a command on the Western Front. Hamilton was not given a chance to take part in planning the campaign. Intelligence reports on the Ottoman Empire's military defensive capacity were poor and underestimated its strength. Whilst the high command of the Greek Army, which possessed far more detailed knowledge of the Ottoman Empire's military capacity, warned Kitchener that a British Expeditionary Force entering the Eastern Mediterranean theatre would require 150,000 troops to capture Gallipoli, Kitchener concluded that a force of 70,000 men would be adequate to overpower any defensive garrison there.

The plan to take control of the Dardanelles and open a new front in the war had been considered in various forms since 1914. In November of that year, ships from the Royal Navy had shelled its outer forts, causing the magazine at Seddülbahir castle to explode. In December 1914, a Royal Navy submarine entered the channel and sank the Turkish warship *Mesudiye* at Çanakkale. These early experiences raised in Kitchener's mind the prospect of an easy victory for a more ambitious operation, but as a consequence of them, the Turks had set about laying sea-mines in the straits to interdict Allied warships ships approaching again and strengthened the forts guarding its approaches. On January 3, 1915, the British First Sea Lord, Admiral Fisher, presented a plan to the British Government for a joint naval and army attack, utilizing 75,000 troops, but only on the proviso that it could be launched with little delay. By January 12, 1915, Fisher wrote privately to Admiral Jellicoe that he could not approve the plan unless 200,000 men were available to carry it through. Winston Churchill, as First Lord of the Admiralty, had initially suggested in September 1914 that the operation would need the support of only 50,000 men, a strength of just over two British Army divisions.

Starting on February 19, 1915, British and French warships attempted to take the strait using naval power alone but failed after an abortive attack foundered upon sea mines. Lord Kitchener then decided that an invasion by troops of the Gallipoli peninsula would be required to support the naval operation with a land campaign, led by Hamilton, who became responsible for organizing landings there. Hamilton had no specialized landing craft, the disparate troops he had been given had no training for seaborne operations, and supplies for the army had been packed in ways which made them difficult to access for landings. Hamilton believed that the Royal Navy would make further attacks during his campaign; realizing its likely losses, however, and fundamentally opposing the idea that tactical losses of its ships in the operation was an acceptable price to pay, the Royal Naval high command declined to mount another attack.

The tune, ***Sir Ian Hamilton's Welcome to St. Andrew*** was composed by Pipe Major Andrew Kirk of the Black Watch in 1937 to commemorate Hamilton's appointment as Chancellor of St. Andrew's University. Kirk joined the Black Watch about 1899 and served in South Africa and in the Great War. Afterwards he created the first Boys Band at St. Andrews in 1924; serving as their Pipe Major (until 1952) and instructor.

Sir Ian Hamilton's Welcome to St. Andrews March PM Andrew Kirk



Battle of Loos

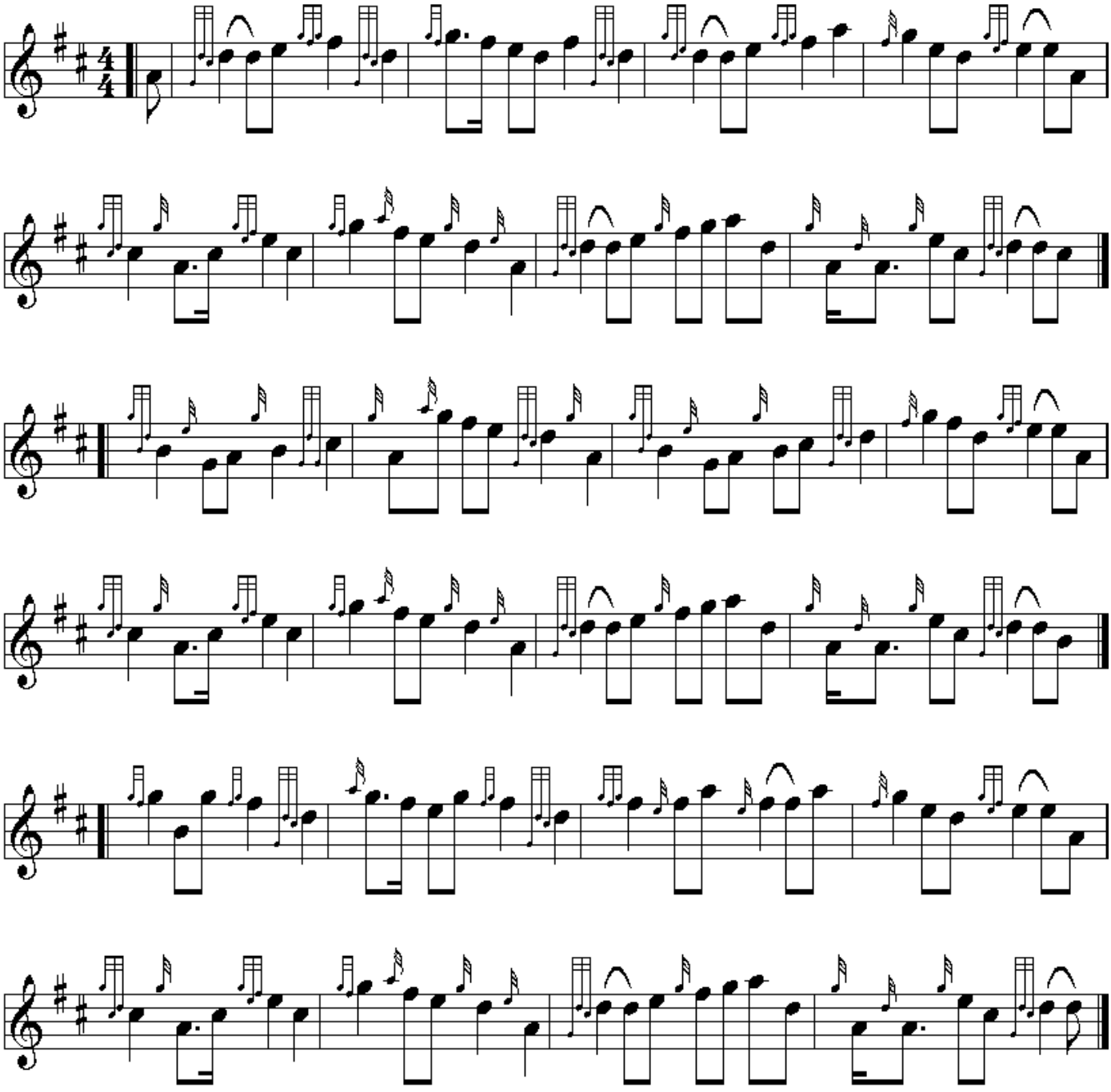
The Battle of Loos took place from 2eptember 25, to October 8, 1915 in France on the Western Front. It was the biggest British attack of 1915, the first time that the British used poison gas and the first mass engagement of New Army units. The French and British tried to break through the German defenses in Artois and Champagne and restore a war of movement. Despite improved methods, more ammunition and better equipment, the Franco-British attacks were largely contained by the Germans, except for local losses of ground. The British gas attack failed to neutralize the defenders and the artillery bombardment was too short to destroy the barbed wire or machine gun nests. German tactical defensive proficiency was still dramatically superior to the British offensive planning and doctrine, resulting in a British defeat.

The London Irish Rifles (LIR) were in a Division composed of London Territorials and were given the responsibility, and honor, of leading their Brigade, which in turn led their Division. The LIR, while advancing under crossfire on open ground, and wearing gas masks, Kicked a football between them all the way to the enemy trenches.

The tune, ***Battle of Loose—25 September 1915*** was composed by John Haynes in 2013 to commemorate the event.

Elizabeth Thompson - A London Irish at Loos

Battle of Loos - 25 September 1915 Slow Air John Haynes

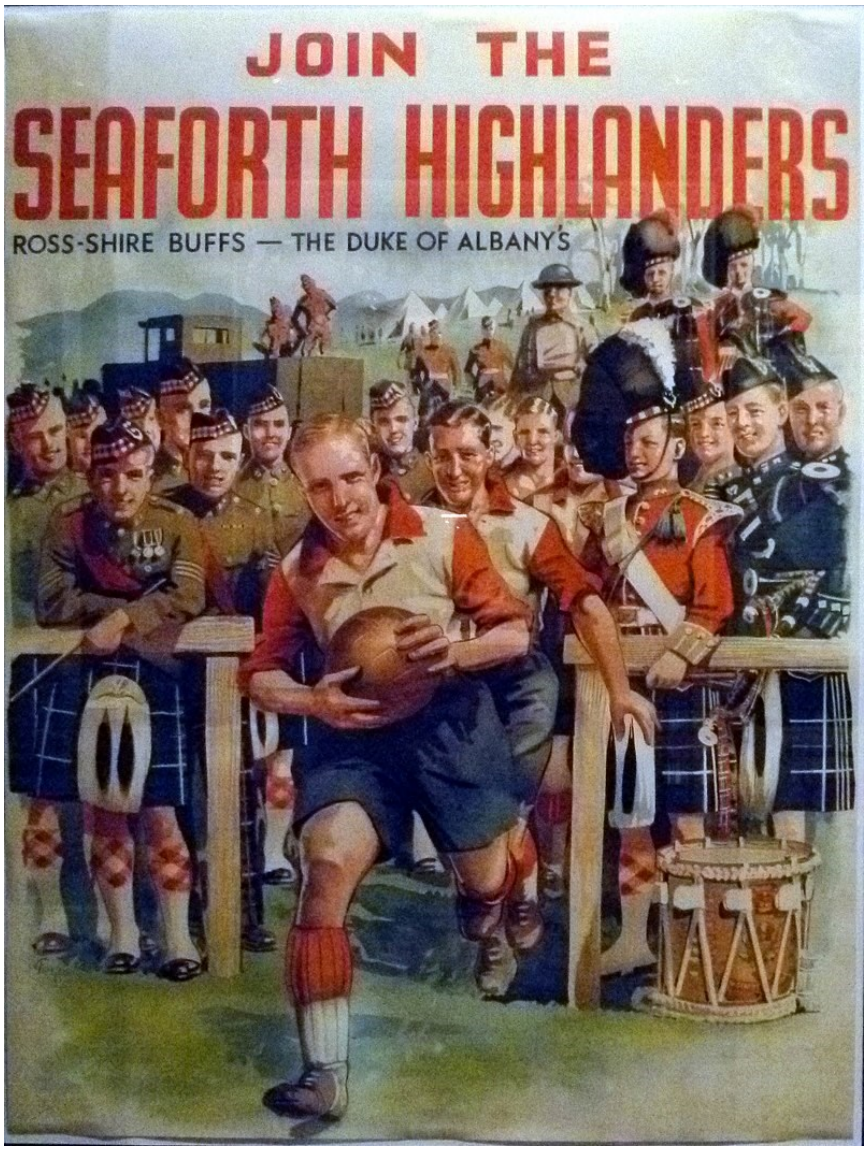


The Seaforth Highlanders March to the Battle of Loos

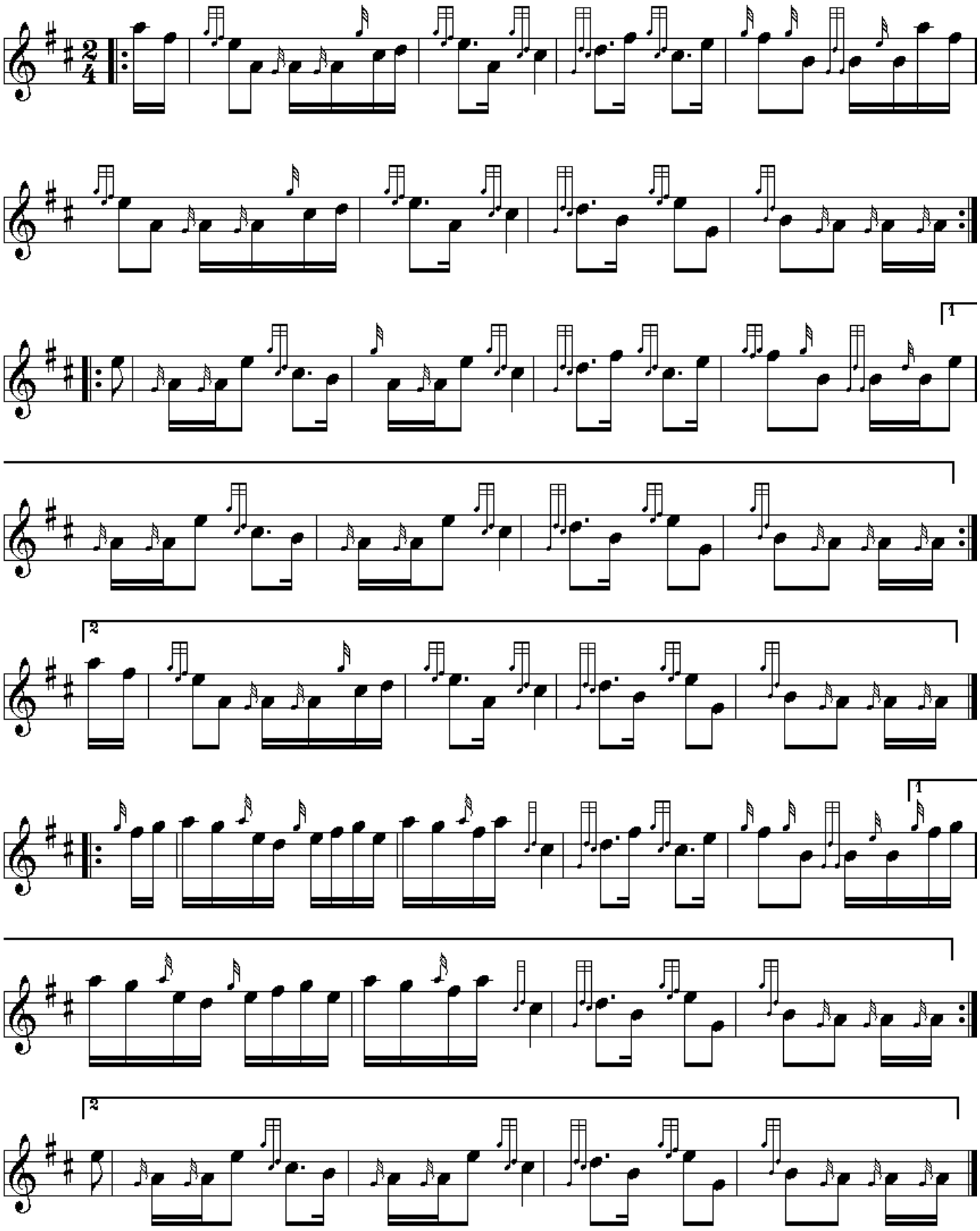
The Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's) was a line infantry regiment of the British Army, mainly associated with large areas of the northern Highlands of Scotland.

The Battle of Loos was designed to take pressure off the French who were bearing the brunt of the war. The battlefield was in the coal fields north of Lille, in exposed and open countryside. In retaliation for the German use of gas, the British deployed it for the first time. The battle was a disaster for Scotland as a disproportionately high percentage of the attacking troops were Scottish – 15th Scottish Division made the most progress until it ran out of leaders and steam.

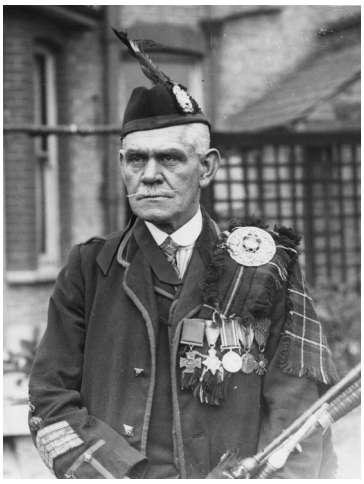
The tune, ***The Seaforth Highlanders March to the Battle of Loos*** was composed by Sergeant MacNiven. MacNiven served in both the 7th and 8th Seaforths. The 7th (Service) Battalion landed at Boulogne-sur-Mer as part of the 26th Brigade in the 9th (Scottish) Division in May 1915. The 8th (Service) Battalion landed at Boulogne-sur-Mer as part of the 44th Brigade in the 15th (Scottish) Division in July 1915. The latter lost 502 men in the first attacking wave at Loos, 23 of them officers.



The Seaforth Highlanders March to the Battle of Loos Sgt. MacNiven



The Piper of Loos



Daniel Logan Laidlaw VC (July 26, 1875 – June 2, 1950), nicknamed "The Piper of Loos", was 40 years old, and a piper in the 7th Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, 15th (Scottish) Infantry Division, British Army during the Battle of Loos in September 1915 when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

Citation

> *London Gazette, November, 18, 1915. For most conspicuous bravery prior to an assault on German trenches near Loos and Hill 70 on 25th September 1915. During the worst of the bombardment, when the attack was about to commence, Piper Laidlaw, seeing that his company was somewhat shaken from the effects of gas, with absolute coolness and disregard of danger, mounted the parapet, marched up and down and played the company out of the trench. The effect of his splendid example was immediate, and the company dashed out to the assault. Piper Laidlaw continued playing his pipes till he was wounded.*

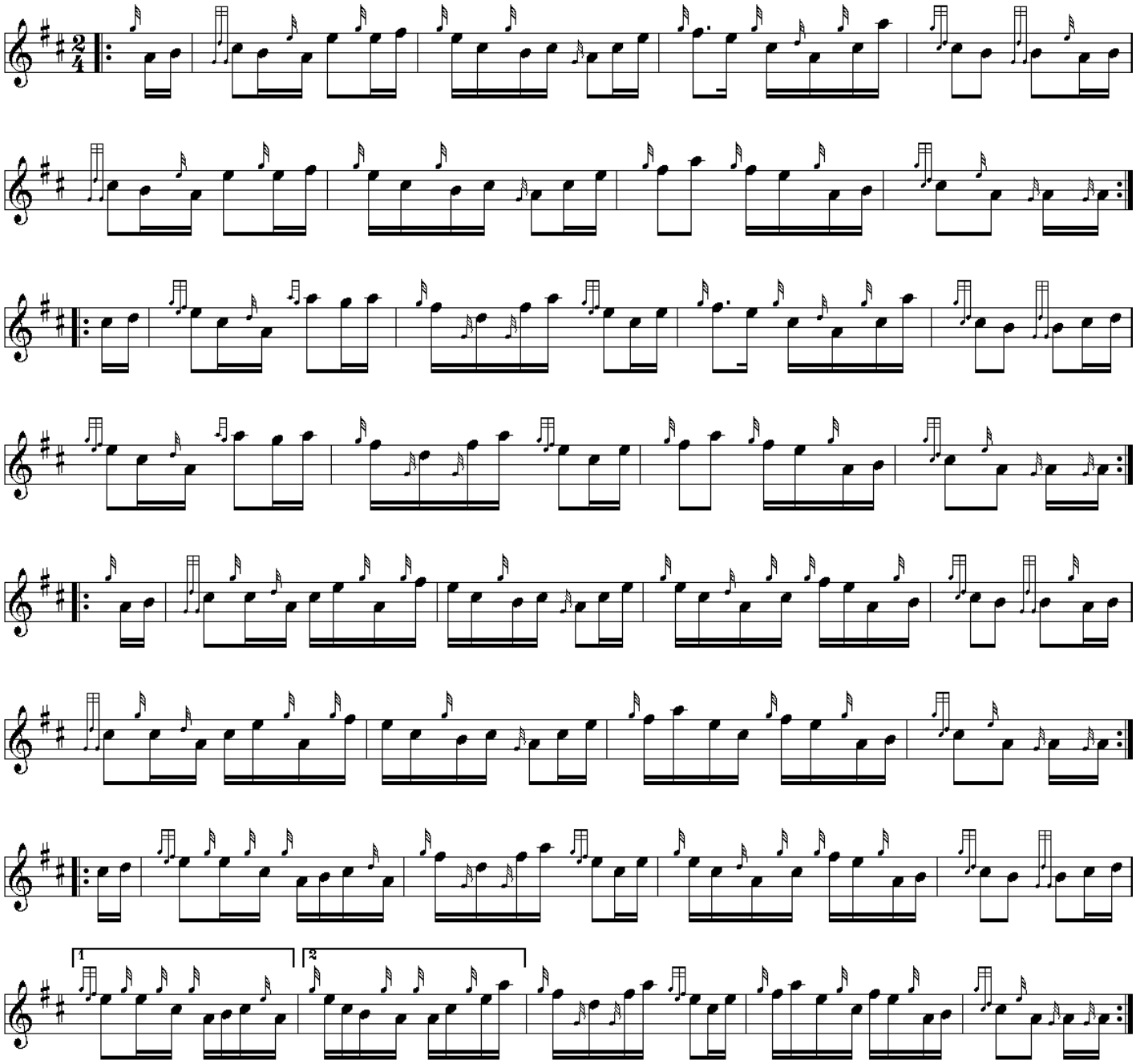
He received the VC from King George V at Buckingham Palace in early 1916. This was followed by two promotions, to Corporal and then Lance Sergeant by the end of 1917. In the same year, the French awarded him the Croix de Guerre, which was commonly awarded to members of allied armed forces for heroic deeds. He was demobilized in April 1919 and transferred to the Class Z Reserve later that month.

The tune, ***The Piper of Loos*** was composed by Pipe Major Angus MacDonald. Few Highland bagpipers have more persuasively or widely exemplified the highest expressions of their art than Pipe Major Angus MacDonald. Born in Cardonald, Glasgow, Angus MacDonald had his first lessons from his father, former Cameron Highlander Alexander (‘Alick’) MacDonald, who, in his day, was a well-known Glasgow Police pipe-band piper.

In 1953, aged 15, he enlisted in the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, where he was tutored by some of the finest Army pipers of the day, including Pipe Major Alexander MacDonald, the Queen’s personal piper. His 27-year military career took him to Europe, Asia and Africa, during which time he was promoted from Lance Corporal in 1957 to Pipe Major, and Queen’s household piper in 1965.

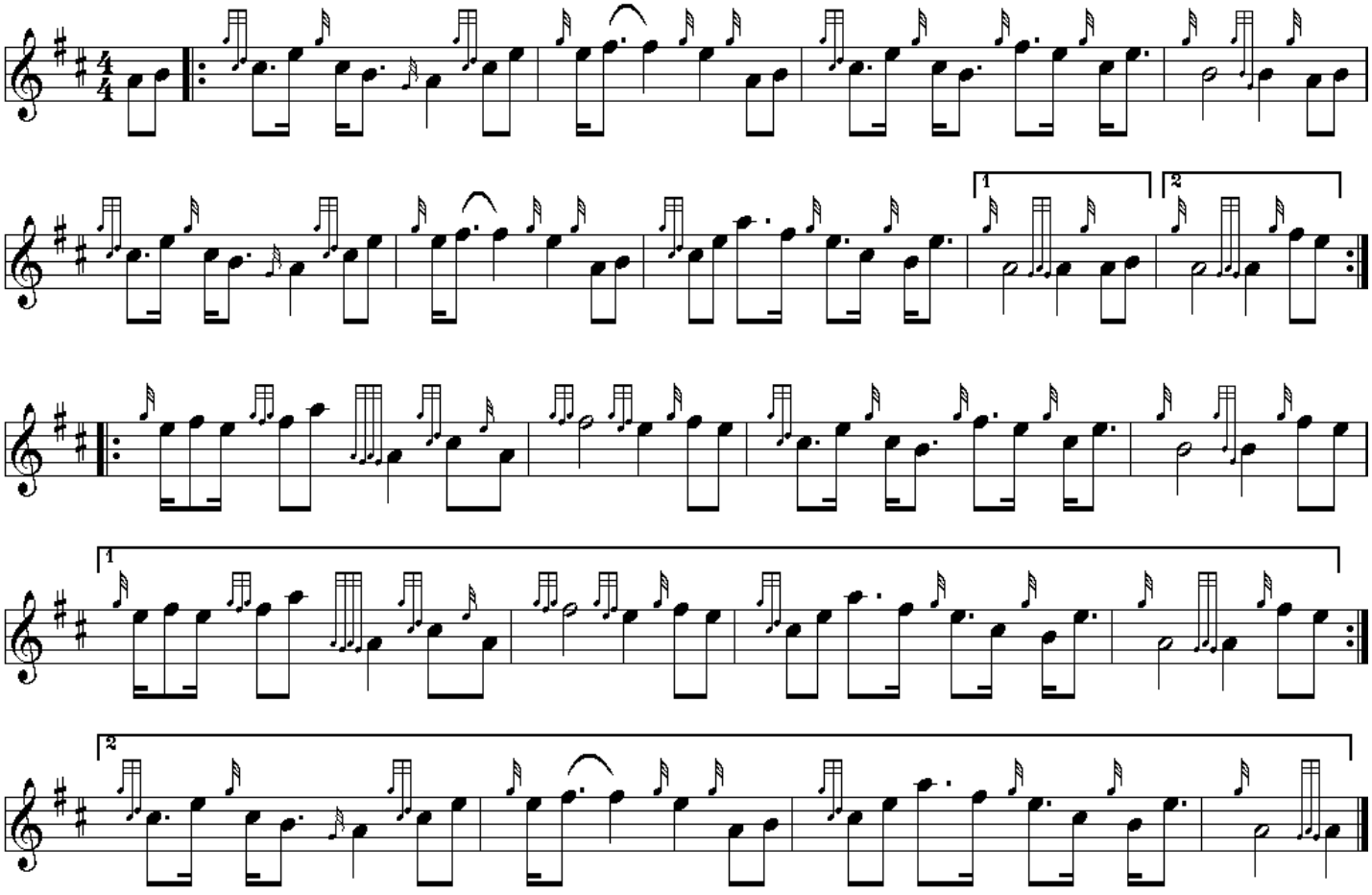
From 1974, he also piped with the prestigious and much-travelled civilian British Caledonian Airways Pipe Band (now the Scottish Power Pipe Band). In 1980, after several other postings, MacDonald was made senior instructor at the Army School of Bagpipe Music and personal piper to the General Officer Commanding and Governor, Edinburgh Castle.

After retiring from the Army in 1983, he taught in Oman and the United States before joining the College of Piping in Glasgow. In 1996, he became senior instructor at the Piping Center. He died in 1999.



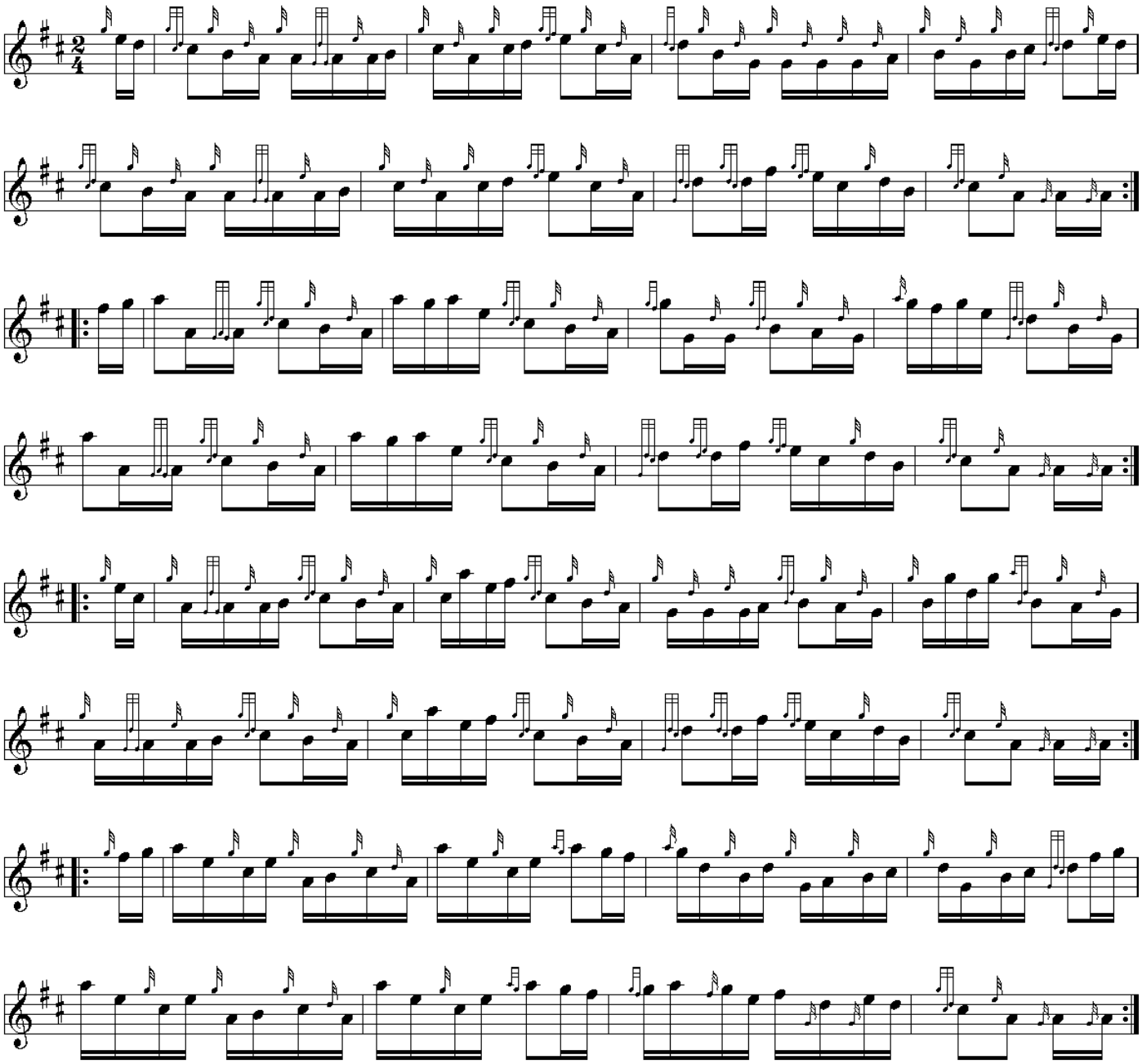
Another tribute tune to Piper Daniel Laidlaw is ***The Piper of Loos*** composed by former King's Own Scottish Border Drum Major Stuart K. Fleming, BEM (left).

The Piper of Loos March DM Stuart K. Fleming, BEM



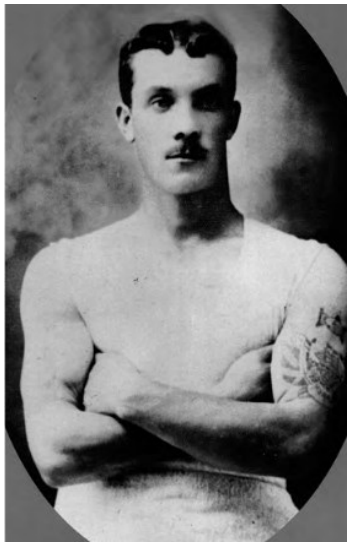
Colonel Laidlaw

Colonel Laidlaw March A.C. MacPherson



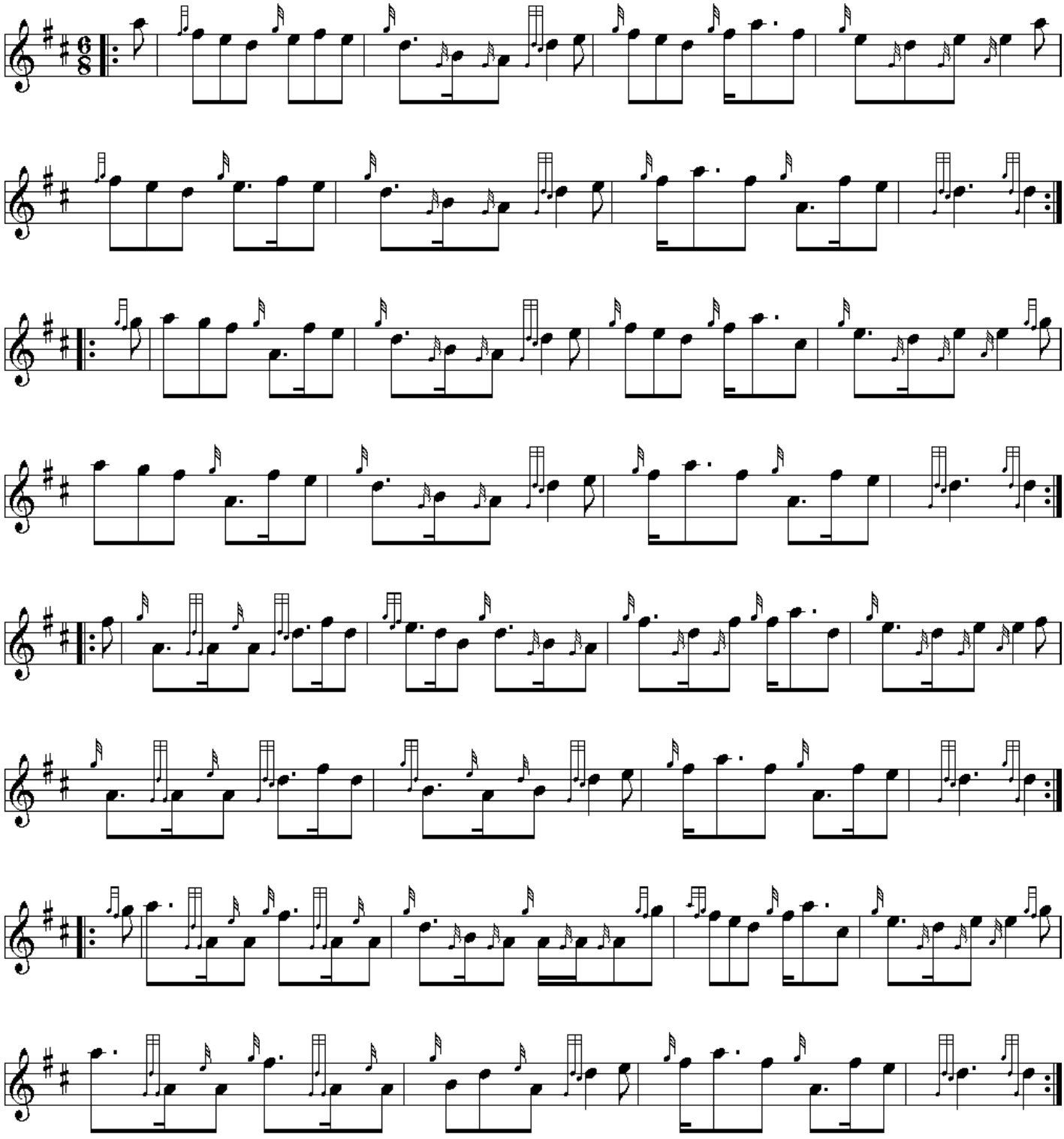
The Macedonian Battle Field

The Macedonian front, also known as the Salonica front formed as a result of an attempt by the Allied Powers to aid Serbia, in the autumn of 1915, against the combined attack of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria. The expedition came too late and in insufficient force to prevent the fall of Serbia, and was complicated by the internal political crisis in Greece (the "National Schism"). Eventually, a stable front was established, running from the Albanian Adriatic coast to the Struma River, pitting a multinational Allied force against the Bulgarian Army, which was at various times bolstered with smaller units from the other Central Powers. The Macedonian front remained quite stable, despite local actions, until the great Allied offensive in September 1918, which resulted in the capitulation of Bulgaria and the liberation of Serbia.



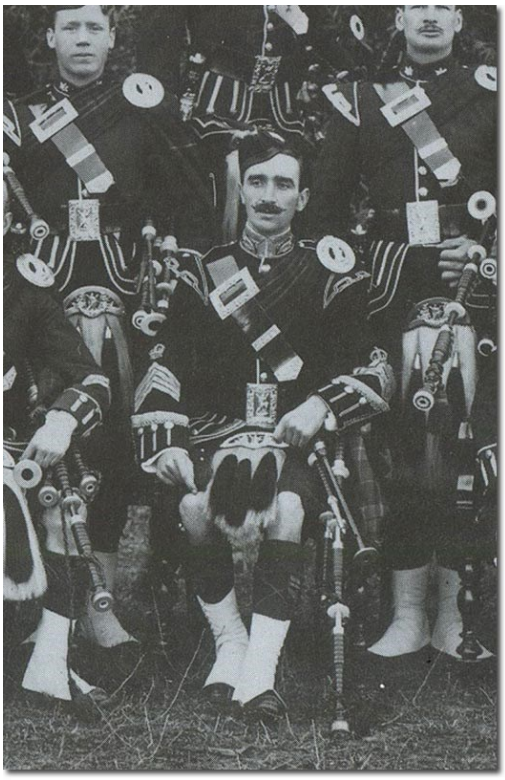
The tune, ***The Macedonian Battle Field*** was composed by Pipe Major John Steele (1889-1961) of Loch Baghasdail, South Uist (left) . Steele was a Great War veteran, athlete and extremely musical piper.

The Macedonian Battle Field March PM John Steele



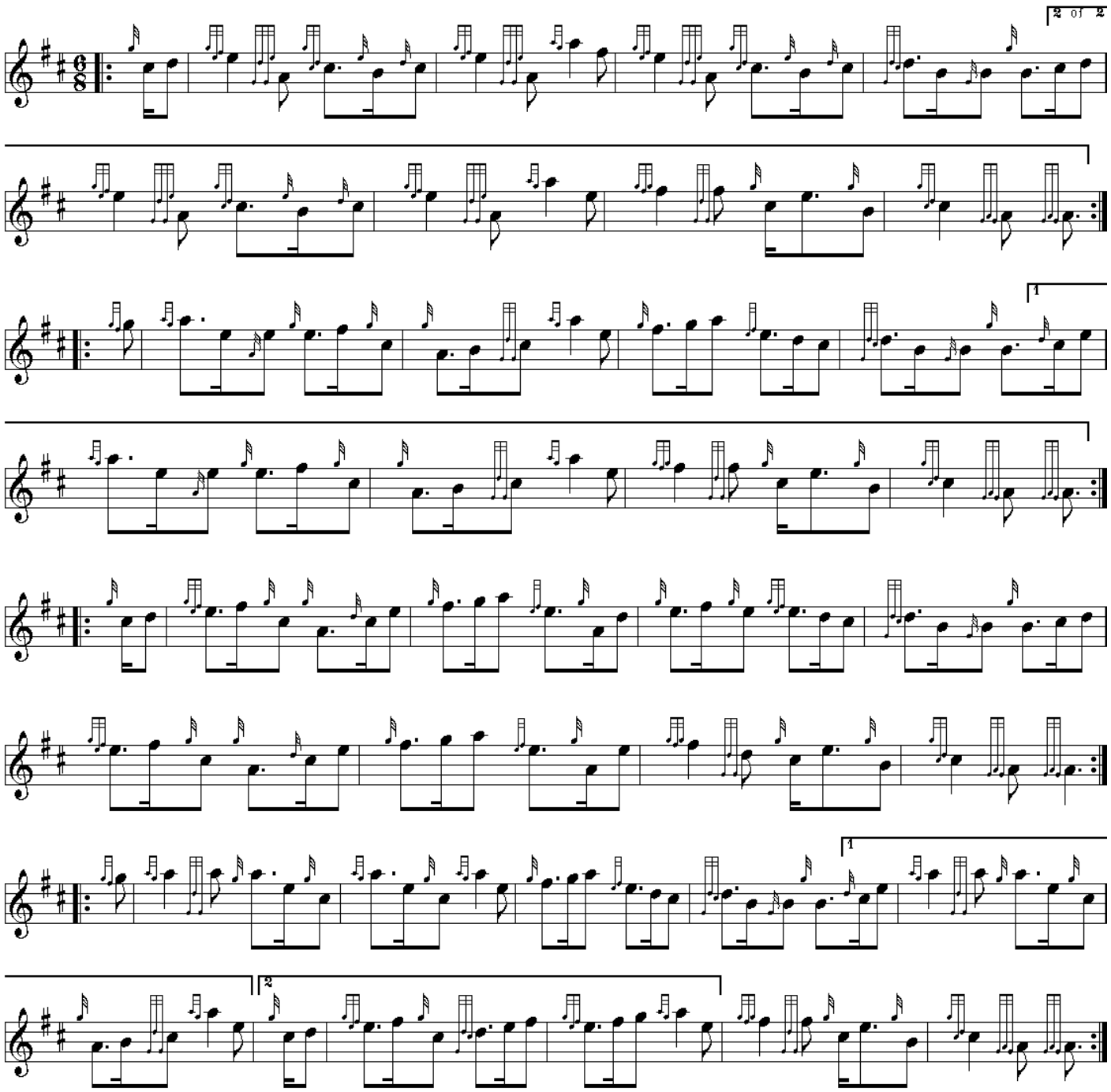
The 1st Royal Scots at Macedonia

World War I saw the number of battalions of Royal Scots increase to 35 of which 15 served as active front line units. More than 100,000 men passed through these battalions, of whom 11,213 were killed and over 40,000 wounded. Seventy-one Battle Honors and 6 VCs were awarded to the Regiment as well as innumerable individual medals. The active service battalions were involved in all areas from the Western Front to the Dardanelles, Macedonia, Egypt and North Russia. Whereas the War in Europe formally ended on November 11, 1918, the 1st Battalion served on in Georgia until April 1919 and 2/10th only returned home from the Archangel area in June where they had been part of an Allied expeditionary force supporting the White Russians against the Bolsheviks.

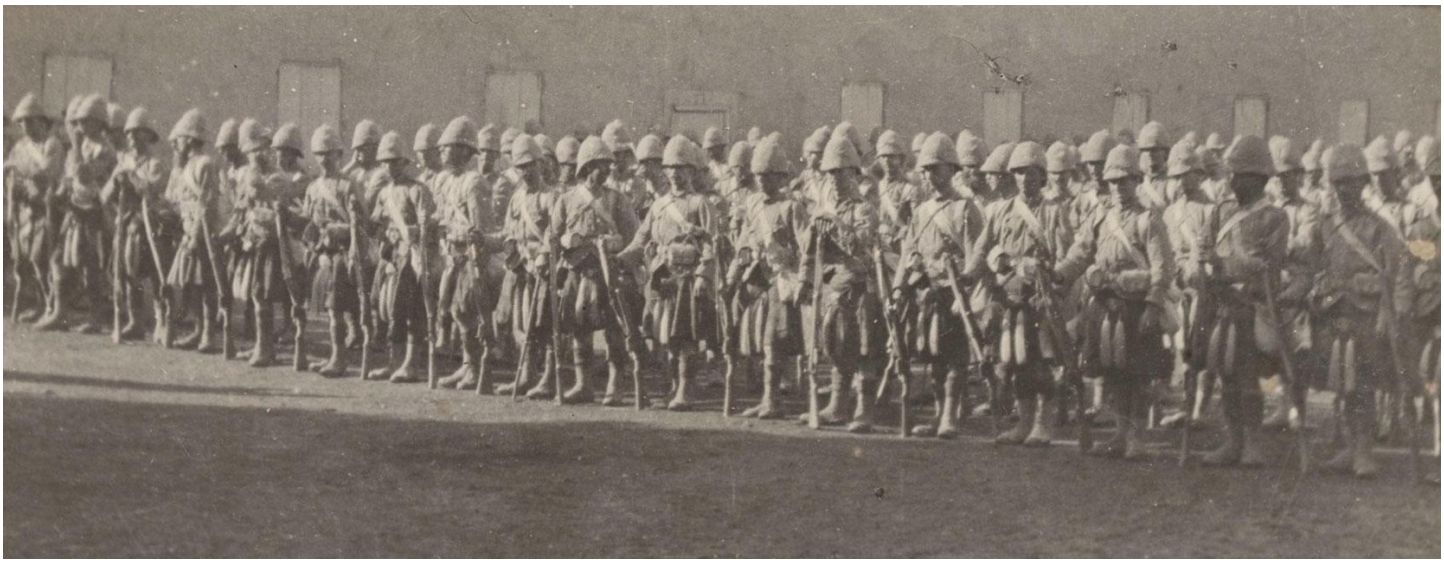


The tune, ***The 1st Royal Scots at Macedonia*** was composed by Pipe Major George S. Allan (left). Allan was the most famous Pipe Major of the Royal Scots. He held the post for 23 years from 1907 to 1930, in the 1st Battalion, then the 2nd. He was placed in the Highland Society of London's Competition and was a regimental winner of the Gold Medal at Oban.

The 1st Royal Scots at Macedonia March PM Goerge S. Allan



2nd Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders' Farewell to Salonika



1st Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at Wadi Halfa, c1897

By 1917 a multinational Allied force under French General Maurice Sarrail numbering 500,000 troops faced the Bulgarian Army and German, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish units, totaling 300,000 men. The front line stretched from Albania to the mouth of the River Struma in Greece.

By March 1917 the British Salonika Force (BSF) under General George Milne held 90 miles (144 km) of front, including the key strategic position at Doiran.

Sarrail launched an offensive in April 1917, with French, Italian, Russian and Serbian troops. In support, the BSF attempted to capture Bulgarian positions around Doiran. When this offensive failed, static trench warfare continued until autumn 1918.

Living conditions for soldiers on both sides were harsh. Winter and summer brought extremes of climate and disease - especially malaria - caused many more casualties than fighting.

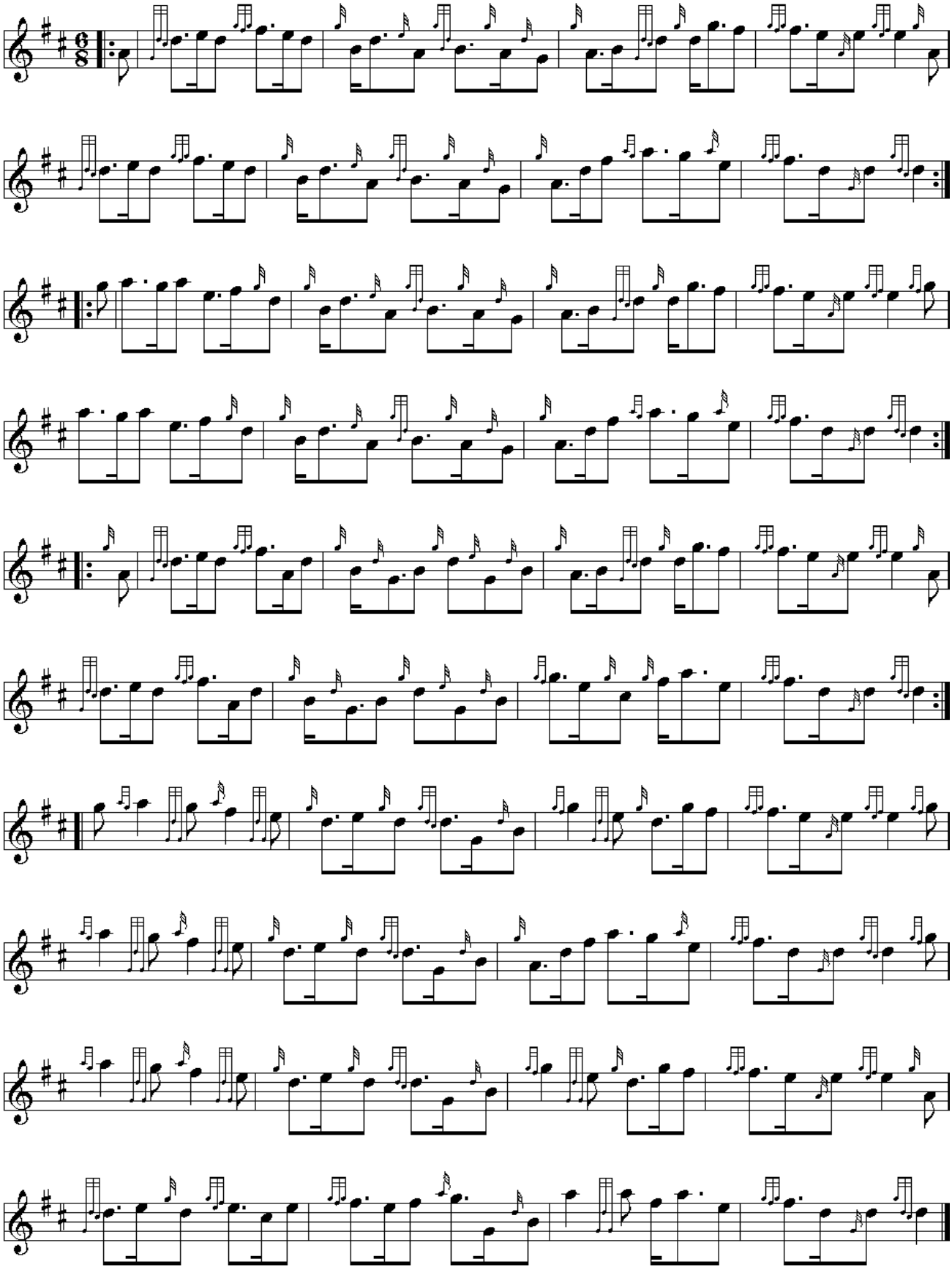
On September 15, 1918, Allied forces, directed by French General Louis Franchet d'Esperey, went onto the offensive. The BSF attacked at Doiran, helping French and Serbian troops to break the Bulgarian defenses. Unable to stop this advance, the Bulgarian Army was forced into full retreat.

On September 29, Bulgaria signed an armistice and fighting ceased the following day.

The 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders was in Poona, India when war broke out in August 1914. They returned to England, landing in Devonport on November 16, 1914, then moved to Winchester and joined the 81st Brigade, 27th Division. They proceeded to France on December 20th landing at Le Havre. They were in action at St. Eloi and The Second Battle of Ypres, but were ordered to Salonika, arriving on December 5, 1915.

The tune, ***2nd Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders' Farewell to Salonika*** was composed by Corporal James Gillan wo served in the 2nd Bn QOCH.

2nd Battalion the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders' Farewell to Salonika Cpl J. Gillan



The Cellars of Authuille

The **Leipzig Salient** was the British term for a German defensive position built in 1915 on the Somme in France, opposite the village of Authuille which contained the Leipzig Redoubt on its west face. The village of Thiepval was opposite the centre of the X Corps sector, on a spur within the German front position, at the junction with Bazentin Ridge. During the British preparatory bombardment, most of the sixty dwellings in the village were demolished but the house cellars were covered by fallen masonry, which protected them from all but super-heavy shells. None of the German machine-gun positions was hit and shelters excavated under the village, provided accommodation for the garrison during the bombardment and protected ammunition stores and machine-guns, ready to be moved into the open. A chain of cellars, on the west fringe of the village, had been joined to form a connected line of machine-gun posts, which had been kept silent to surprise an attacker. The château ruins in the south-west corner had also been fortified. Both sets of machine-guns could sweep all the upper western slope of Thiepval Spur and enfilade an attack further south as far as Authuille. South of Thiepval, lay the Leipzig Redoubt, at the west end of the Leipzig Salient, containing many machine-guns, which dominated no man's land, from 200–600 yd (180–550 m) wide to the west and the south, the narrowest point being opposite Leipzig Redoubt.

The tune, ***The Cellars of Authuille*** was composed by Pipe Major William (Willie) Lawrie. Lawrie was born into a slate quarrying family in Ballachulish, Argyll and was the son of Hugh Lawrie, (Eòghann Thomais Uilleam) who gave him his first lessons on the Highland bagpipes at the age of seven. He later received lessons from John MacColl of Oban.

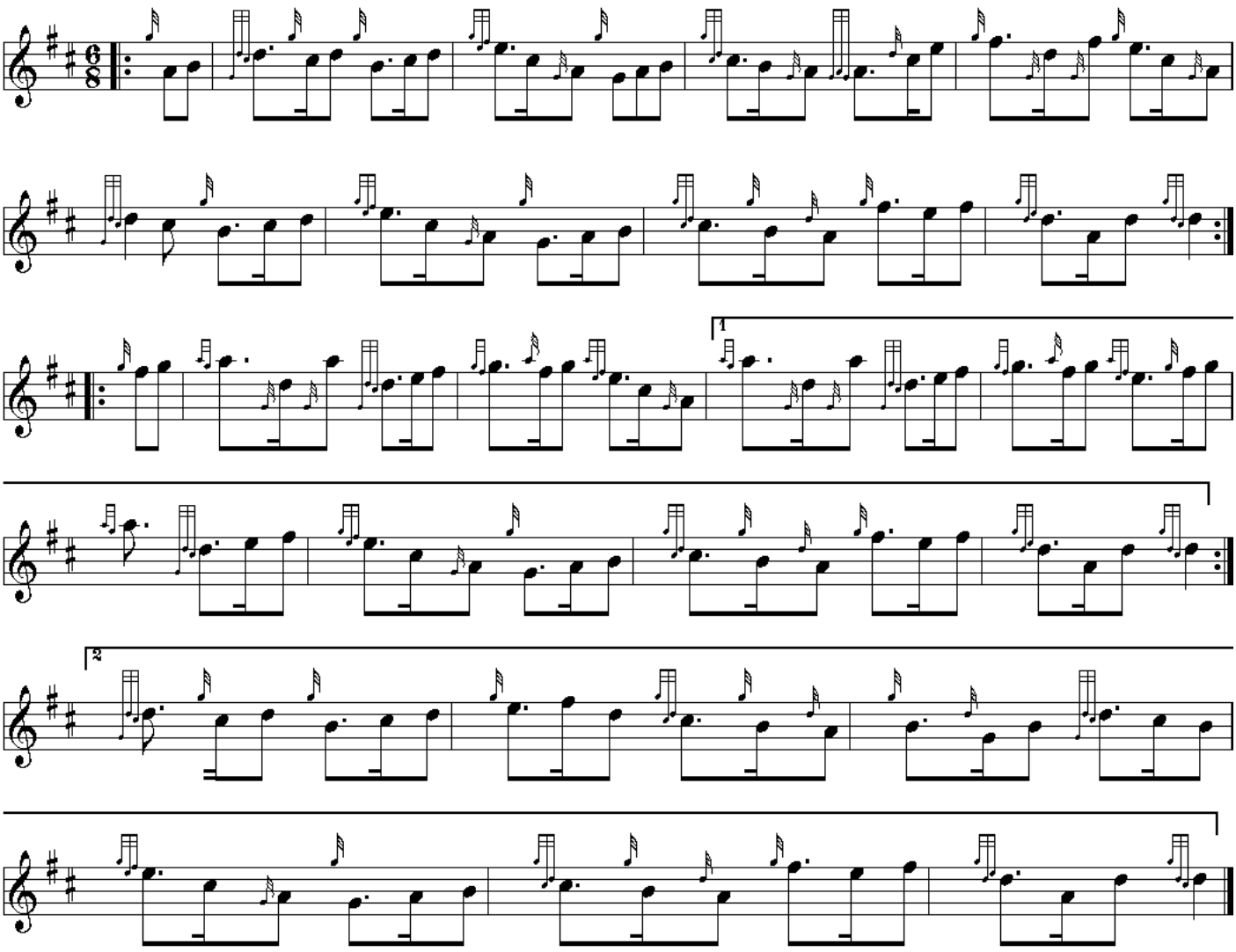
In 1910 he became the second piper ever to win the gold medals at the Northern Meeting and Argyllshire Gathering in the same year. He was a friend and contemporary of G.S. McLennan, and they travelled to competitions together and shared prize money.

Lawrie spent some time as piper to the Earl of Dunmore, and also as piper to the Colonel MacDougall of Lunga.

In 1914 he became Pipe Major of the 8th Argyllshire Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and served with them in France from 1915 to 1916 when he became ill as a result of trench conditions. He was invalided to England where he died in the Third Southern General Hospital in Oxford, possibly as a result of contracting pneumonia and pleurisy in the trenches and then meningitis after being admitted to hospital. He left behind his wife Una and three children, who were all aged under five when he died. A 'marbhrann' (gaelic lament) was written upon his death by the Islay bard Duncan Johnston who was a close personal friend.

His bagpipes are now on display in The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum in Stirling Castle, along with his service medals and the Gold Medals he won at Oban and Inverness.

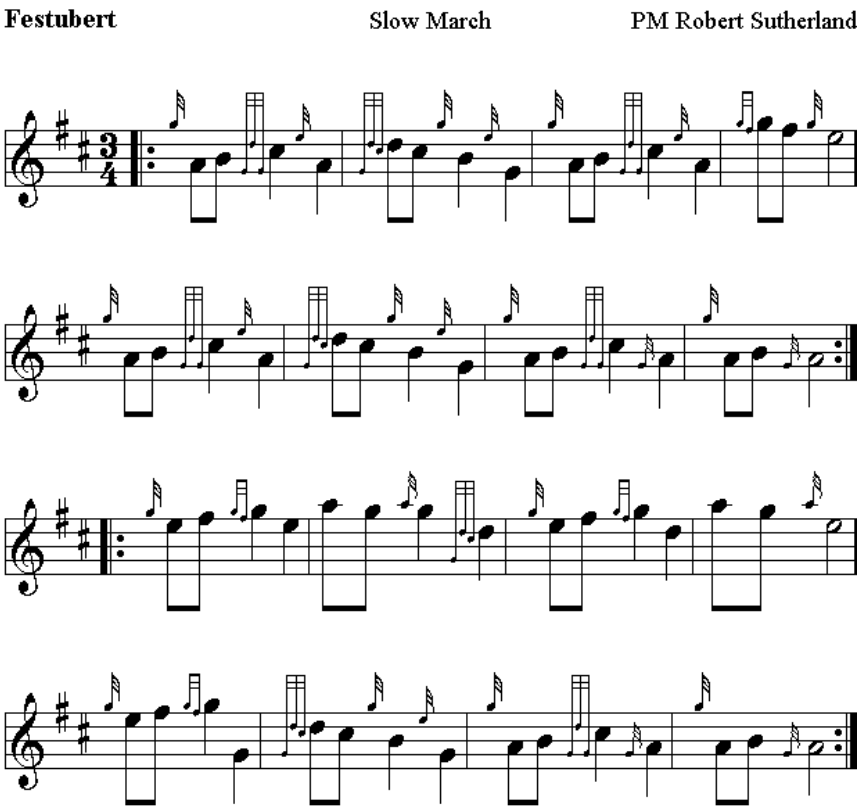
The Cellars of Authuille March PM William Lawrie



Festubert

The Battle of Festubert (May 15-25, 1915) was an attack by the British army in the Artois region of France on the western front. The offensive formed part of a series of attacks by the French Tenth Army and the British First Army in the Second Battle of Artois (May 3 – June 18, 1915). After the failure of the breakthrough attempt by the First Army in the attack at Aubers Ridge (May 9, 1915) tactics of a short hurricane bombardment and an infantry advance with unlimited objectives, were replaced by the French practice of slow and deliberate artillery-fire intended to prepare the way for an infantry attack.

A continuous three-day bombardment by the British heavy artillery was planned, to cut wire and demolish German machine-gun posts and infantry strong points. The German defenses were to be captured by a continuous attack, by one division from Rue du Bois to Chocolat Menier Corner and by a second division 600 yards north, which was to capture the German trenches to the left of Festubert. The objectives were 1,000 yards forward, rather than the 3,000 yards depth of advance attempted at Aubers Ridge. The battle was the first British attempt at attrition.



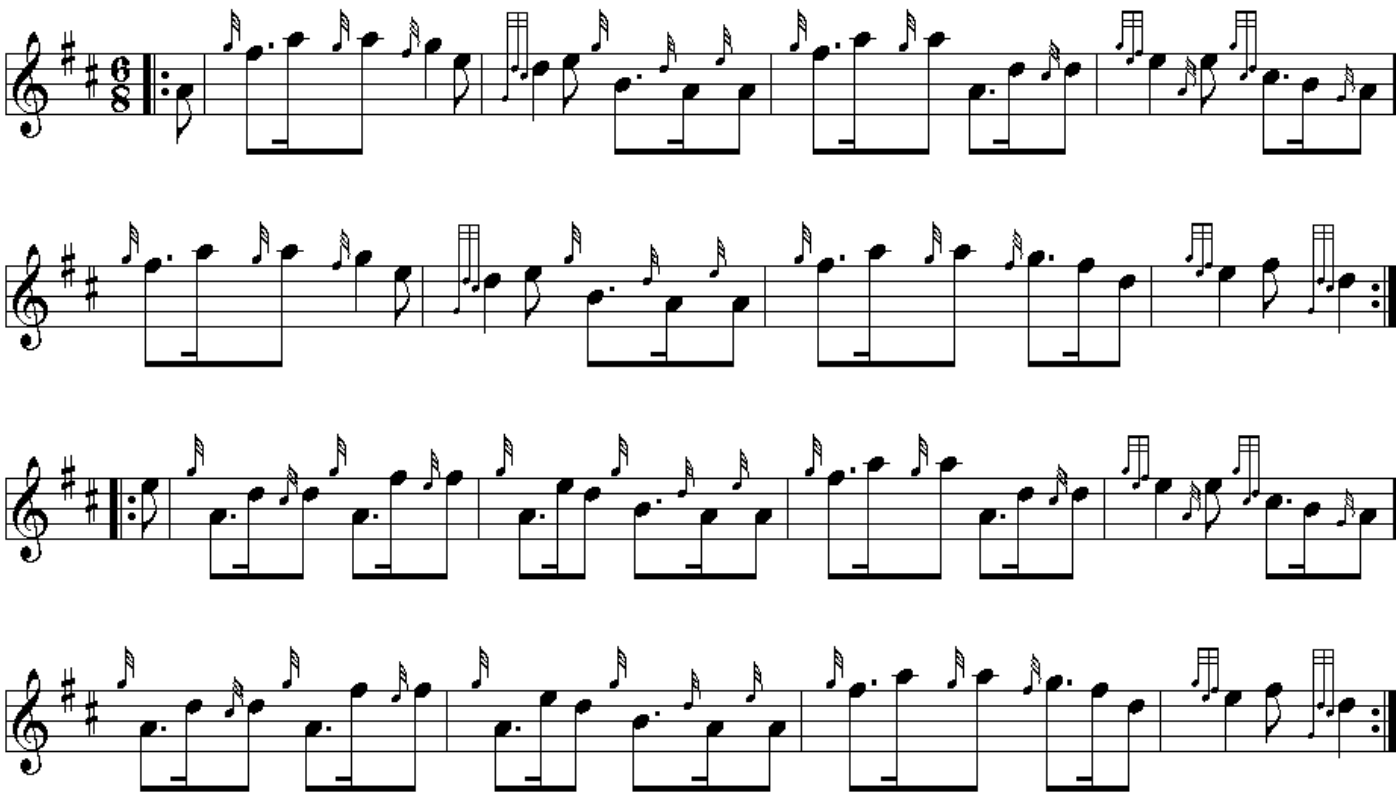
The tune, ***Festubert*** was composed by Pipe Major Robert Sutherland. Sutherland was Pipe Major of the Highland Light Infantry (H.L.I.) during the 1890s. The The 1st Battalion H.L.I. landed at Marseille as part of the Sirhind Brigade in the 3rd (Lahore) Division in December 1914 for service on the Western Front and saw action at the Defense of Festubert in November 1914, the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915, the Battle of St Julien in May 1915 and the Second Battle of Ypres later in May 1915. It then moved to Mesopotamia in

The Men of Hooge

Approximately 1,000 of more than 10,000 men who served with the Liverpool Scottish died during World War I. The first major battle of the Liverpool Scottish was on June 16, 1915 in what is officially know as “The First Action at Bellewaared”, the action is known to the Liverpool Scottish as the “Battle of Hooge”, Hooge being a village a few miles east of Ypres in Belgium. Of 23 officers and 519 O.R’s who went into action, only two officers and 140 men cam out unscathed. Lieutenant (later Captain) Noel Chavasse, the battalion’s medical officer, was awarded the Military Cross for his work in rescuing the wounded over 48 hours.

The tune, ***The Men of Hooge*** was composed by Pipe Major Chris Eyre (left). Eyre is Pipe Major of the Wirral Pipe Band and the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association Pipe Band.

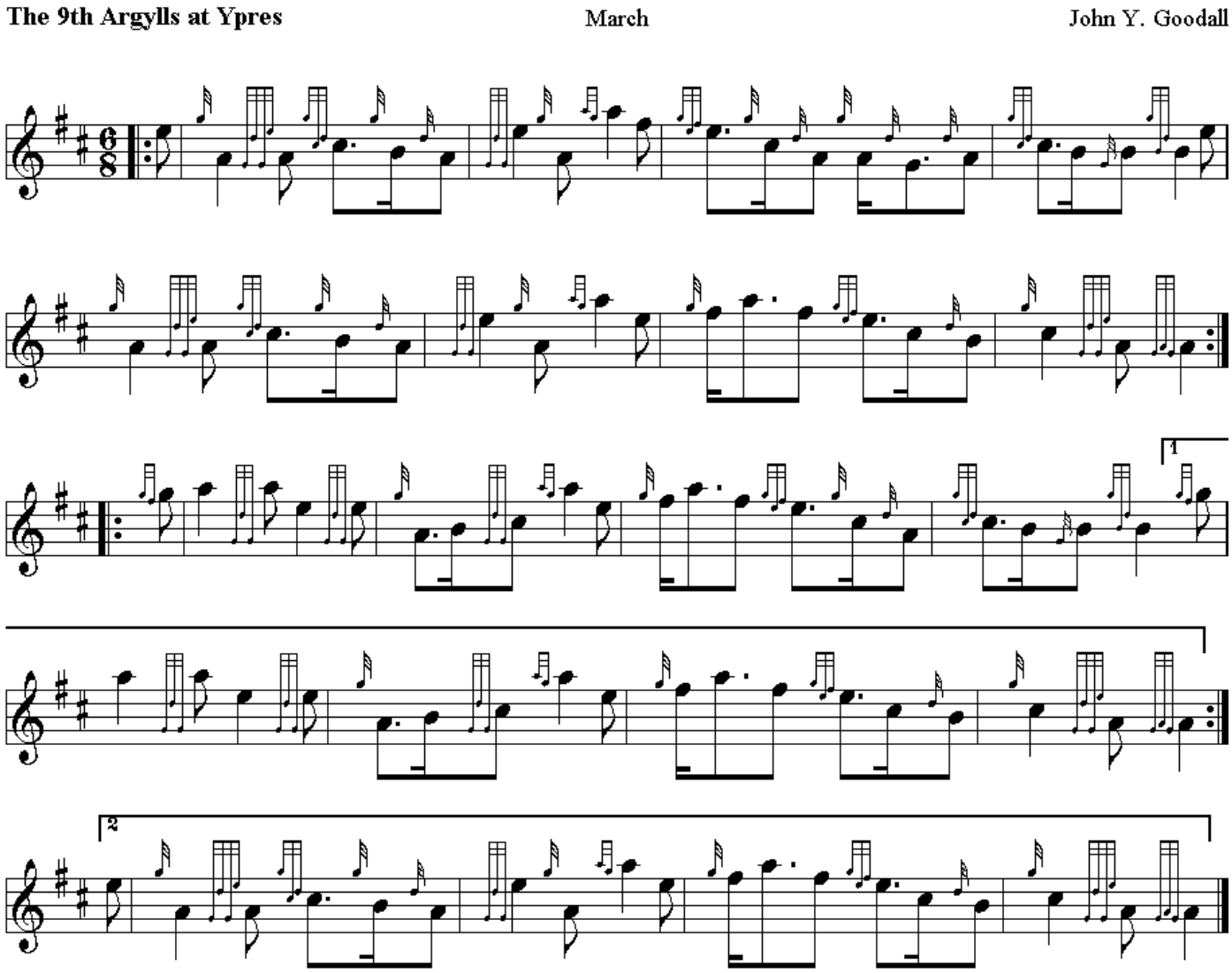
The Men of Hooge March PM Chris Eyre



The 9th Argylls at Ypres

The 9th Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders came into being in 1908, under the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act of 1907. The 9th was one of five Territorial Battalions which formed part of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Regiment at that time. The Regiment itself had been created in 1881, as part of the Cardwell Reforms of the British Army, by amalgamating the 91st Argyllshire and 93rd Sutherland Highlanders. The Territorial Battalions were intended for home service only, but members of the Territorial Forces could volunteer for service outside the country, although they were voluntary, part-time soldiers.

Between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. on May 10th 1915, during the Second Battle of Ypres, the regiment of the 9th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Territorial Force) was ordered to reinforce the 2nd Camerons with two companies. Major George James Christie thereupon led A and D Companies through a terrific shellfire to a position two hundred yards west of Hooge. But at 9.30 he was ordered to reinforce the trench south of the Menin Road, which was reported to be breaking. A Company was chosen, and led with dauntless courage by Major Christie; they went forward in short rushes with shouts of Good old 9thArgylls. The advance lay over a bare slope without any cover from the terrible fire, but though men fell fast these brave Scotsmen never wavered.



Kantara to El Arish

'Kantara' was the Allies name for the northeastern Egyptian town of Al Qantarah El Sharqiyya, which was an important supply depot and headquarters for the Middle Eastern theater. El Arish was the scene of an action in the war, and the tune itself is named for a march between the two. The piece was composed by Pipe Major Willie Ferguson.

Willie Fergusson (1885 – 1949) was born in Arbroath. As a youth, and now living in Glasgow, he became a pupil of Farquhar MacRae. He firstly was in a Boys' Brigade band but ran away from home and tried to join the Scots Guards. Being under age his father was sent for and he was taken home.

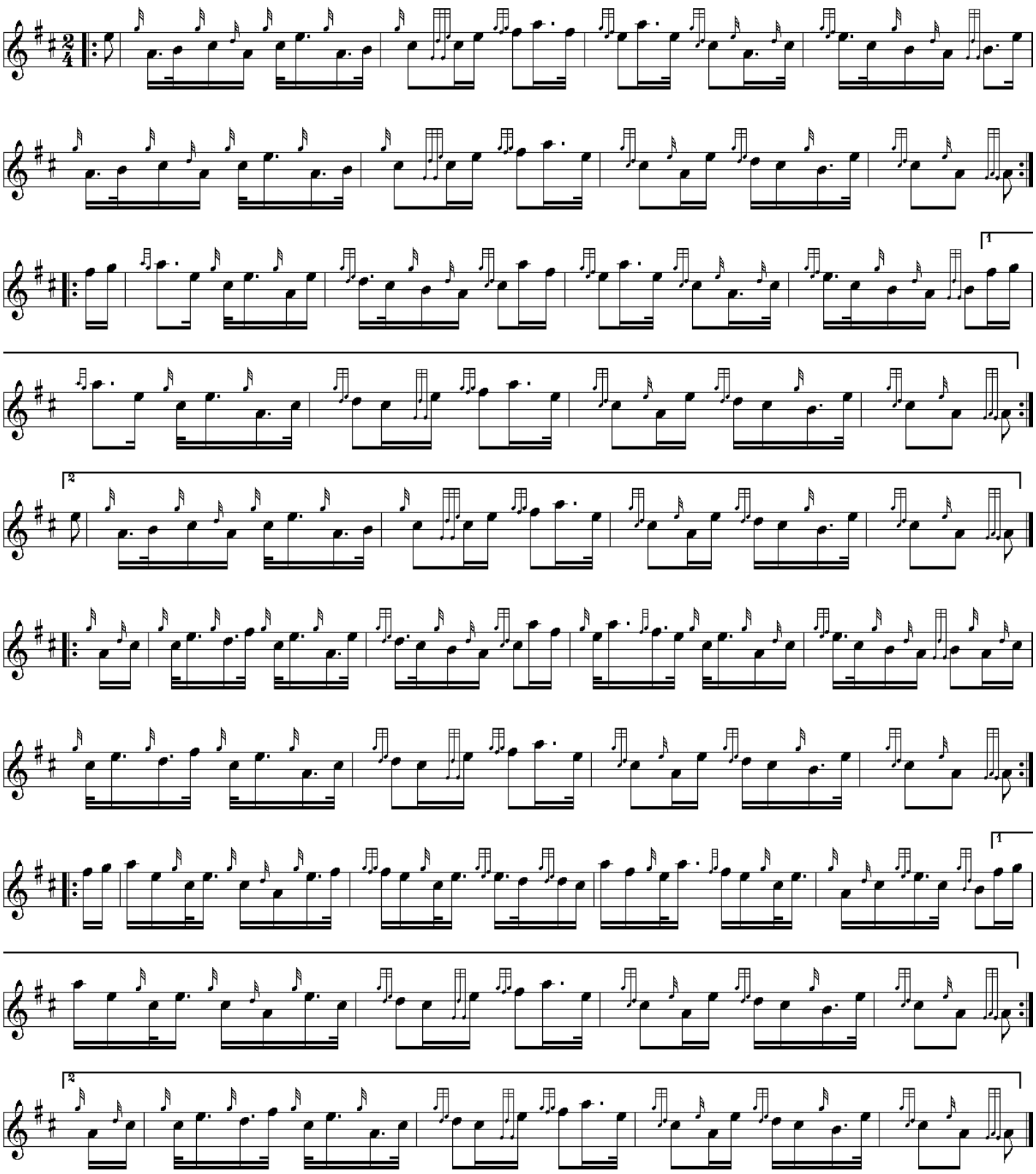
But as soon as his age permitted he joined the 7th Battalion Highland Light Infantry the Pipe Major where MacRae was Pipe Major. This was most probably the reason for his choosing that regiment. In 1914 Pipe Major MacRae resigned from the HLI and formed the City of Glasgow Pipe Band and later in the same year WW1 was declared. Willie was made Pipe Major of the 7th Battalion HLI at the age of 29.

He served in Flanders, Gallipoli and Palestine, then, following the Armistice in 1918, he restarted the City of Glasgow band Farquhar MacRae having died in 1916. The band included five ex-Army pipe majors. His skill in setting chanters and drones, along with his teaching ability, was rewarded when they won the coveted World Championship title at Cowal in 1919.

Confusion reigned however because newspaper reports incorrectly attributed the winning title to the City of Glasgow *Police* Pipe Band. Fergusson decided to rename the band in order to avoid further confusion. In honor of his friend and teacher Farquhar MacRae, and with the grateful support of the Clan MacRae Society, the band became The Clan MacRae Society Pipe Band. The date was 1st May 1920 and Major MacRae–Gillstrap, the MacRae Clan Chief and owner of Eilean Donan, the famous castle on Loch Duich, agreed to be their patron.

Under Willie Fergusson's leadership the Clan MacRae band went on to win the World Championship four times and become runners-up three times between 1921 and 1927. Another honor was that the band were the first ever to do a radio broadcast.

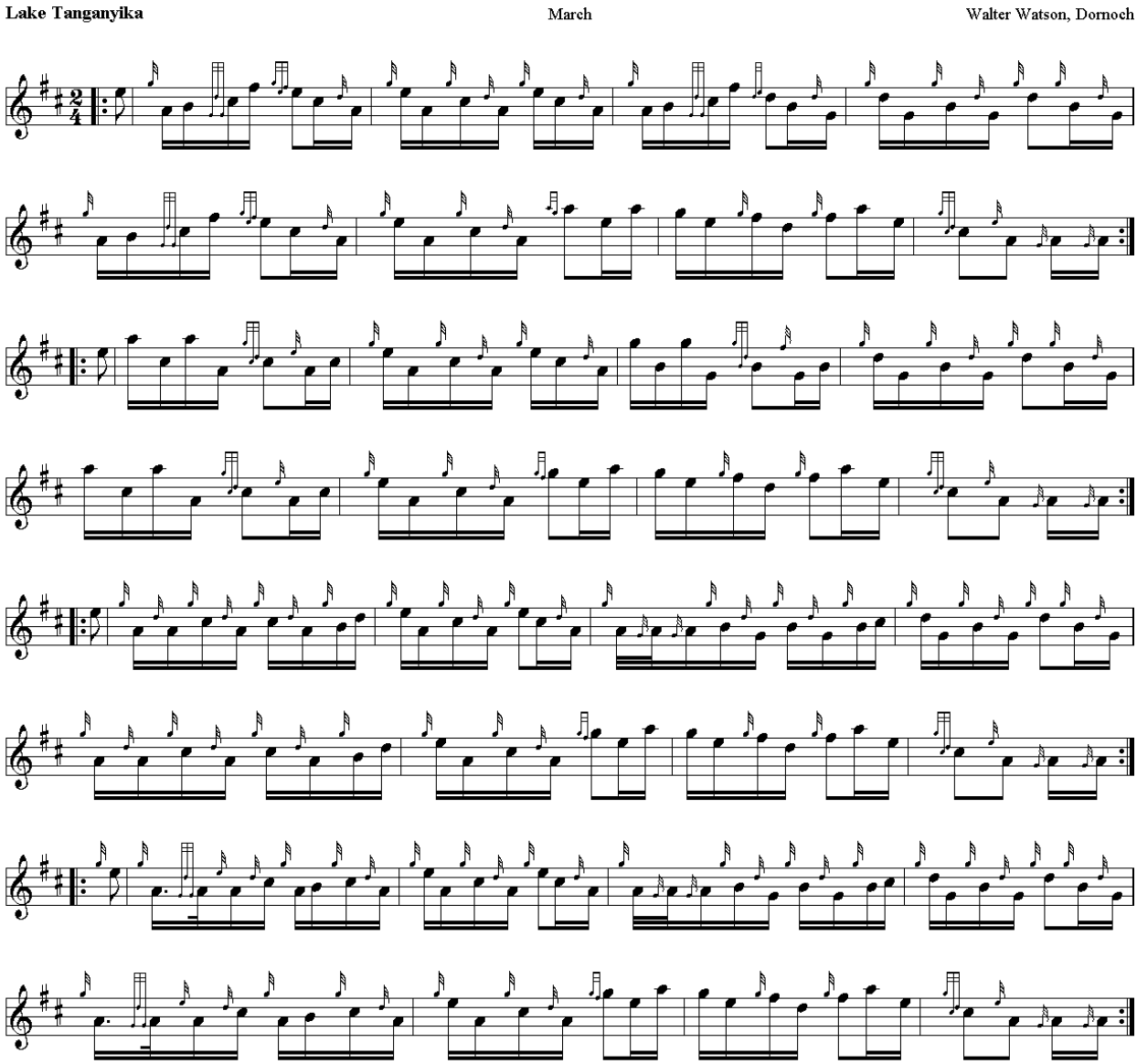
In 1929 Willie, a carpenter to trade, had a serious accident at work falling thirty feet down a stairwell. He gave up the leadership of the band and went of to convalesce in Canada. He later returned to Scotland and died in 1949 at the age of only 64.



Lake Tanganyika

The Battle for Lake Tanganyika was a series of naval engagements that took place between elements of the Royal Navy, *Force Publique* and the *Kaiserliche Marine* between December 1915 and July 1916. The intention was to secure control of the strategically important Lake Tanganyika, which had been dominated by German naval units since the beginning of the war. The British forces – consisting of two motor boats named HMS *Mimi* and *Toutou* – were under the command of the eccentric Lieutenant-Commander Geoffrey Spicer-Simson. The boats were transported to South Africa and from there by railway, by river, and by being dragged through the African jungle, to the lake.

In two short engagements, the small motor boats attacked and defeated two of their German opponents. In the first action, on December 26, 1915 *Kingani* was damaged and captured, becoming HMS *Fifi*. In the second, the small flotilla overwhelmed and sank *Hedwig von Wissmann*. The Germans maintained a third large and heavily armed craft on the lake, *Graf von Götzen*; this craft was attacked indecisively by Belgian aircraft and was subsequently scuttled. Developments in the land-based conflict caused the Germans to withdraw from the lake, and control of the surface of Lake Tanganyika passed to the British and Belgians.



Al Basrah

The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland (3 SCOTS) is an infantry battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. The regiment was created as part of the Childers Reforms in 1881, when the 42nd (Royal Highland) Regiment of Foot (The Black Watch) was amalgamated with the 73rd (Perthshire) Regiment of Foot. It was known as The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) from 1881 to 1931 and The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) from 1931 to 2006.

The Regiment raised 25 battalions during the course of World War I, and mainly fought in France and Flanders, with the exception of the 2nd and 10th Battalions which fought in Mesopotamia, Palestine, and the Balkans. The Regiment was awarded 25 Battle Honors and 4 Victoria Crosses during the course of the war and lost 8,000 men.

The 2nd Battalion were serving in Bareilly, India with the Bareilly Brigade in the Meerut Division when war broke out in August 1914. They were mobilized and sailed for France on September 21, 1914, landing at Marseilles on October 12, crossing France by train to join the British Expeditionary Force. They saw action in the Battle of Givenchy, Neuve Chapelle, Festubert, and suffered heavy casualties in attacks at Loos in September 1915. On the 26th, they were brought up to strength by amalgamating with the 1/4 Black Watch, working as one unit until November. They moved to Mesopotamia, landing at Basrah on December 31, 1915, their formation being renamed 21st Brigade, 7th Indian Division.

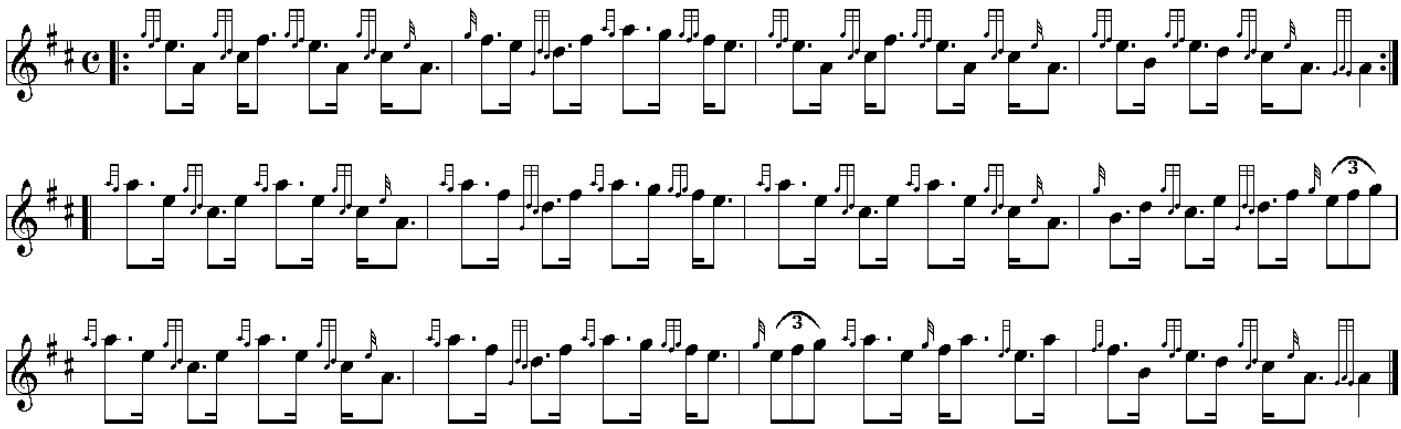
The Strathspey, ***Al Basrah*** was composed by Pipe Major Alistair M. Duthie (right). Born in New Zealand in 1968, he was educated at St Andrews College in Christchurch and was a member of the world famous pipe band there. After leaving school he played for the Canterbury Caledonian Society Pipe Band in Grade 1 and immigrated to Scotland in 1988 to join The Black Watch under the guidance of Col. The Hon. WD Arbuthnott MBE

His first posting was to West Berlin and then after to Northern Ireland , followed by postings to England Scotland and Northern Ireland (on various occasions) ,Germany , Kosovo, Iraq. He has also toured with the Pipes and Drums to North America on many occasions and been to Ghana South Africa Turkey. Played at the Queen Mothers 90th, 100th birthdays and her funeral and has played for the Royal Family on many occasions.

On being posted latterly back to Scotland he took over as Pipe Major 51st Highland Regiment (later to be 7 SCOTS) and also played in the Tayside Police Pipe Band. On being discharged in 2009, he is Pipe Major of the Perth and District pipe band and is the Piper to The City of Perth , as well as Piper to the Gaelic Society of Perth and Pipe major of The Black Watch Association.

PM Duthie was also responsible for the launching of Regimental collection of Bagpipe music for the Black Watch along with General Sir Alistair Irwin. Today he teaches Piping and researches the Pipers of The Black Watch.

Al Basrah Strathspey PM Alistair M. Duthie



1916

The Allied plan for 1916 was for the British to support the French in a major summer attack along a 25 mile front north and south of the River Somme in northern France. Believing that no general breakthrough was possible on the Western Front, the German plan for 1916 opted instead for a limited advance in the Verdun area. By taking territory important to the French defenders, they hoped to instigate large-scale counter-attacks.

On February 21, the Germans attacked Verdun in what became the longest battle of the war. Nicknamed 'the mill on the Meuse', Verdun lasted for over nine months and was one of the bloodiest engagements in history. The Germans sustained around 330,000 casualties during the battle. French losses exceeded 370,000.

In order to relieve the pressure on the French, the Somme offensive was launched earlier than planned with the inexperienced 'New Armies' providing the bulk of the troops involved. On June 24, a preliminary bombardment began which was to last for seven days. But the British had overestimated the power of their artillery. The guns were too thinly spread for the task in hand.

Attacks continued through the summer, mostly on a series of individual objectives, with the Germans frequently mounting counter-attacks of their own. The ‘Big Push’ became a slow, grinding struggle of attrition.

On July 14, the 1st South African Brigade - 3,153 officers and men - entered Delville Wood as an extension of operations around nearby Trones and Bernafay Woods. After six days of vicious fighting in hellish conditions, only around 750 officers and men remained unharmed. The wood was subsequently nicknamed ‘Devil’s Wood’ by the Allies.

On September 15, the British used tanks for the first time in battle, in support of an attack on Flers-Courcelette. They advanced about 1.5 miles, but no breakthrough was made. Finally, on November 18, after the weather had deteriorated, the offensive was shut down. For an advance of 8 miles the British Empire had suffered 420,000 casualties and the French 200,000. German losses were at least 450,000 killed and wounded.

The 7th Cameronians at the Battle of Romanie

The Battle of Romani was the last ground attack of the Central Powers on the Suez Canal at the beginning of the Sinai and Palestine campaign. The battle was fought between August 3rd and 5th, 1916 near the Egyptian town of Romani and the site of ancient Pelusium on the Sinai Peninsula, 23 miles east of the Suez Canal. This victory by the 52nd (Lowland) Division and the Anzac Mounted Division of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) over a joint Ottoman and German force, which had marched across the Sinai, marked the end of the Defense of the Suez Canal campaign, also known as the *Offensive zur Eroberung des Suezkanals* and the *İkinci Kanal Harekâtı*, which had begun on January 26, 1915.

This British Empire victory ensured the safety of the Suez Canal from ground attacks and ended the Central Powers' plans to disrupt traffic through the canal by gaining control of the strategically important northern approaches to it. The pursuit by the Anzac Mounted Division, which ended at Bir el Abd on August 12, began the Sinai and Palestine Campaign. Thereafter the Anzac Mounted Division supported by the Imperial Camel Brigade were on the offensive, pursuing the German and Ottoman army many miles across the Sinai Peninsula, reversing in a most emphatic manner the defeat suffered at Katia three months earlier.

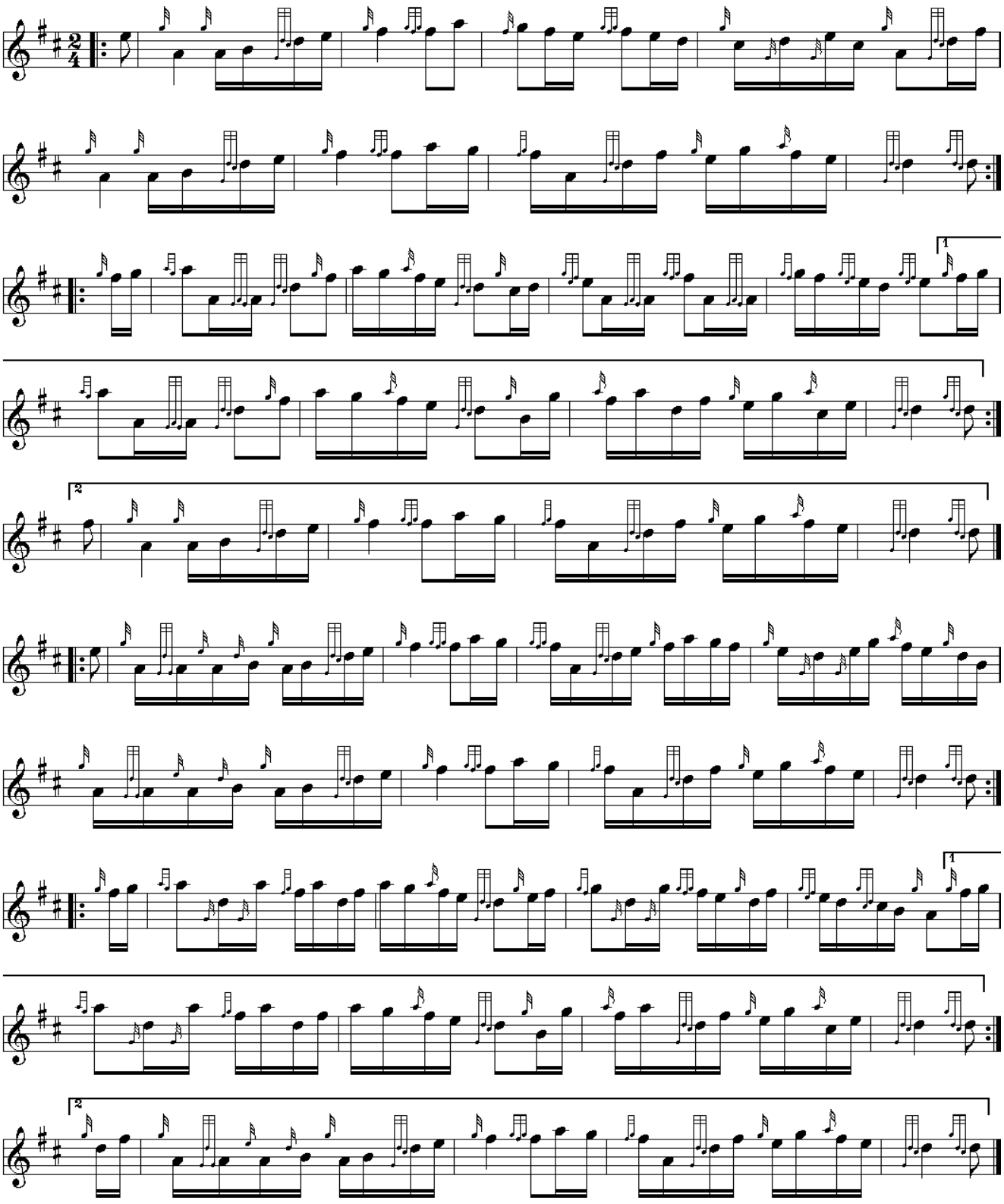
From late April 1916, after a German-led Ottoman force attacked British yeomanry at Katia, British Empire forces in the region at first doubled from one brigade to two and then grew as rapidly as the developing infrastructure could support them. The construction of the railway and a water pipeline soon enabled an infantry division to join the light horse and mounted rifle brigades at Romani. During the heat of summer, regular mounted patrols and reconnaissance were carried out from their base at Romani, while the infantry constructed an extensive series of defensive redoubts. On July 19 the advance of a large German, Austrian and Ottoman force across the northern Sinai was reported. From July 20 until the battle began, the Australian 1st and 2nd Light Horse Brigades took turns pushing out to battle the advancing hostile column.

During the night of August 3-4 the advancing force, including the German Pasha I formation and the Ottoman 3rd Infantry Division, launched an attack from Katia on Romani. Forward troops quickly became engaged with the screen established by the 1st Light Horse Brigade (Anzac Mounted Division). During fierce fighting before dawn on August, 4, the Australian light horsemen were forced to slowly retire. At daylight their line was reinforced by the 2nd Light Horse Brigade, and about mid morning the 5th Mounted Brigade and the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade joined the battle. Together these four brigades of the Anzac Mounted Division managed to contain and direct the determined German and Ottoman forces into deep sand. Here they came within range of the strongly entrenched 52nd (Lowland) Division defending Romani and the railway. Coordinated resistance by all these EEF formations, the deep sand, the heat and thirst prevailed, and the German, Austrian and Ottoman advance was checked. Although the attacking force fought strongly to maintain its positions the next morning, by nightfall they had been pushed back to their starting point at Katia. The retiring force was pursued by the Anzac Mounted Division between August, 6th and 9th during which the Ottomans and Germans forces fought a number of strong rearguard actions against the advancing Australian light horse, British yeomanry and New Zealand mounted rifle brigades. The pursuit ended on August 12, when the German and Ottoman force abandoned their base at Bir el Abd and retreated to El Arish.

The tunes, ***7th Cameronians at the Battle of Romanie*** and ***The 156th Briggade at Battle of Romani*** were composed by Pipe Major E. J. MacPherson; the second tune being a slight variation of the first. Edwin John MacPherson (1867-1924) was born in Arisaig but moved to Glasgow, and was employed as a works manager. In 1907 he won the World Championship as Pipe Major of the 3rd Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers. He was Pipe Major of the 7th Cameronians during the 1914-18 war and served in the Balkans.

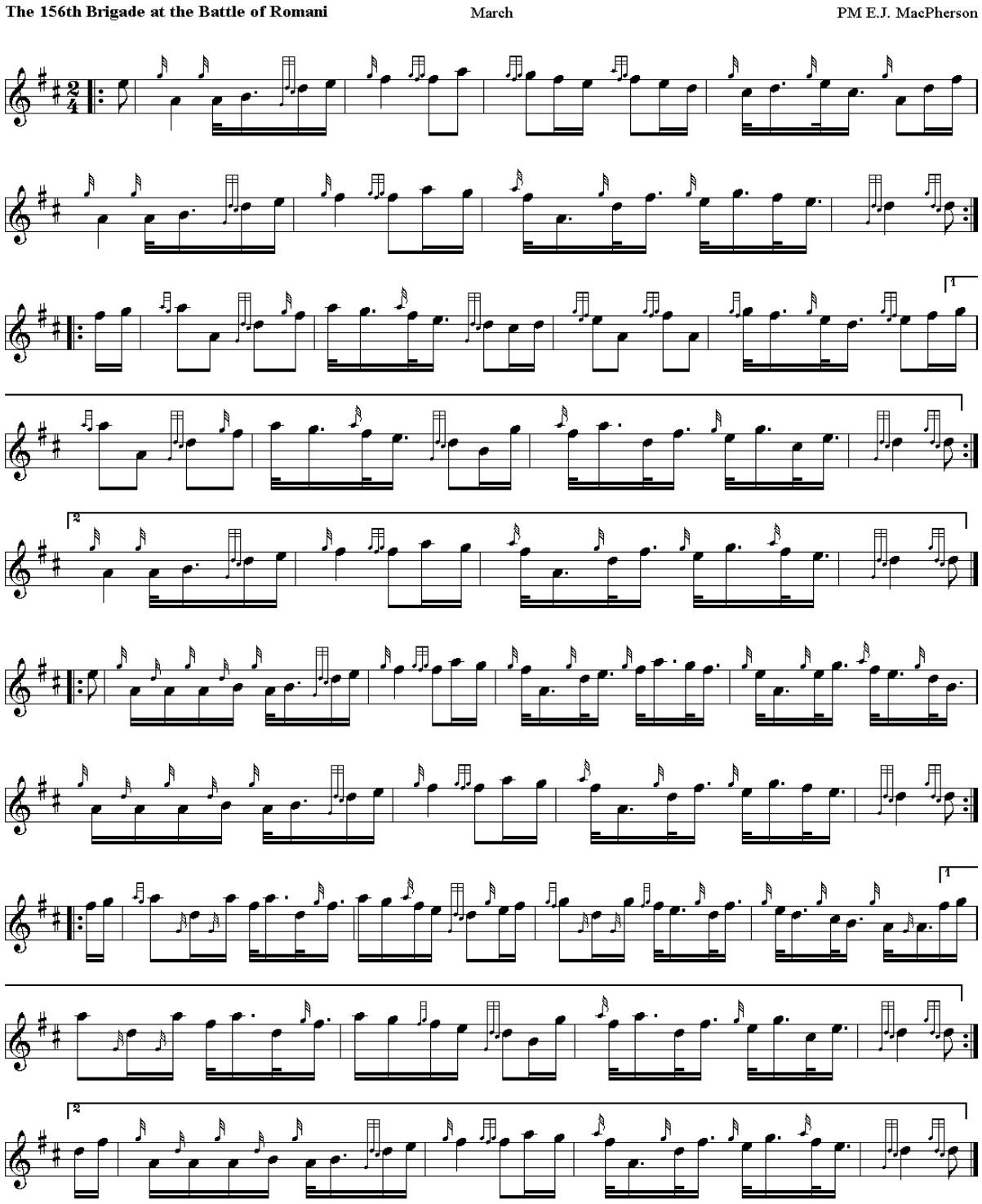
In January 1916, the 7th Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) moved to Egypt via Mudros and took over No 3 Section of the Suez Canal defenses on March 2, 1916. They were in action in late April at Dueidar and in The Battle of Romani in early August.

The 7th Cameronians at the Battle of Romanie March PM E.J. MacPherson



The 156th Brigade at the Battle of Romani

156th Machine Gun Company, Machine Gun Corps *(formed 16 March 1916, moved to 52nd Battalion, Machine Gun Corps 28 April 1918)* (Scottish Rifles) Brigade served with the division in the Middle Eastern theatre, fighting in 1917 in the Battle of Romani, the First Battle of Gaza, Second Battle of Gaza and Third Battle of Gaza during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign and, in 1918, served on the Western Front, fighting in the Hundred Days Offensive.



The Battle of the Somme

The Battle of the Somme, also known as the Somme offensive, was fought by the armies of the British Empire and French Third Republic against the German Empire. It took place between July 1 and November 18, 1916 on both sides of the upper reaches of the river Somme in France. The battle was intended to hasten a victory for the Allies. More than three million men fought in the battle, of whom one million were either wounded or killed, making it one of the deadliest battles in all of human history.

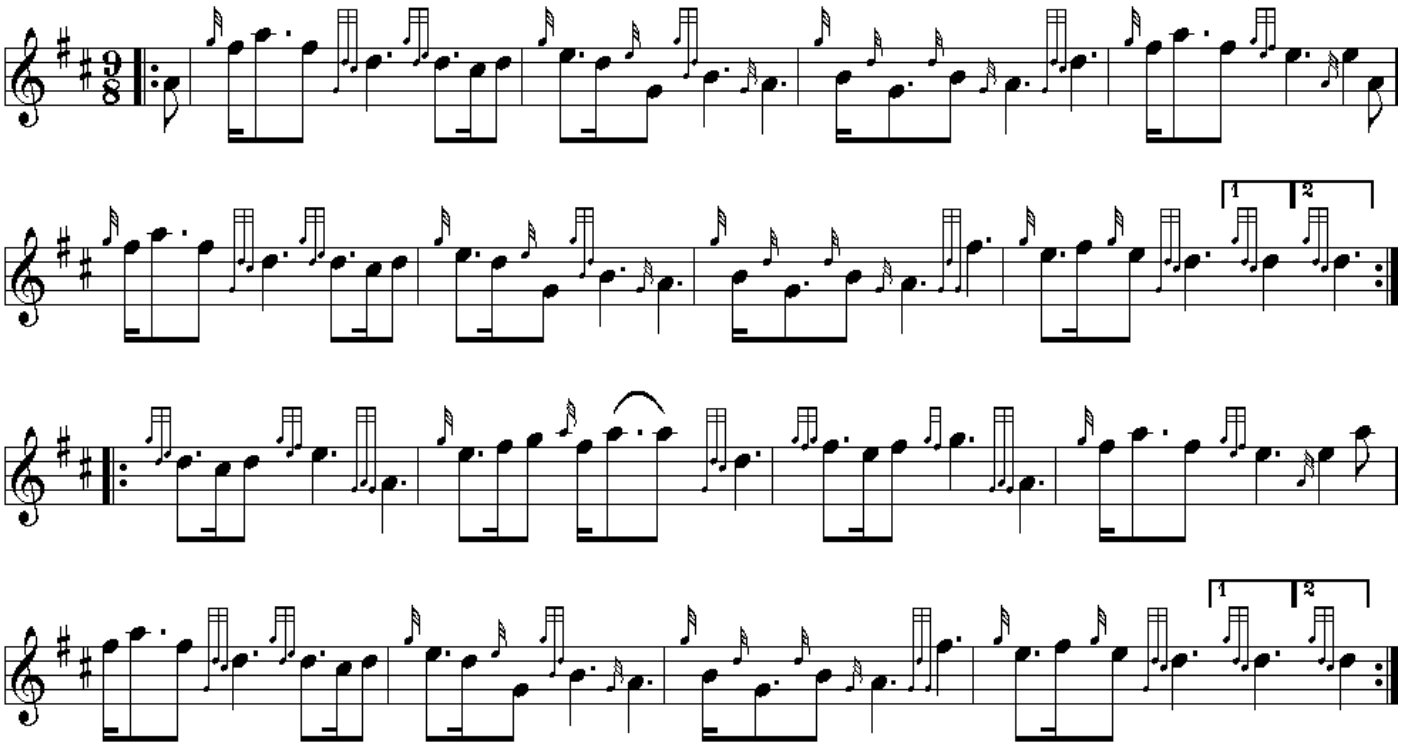
The French and British had committed themselves to an offensive on the Somme during the Chantilly Conference in December 1915. The Allies agreed upon a strategy of combined offensives against the Central Powers in 1916 by the French, Russian, British and Italian armies, with the Somme offensive as the Franco-British contribution. Initial plans called for the French army to undertake the main part of the Somme offensive, supported on the northern flank by the Fourth Army of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). When the Imperial German Army began the Battle of Verdun on the Meuse on February 21, 1916, French commanders diverted many of the divisions intended for the Somme and the "supporting" attack by the British became the principal effort. The British troops on the Somme comprised a mixture of the remains of the pre-war army, the Territorial Force and Kitchener's Army, a force of wartime volunteers.

On the first day on the Somme (July 1) the German 2nd Army suffered a serious defeat opposite the French Sixth Army, from Foucaucourt-en-Santerre south of the Somme to Maricourt on the north bank and by the Fourth Army from Maricourt to the vicinity of the Albert–Bapaume road. The 57,470 casualties suffered by the British, including 19,240 killed, were the worst in the history of the British Army. Most of the British casualties were suffered on the front between the Albert–Bapaume road and Gommecourt to the north, which was the area where the principal German defensive effort (*Schwerpunkt*) was made. The battle became notable for the importance of air power and the first use of the tank in September but these were a product of new technology and proved unreliable.

At the end of the battle, British and French forces had penetrated 6 miles into German-occupied territory along the majority of the front, their largest territorial gain since the First Battle of the Marne in 1914. The operational objectives of the Anglo-French armies were unfulfilled, as they failed to capture Péronne and Bapaume, where the German armies maintained their positions over the winter. British attacks in the Ancre valley resumed in January 1917 and forced the Germans into local withdrawals to reserve lines in February before the strategic retreat by about 25 miles in Operation Alberich to the *Siegfriedstellung* (Hindenburg Line) in March 1917. Debate continues over the necessity, significance and effect of the battle.

The tune, ***The Battle of the Somme*** was composed by Pipe Major William Lawrie. Battle of the Somme remains the most common tune found in more published pipe books than any other tune in this Anthology.

Battle of the Somme March PM William Lawrie



The 36th Ulster and Irish Divisions at the Somme

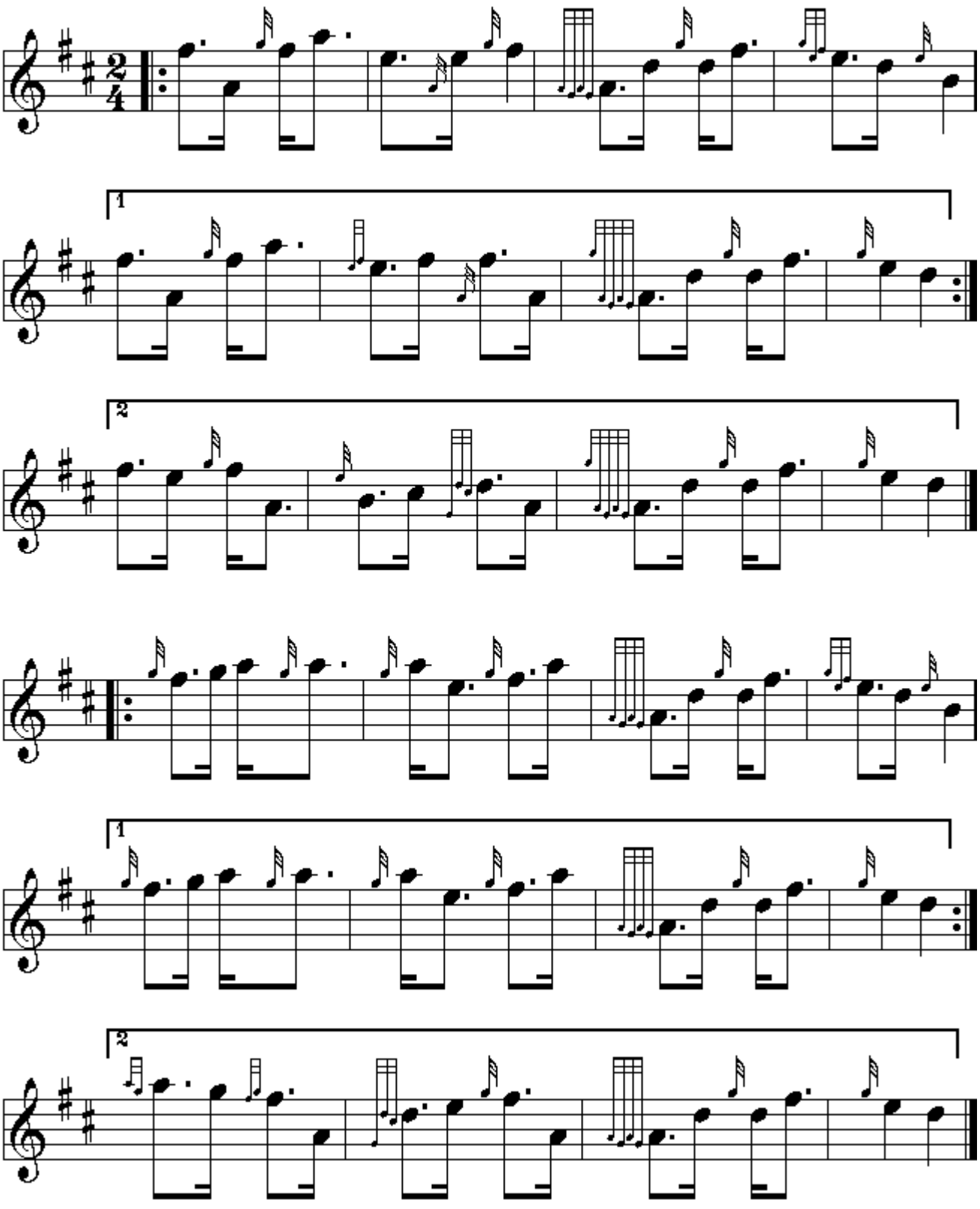
The 36th (Ulster) Division was an infantry division of the British Army, part of Lord Kitchener's New Army, formed in September 1914. Originally called the *Ulster Division*, it was made up of mainly members of the Ulster Volunteer Force, who formed thirteen additional battalions for three existing regiments: the Royal Irish Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Rifles and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. However, regular Officers and Soldiers and men from all around the United Kingdom made up the strength of the Division. The division served from October 1915 on Western Front as a formation of the British Army during the Great War.

The 36th Division was one of the few divisions to make significant gains on the first day on the Somme. It attacked between the Ancre and Thiepval against a position known as the Schwaben Redoubt. During the Battle of the Somme the Ulster Division was the only division of X Corps (United Kingdom) to have achieved its objectives on the opening day of the battle. This came at a heavy price, with the division suffering in two days of fighting 5,500 officers and enlisted men killed, wounded or missing.

Of nine Victoria Crosses given to British forces in the battle, four were awarded to 36th Division soldiers.

The slow air, ***The 36th Ulster and Irish Division at the Somme*** was composed by Iain Bell.

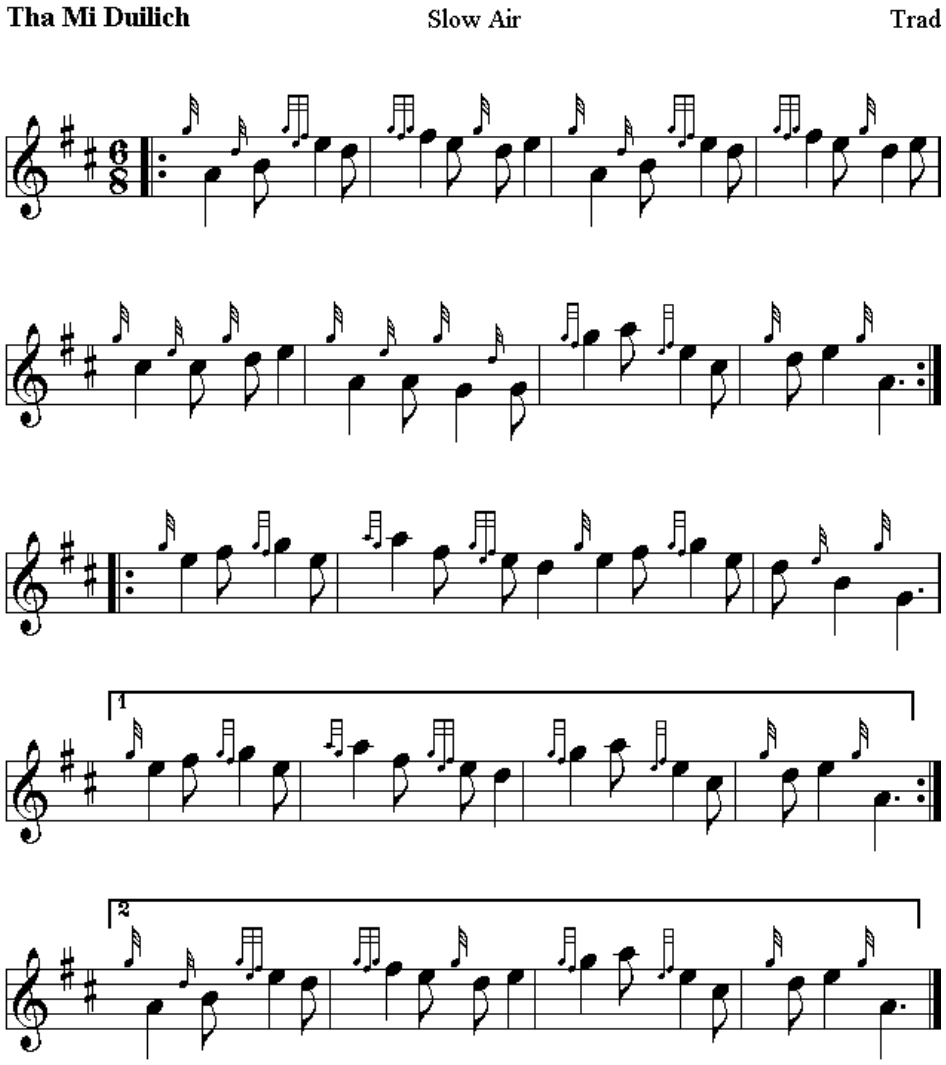
The 36th Ulster and Irish Divisions at the Somme Iain Bell



Tha Mi Duilich

In this song (the title literally means I am sorry) the bard mourns the loss of so many fine young men in the First World War. The song was originally composed by Dòmhnall Ruadh Chorùna.

Dòmhnall Ruadh Chorùna (Red Donald of Coruna; July 9, 1887 – August 13, 1967), legally Donald MacDonald or Dòmhnall MacDhòmhnaill, was a Scottish Gaelic Bard, North Uist stonemason, and veteran of the First World War. He has been called "The Voice of the Trenches."



His maternal great-grandparents met at the Battle of Corunna 1809 – part of the Napoleanic Peninsular War. As a storyteller of that War, his great-grandfather acquired the nickname Chorùna – which in typical Gaelic tradition was then passed on through the family.

He joined the Cameron Highlanders at the age of 17 to fight in the First World War. He survived terrible battles of the War such as the Somme, where he was wounded, and became one of the greatest poets of the War. Ronald His book of songs and poetry, “Orain is Dain Le Domhnall Domhnallach a Uibhist a Tuath”, (1995) edited by Fred Macauley is now out of print.

2nd Tyneside Scottish March to the Somme

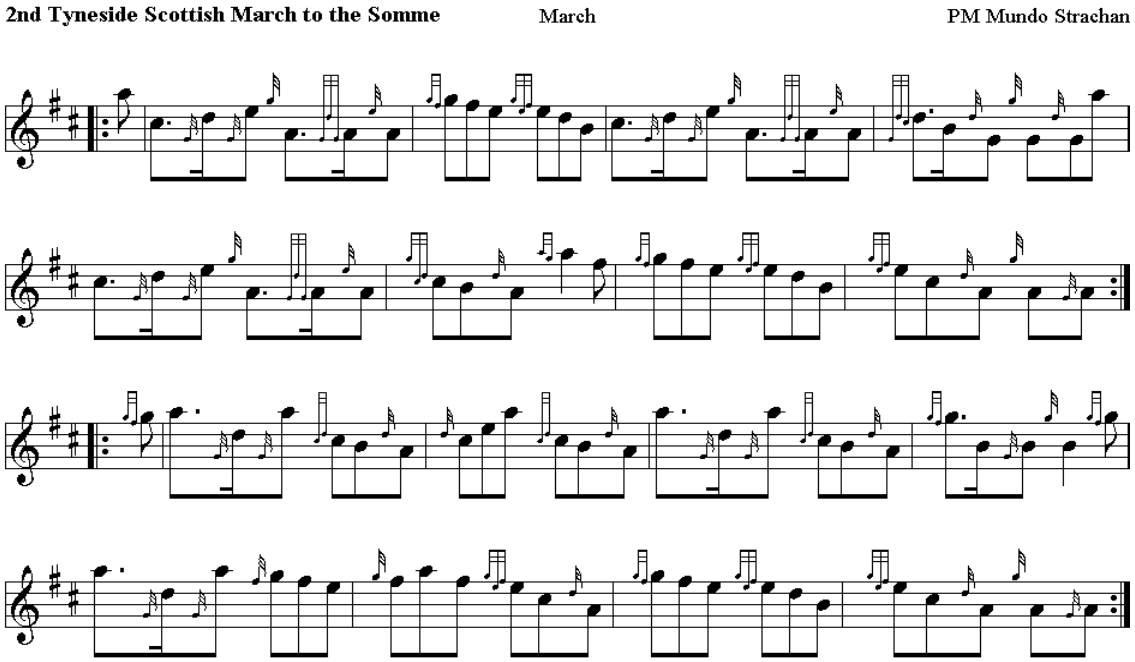
The Tyneside Scottish Brigade was a British infantry brigade of Kitchener's Army, raised in 1914. Officially numbered the 102nd (Tyneside Scottish) Brigade, it contained four Pals battalions from Newcastle-on-Tyne. Another Newcastle brigade — the 103rd (Tyneside Irish) — contained Tynesiders with Irish connections.

While the Tyneside Irish battalions were indeed largely made up of men of Irish extraction, the Tyneside Scottish battalions contained as little as 25% Scots; the remainder were Geordies attracted to the glamour of a "Scottish" regiment. An application for a full kilted uniform was rejected however the Tyneside Scottish wore a Glengarry hat and each battalion was allowed to maintain a pipes and drums band. The brigade's four battalions were known as the 1st to 4th Tyneside Scottish. When taken over by the British Army, these became battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers; 2nd Tyneside Scottish (21st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers).

The Tyneside Scottish first saw action in the Battle of the Somme. On July 11, 916, the first day on the Somme, the brigade attacked astride the Albert-Bapaume road, roughly in the center of the British line opposite the fortified village of La Boisselle. It was up this road that the anticipated cavalry exploitation would be made. The importance of this sector meant that it was particularly well defended so to support the attack two large mines were detonated on either side of La Boisselle, the Y Sap mine to the north and the Lochnagar mine to the south.

The brigade suffered the worst losses of any brigade on July 1, (the Tyneside Irish Brigade had the next worst tally of casualties). The 4th Tyneside Scottish battalion lost 629 men (19 officers and 610 other ranks), the third worst battalion loss of the day. The 1st Tyneside Scottish lost 584 men and the 3rd Tyneside Scottish lost 537 men. All four battalion commanders were killed (the 2nd Tyneside Scottish's commander had been killed shortly before the battle).

The brigade's losses on July 1, were so severe that on July 6, it, along with the Tyneside Irish Brigade, was transferred to the 37th Division, swapping with the 111th Brigade. The two brigades returned to the 34th Division on August 22.

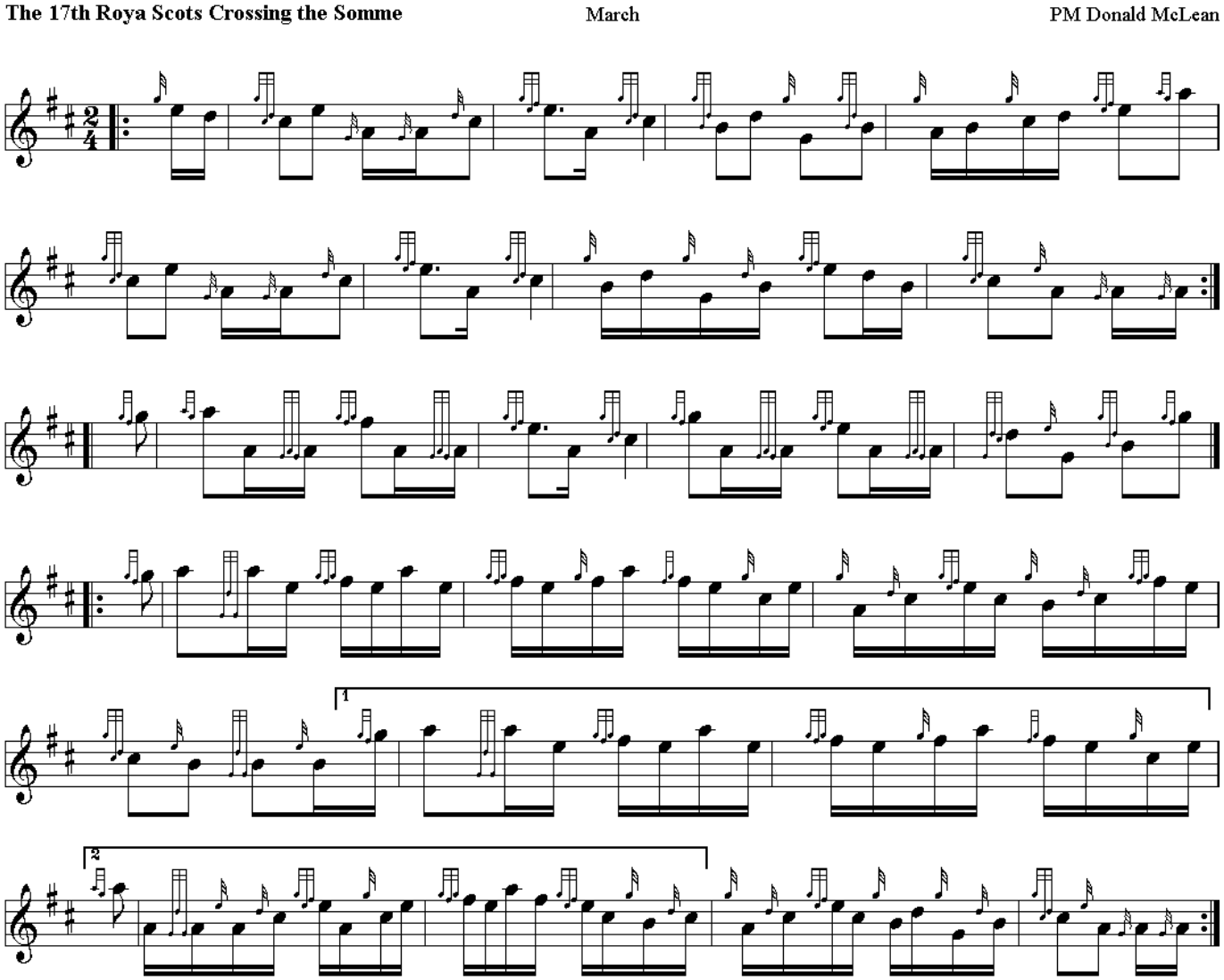


The 17th Royal Scots Crossing the Somme

By the summer of 1916 the British Army in France had grown to some fifty-eight divisions, in all some 1.5 million men. Haig, who had taken over as Commander-in-Chief from Sir John French in December 1915, now had the manpower that he had lacked earlier and, at 7.30 am on July 1, eleven divisions, nine of them New Army divisions, advanced simultaneously against the German positions on the north bank of the Somme. By nightfall British losses were over 57,000, of whom nearly 20,000 were dead. Some gains were made by the attacking forces on the right (southern) flank, but elsewhere the attack had stopped in its tracks.

The following nine Royal Scots Battalions were involved in The Battle of The Somme: 2nd (Regular), 8th (TF), 9th (Highlanders) (TF), 11th and 12th (K1), 13th (K2) and 15th, 16th and 17th (K3/K4). The 17th (Rosebery's Bantams), raised in Edinburgh in February 1915 as part of K4, landed in France on February 1, 1916 as part of 106 Bde, 35 Div.

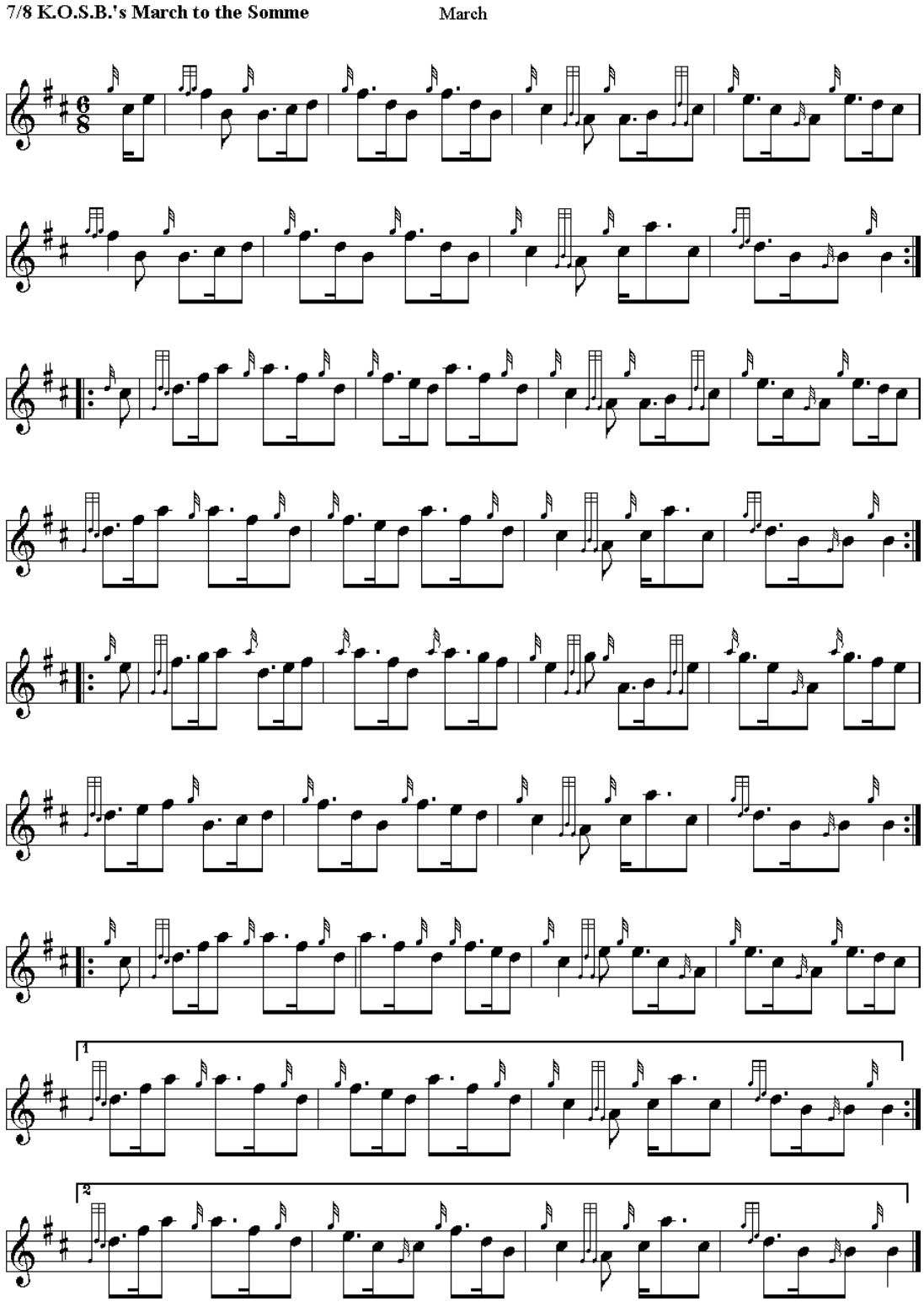
The 17th Battalion had moved to the Somme sector in early July. Thereafter, together with the rest of 35 Division, it worked ceaselessly in the rear areas providing working and carrying parties to support units in the front line. On more than one occasion it was stood by to play a more direct part in the action but all came to naught. The Division left the Somme on August 30.



7/8 K.O.S.B.'s March to the Somme

At the outbreak of war in August 1914, the two Regular Battalions and the two Territorial Battalions (4th and 5th) of the King's Own Scottish Borderers were mobilized. In addition, 'New Army' Battalions (6th, 7th and 8th) were raised, together with a 9th Battalion, which provided reinforcements for the other Battalions, and a 10th (Garrison) Battalion.

The 7th Battalion lost about two-thirds of its strength and the 8th over one-third at the Battle of Loos. The two Battalions were amalgamated in the spring of 1916 and went on to fight on the Somme at Martinpuich, at Arras in the great push of 1917, at Pilckem and again at Arras during the great German Spring Offensive of 1918, and on the Marne (with the French and Americans), ending the war in Belgium.



Delville Wood

A subsidiary attack of the Somme Offensive, and fought from July 15 until September 3, 1916, the Battle of Delville Wood saw the capture of the wood that had been skirted during the Battle of Bazentin Ridge when Longueval fell to the British on July 9.

It was essential to the British that the wood be cleared of Germans before any attack could be launched on the formidable, and notorious, German Switch Line. The task of capturing the wood was handed to the South African Brigade of some 3,150 men, attached to the 9th Scottish Division.

On July 15 at dawn the South African regiment went in following a heavy artillery battle: they managed to clear the southern edge of German forces. The remainder of the wood remained in German hands.

Hand to hand fighting ensued until the South Africans were relieved on the night of July 19, having lost 766 dead among the four battalions alone; the dead outnumbered the wounded by four to one. Throughout poor weather (it rained often) and enemy artillery fire which reached a crescendo of 400 shells a minute, the surrounding landscape was transformed into a mess of broken, stumpy tree roots and massive shell holes.

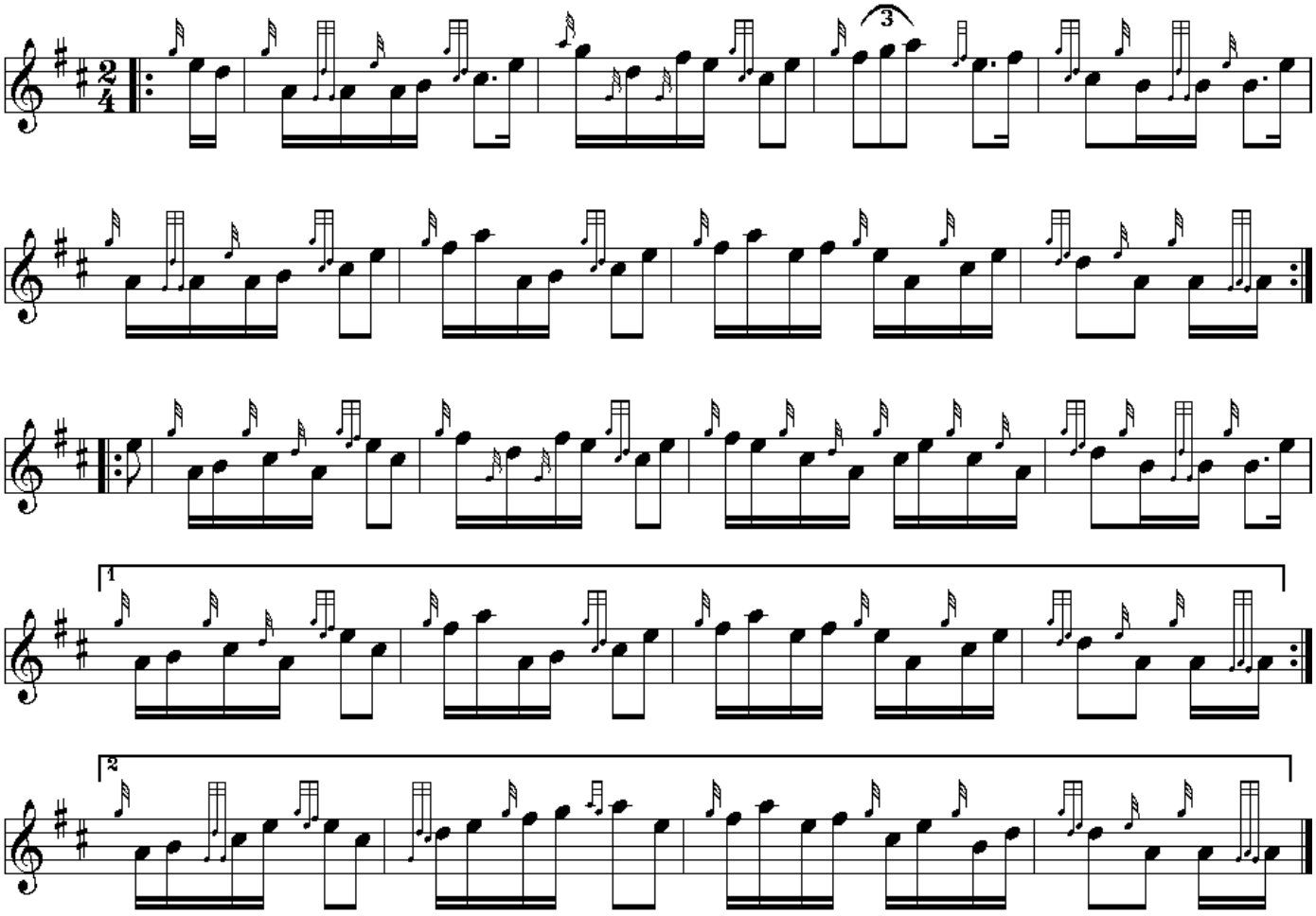
Mud and rainwater covered bodies of South African and German forces alike - many bodies remain in the wood today (which is now in private hands). The Germans lost 9,500 men by August alone.

The wood was never entirely taken by the South African forces, despite huge efforts to do so. It wasn't until after another month of fierce fighting had taken place, on August 25, that 14th (Light) Division finally took the wood and overcame German resistance.

Delville Wood remained the most costly action the South African Brigade fought on the Western Front. During the final great German push of March 1918 the wood was again taken by the Germans on March 24 but was recaptured by 38th (Welsh) Division on August 28.

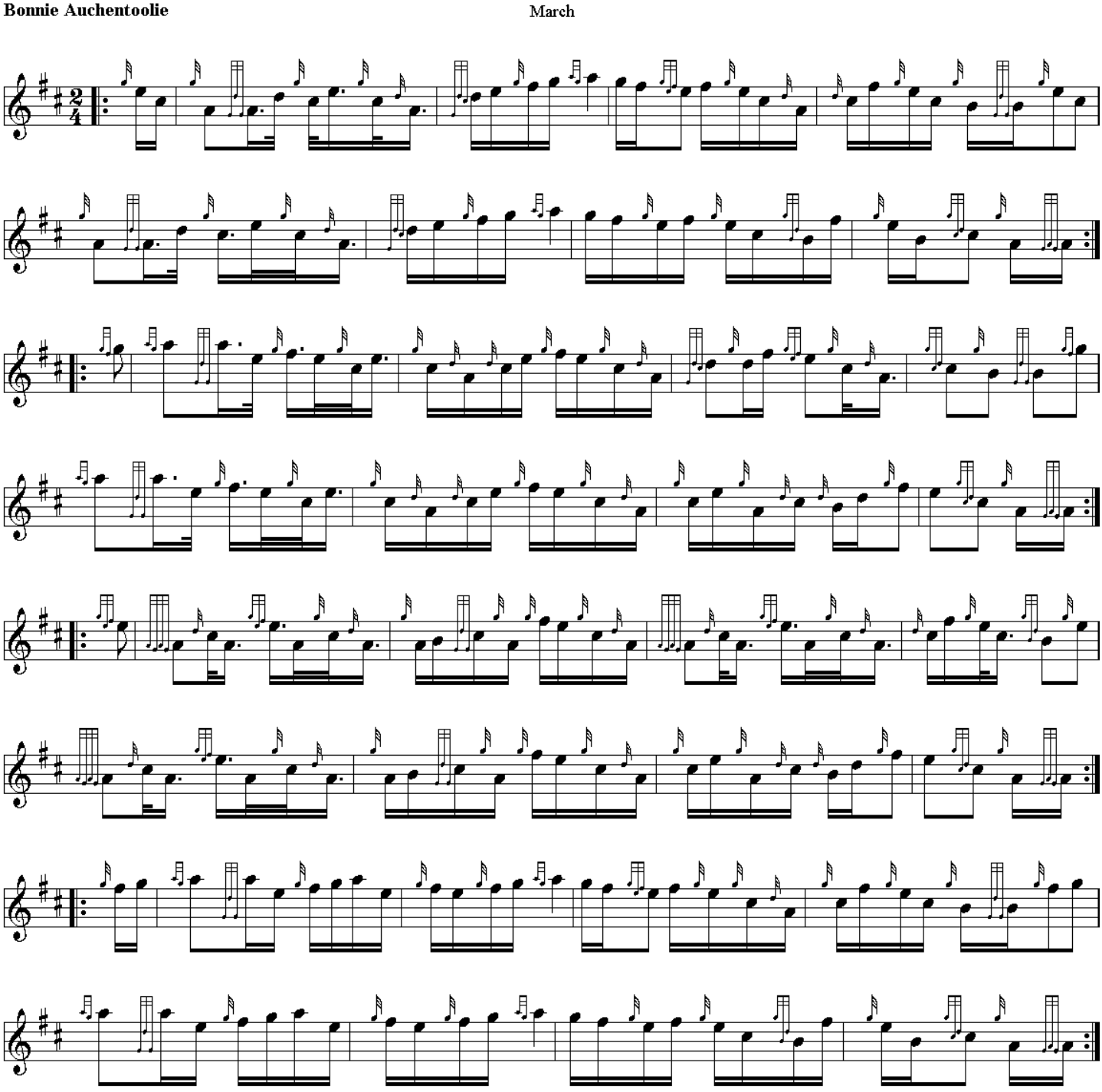
Before the battle: men of the 4th South African Infantry Regiment take a rest along a road

Delville Wood March Thomas M. McClunie



Bonnie Auchentoolie

The tune, ***Bonnie Auchentorlie*** is dedidicated to Col. Fergusson-Buchanan. George James Ferguson-Buchanan (formerly George James Ferguson) of Auchentoolie was Justice of the Peace for Co. Dumbarton, late Major and Hon. Lt. Col. of the 9th Battalion of the Scots Fusiliers, formerly A.D.C. to the Governor of Bombay, Major Army Reserve, served in the Royal Scots Fusiliers in South Africa, and Member of the Royal Company of Archers. He assumed, in 1890, the additional name Buchanan on succeeding to Auchentoolie.



Longueval

Pipes and Drums of the 8th Battalion following the battle. The men pictured here would be nearly its full compliment, as only 165 men and 6 officers marched out.

The objective of the battle at Longueval was to take the high ground of Bazentin Ridge, between Bazentin le Grant and Longueval. This also included taking control of the ridge road, and Deville Wood behind Longueval village. By doing so, the British forces would occupy the high ground on the ridge and expose German positions to our artillery.

The 8th Black Watch, alongside with Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, was with the 26th Brigade of the 9th Scottish Division, on the east flank. Also with the 9th was the 27th Brigade, including Royal Scots, on the west flank. The advance was along a 1500 yard long front. All this was across fairly open ground that had been subjected to a lengthy artillery bombardment, and was visible to the German positions on the ridge. These positions, although heavily bombarded, were well constructed and provided the German troops with excellent protection. It allowed them to emerge from their bunkers and man the machine gun posts, protecting the down-slope over which the 9th Scottish Division would have to advance.

The opening strength of 8th Black Watch was 739 men. Between July 9th and 19th, 110 were killed or died of wounds and 458 were missing or wounded. Of 739 men, 6 officers and 165 men – only 23% – marched out.

The tune, ***Longueval*** was composed by Pipe Major George Stoddart. The tune won the 2002 composing competition held to find a tune to play at the unveiling of the Pipers' Memorial at Longueval.

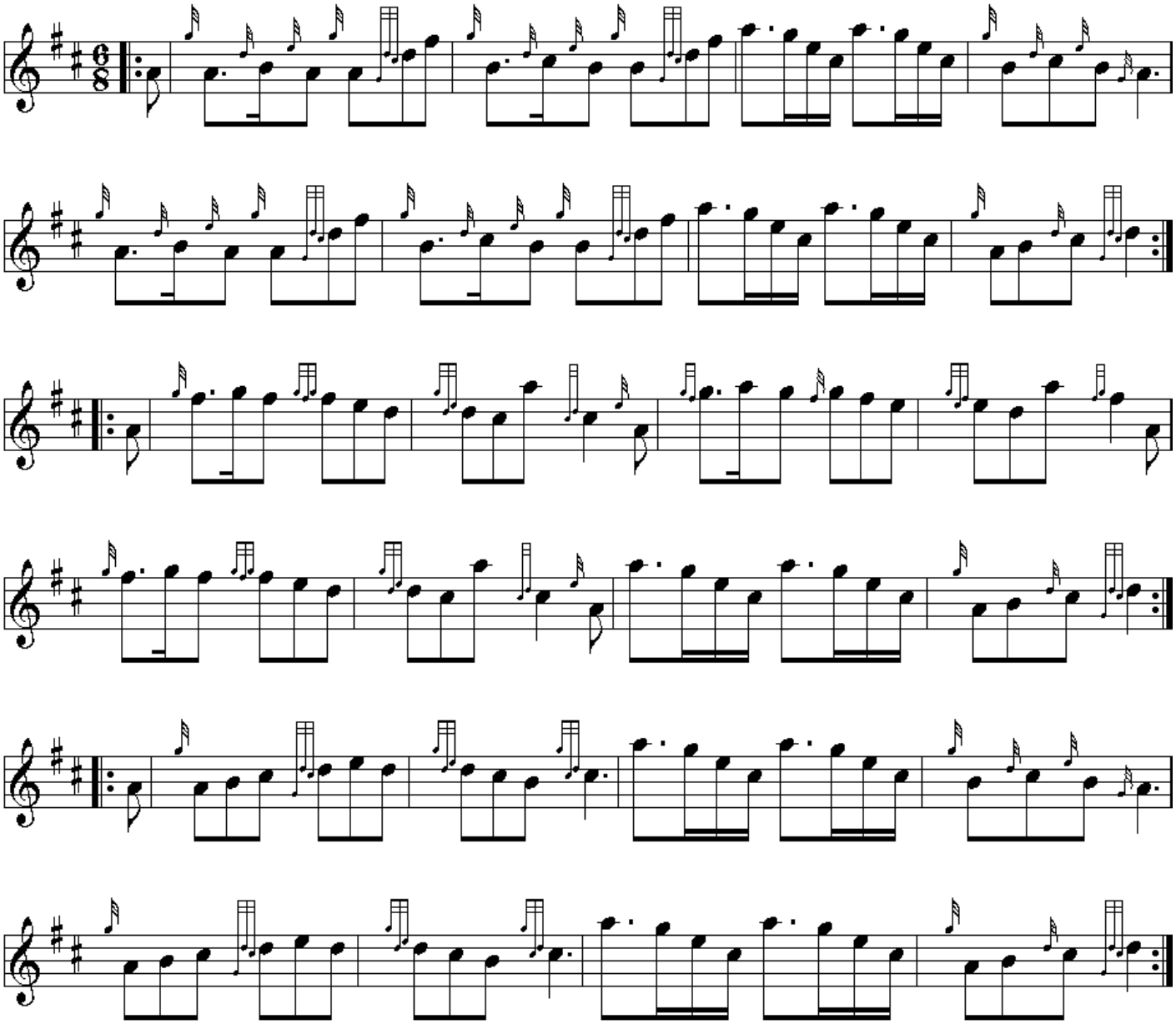
Pipe Major George Stoddart, BEM, was born in 1912 in Leith, near Edinburgh. He enlisted in the 2nd Battalion The Cameron Highlanders at age 14 as a boy piper and remained with them until shortly before the start of World War II, when he transferred to the Royal Scots Fusiliers as Pipe Major. He also served as Pipe Major with the 5th Scottish Parachute Regiment during the War and was also with the Liverpool Scottish for a short time.

After the War, he was posted to Edinburgh as the Lowland Brigade Pipe Major and worked closely with Pipe Major Willie Ross conducting the preliminary course for potential pipe majors. When the Edinburgh Military Tattoo started, he was the Lone Piper for many years and became known as the ‘original lone piper’.

In 1959, he retired from the Army and opened a shop with R.G. Hardie in the Lawnmarket just down from Edinburgh Castle. During this time he founded the Eagle Pipers’ Association which quickly became a well known and respected piping organization. He was a senior piping adjudicator and was affectionally known as ‘Uncle George’.

Stoddart died in Edinburgh in 1990.

Longueval Waltz PM George Stoddart



Sunset on the Somme

George McLennan writes on this unpublished retreat march, *'G.S.M used to speak of the sunsets he occasionally saw while in the trenches with the 1st Battalion. He has expressed in this tune, the sun dying down to cover the horrors of the day'.*

George Stewart McLennan was born on February 9, 1883 in Edinburgh, the eighth of their nine children (one of whom died in infancy). Many of his ancestors on both sides of the family were prominent pipers. Among his half-siblings was Gold Medal winner Donald Ross McLennan. George suffered from polio as a child, and could not walk until the age of four and a half.

McLennan began receiving piping tuition from his father at the age of four, and later received tuition from his uncle Pipe Major John Stewart, and in Highland dancing from his cousin William McLennan. He made rapid progression, winning the Amateur National Championship at the age of nine, and was invited by Queen Victoria to play for her at Balmoral Castle.

His father enlisted him in the Gordon Highlanders in October 1899 in order to prevent him from joining the Merchant Navy, and he became Pipe major of the 1st Battalion in 1905, one of the youngest ever in the British Army.

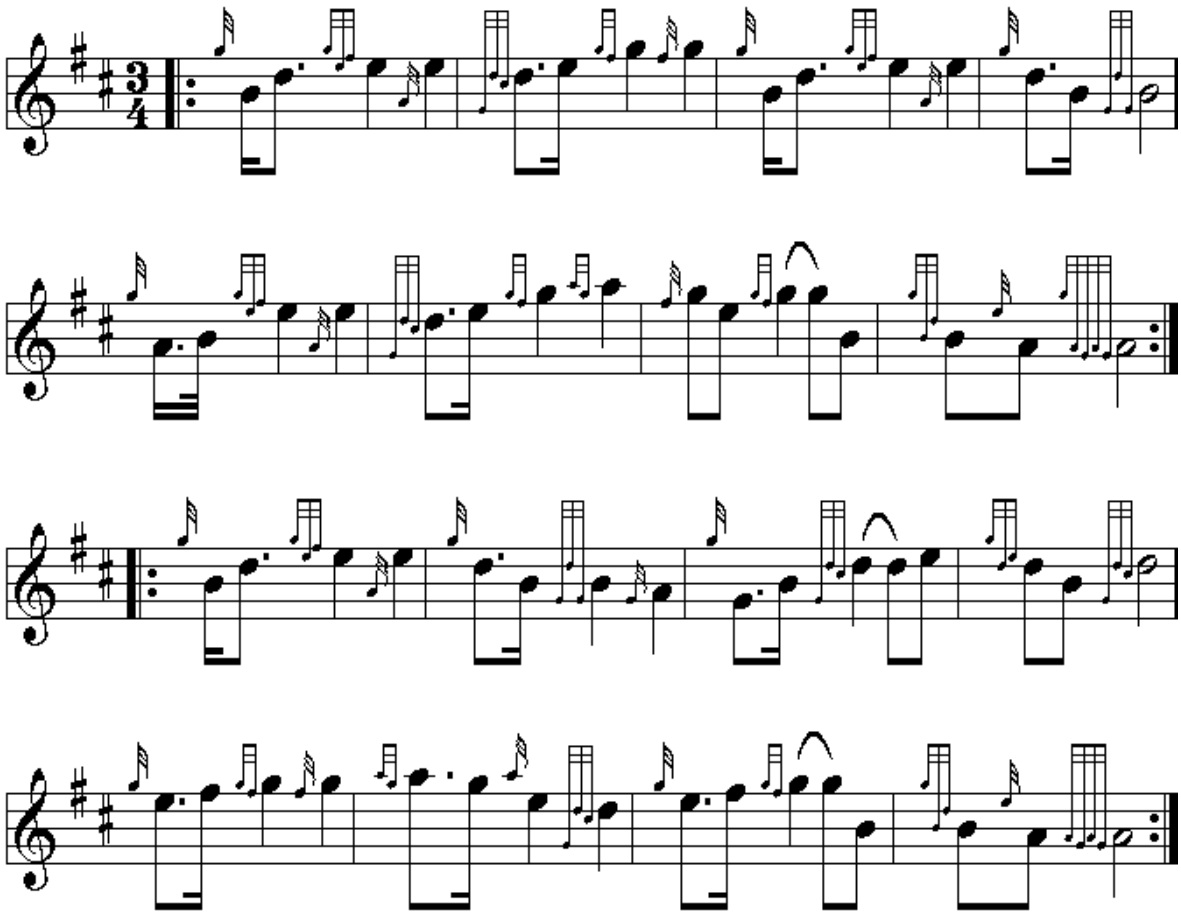
McLennan was successful in solo competitions, and won the Gold Medal at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban in 1904 and at the Northern Meeting in Inverness in 1905, and the Clasp at Inverness for former winners of the Gold Medal in 1909, 1920 and 1921. McLennan had a close friendship and competitive rivalry with Willie Ross, and he travelled to competitions and shared prize money with William Lawrie.

He married Nona Lucking on April 3, 1912, and together they had two sons, George (1914–1996) and John (1916–1940), who both became pipers with the Gordon Highlanders.

McLennan was posted at the depot in Aberdeen until 1918, when he was sent to the Western Front to succeed Pipe Major Tom Henderson who had been killed. In May 1918 he collapsed and required fluid to be drained from his lungs in a field hospital. When the war ended he was posted back to Aberdeen, and after he was discharged in 1922 he started working in Aberdeen as a bagpipe maker. At the time there were several other prominent musicians in the city, including fiddler James Scott Skinner.

He died on May 13,1929 of lung cancer after a long period of ill health connected to the makeshift operation. 20,000 people lined the route of the procession to Aberdeen station at his funeral on June 4, before he was interred at Newington Cemetery in Edinburgh.

Sunset on the Somme Retreat March PM George S. McLennan

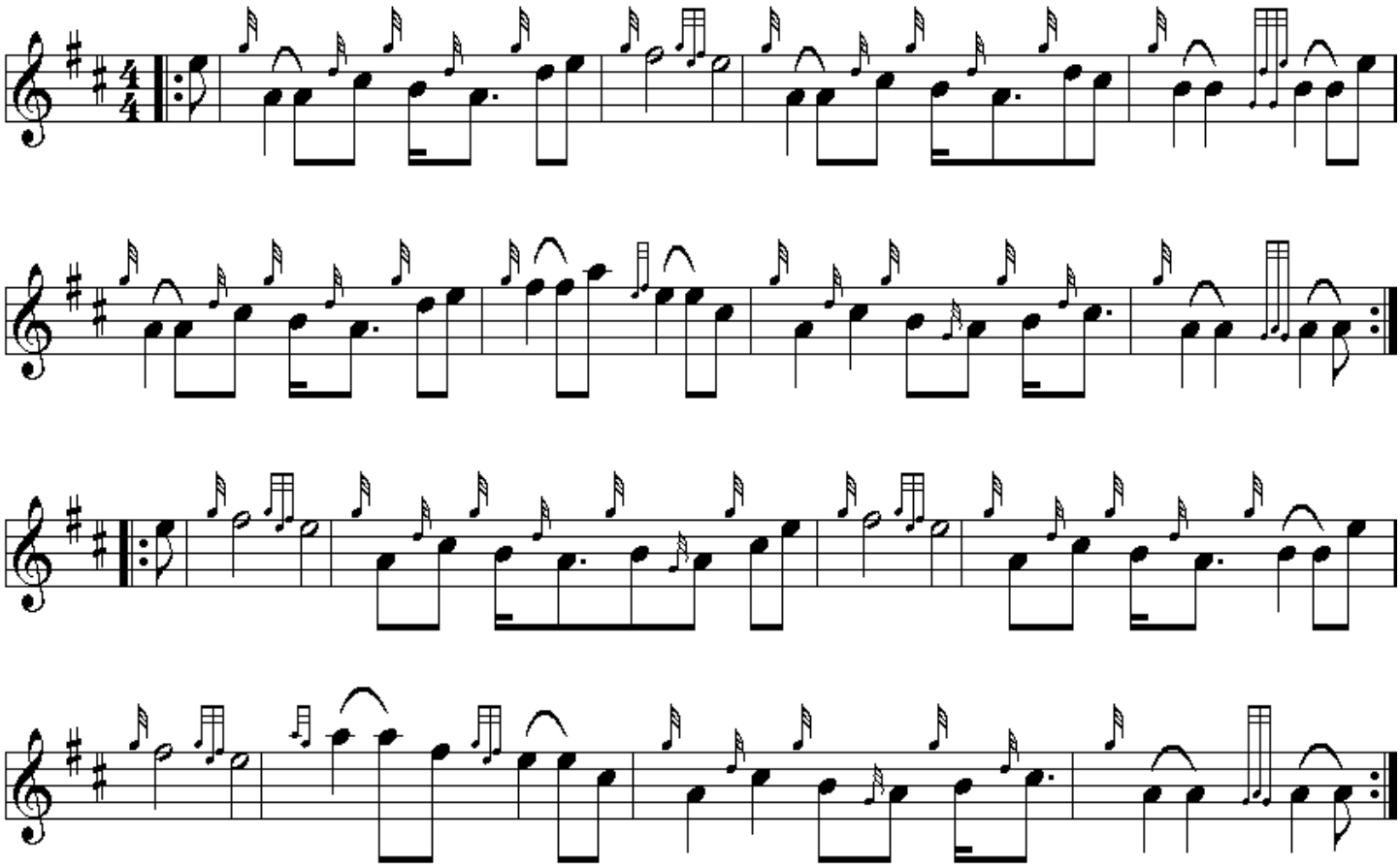


One Day on the Somme

The tune, ***One Day on the Somme*** was composed by Stephen Beattie, Pipe Major of the Black Watch Association (Stoke on Trent) Pipe Band after visiting the battle site in 2003. The Black Watch Association Pipe Band is based in Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire and in addition to serving the North Midlands including Stoke-on-Trent and South Cheshire

Beattie wrote his first tune in 1990 and has continued to write tunes 'on and off' since.

One Day on the Somme Slow Air PM Stephen J. Beattie



The 36th (Ulster) Division at Thiepval

The Battle of Thiepval Ridge was the first large offensive of the Reserve Army (Lieutenant General Hubert Gough), during the Battle of the Somme on the Western Front. The attack was intended to benefit from the Fourth Army attack in the Battle of Morval, by starting 24 hours afterwards. The battle was fought on a front from Courcelette in the east, near the Albert–Bapaume road, to Thiepval and the Schwaben Redoubt (*Schwaben-Feste*) in the west, which overlooked the German defenses further north in the Ancre valley, the rising ground towards Beaumont-Hamel and Serre beyond.

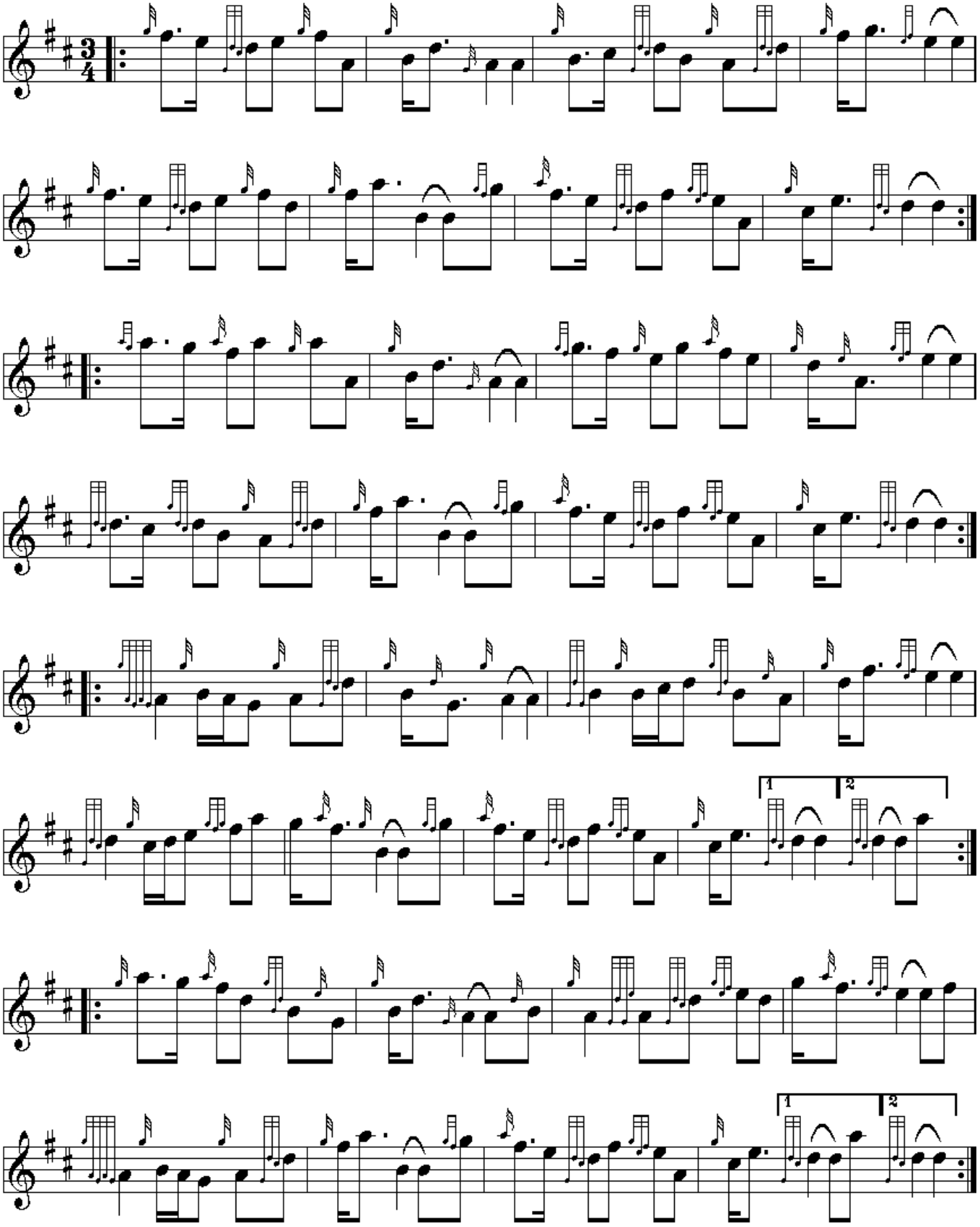
The 36th Ulster Division's sector of the Somme lay astride the marshy valley of the river Ancre and the higher ground south of the river. Their task was to cross the ridge and take the German second line near Grandcourt. In their path lay not only the German front line, but just beyond it, the intermediate line within which was the Schwaben Redoubt.

On July 1, following the preliminary bombardment, the Ulstermen quickly took the German front line, but intelligence was so poor that, with the rest of the division attacking under creep bombardment (artillery fired in front or over men; they advance as it moves) the Ulstermen would have come under attack from their own bombardment in the German first line.

But they still advanced, moving to the crest so rapidly that the Germans had no time to come up from their dugouts (generally 30–40 feet below ground). In the Schwaben Redoubt, which was also taken, so successful was the advance that had reached the German second line. But again they came under their own barrage. However, this successful penetration had to be given up before nightfall, as it was unmatched by those at its flanks. The Ulstermen were exposed in a narrow salient, open to attack on three sides. They were running out of ammunition and supplies, and a full German counter-attack forced them to withdraw, giving up virtually all they gained.

The division had suffered over 5,000 casualties and 2,069 deaths.

The 36th (Ulster) Division at Thiepval Retreat March



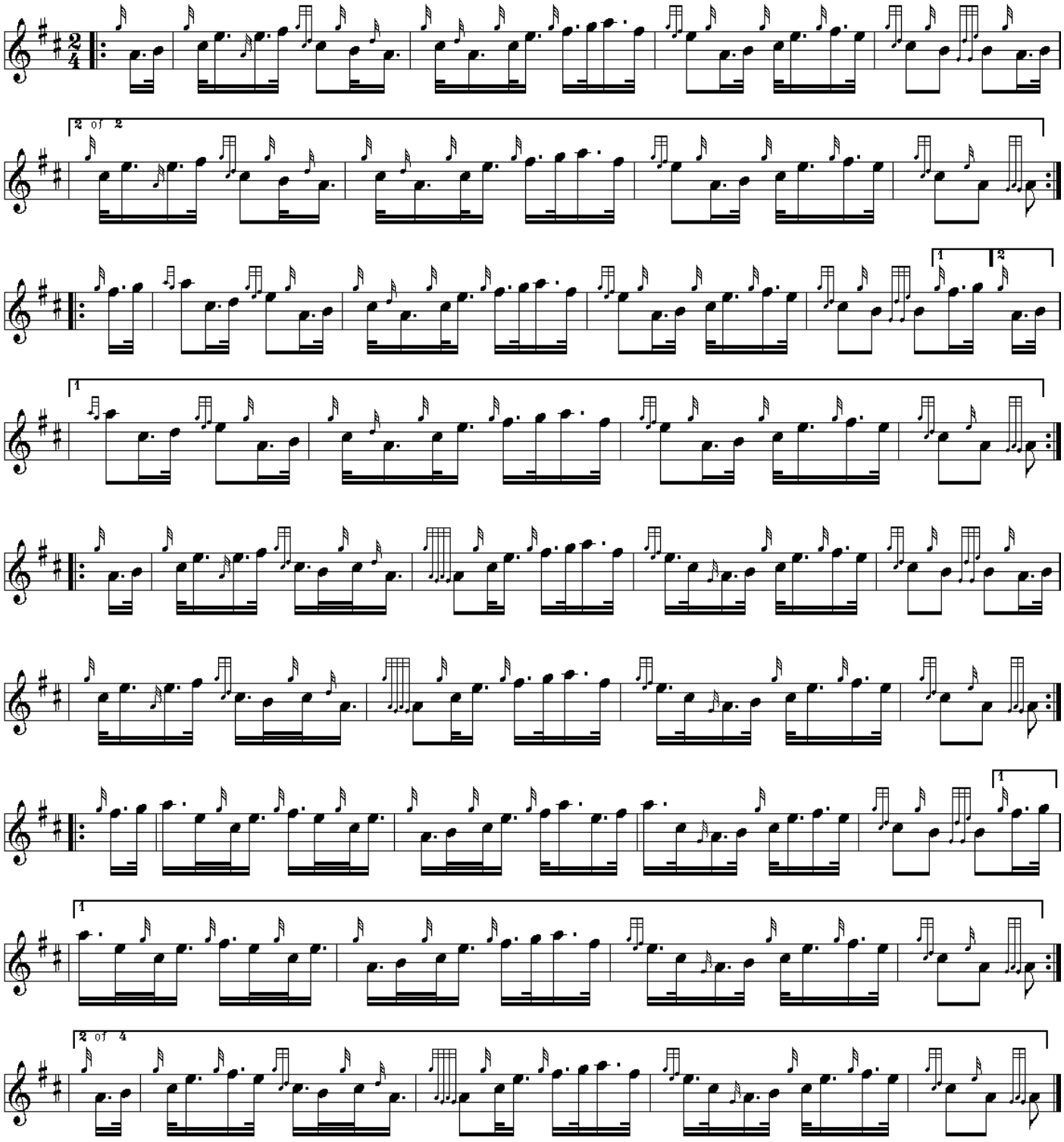
The Taking of Beaumont Hamel

The Capture of Beaumont-Hamel was a tactical incident that took place during the Battle of the Somme in the Battle of the Ancre (November 13-18) during the second British attempt to take the village. Beaumont-Hamel is a commune in the Somme department of Picardy in northern France. The village had been attacked on July 1, the First Day of the Somme. The German 2nd Army defeated the attack, inflicting many British and Newfoundland Regiment casualties.

On July 1, 1916, the 29th Division attacked at 7:20 a.m., ten minutes after a 40,000 pound mine under the Hawthorn Ridge Redoubt had been blown. The explosion alerted the Germans nearby, who occupied the far lip of the crater and pinned down British troops in no man's land on either side, where they were caught by German artillery-fire. White German signal rockets were mistaken for success flares and the 88th Brigade, including the Newfoundland Regiment, advanced from 200 yards behind the British front line. The few parties that crossed no man's land found uncut wire. Reserve Infantry Regiment 119 had been in deep dugouts and emerged to defeat the attack. The Newfoundlanders suffered 710 casualties, of the 29th Division total of 5,240 casualties.

By early November, the British in the south were ready to attack northwards towards the Ancre river, simultaneous with an attack eastwards on the north side of the river to capture Beaumont-Hamel and Serre-lès-Puisieux. On November 13, during the Battle of the Ancre in thick fog, the 51st (Highland) Division outflanked Beaumont-Hamel on both sides and forced the garrison to surrender. Infantry and artillery co-operation was conspicuously superior to July 1; barrages were better aimed and more destructive, cut off the German front line from the rear and neutralized German guns; mopping up parties had been given specific objectives in the German defenses. The defenders were exhausted before the battle began and where the British artillery had cut the wire, were unable to repulse the attack. The defenders of Beaumont-Hamel repulsed a frontal attack by the Highlanders but were surrounded in the fog and surrendered later in the day.

The tune, ***The Taking of Beaumont Hamel*** was composed by Pipe Major John McLellan of Dunoon.

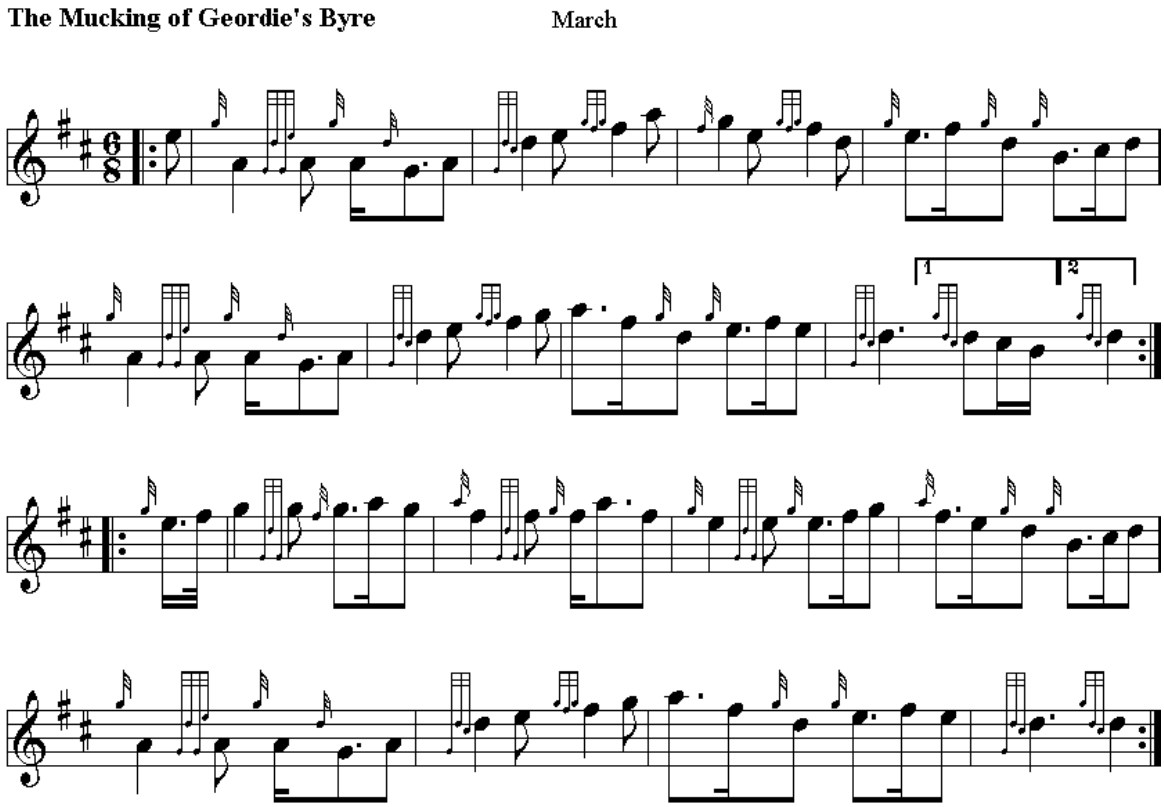


The Mucking Of Geordie's Byre

Also known as The Cleansing Of George's Cowshed, Glounreagh, The Glounreagh, Jordie, The Jordie, Jordie's, and others, ***The Mucking Of Geordie's Byre*** is a traditional song with a long and rather complicated history. It has been referred to as a "humorous but vulgar ballad" of about 1700 about a young lady of rank who fell in love with one of her father's tenants and married him. This is presumably the song of which a fragment is preserved in Herd's *Ancient and Modern Scottish Songs* (1769, vol. 2:201). The first verse runs:

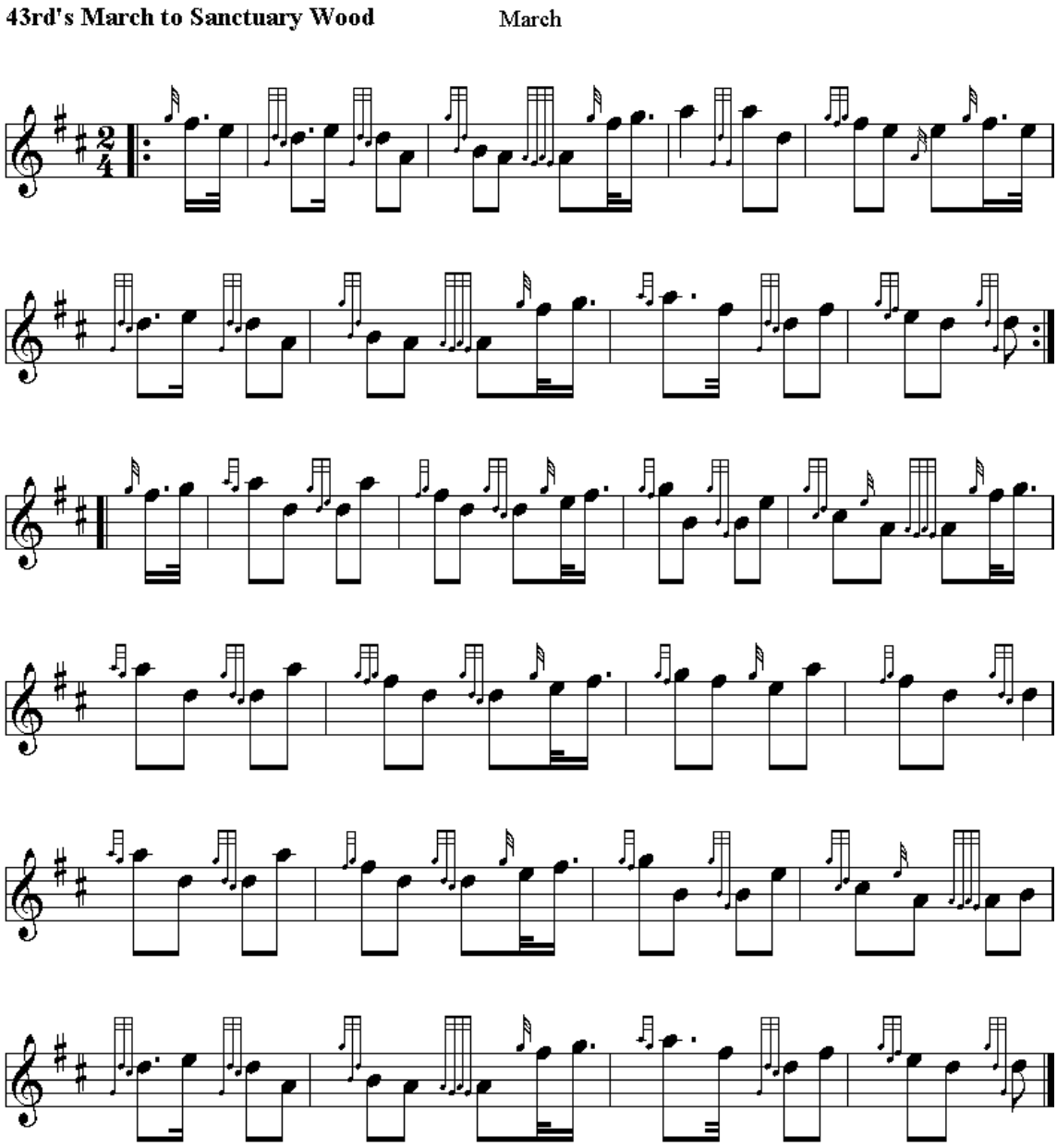
> The mucking of Geordie's byre
> And shooling the grupe sae clean
> Has gard me weit my cheek
> And greet with baith my een.

Muckin' o' Geordie's Byre was played by Pipe Major T. Gilbert MM (of the 17th Battalion Highland Light Infantry, later of the 15th HLI) at the Battle of Beaumont Hamel. P/M Gilbert received his Military Medal for piping his battalion into Leipzig Redoubt on July 1,1916, when they had 500 casualties. His unit was tasked with taking Munich Trench. The action was described: *'When our barrage lifted and the first wave of our men attempted to go forward their dark forms showed up against the snow. They were met by machine gun fire, by rapid fire from the enemy trenches, and by snipers in skillfully chosen holes. Our bombardment had failed and it was impossible to get close quarters with the enemy….it represents to us the heroism of forlorn hope, the glory of unselfish sacrifice, the success of failure.*' Three hundred killed or wounded. The Commanding Officer writes: " *I told the Pipe Major to play ; he at once responded, getting into a small hollow, and playing and greatly heartening the men as they lay there hanging on to the captured position. Pipe Major Gilbert showed a total disregard of danger and played as if he were on a route march. For this action he obtained the Military Medal."*



43rd's March to Sanctuary Wood

On April 3, 1916, the Canadian Corps, including the newly formed and inexperienced 2nd & 3rd Canadian Divisions was dispatched to a stretch of the front south of Ypres at the St. Eloi Craters. There they found themselves in a wasteland, in places waist-deep in water and mud, with six large mine craters and few trench defenses under the full view of the German forces on higher ground. Three days later, the Germans launched a series of attacks that went on for ten days in miserable rainy weather during which their weak defensive positions, poor understanding of the situation, poor communication and poor leadership led to the Canadians being forced off of several key positions despite several attempts at counter-attack. In 13 days of fighting at St. Eloi some 1,375 Canadians became casualties including some men who were felled by their own artillery fire due to the poor understanding of battlefield. This would prove to be the Canadians only significant, lasting defeat of the war.



Private Richard Maybin

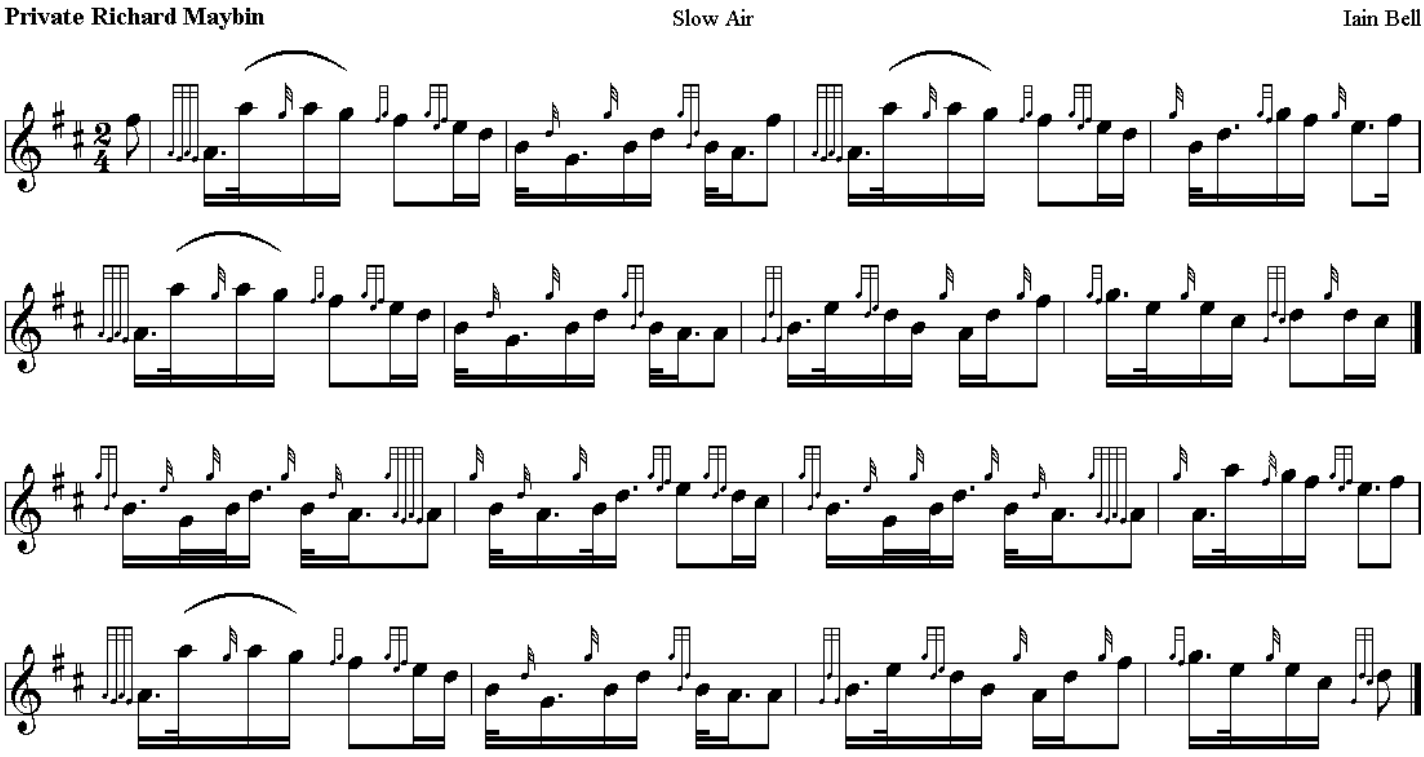
Richard Maybin was a private in the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles (Saskatchewan Regt.).

Following the outbreak of the war, the Canadian Government decided to raise an initially volunteer force for service overseas, with the force to be known as the Canadian Expeditionary Force. As a unit of this force, the 1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles was formed on November 7, 1914 in Brandon, Manitoba.

Maybin was originally from Lisnamurrican, Broughshane, Co. Antrim in Northern Ireland but like many of his generation left and settled in Canada (Saskatoon). With the outbreak of the First World War, he enlisted in the 1st. Canadian Mounted Rifles at Manitoba as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

After landing in France on September 22, 1915, they soon found that the foul muddy conditions of the Western Front made their horses a hindrance and by January 1916 the Canadian Mounted Rifles, complete with pipes & drums were dismounted and re-organized as infantry. In the run up to the Somme offensive the Canadians entered battle at Mount Sorrel on June 2, 1916 and Pte. Maybin, aged 21, was killed that day.

The tune, ***Private Richard Maybin*** was composed by Iain Bell.The tune was given it's first-ever public airing by Pipe Major Ian Burrows who played it on Private Maybin's own bagpipe.



Easter Week (1916)

On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, a group of Irish nationalists proclaimed the establishment of the Irish Republic and, along with some 1,600 followers, staged a rebellion against the British government in Ireland. The rebels seized prominent buildings in Dublin and clashed with British troops.

The Easter Rising was intended to take place across Ireland; however, various circumstances resulted in it being carried out primarily in Dublin. On April 24, 1916, the rebel leaders and their followers (whose numbers reached some 1,600 people over the course of the insurrection, and many of whom were members of a nationalist organization called the Irish Volunteers, or a small radical militia group, the Irish Citizen Army), seized the city's general post office and other strategic locations. Early that afternoon, from the steps of the post office, Patrick Pearse (1879-1916), one of the uprising's leaders, read a proclamation declaring Ireland an independent republic and stating that a provisional government (comprised of IRB members) had been appointed.

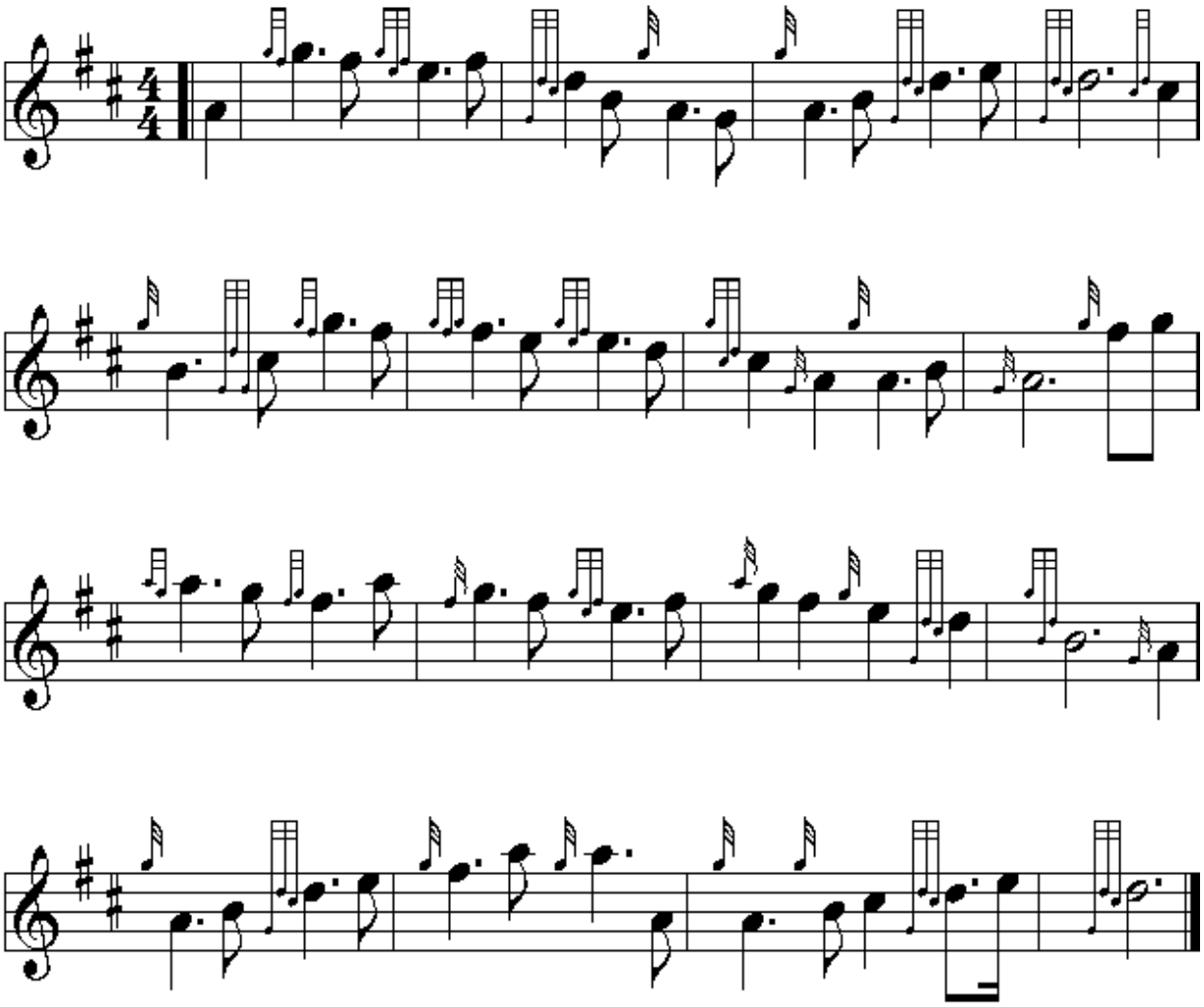
Despite the rebels' hopes, the public did not rise to support them. The British government soon declared martial law in Ireland, and in less than a week the rebels were crushed by the government forces sent against them. Some 450 people were killed and more than 2,000 others, many of them civilians, were wounded in the violence, which also destroyed much of the Dublin city center.

Initially, many Irish people resented the rebels for the destruction and death caused by the uprising. However, in May, 15 leaders of the uprising were executed by firing squad. More than 3,000 people suspected of supporting the uprising, directly or indirectly, were arrested, and some 1,800 were sent to England and imprisoned there without trial. The rushed executions, mass arrests and martial law (which remained in effect through the fall of 1916), fueled public resentment toward the British and were among the factors that helped build support for the rebels and the movement for Irish independence.

In the 1918 general election to the parliament of the United Kingdom, the Sinn Fein political party (whose goal was to establish a republic) won a majority of the Irish seats. The Sinn Fein members then refused to sit in the UK Parliament, and in January 1919 met in Dublin to convene a single chamber parliament and declare Ireland's independence. The Irish Republican Army then launched a guerrilla war against the British government and its forces in Ireland. Following a July 1921 cease-fire, the two sides signed a treaty in December that called for the establishment of the Irish Free State, a self-governing nation of the British Commonwealth, the following year. Ireland's six northern counties opted out of the Free State and remained with the United Kingdom. The fully independent Republic of Ireland (consisting of the 26 counties in the southern and western part of the island) was formally proclaimed on Easter Monday, April 18, 1949.

The tune, ***Easter Week (1916)*** was composed by ex-Seaforth piper Ailean Nicholson. Nicholson published three volumes of Irish tunes for the Highland Bagpipe.

Easter Week (1916) **Ailean Nicolson**



1917

By 1917 both sides were exhausted. The failure of countless offensives had taken its toll.

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress to request a declaration of war against Germany. Wilson cited Germany's violation of its pledge to suspend unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean, as well as its attempts to entice Mexico into an alliance against the United States, as his reasons for declaring war. On April 4, 1917, the U.S. Senate voted in support of the measure to declare war on Germany. The House concurred two days later.

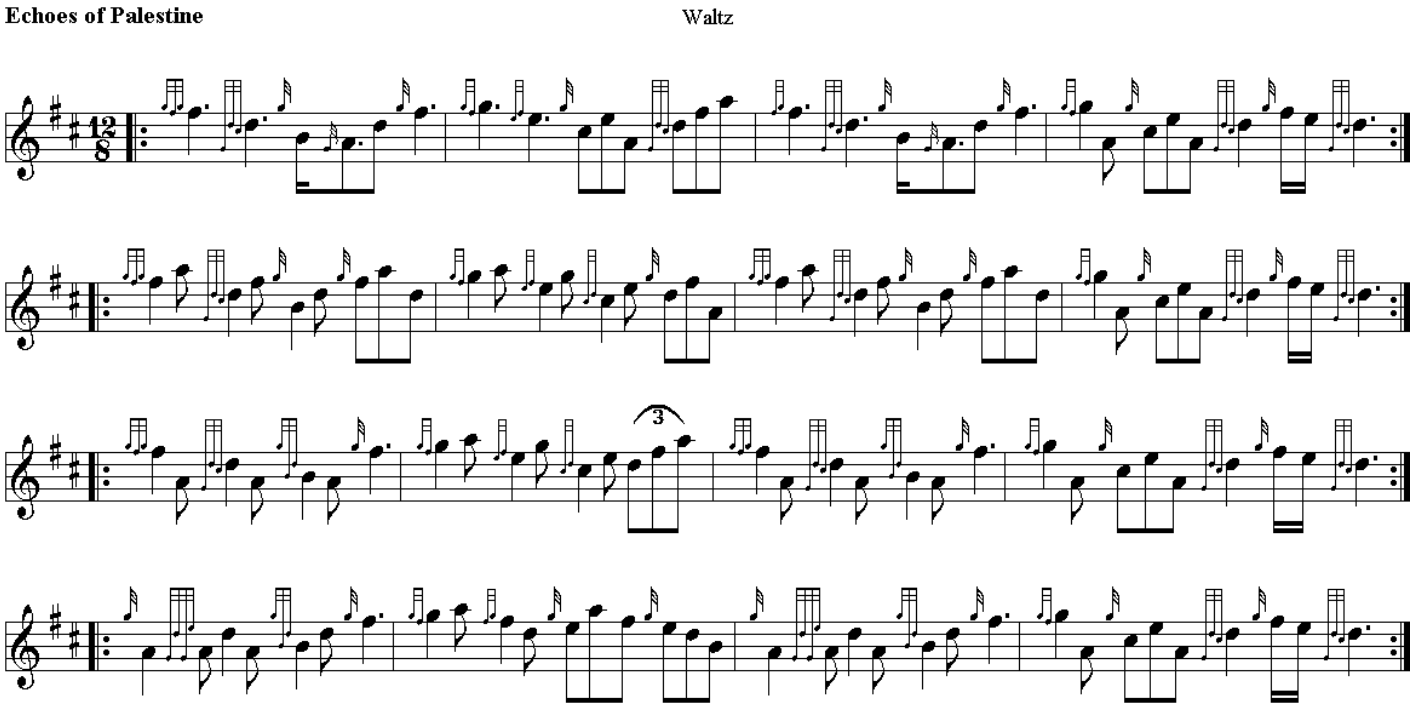
German submarines crippled the ability of Great Britain to import needed goods from the U.S. and elsewhere before the development of convoys stemmed the losses. Conversely, British naval blockades severely limited the movement of vital materials needed by the Central Powers. Food production declined and shortages of many essentials grew more acute. With brief exceptions, over the years of grinding warfare, morale was sinking in the trenches and on the home front. In 1917, mutinies swept the French army and a complete collapse was narrowly averted.

Although American entry into the war was a tremendous blow to the Central Powers, events in Russia encouraged Germany and its allies. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 led to a treaty in early 1918 that ended Russian hostilities and gave up valuable land and resources to Germany.

Echoes of Palestine

The Sinai and Palestine campaign of the Middle Eastern theatre was fought by the Arab Revolt and the British Empire, against the Ottoman Empire and its Imperial German allies. It started with an Ottoman attempt at raiding the Suez Canal in 1915, and ended with the Armistice of Mudros in 1918, leading to the cession of Ottoman Syria.

Fighting began in January 1915, when a German-led Ottoman force invaded the Sinai Peninsula, then part of the British Protectorate of Egypt, to unsuccessfully raid the Suez Canal. After the Gallipoli campaign, British Empire veterans formed the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) and Ottoman Empire veterans formed the Fourth Army, to fight for the Sinai Peninsula in 1916. In January 1917 the newly formed Desert Column completed the recapture of the Sinai at the Battle of Rafa.



The 1st Batt. (72nd) Seaforth Highlanders Entry in Baghdad, March 1917

After the surrender of the Kut garrison on April 29, 1916, the British Army in Mesopotamia underwent a major overhaul. A new commander, Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Stanley Maude, was given the job of restoring Britain's military reputation. General Maude spent the rest of 1916 rebuilding his army. Most of his troops were recruited in India and then sent by sea to Basra. While these troops were being trained, British military engineers built a field railway from the coast up to Basra and beyond. General Maude also obtained a small force of armed river boats and river supply ships.

The British launched their new campaign on December 13, 1916. The British had some 50,000 well-trained and well-equipped troops: mostly British India troops of the Indian Expeditionary Force D together with the 13th (Western) Division of the British Army forming the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force. The Indian divisions of the Indian III Corps (also called the Tigris Corps) included British Army units. The Ottoman forces were smaller, perhaps around 25,000 strong under the overall command of General Khalil Pasha.

There were no setbacks for the British on this campaign. General Maude proceeded cautiously, advancing on both sides of the Tigris River. He earned his nickname *Systematic Joe*. The march on Baghdad resumed on March 5, 1917. Three days later, Maude's corps reached the Diyala River on the outskirts of the city.

Capt. IAIN H. MACKAY SCOBIE, F.S.A. (Scot.),
1st Seaforth Highlanders.

The quickstep, ***The 1st Battalion (72nd) Seaforth Highlanders Entry into Baghdad, March 1917*** commemorates the event for the Highlanders. The tune was composed by Captain Iain Hamilton Mackay- Scobie (left).

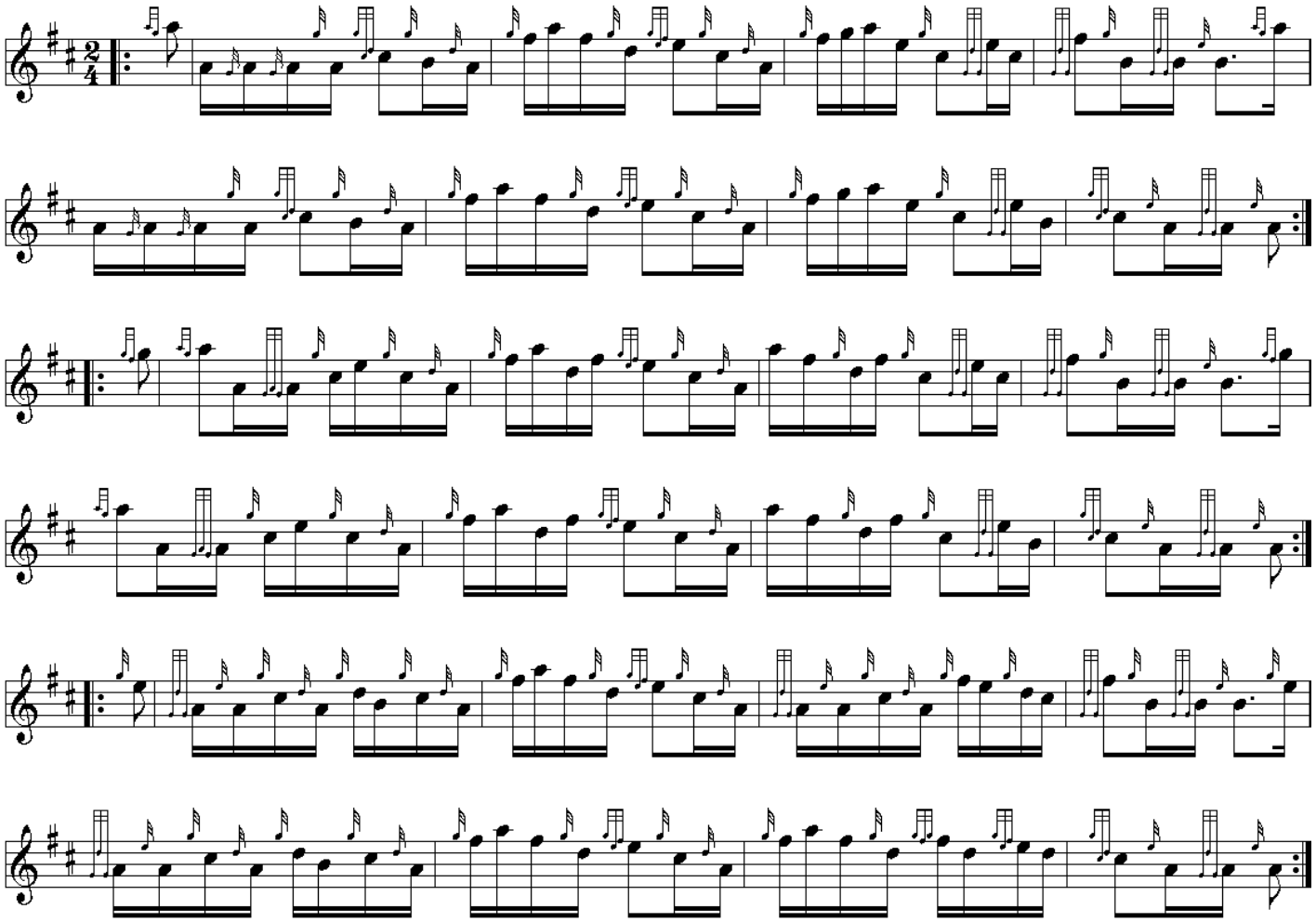
He was born in 1883 and came from a very long running military family, with several serving officers from the 18th and 19th century. His father Col. Mackay J. Scobie fought in the Ashanti Expedition of 1875.

The young Ian Hamilton joined the Essex regiment in 1904, he would serve in Bangalore in 1906 and some other posts around the Empire, however I have not been able to discern much more information on this time yet. In 1910 he would be made a fellow of the Society of Antiquities of Scotland. A few years after this prestigious appointment he would publish "An old Highland Fencible Corps" in 1914 as the first of his many books and writings, later one when recovering from wounds in Malta the newspapers reported that he had been wounded and was the other of that very well-regarded work from the previous year.

The now Captain Ian Hamilton Mackay-Scobie accompanied the 1st Battalion Essex Regiment to Gallipoli in April 1915, here he led men in the initial landings and took part in some heavy fighting before being wounded in the hand, Captain Mackay-Scobie would spend time recovering in Malta for this injury before transferring to the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, from mid 1915 onwards.

Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders

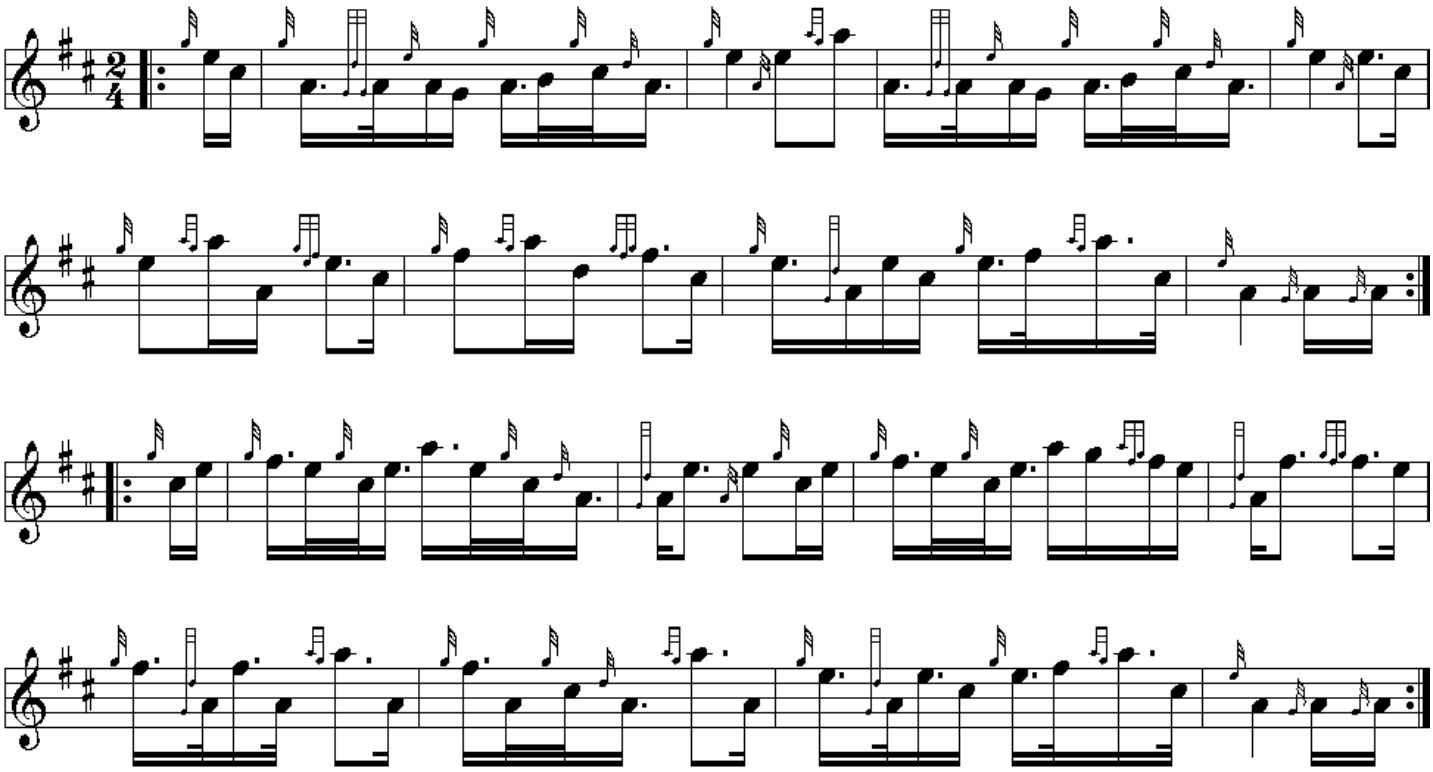
The 1st Batt. (72nd) S.H. Entry into Baghdad, March 1917 Quickstep Capt. Mackey-Scobier



Baghdad

The 2nd Battalion Black Watch landed at Marseille as part of the Bareilly Brigade in the 7th (Meerut) Division in October 1914 for service on the Western Front. It took part in the defense of Givenchy in December 1915 and then moved to Mesopotamia later that month and saw action during the siege of Kut in Spring 1916, the fall of Baghdad in March 1917 and the Battle of Istabulat in April 1917. It transferred to Palestine in January 1918 and took part in the Battle of Megiddo in September 1918.

Baghdad Slow March PM Keith



Lt. Col. R.J.L. Ogilby, D.S.O.

2nd Battalion London Scottish Entry into Jerusalem December 9, 1917

On the morning of December 9, 1917, after Turkish troops move out of the region after only a single day's fighting, officials of the Holy City of Jerusalem offer the keys to the city to encroaching British troops.

The British, led by General Edmund Allenby, who had arrived from the Western Front the previous June to take over the command in Egypt, entered the Holy City two days later under strict instructions from London on how not to appear disrespectful to the city, its people, or its traditions. Allenby entered Jerusalem on foot—in deliberate contrast to Kaiser Wilhelm's more flamboyant entrance on horseback in 1898—and no Allied flags were flown over the city, while Muslim troops from India were dispatched to guard the religious landmark the Dome of the Rock.

Colonel Robert James Leslie Ogilby, DSO, DL (1880–1964), was a senior British Army officer who commanded a battalion of the London Scottish Regiment in the First World War and was later the regiment's Honorary Colonel. Having joined the General Reserve of Officers immediately following Britain's declaration of war against Germany, he was appointed a temporary Captain in his old regiment, the Irish Dragoons, in February 1915. By May 1916 he had been promoted Major and was second-in-command of the 7th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment when engaged in heavy fighting during the Battle of the Somme. He was advanced to Lieutenant-Colonel in the same year and in September was given command of the 2nd/14th London Regiment, the London Scottish. In November he led this Territorial battalion, part of the 60th Division, to reinforce the allied army on the Salonica front.

The battalion saw action during the Second Battle of Doiran, and Ogilby was mentioned for gallantry in General Milne's half-yearly dispatches of March and October 1917. By the latter date he had already spent three months with his unit in Egypt and Palestine; he was mentioned for his service in the latter theatre in General Allenby's dispatches of January 1918. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in the same month.

As part of 60th Division, Ogilby's battalion saw considerable action in Palestine (where its soldiers accounted for two of the three Victoria Crosses won by men of the London Scottish) and made an important contribution to carrying the British line forward from Beersheba to Jerusalem. After the Battle of Jerusalem the battalion, headed by its pipes, was the first to enter the city as a formed body.

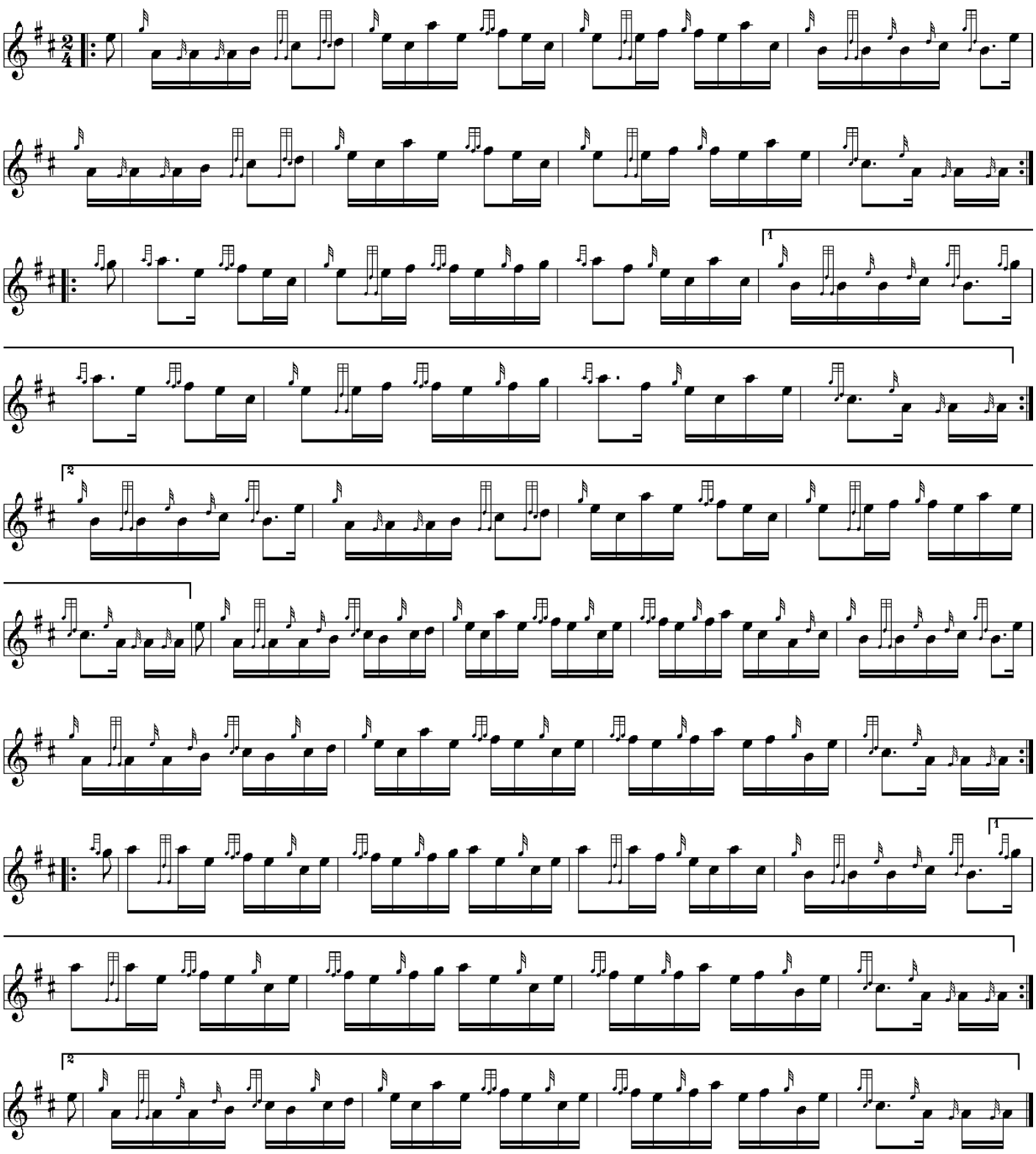
St Andrew's Church, Jerusalem was later built as a tribute to Scottish soldiers who fell in the Palestine campaign, and Ogilby was present when the memorial for the London Scottish casualties was unveiled there in 1934.

Leaving Palestine and returning to France in June 1918, Ogilby's battalion was in action during the Advance in Flanders as part of the 30th Division, contributing to the capture of the Dranoutre Ridge in August. For his "very fine work" in the latter operation Ogilby was mentioned in Field Marshal Haig's dispatches and awarded a bar to his DSO. The award citation referred to the "particularly fine example of energy and fearlessness he set to his men at a critical time" and to the value of his personal reconnaissance which led to adjustment of his dispositions and enhanced ability to withstand counter-attack.

Ogilby's battalion was attempting to bridge the River Scheldt when the November Armistice was announced. He relinquished his command in January 1919 and was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre in March. He retired from Territorial service in July, retaining his rank of lieutenant-colonel.

Lt. Col. R.J.L. Ogilby, D.S.O. March Piper J.W. Macmillan

2nd Btn. London Scottish Entry into Jerusalem December 9th, 1917



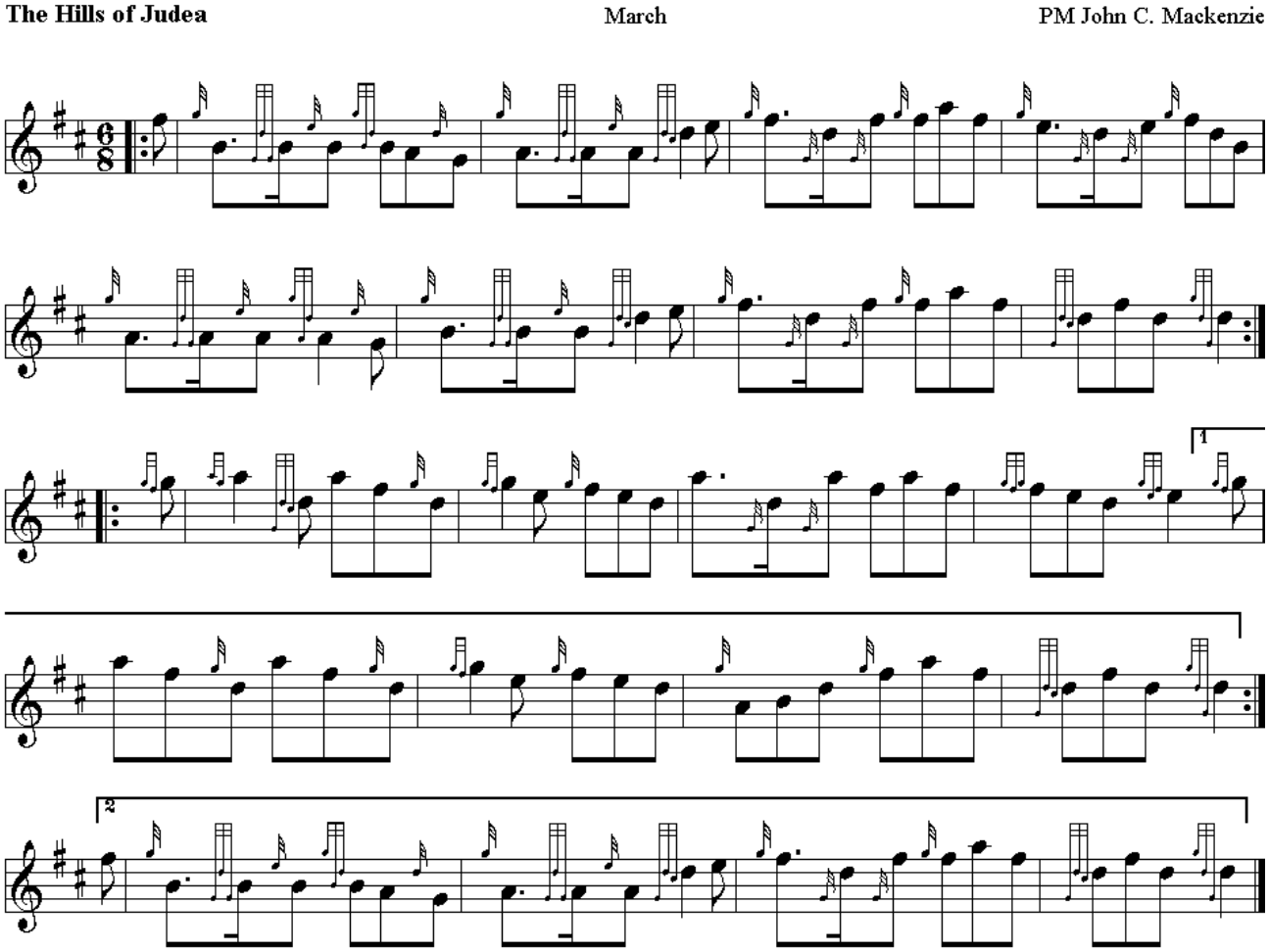
The Hills of Judea

The Battle of Jerusalem occurred when fighting for the city developed from November 17, continuing after the surrender until December 30, 1917, to secure the final objective of the Southern Palestine Offensive during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign of World War I. Before Jerusalem could be secured, two battles were recognized by the British as being fought in the Judean Hills to the north and east of the Hebron–Junction Station line.

This series of battles was successfully fought by the British Empire's XX Corps, XXI Corps, and the Desert Mounted Corps against strong opposition from the Yildirim Army Group's Seventh Army in the Judean Hills and the Eighth Army north of Jaffa on the Mediterranean coast. The loss of Jaffa and Jerusalem, together with the loss of 50 miles of territory during the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) advance from Gaza, after the capture of Beersheba, Gaza, Hareira and Sheria, Tel el Khuweilfe and the Battle of Mughar Ridge, constituted a grave setback for the Ottoman Army and the Ottoman Empire.

As a result of these victories, British Empire forces captured Jerusalem and established a new strategically strong fortified line. This line ran from well to the north of Jaffa on the maritime plain, across the Judean Hills to Bireh north of Jerusalem, and continued eastwards of the Mount of Olives.

The tune, ***The Hills of Judea*** was composed by Pipe Major John C. Mackenzie of the 18th Battalion Highland Light Infantry. The 18th (Service) Battalion (4th Glasgow) landed in France as part of the 106th Brigade in the 35th Division in February 1916 for service on the Western Front.

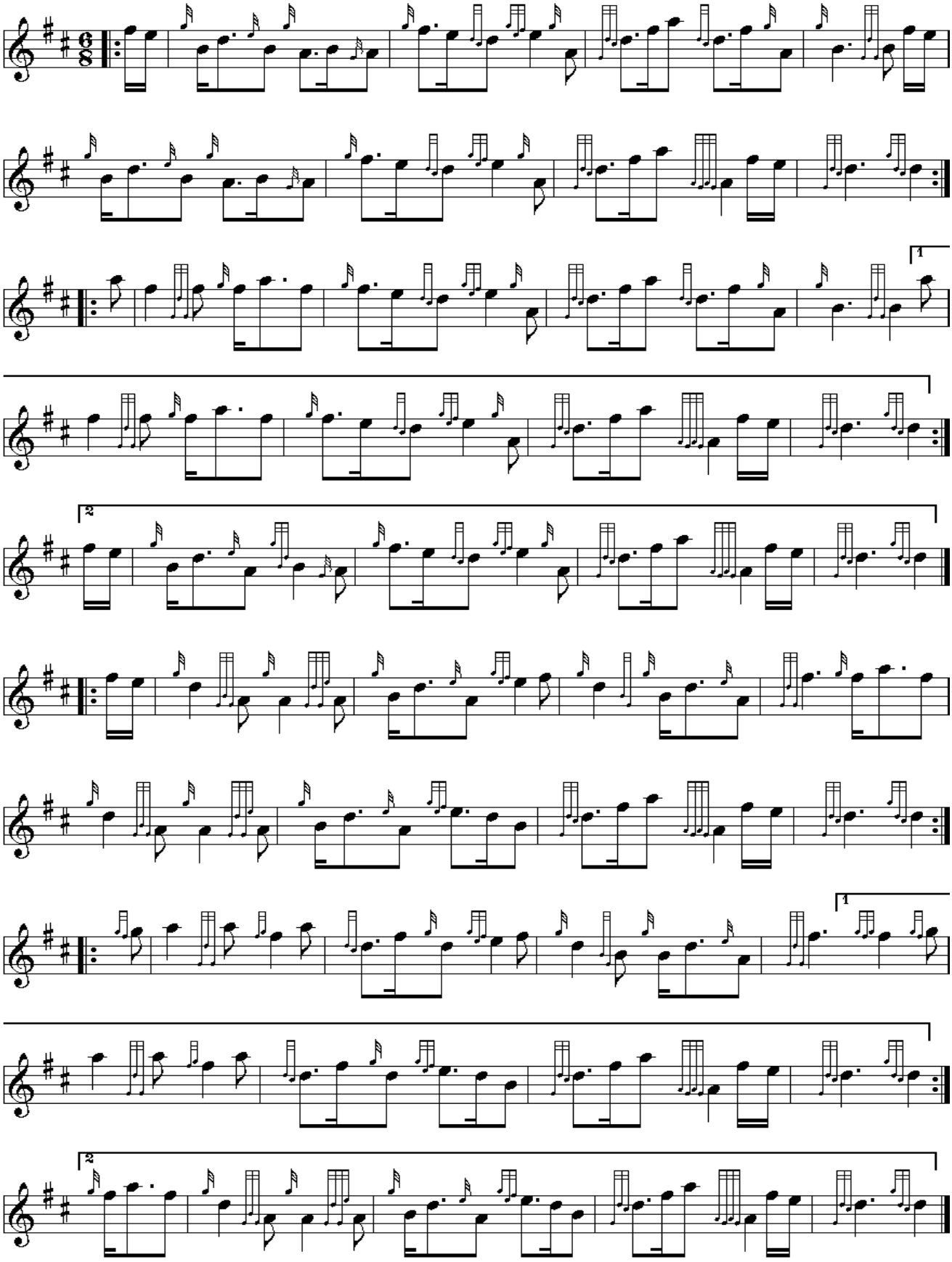


The Plains of Gaza

The coastal city of Gaza was the heart of the main Turkish defensive position in southern Palestine. Three major battles were launched in 1917 by British and dominion forces to capture Gaza - only the third succeeded in this object.

The first battle of Gaza took place on 26 March 1917. Two British infantry divisions were to attack it from the south while the mounted troops of the Desert Column would attack from the flanks and north. When the attack was launched the infantry made slow progress but the mounted troops succeeded in capturing high ground to the north of the city and advancing into it. Concerned by the lack of progress made by the infantry, and fearing the water supplies vital for the mounted troops would not be captured that night, Lieutenant General Dobell, the British officer commanding the operation, ordered a withdrawal at dusk. The next morning, after realizing his mistake, Dobell attempted to resume the battle with the infantry, but with the troops exhausted and the Turks having received reinforcements, the attack floundered.

The tune ***The Plains of Gaza/Bencorruma*** was composed by Pipe Major Willie Ferguson.



The 7th Cameronians in Palestine

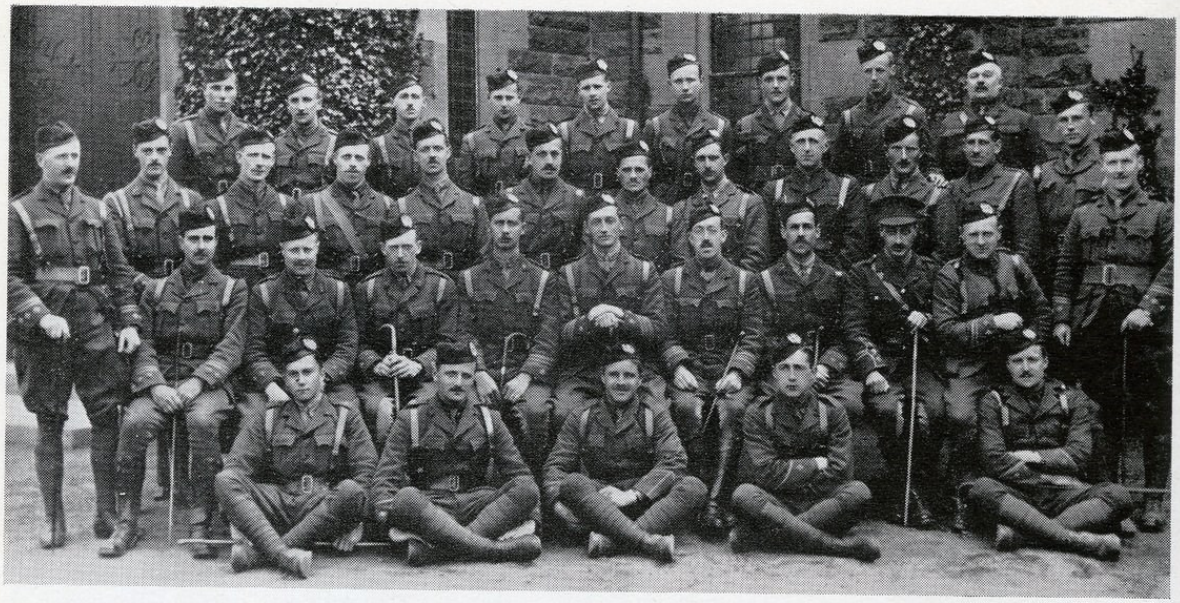
The British invasion of Ottoman-held Palestine in 1917–18 was the third campaign launched by the British against the Ottoman Turks in the Middle East in the First World War. It built on the advances made in Mesopotamia (Iraq) and the Sinai in 1916. Having defeated Ottoman forces in the Sinai Desert campaign, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) – which included the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade and the Imperial Camel Corps – attacked Gaza, the gateway to Palestine, in March 1917. But the First and Second Battles of Gaza ended in failure.

Following a major reorganization and with more thorough preparation, the British forces won a brilliant victory in the Third Battle of Gaza in October–November 1917. The EEF went on to capture Jaffa, most of southern Judea and the city of Jerusalem – a victory hailed as a 'Christmas present for the British nation'.

After a series of raids into Jordan in early 1918 were beaten back, the EEF went on the defensive for some months because of the urgent need for reinforcements on the Western Front. A final drive, beginning with the Battle of Megiddo in September 1918, led to the destruction of three Ottoman field armies, the capture of 76,000 prisoners of war and the rapid conquest of Palestine, Jordan and southern Syria. Within two weeks the EEF's old enemy was in total disarray and the war in the Middle East was effectively over.

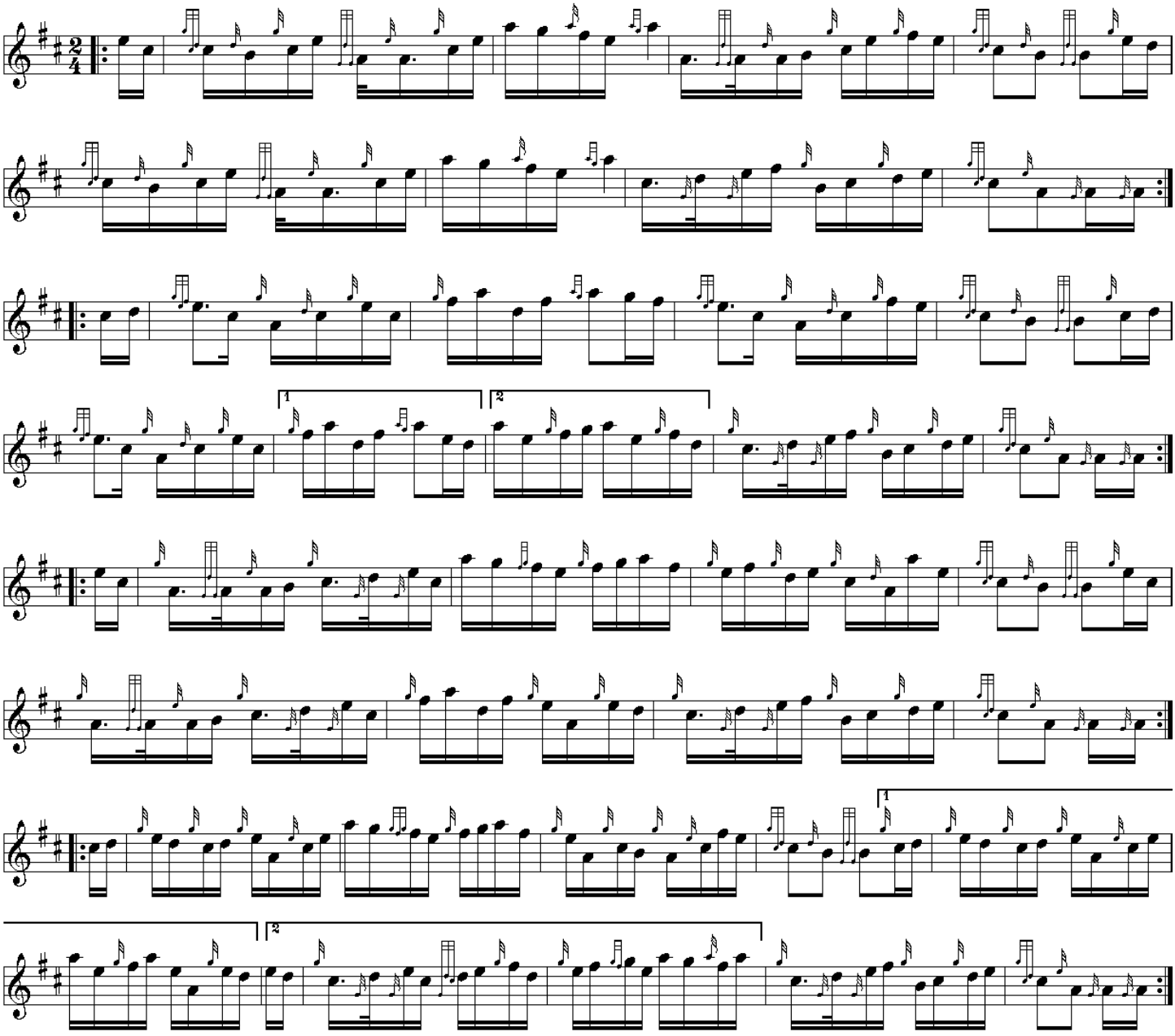
The 7th Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) were in action in late April at Dueidar and in The Battle of Romani in early August. In 1917, they were in action in the Palestine campaign.

The tune, ***The 7th Cameronians in Palestine*** was composed by Pipe Major E.J. MacPherson.



7th Battalion Officers, 1914

Back: 2nd Lieut. Haugh, Lieut. C. P. Will, Lieut. A. Stanley Nichol, 2nd Lieut. Cecil Weir, 2nd Lieut. D. Taylor, 2nd Lieut. J. Maclay, 2nd Lieut. Alistair Duff, 2nd Lieut. Hector McLean, Captain J. Phillips. *2nd Row:* Captain R. Johnstone, Lieut. W. Law, Lieut. J. A. McMillan, 2nd Lieut. W. Leggat, Lieut. J. Kirkwood, Lieut. J. Anderson, Lieut. W. Brown, Lieut. Ewing Nelson, 2nd Lieut. Norman Stuart, Lieut. Donald Nelson, Lieut. W. Mather, Lieut. Eric Watson, Captain Peter White-Whitton. *Sitting:* Captain R. Hutchison, Captain J. Howatt, Captain J. G. Macfarlane, Major A. Templeton, Lieut.-Colonel J. B. Wilson, Major R. T. Bird, Captain and Adjutant Vere Clerk, Captain Innes R.A.M.C., Captain R. Blair. *Front:* 2nd Lieut. G. Watson, 2nd Lieut. McIntyre, 2nd Lieut. Kerr, 2nd Lieut. R. Barr, Lieut. W. Duff.

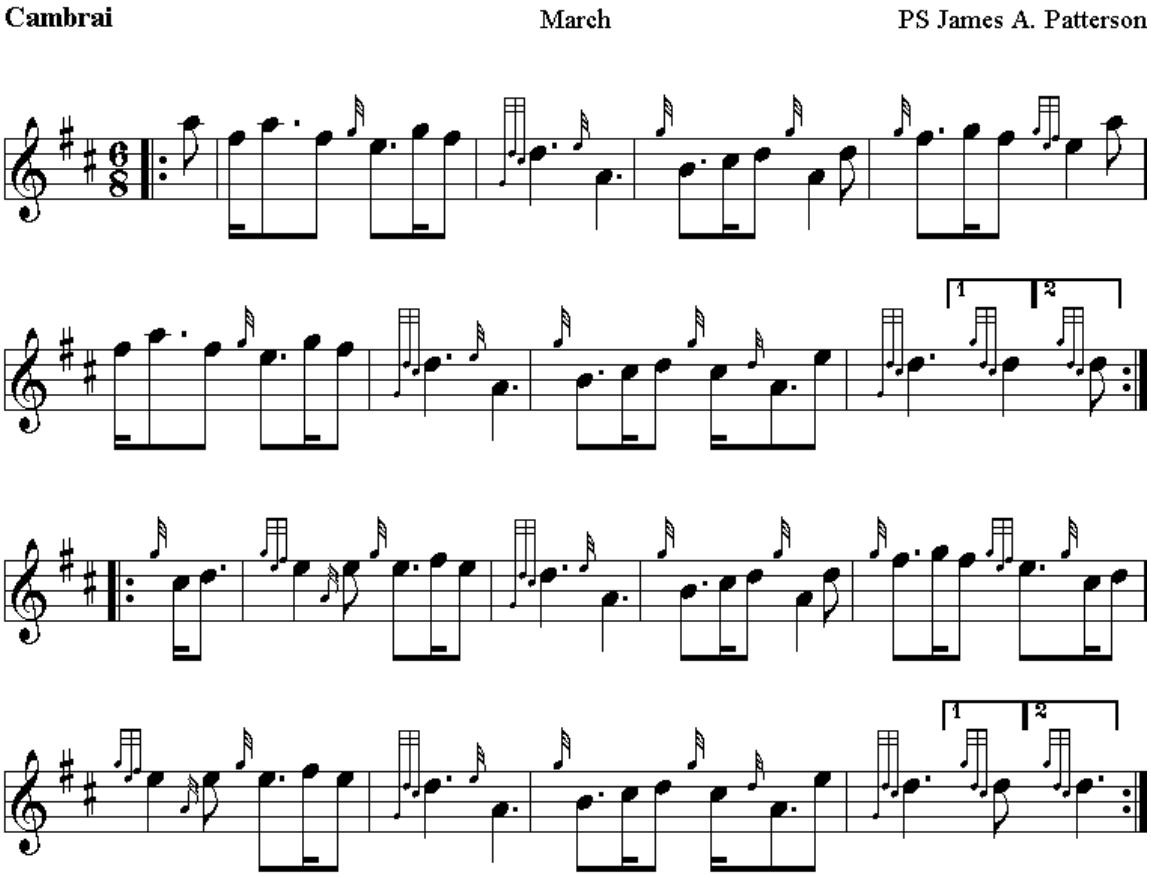


Cambrai

The Battle of Cambrai was a British attack, followed by the biggest German counter-attack against the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) since 1914. The town of Cambrai, in the department of Nord, in France, was an important supply center for the German *Siegfriedstellung* (known to the British as the Hindenburg Line) and capture of the town and the nearby Bourlon Ridge would threaten the rear of the German line to the north. Major General Henry Tudor, Commander, Royal Artillery (CRA), of the 9th (Scottish) Division, advocated the use of new artillery-infantry tactics on his sector of the front. During preparations, J. F. C. Fuller, a staff officer with the Tank Corps, looked for places to use tanks for raids. General Julian Byng, commander of the Third Army, decided to combine both plans. The French and British armies had used tanks en masse earlier in 1917, although to considerably less effect.

After a big British success on the first day, mechanical unreliability, German artillery and infantry defenses exposed the frailties of the Mark IV tank. On the second day, only about half of the tanks were operational and British progress was limited. Numerous developments since 1915 matured at Cambrai, such as predicted artillery fire, sound ranging, infantry infiltration tactics, infantry-tank co-ordination and close air support. The techniques of industrial warfare continued to develop and played a vital part during the Hundred Days Offensive in 1918, along with replacement of the Mark IV tank with improved types. The rapid reinforcement and defense of Bourlon Ridge by the Germans, as well as their counter-attack, were also notable achievements, which gave the Germans hope that an offensive strategy could end the war before American mobilization became overwhelming.

The tune, ***Cambrai*** was composed by Pipe Sergeant James A. Patterson on Cyprus in 1968 to commemorate the Regimental Birthday.

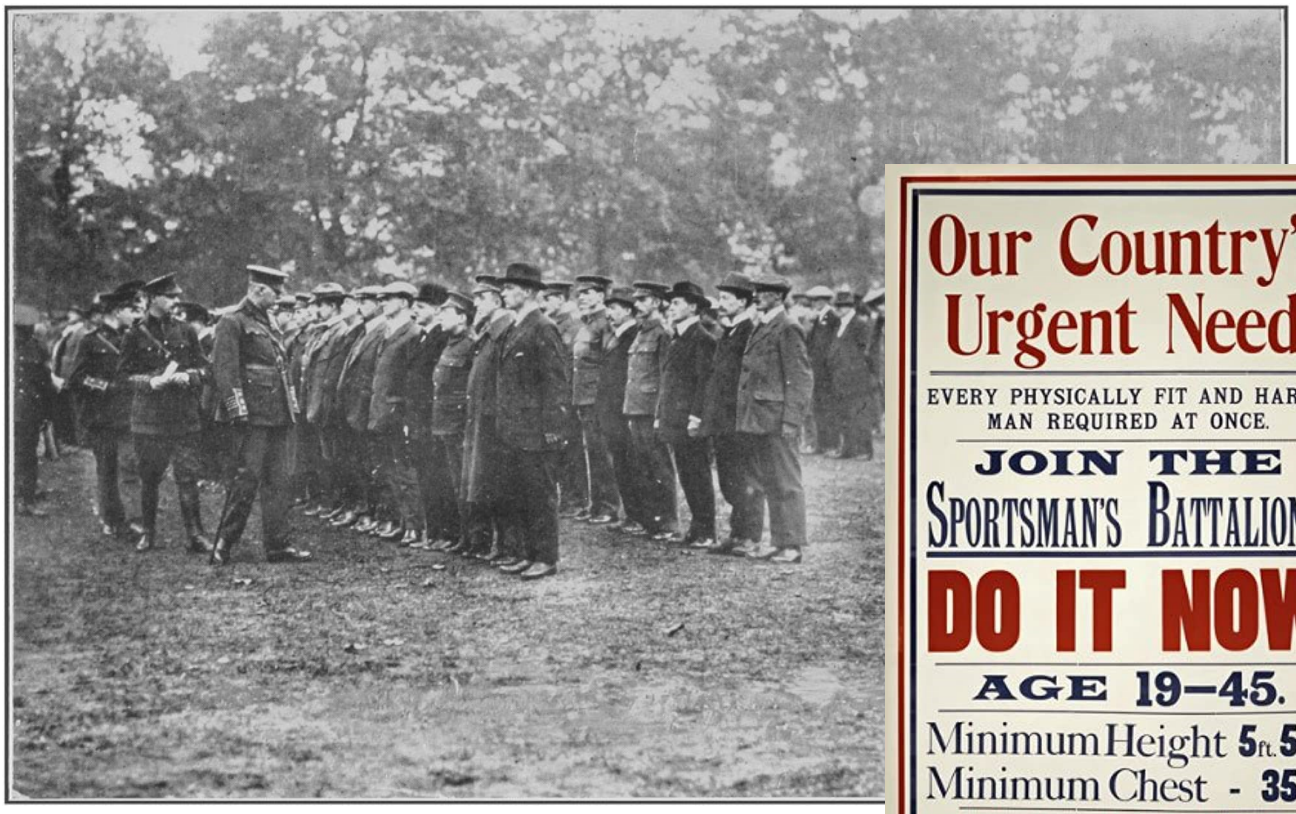


The 23rd Royal Fusiliers Advance on Cambrai

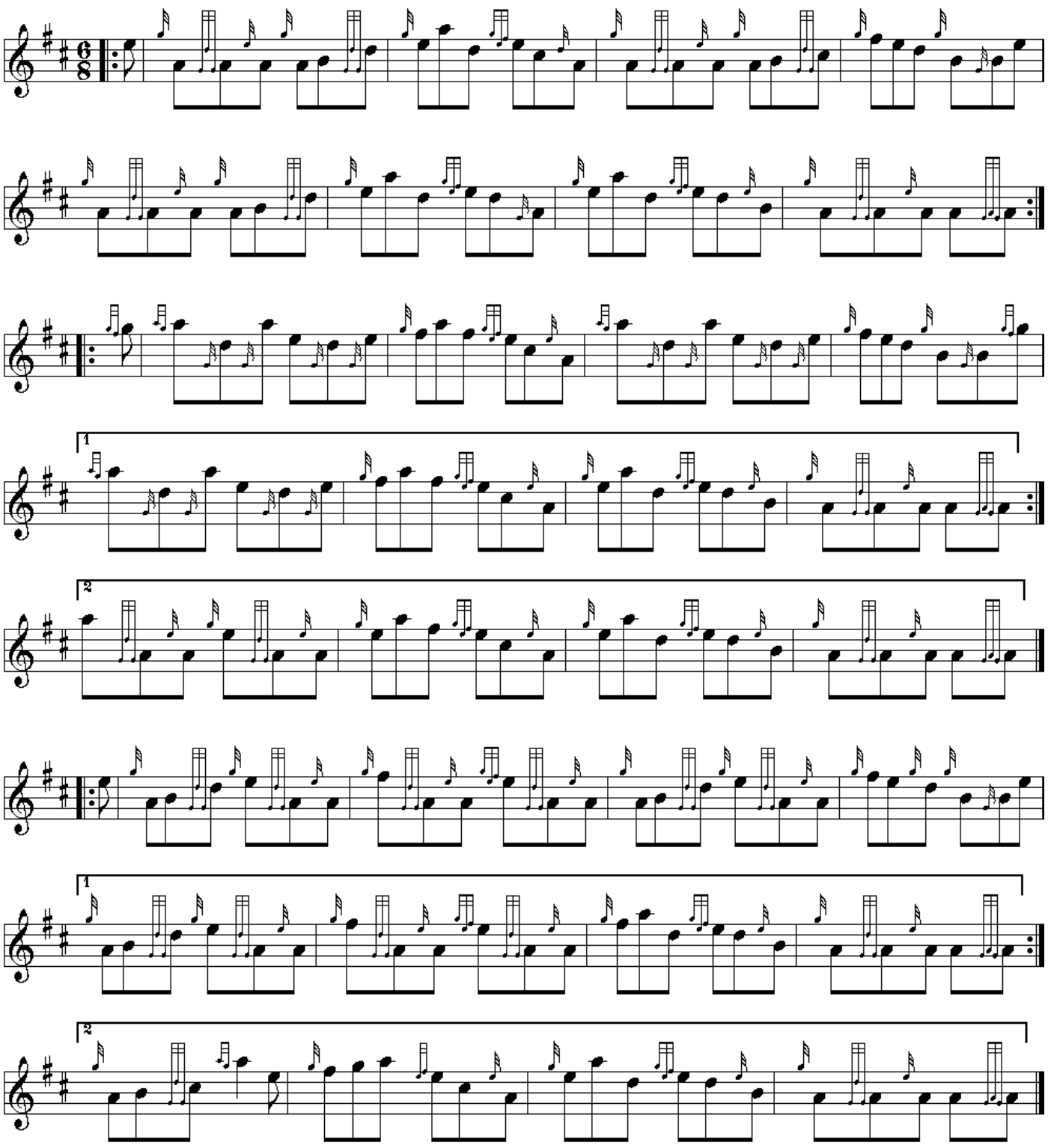
The 23rd (1st Sportsman's) Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) was raised at the Hotel Cecil in the Strand, London on September 25, 1914 by E. Cunliffe-Owen.

The Sportsman's Battalions, also known as the 23rd (Service) Battalion and 24th (Service) Battalion (2nd Sportsman's), Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) were among the Pals battalions formed by the British Army in the early stages of the First World War. Rather than be taken from a small geographical area, these particular battalions were largely made up of men who had made their name in sports such as cricket, golf, boxing and football or the media. It was intended for upper and middle class men, physically fit, able to shoot and ride, up to the age of 45.

In June 1915, they joined the 99th Brigade, 33rd Division at Clipstone camp near Mansfield Nottinghamshire in July 1915. In August they moved to Salisbury Plain for final training and firing practice. In November, they received orders to prepare to proceed to France and the Divisional Artillery and Train and were replaced by the units raised for the 54th (East Anglian) Division. By the 21st of November, the 33rd Division had concentrated near Morbeque. On the 25th of November, 1915, the Battalion transferred to 2nd Division as part of an exchange to strengthen the inexperienced 33rd Division. They took part in the Winter Operations of 1914-1915 and in 1915 saw action at The Battle of Festubert and The Battle of Loos. In 1916, they fought at the Battles of the Somme, including the Battle of Deville Wood and the Operations on the Ancre. In 1917, they were in action during The Term Retreat to the Hindenburg Line, the Battles of Arras, and The Battle of Cambrai.



The 23rd Royal Fusiliers Advance on Cambrai March John Adamson

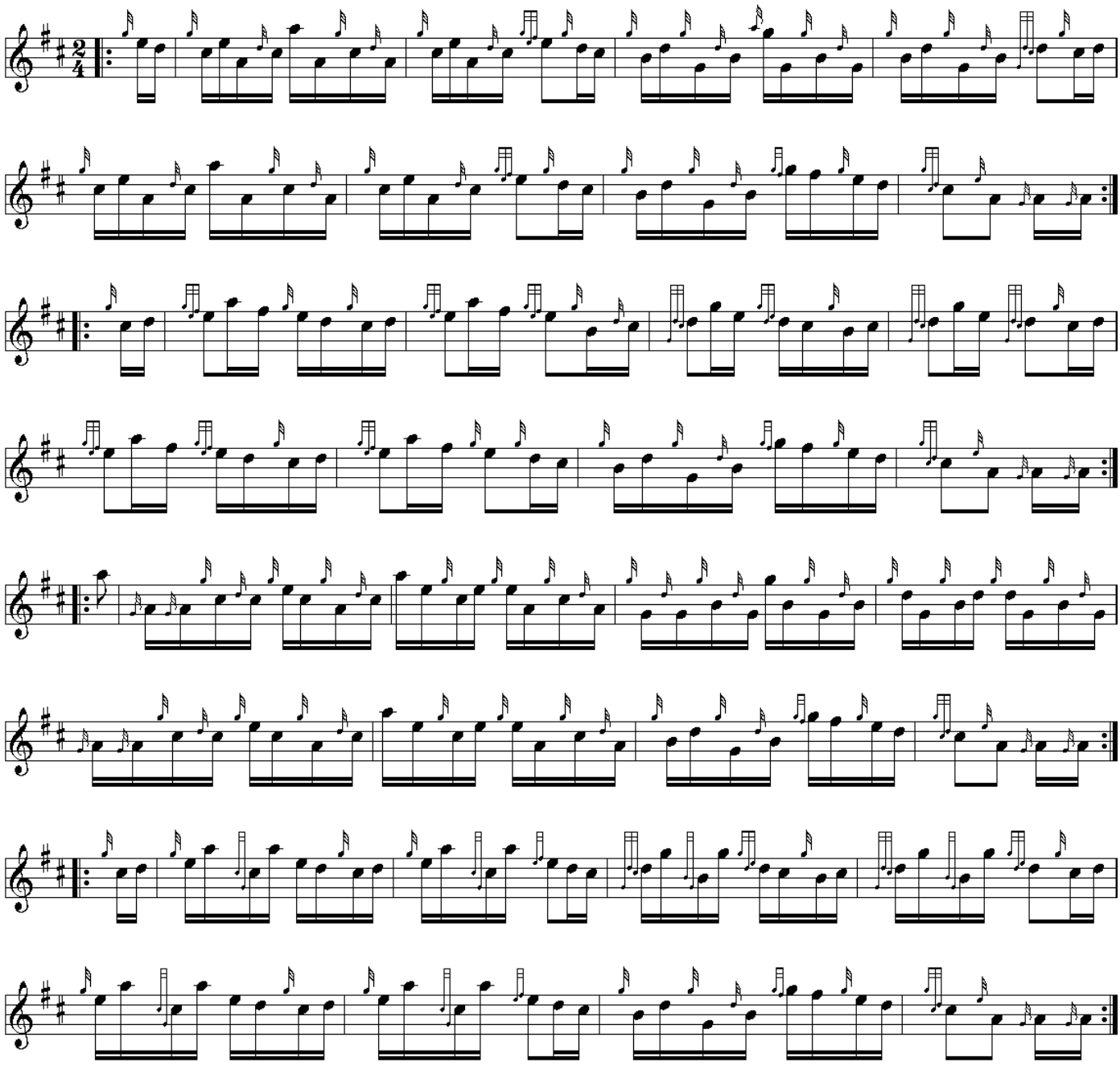


Glasgow Highlanders in Cambrai

The Glasgow Highlanders was a former infantry regiment of the British Army, part of the Territorial Force, later renamed the Territorial Army. The regiment eventually became a Volunteer Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) in 1881.

The 2nd Battalion landed at Boulogne-sur-Mer as part of the 5th Brigade in the 2nd Division in August 1914 for service on the Western Front. It saw action at the Battle of Aisne in September 1914, the Battle of Ypres in November 1914, the Battle of Loos in October 1915, the Battle of the Somme in Summer 1916, the Battle of Arras in April 1917, the Battle of Cambrai in December 1917 and the advance to the Hindenburg Line in September 1918.

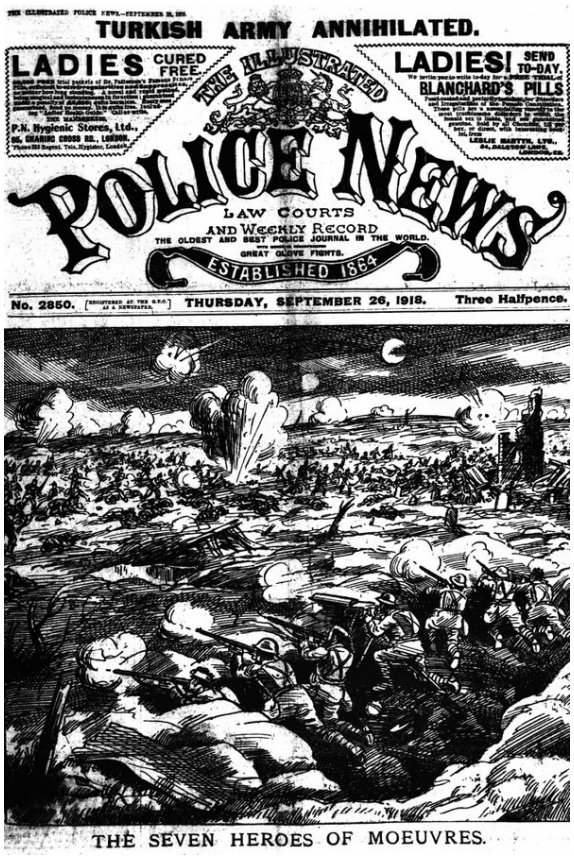
The tune, ***Glasgow Highlanders at Cambrai*** was composed by Pipe Major T. Baillie of the 9th Battalion. At first pipers were used as orderlies, ammunition carriers, and similar duties; and, after active operations, as bearers. As far as possible they were, however, kept out of the front line, as being too valuable to lose. On one occasion, when the battalion had to make a demonstration to test the strength of the enemy, pipers were sent up to the front line to play. Baillie was discharged after 31 years of service.



Seven Heroes of Moeuvres

Moeuvres is a village west of Cambrai and north of the main Cambrai to Bapaume route. Moeuvres remained in German hands during the Battle of Cambrai in spite of three days of desperate attack by the 36th (Ulster) Division.

During the German advance to retake Moeuvres, one Corporal and six men of the Highland Light Infantry held the post near Moeuvres against a superior German attack. Their heroism was captured by a Reuter's correspondence in France and telegraphed on September 22.


TURKISH ARMY ANNIHILATED.

LADIES CURED FREE. LADIES! SEND TO-DAY. BLANCHARD'S PILLS

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GREAT GLOVE FIGHTS.

ESTABLISHED 1864

No. 2850. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1918. Three Halfpence.

THE SEVEN HEROES OF MOEUVRES.

I have just heard of a feat of velour and endurance which deserves to be recorded in letters of virgin gold. When the heavy German attack of Tuesday afternoon forced back the scattered garrison of Moeuvre to a line well west of the village, one of our posts established near the cemetery was reported to be holding out by the troops which were obliges to retire from the vicinity of it. As this post was only held by a corporal and six men of the Highland Light Infantry it was concluded it would speedily be mopped up by the enemy.

But when our counter-attack at seven o'clock on Thursday evening drove the Germans back to, and even beyond, the line whence they had delivered their assault, the gallant Scotsmen were still found to be holding out. They were rather weak and their eyes were red-ringed, but they were able to echo the tumultuous cheering of their comrades with triumphant lustiness.

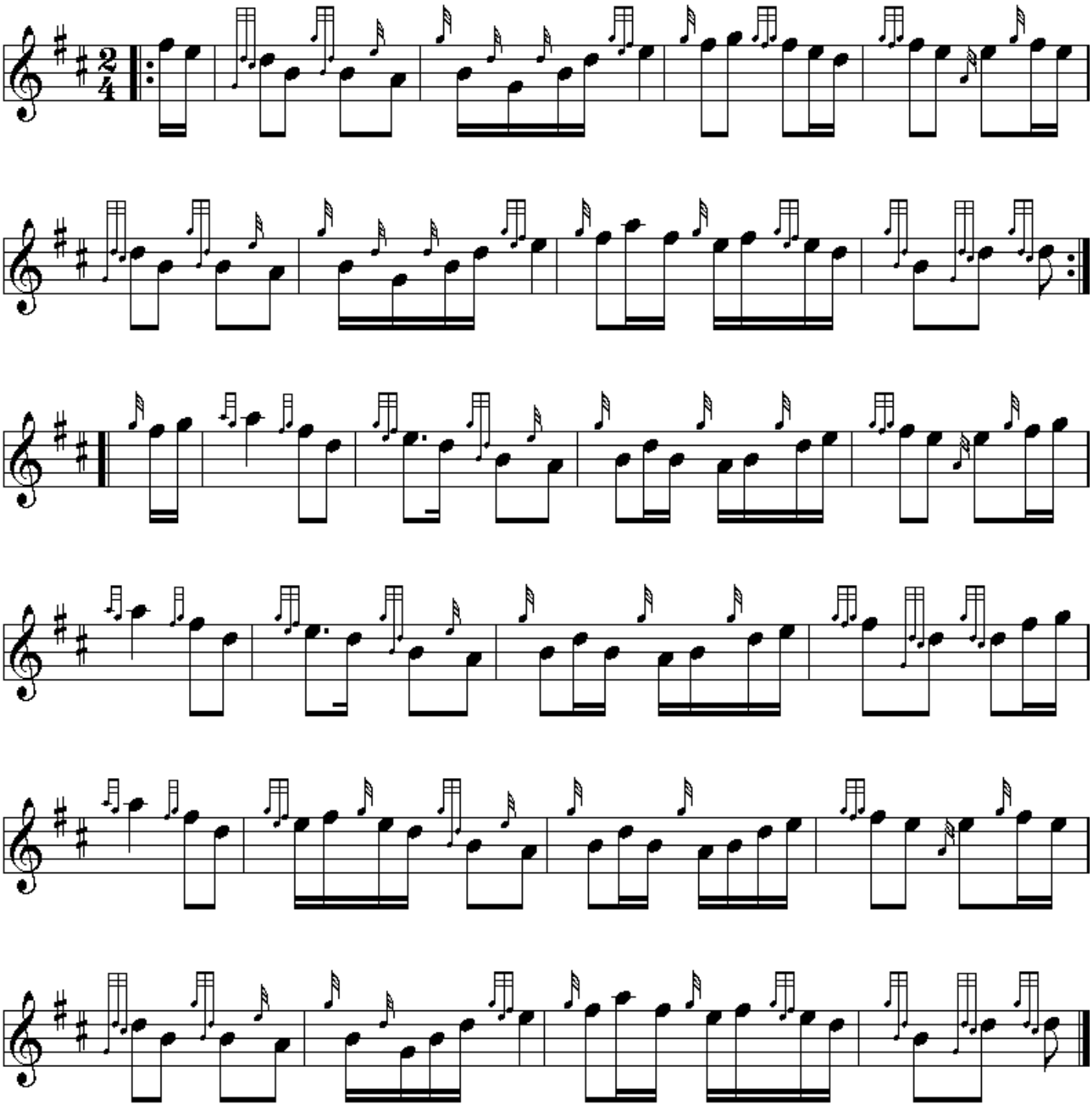
A regular cordon of corpses around the post told how fiercely they had been assailed.

They had practically no effective shelter against the slashing rain storms, and were sodden through much of the time. Ceaseless vigilance was necessary to precent the enemy getting within bombing distance, and although they knew what they were right in the midst of the foe, they never doubted that their comrades would be coming back, and their concern was whether their ammunition would hold out meanwhile.

Their rations were all gone and they were ravenous. In any event, they were not going to surrender, but when it became impossible to hold the little fort any longer meant to make a sortie and try to get through to the British outpost line.

Here was the spirit of Rorke's Drift over again, but whereas with their 80 heroes of the old 24th Foot, Chard and Bromhead were only called upon to hold up an army 4000 strong throughout the night of January 24, 1879, these seven indominable Scotsmen stuck to their post for 48 hours.

Seven Heroes of Moeuvres March T. Menzies Rodger



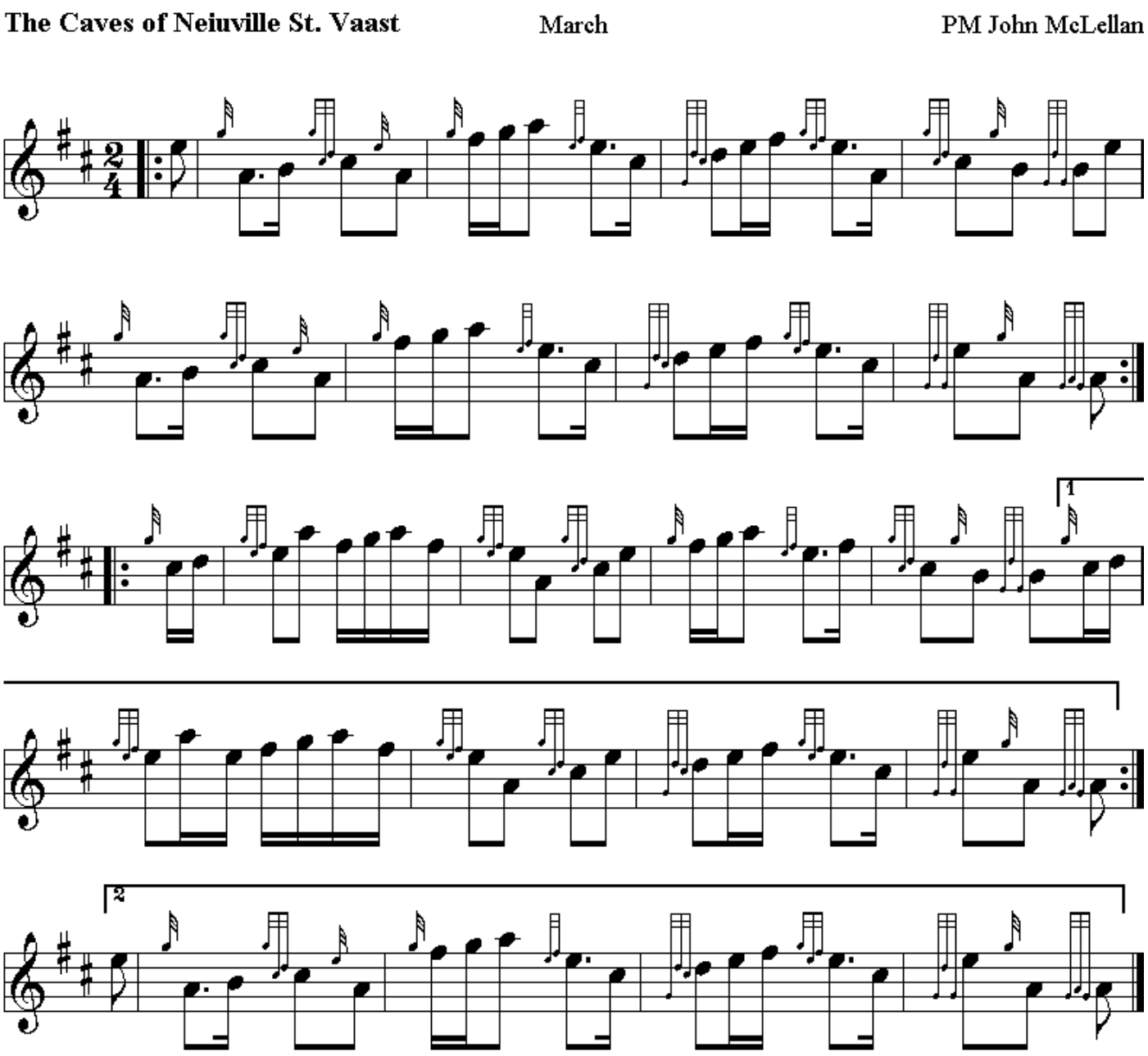
The Caves of Neiuville St. Vaast

In World War I, Neuville-Saint-Vaast was the location of intense mining activity by the tunnelling companies of the Royal Engineers. In March 1916, the New Zealand Tunnelling Company relieved the French *7/1 compagnie d'ingénieurs territoriaux* in the "Labyrinth" sector of the Western Front. The German "Labyrinth" stronghold was located near Neuville-Saint-Vaast, between Roclincourt and Écurie and not far from Notre Dame de Lorette. On March 29, 1916, the New Zealand Tunnelling Company exchanged position with the 185th Tunnelling Company and moved to Roclincourt-Chantecler, south of their old sector. The 176th Tunnelling Company moved to Neuville-Saint-Vaast in April 1916 and remained there for a considerable time, as did the 172nd Tunnelling Company, which was relieved at Neuville-Saint-Vaast by the 2nd Australian Tunnelling Company in May 1916.

Buried more than 30 feet below the famous battlefield is Maison Blanche — a centuries-old quarry that became a secret hideout for hundreds of Canadian soldiers. The cave was used as a staging ground in the days and weeks leading up to the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The chalk walls contain 250 images — drawings and carvings of the soldiers' names, regiment numbers and pictures of wives and girlfriends back home. They even carved a mailbox into the cave wall, where soldiers could leave letters to loved ones.

After the war, Maison Blanche was forgotten. The quarry was abandoned and eventually used as a dumping ground by a local farmer. In 2007, an archeologist stumbled upon the underground time capsule. A group of Canadian, British and French volunteers have since worked to connect the cave drawings to the soldiers behind them.

The tune, ***The Caves of Neiuville St. Vaast*** was composed by Pipe Major John McLellan.



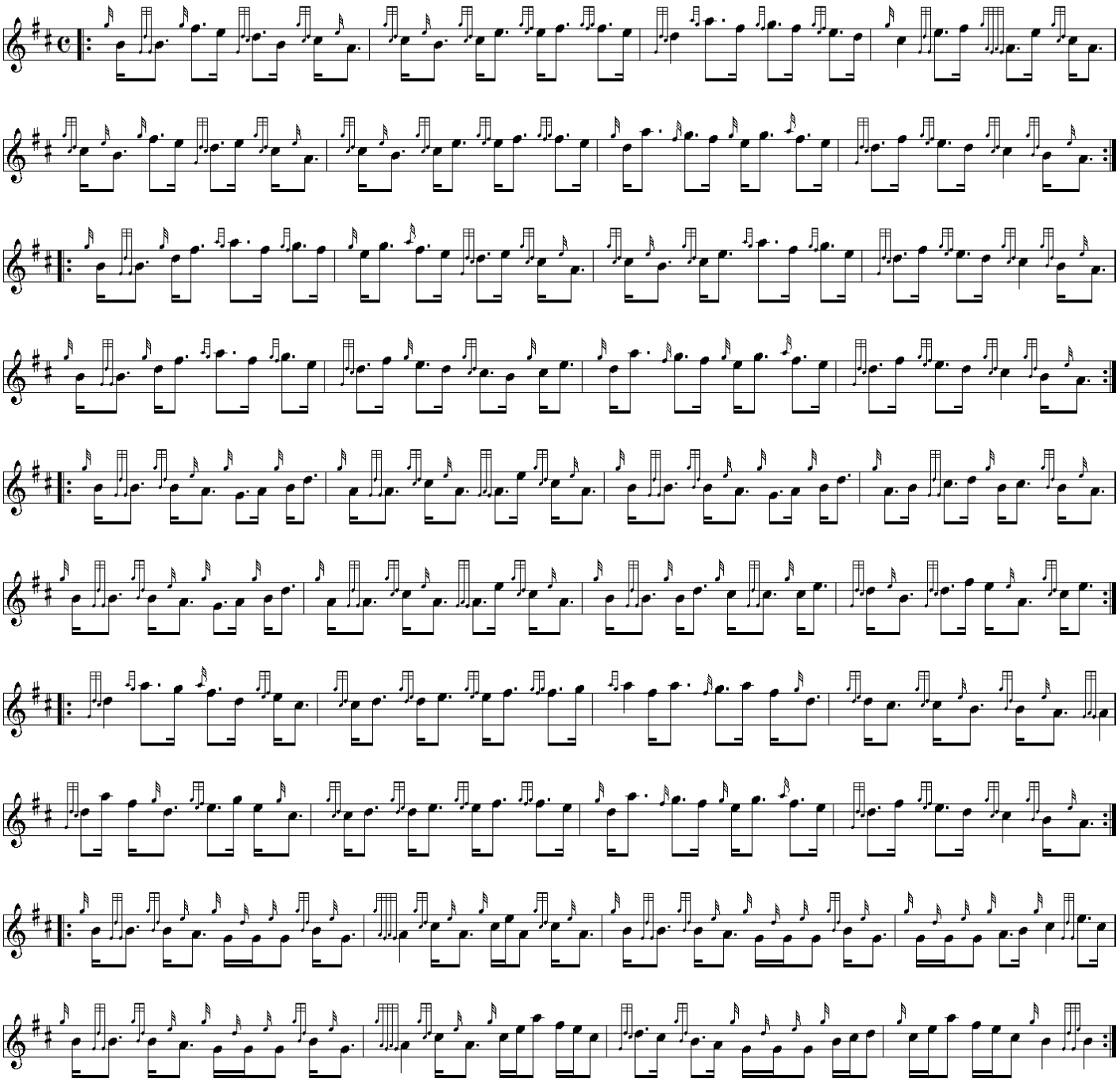
The Eve of Vimy

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was part of the Battle of Arras, in the Pas-de-Calais department of France. The main combatants were the four divisions of the Canadian Corps in the First Army, against three divisions of the German 6th Army. The battle took place from April 9 to 12, 1917 at the beginning of the Battle of Arras, the first attack of the Nivelle Offensive, which was intended to attract German reserves from the French, before the French attempt at a decisive offensive on the Aisne and the Chemin des Dames ridge further south, several days later.

The Canadian Corps were to capture the German-held high ground of Vimy Ridge, an escarpment on the northern flank of the Arras front. This would protect the First Army and the Third Army farther south from German enfilade fire. Supported by a creeping barrage, the Canadian Corps captured most of the ridge during the first day. The village of Thélus fell during the second day, as did the crest of the ridge, once the Canadian Corps overran a salient against considerable German resistance. The final objective, a fortified knoll outside the village of Givenchy-en-Gohelle, fell to the Canadians on April 12. The 6th Army then retreated to the Oppy–Méricourt line.

Historians attribute the success of the Canadian Corps to technical and tactical innovation, meticulous planning, powerful artillery support and extensive training, as well as the inability of the 6th Army to properly apply the new German defensive doctrine. The battle was the first occasion when the four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force fought together and it was made a symbol of Canadian national achievement and sacrifice.

The tune, ***The Eve of Vimy*** was composed by Perry Gauthier. Gauthier moved to Toronto from northern Ontario in 1987. He is a full-time piper, filling his weeks with weddings, funerals and other gigs .



Storming Vimy

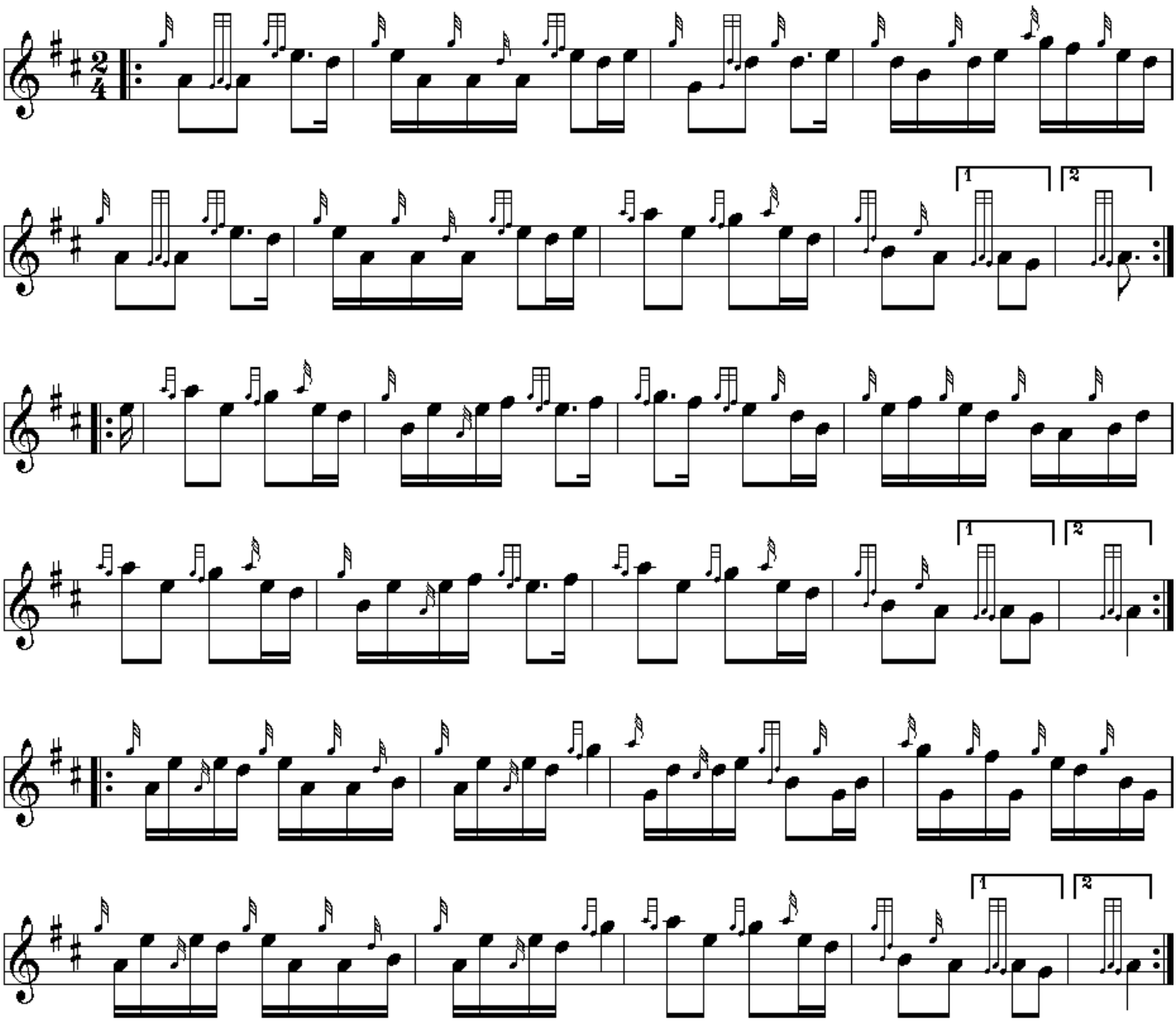
In the same vein, ***Storming Vemy*** commemorates the waves of Canadian soldiers who assaulted Vimy Ridge in April. 1917.

The tune was composed by Pipe Major A.B. Clark. Clark began piping in Oldcastle, Ontario where he grew up. His teacher was Pipe Major Colin Hill, grandson of Pipe Major Ron Hill 3rd Canadian Guards. At the age of 14 he was brought down to the Essex and Kent Scottish and recruited as a boy piper. In 1986, he joined the Essex and Kent Scottish and officially started his career as a piper in the Canadian Army. Clark was appointed Pipe Major of the Essex and Kent Scottish in 1992 and was at that time the youngest Pipe Major in the Canadian Army.

Clark joined the Ceremonial Guard in 1993 and in 2004 was appointed as Pipe Major. In 2006, he was promoted to Master Warrant Officer and in April 2007 was awarded the Commander Land Staff Commendation for services to Piping in the Army. He achieved much success in his piping career outside of the military. He holds a Piping Judge's Certificate from the Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario, a level 6 Graduate Certificate, and Senior Instructor's Certificate from the Institute of Piping in Scotland and is a member of the music comity of the PPBSO.

Clark has led many bands, including the Windsor Police band from 2000-2002 which boasted over 100 members within its Grade 2, Grade 4, parade band and teaching school. In 2010, he was the first winner of the Piping Centre shield at the Scottish Piping Society of London, UK and in the same year won the Open Piobaireachd Trophy at the New Hampshire Highland Games. He has been a piper in the Grade 1, 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band and is currently working with the Glengarry Pipe Band, And Pipe Major of the Ceremonial Guard and The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa.

Storming Vimy March PM A.B. Clark



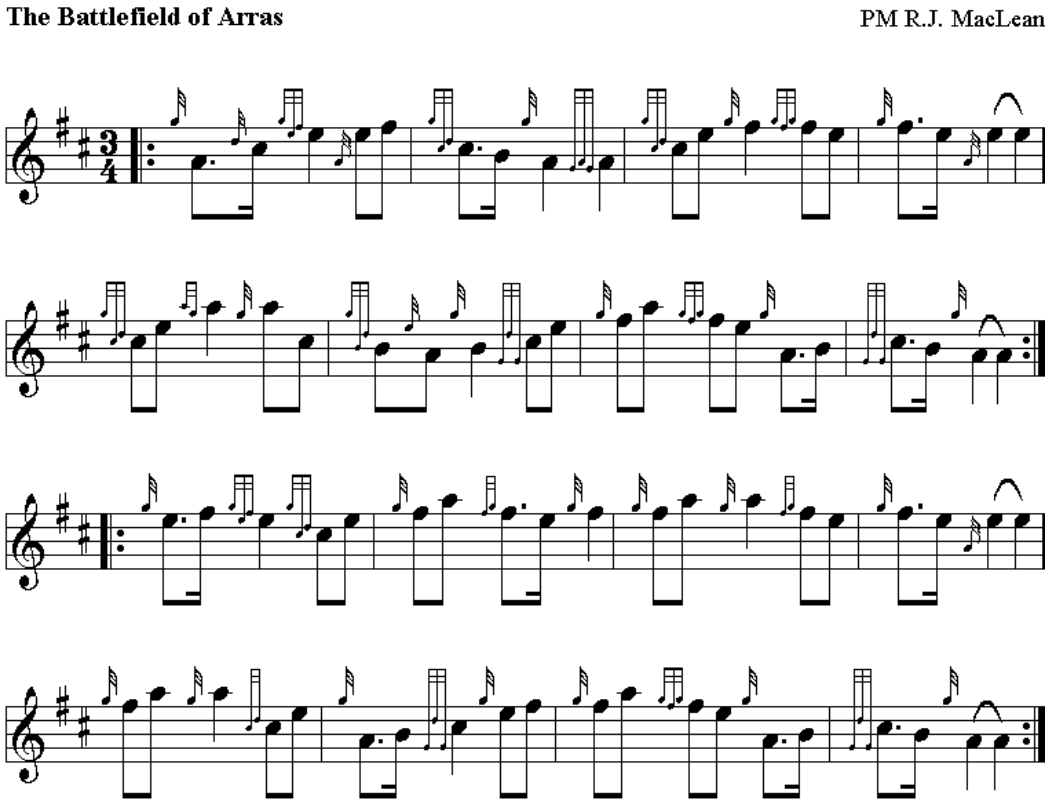
The Battlefield of Arras

From April 9 to May 16, 1917, British troops attacked German defenses near the French city of Arras on the Western Front. The British achieved the longest advance since trench warfare had begun, surpassing the record set by the French Sixth Army on July 1, 1916. The British advance slowed in the next few days and the German defense recovered. The battle became a costly stalemate for both sides and by the end of the battle, the British Third Army and the First Army had suffered about 160,000 casualties and the German 6th Army about 125,000.

For much of the war, the opposing armies on the Western Front were at stalemate, with a continuous line of trenches from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border. The Allied objective from early 1915 was to break through the German defenses into the open ground beyond and engage the numerically inferior German Army (*Westheer*) in a war of movement. The British attack at Arras was part of the Anglo-French Nivelle Offensive, the main part of which was the Second Battle of the Aisne 50 miles to the south. The aim of the French offensive was to break through the German defenses in forty-eight hours. At Arras the Canadians were to capture Vimy Ridge, dominating the Douai Plain to the east, advance towards Cambrai and divert German reserves from the French front.

The British effort was an assault on a relatively broad front between Vimy in the north-west and Bullecourt to the south-east. After a long preparatory bombardment, the Canadian Corps of the First Army in the north fought the Battle of Vimy Ridge, capturing the ridge. The Third Army in the center advanced astride the Scarpe River and in the south, the Fifth Army attacked the Hindenburg Line (*Siegfriedstellung*) but made few gains. The British armies then conducted smaller attacks to consolidate the new positions. Although these battles were generally successful in achieving limited aims, they came at considerable cost.

When the battle officially ended on May 16, the British had made significant advances but had been unable to achieve a breakthrough. New tactics and the equipment to exploit them had been used, showing that the British had absorbed the lessons of the Battle of the Somme and could mount set-piece attacks against field fortifications. After the Second Battle of Bullecourt (May 3-17), the Arras sector became a quiet front, typical of most of the war in the west, except for attacks on the Hindenburg Line and around Lens, culminating in the Canadian Battle of Hill 70 (August 15-25).



Crown and Anchor

The tune, ***Crown and Anchor*** was composed by piper P. McLean of the 9th Royal Scotts. The 9th Battalion, Royal Scots was the highland (kilted) battalion of the Royal Scots. Formed in 1900 as a part-time Volunteer Force battalion in Edinburgh, in 1908, as part of the Haldane Reforms, it became a Territorial Force battalion. During the First World War it served on the Western Front.

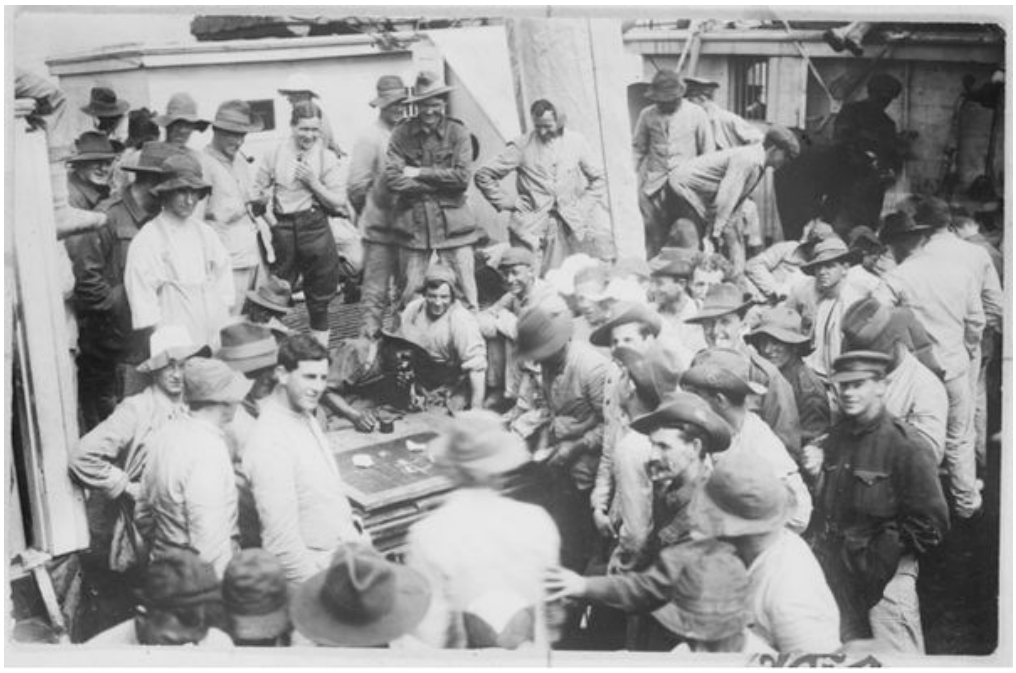
The title refers to a popular board game by the same name once popular on British naval ships as well as those in the British merchant and fishing fleets.

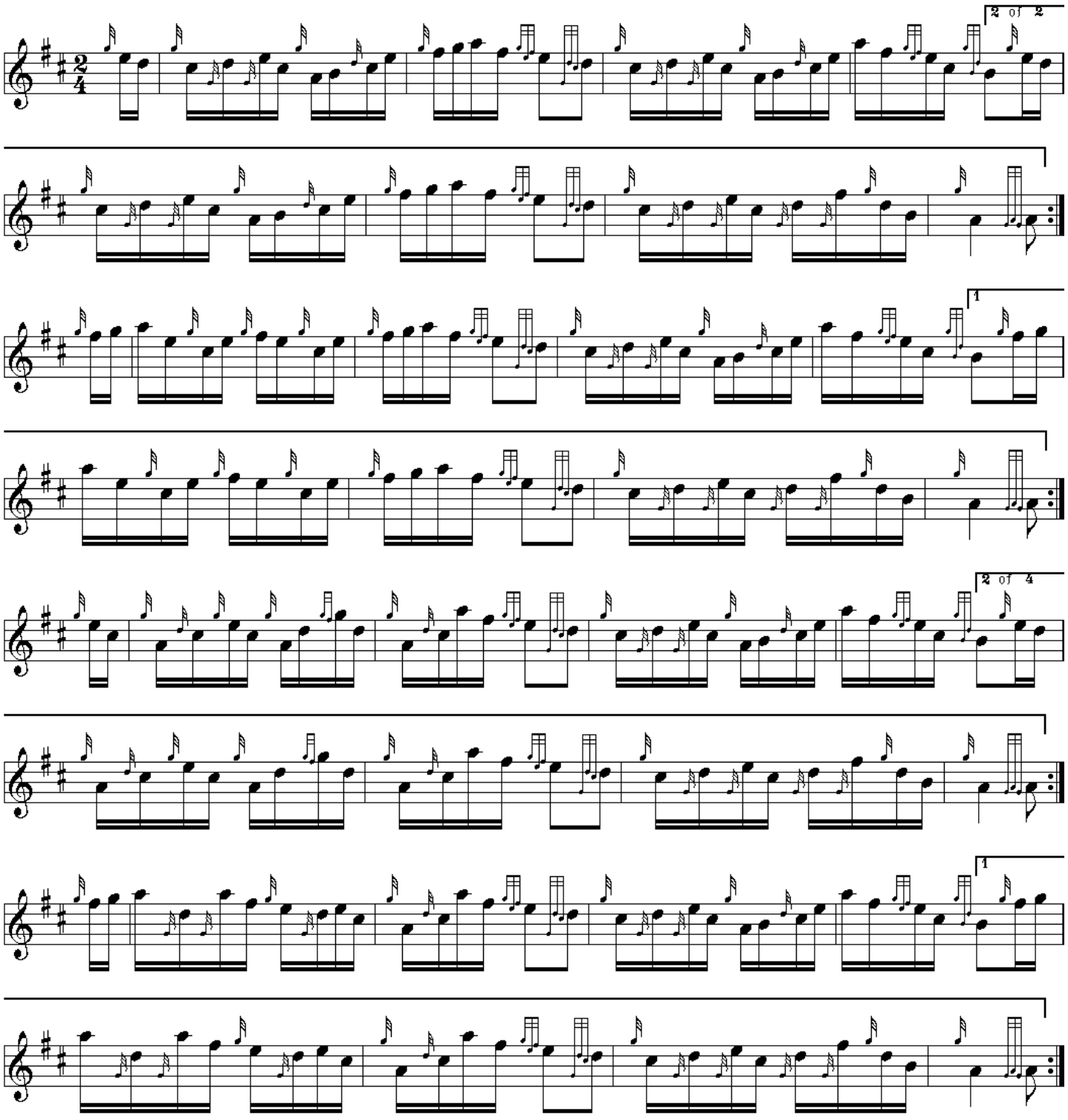
Three special dice are used in Crown and Anchor. The dice are equal in size and shape to standard dice, but instead of one through six pips, they are marked with six symbols: crown, anchor, diamond, spade, club and heart.

The game is played between a player and a banker. A canvas or felt mat marked with the six symbols is used for play.

The player places bets on one or more symbols and then throws the three dice. If there is a bet on any symbol which comes up on one or more of the dice, the banker returns the player's stake on that symbol, and additionally pays out the value of that stake for each die showing that symbol: even money if one, 2:1 if two, and 3:1 if three. If the symbol does not come up, the player's bet is lost.

At the beginning of WWI the game was, at least at first, still unfamiliar to many British soldiers, and seems to have been most strongly associated with Australian troops. According to several observers, the game was even played on the frontlines, in trenches.

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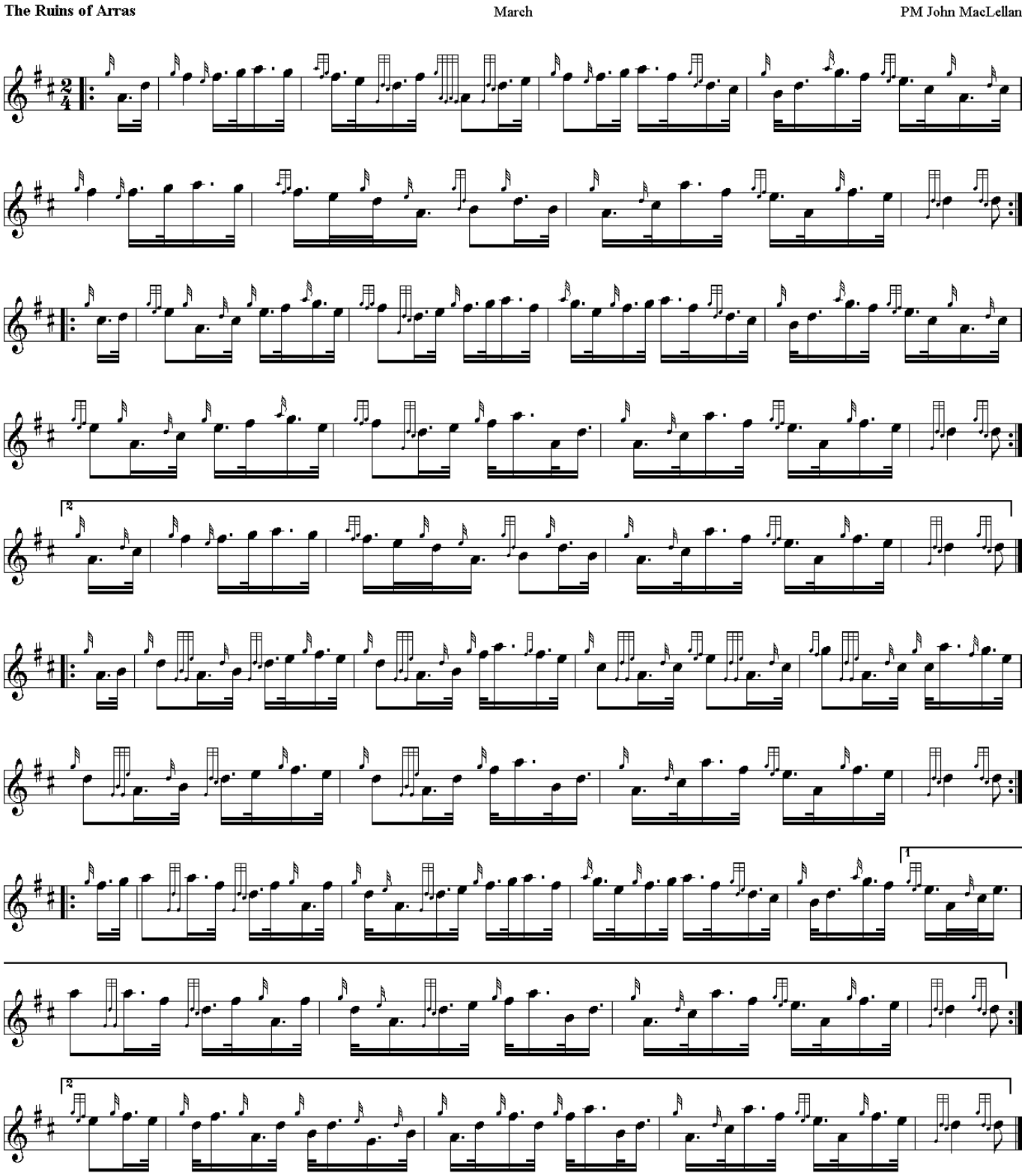
The Ruins of Arras

Also commemorating the Battle of Arras is the tune, ***Ruins of Arras*** by Pipe Major John MacLellan of Dunoon.



Passchendaele

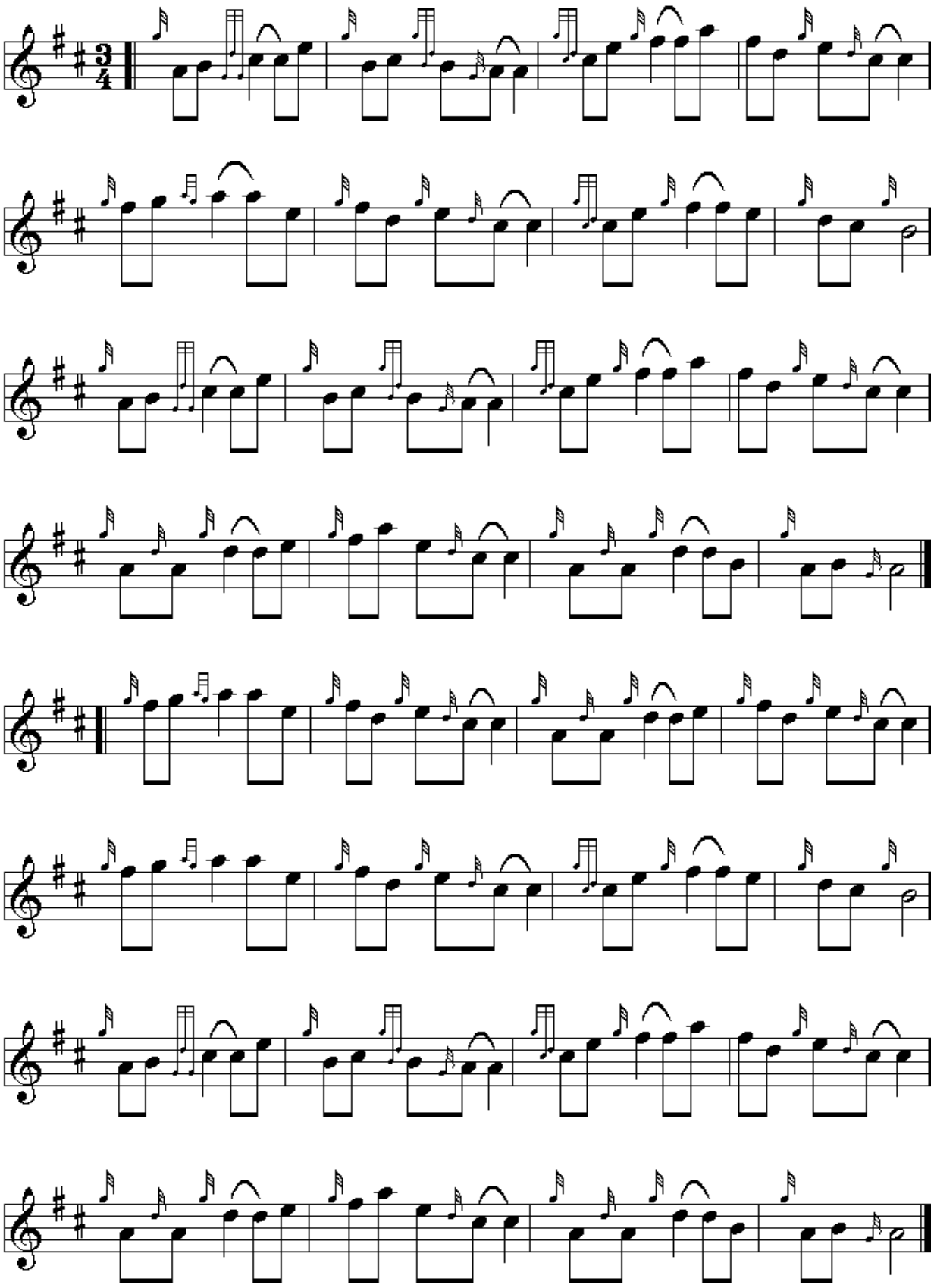
On July 31, 1917, the British and French launched a massive offensive in the area around Ypres in the Belgian province of Flanders. The Third Battle of Ypres, known in later years as Passchendaele, was not as bloody as the Somme the year before, but would achieve its own notoriety. Both sides suffered heavy casualties and endured appalling conditions. The name Passchendaele has become synonymous with mud, blood and futility.

In 1917, General Sir Douglas Haig planned a major offensive to break out of the Ypres salient, which the Allies had occupied since 1914.

Haig's vision was for a war-winning breakthrough. He planned to capture the high ground around Ypres, as well as a key rail junction to the east, and then advance on the German-occupied ports of the Belgian coast - critical to the U-Boat campaign.

The battle failed to achieve Haig's objectives. It lasted over 100 days. In that time, the Allies advanced about 5 miles for the loss of over 250,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

Passchendaele Slow March John Fraser



On the Road to Passchendaele

The tune, ***On the Road to Passchendaele*** was composed by Pipe Major Gavin Stoddart for the unveiling of the Scottish monument at Zonnebeke in 2007.

Major Gavin-Neill MacLeod Stoddart, MBE, BEM, was born in Hamburg Germany in 1948, where his father George was serving with the 5th Scottish Parachute Regiment. Gavin received his initial instruction from his father before going to Captain John A. MacLellan at Edinburgh Castle.

In 1964 he became a guest piper with the Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band before enlisting as a piper in the Scots Guards in 1966 under Pipe Major Angus MacDonald. Gavin later became Pipe Sergeant of the 1st Battalion and remained with the Scots Guards until May 1979 when he was approached to transfer to The Royal Highland Fusiliers as Pipe Major.

He didn't start profession competition until 1980, but during a brief but competitive career that last only through the 1980s, Gavin's success was astonishing. He won the Gold Medal at the Argyllshire Gathering and the Northern Meeting, and the Gold Medal at Dunvegan and at Braemar. He won the light music event and the former winners March Strathspey and Reel competitions at the Argyllshire Gathering, the Northern Meeting and at London. He won the Glenfiddich Piping Championship in 1983 and 1988, and at that venue he won the piobaireachd twice and the march, strathspey and reel three times. Very few pipers have accomplished so much so quickly.

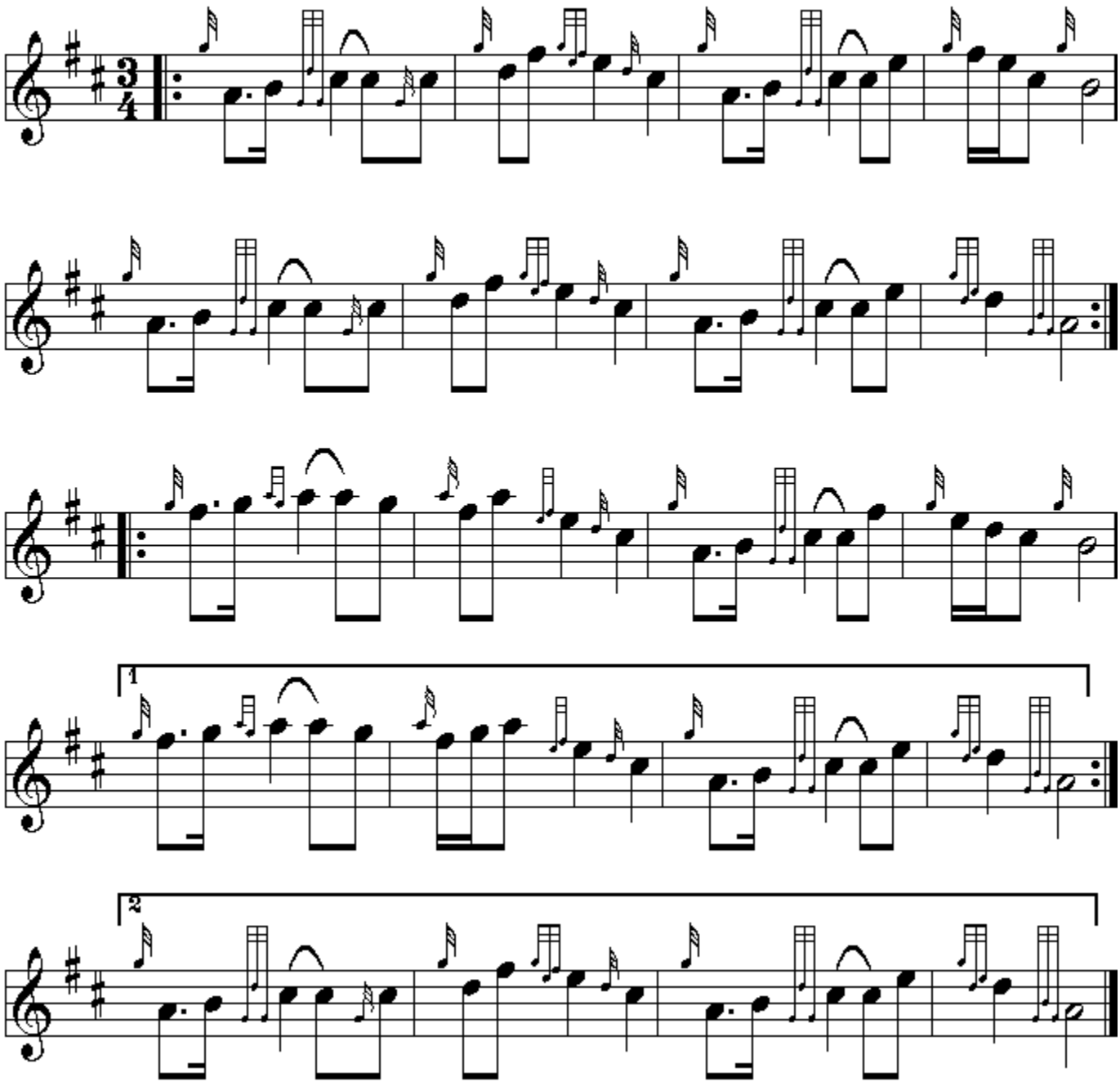
In 1983, he was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to Army Piping and in May 1987 was posted to The Army School of Bagpipe Music, Edinburgh Castle, as Warrant Officer Class 1 Pipe Major and appointed senior Pipe Major of The British Army.

In 1990 Gavin was commissioned and appointed Director of Army Bagpipe Music at Edinburgh Castle and in 1999 all piping and drumming schools within the British Army merged to form the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming under his command.

He was invested as a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the 1999 Queen's New Year's Honors List for his services to Army Piping and Drumming. During his tenure as Director of Army Bagpipe Music he was responsible for the Massed Pipes and Drums at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. One of his last military duties was to arrange the music and organize the Massed Pipes and Drums for the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

Gavin retired from the Army in July 2003 after 37 years service, and shortly thereafter became a Senior Instructor at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow. He is a regular adjudicator of senior piping events in Scotland and travels around the world to teach and judge.

On the Road to Passchendaele March PM Gavin Stoddart



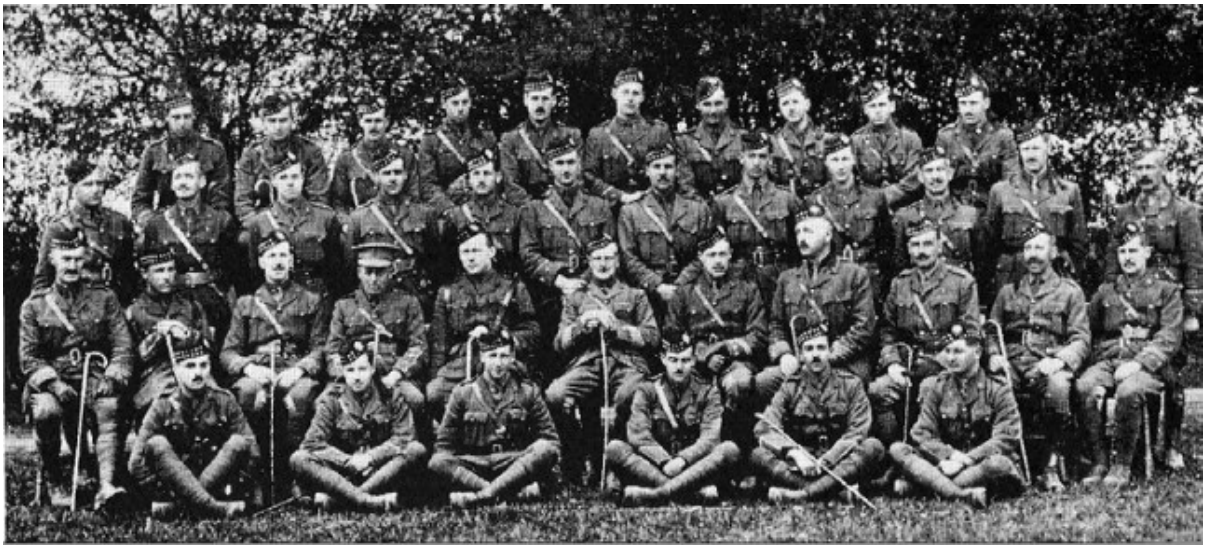
The Last Battle of Ypres

The Fifth Battle of Ypres, also called the Advance in Flanders and the Battle of the Peaks of Flanders is an informal name used to identify a series of battles in northern France and southern Belgium (Flanders) from late September to October 1918.

After the German spring offensive of 1918 failed to achieve a decisive victory, German morale waned and the increasing numbers of American soldiers arriving on the Western Front gave the Allies a growing numerical advantage over the western armies of the German Empire. To take advantage of this Marshal of France Ferdinand Foch developed a strategy which became known as the Grand Offensive, in which attacks were made on the German lines over as wide a front as possible. Belgian, British and French forces around the Ypres Salient were to form the northern pincer of an offensive towards the Belgian city of Liège. The British Second Army had followed up some minor withdrawals and had fought the action at Outtersteene Ridge on August 18, after which there was a lull. Allied troops in the area were well rested by late September.

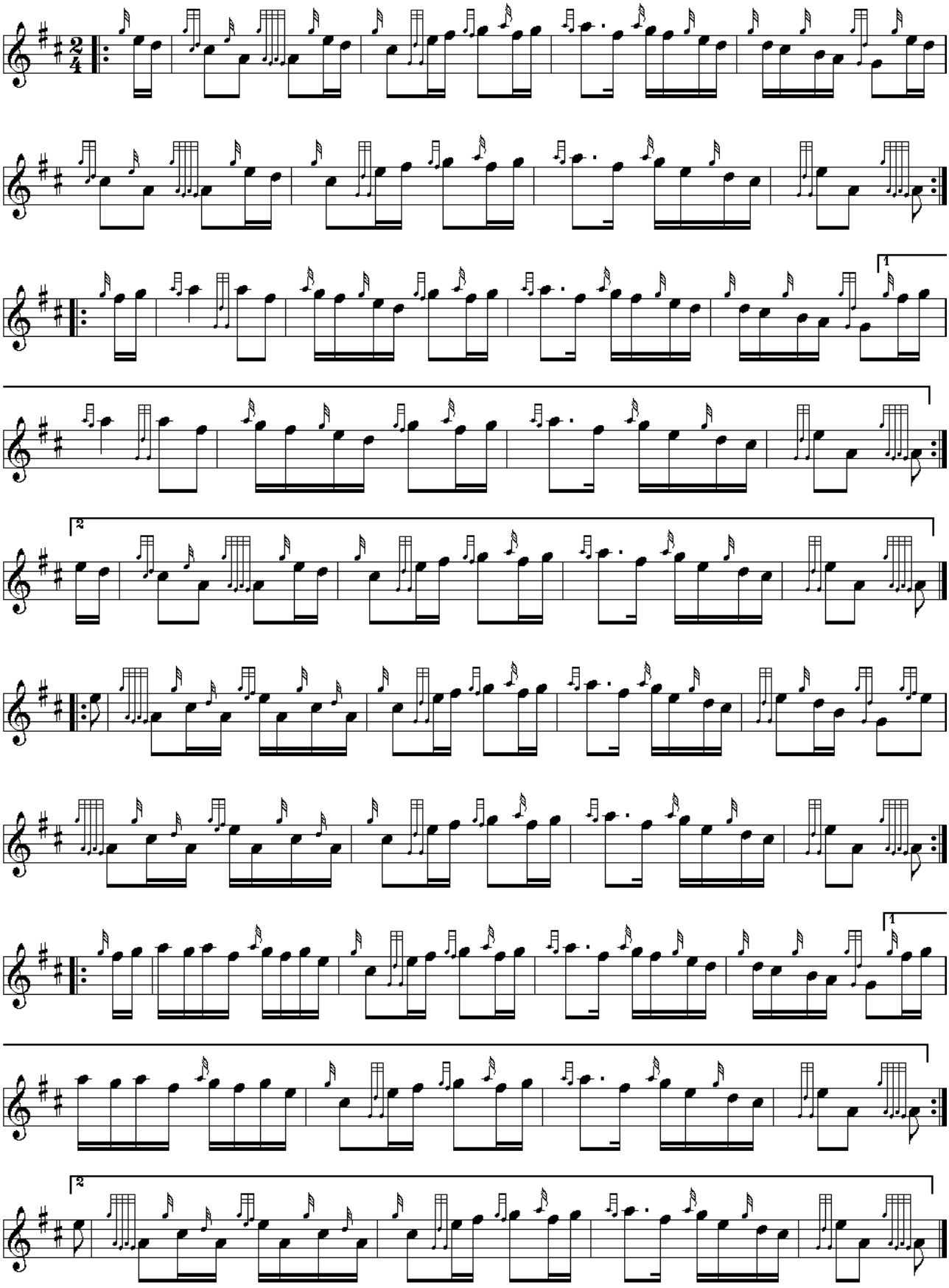
The British suffered 4,695 casualties, the Belgians from among 2,000 killed and 10,000 men ill or wounded. The Allies advanced up to 18 miles, with an average advance of 6 miles and captured approximately 10,000 prisoners, 300 guns and 600 machine-guns.

The tune, ***The Last Battle of Ypres*** was composed by Piper T. Hermiston(?) of the 11th Battalion Royal Scots.



Officers of the 11th Battalion Royal Scots

The Last Battle of Ypres March T. Hermiston



The Battle for Hill 70

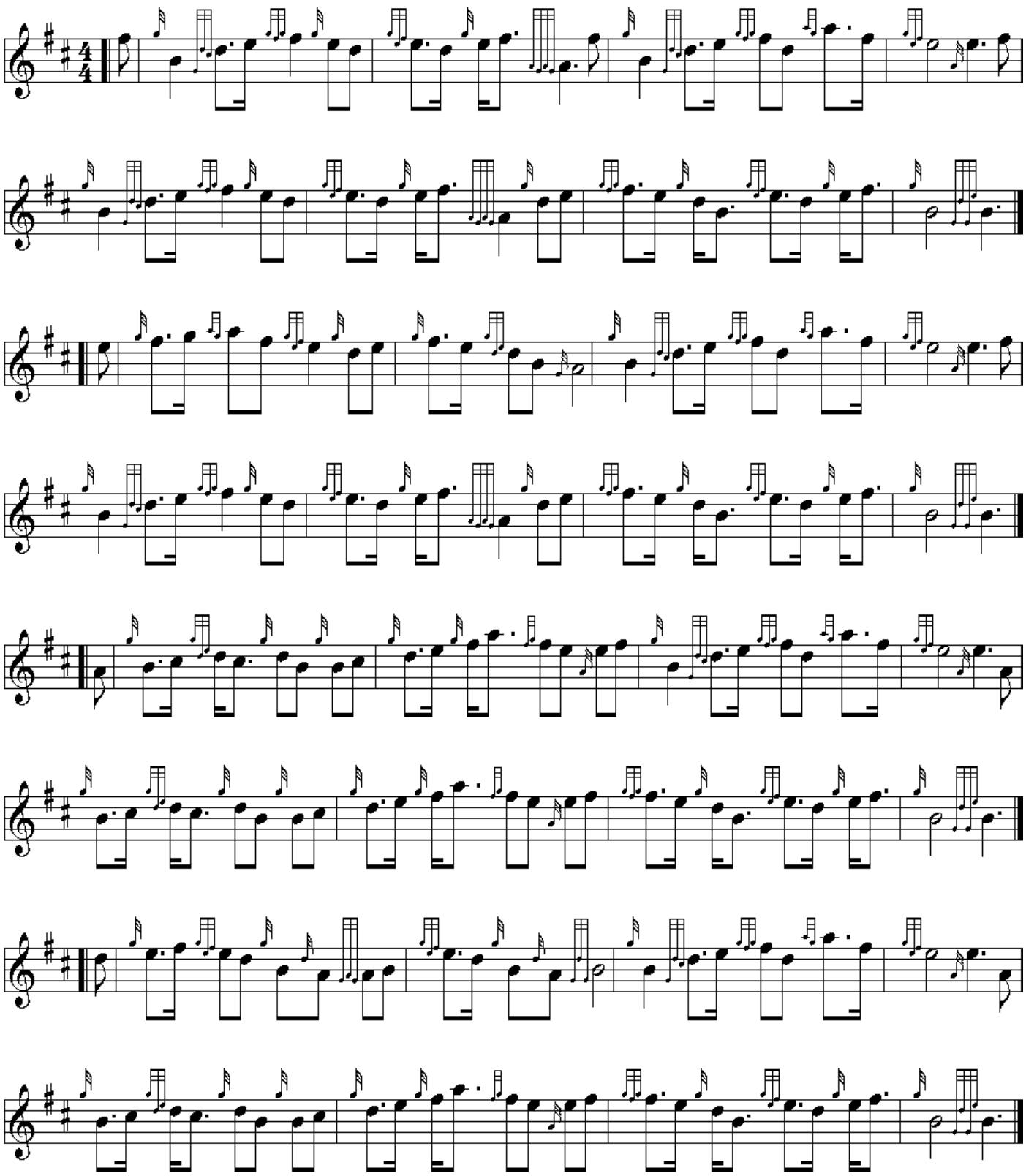
The Battle of Hill 70 took place between the Canadian Corps and five divisions of the German 6th Army. The battle took place along the Western Front on the outskirts of Lens in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France between August 15 and 25, 1917.

The objectives of the assault were to inflict casualties and to draw German troops away from the 3rd Battle of Ypres and to make the German hold on Lens untenable. The Canadian Corps executed an operation to capture Hill 70 and then establish defensive positions from which combined small-arms and artillery fire, some of which used the new technique of predicted fire, would repel German counter-attacks and inflict as many casualties as possible. The goals of the Canadian Corps were only partially accomplished; the Germans were prevented from transferring local divisions to the Ypres Salient but failed to draw in troops from other areas.

A later attempt by the Canadian Corps to extend its position into the city of Lens failed but the German and Canadian assessments of the battle concluded that it succeeded in its attrition objective.

The tune, ***The Battle for Hill 70*** was composed by Dr. James S. Finan of the Royal Military College of Canada in 2014. Dr. Finan has a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science in International Relations (Stategic Studies). For a period of 18 years he was a Defense Scientist with the Operational Research and Analysis Establishment (ORAE). During that time, he was mainly concerned with the strategic relationship between the superpowers with particular attention being paid to the doctrinal and technological aspects of the nuclear relationship. As part of this work, he was responsible for helping with the development of a Canadian Department of National Defense annual strategic assessment in which an effort was made to evaluate systematically national risks/ threats and to develop appropriate responses. During his time with ORAE, Dr. Finan was both Director of Strategic Analysis and director of Social and Economic Analysis.

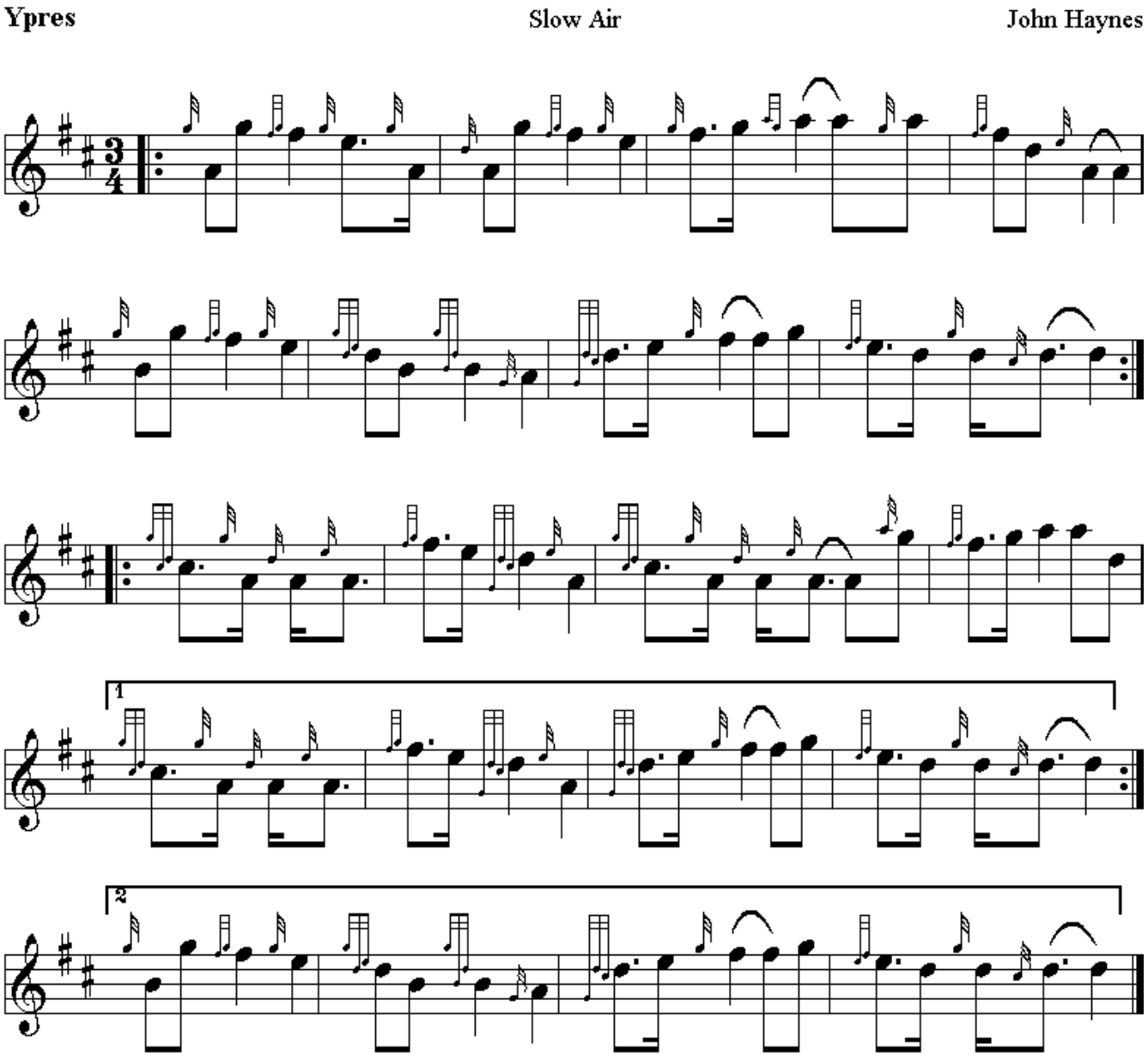
At RMC, his research interests include a continuing interest strategic analysis as well as conflict analysis and quantitative models in international politics. Regionally, he has research interests in the area of Sub-Saharan Africa particularly in terms of on-going strategic developments.



Ypres

The lament, *Ypres* was composed by John Haynes and played with Cockney Jocks during a visit to Menin Gate.

The Menin Gate, officially the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, is a war memorial in Ypres, Belgium, dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient of World War I and whose graves are unknown. The memorial is located at the eastern exit of the town and marks the starting point for one of the main roads that led Allied soldiers to the front line.



The Cockney Jocks

“Cockney Jocks” was written in 1954 by Pipe Sergeant John Haynes of the Pride of Murray Pipe Band on hearing that the London Scottish Regiment was about to be disbanded. The tune was played around Europe on their farewell tour and became a hit.

The cockney is a native of the East End of London. The original meaning of the word is "foolish person," [literally, "cock's egg" (i.e., malformed egg)]. The cockneys were considered a lower class novelty by the rest of London; a working class people with the worst English grammar in the English speaking world. Nowadays the term cockney seems to apply to anyone from London. It has become a generic term for a Londoner.

Jock has several meanings. Across the Atlantic “jock” is usually associated with sportsmen - primarily football players. In UK, it usually means a Scot. There is a slang and pejorative nickname defining each of the Celtic peoples: the Irish are "Paddies," (which is slang for Patrick); the Welsh are "Taffies" (a reference to being born within the sight of the river Taff in Wales), and the Scots are "Jocks." (meaning "an innocent lad, a country boy.)" Most English or Sasanachs (Gaelic for Saxon) address Scots as Jock: "So what part of Scotland are you from, Jock?" "Jock" is also used to mean a soldier. Soldiers can call each other Jock.

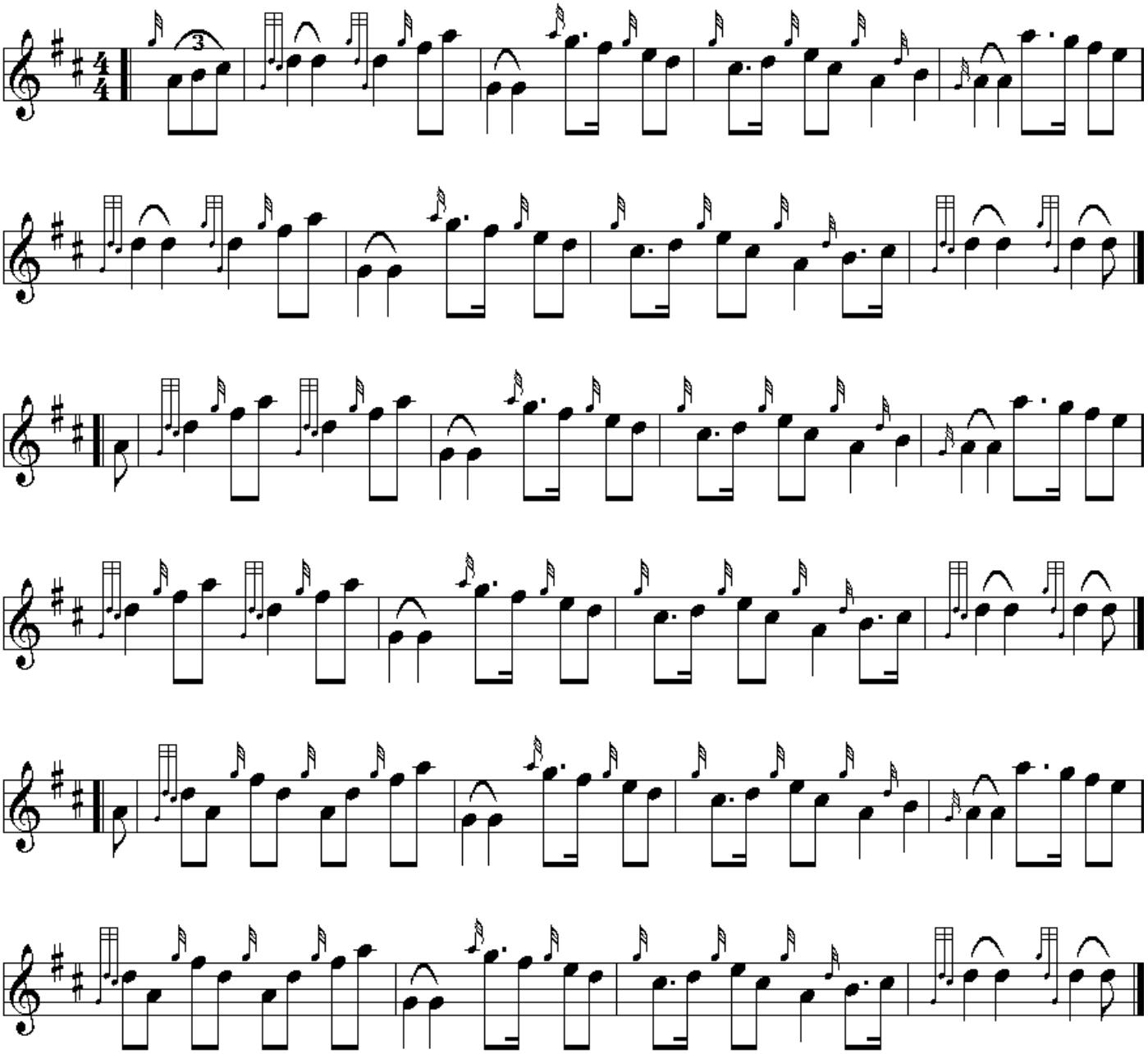
So "Cockney Jock" refers these days to a London-born Scot. Some say that to be a true cockney, one had to be born within the sound of the church bells of Bow in the East End of London.

"Cockney Jock" also refers to the London Scottish regiment. The Highland Armed Association of London and The Loyal North Britons had been raised in 1793 and 1803 as part of the country’s Volunteer Forces ready to repel Napoleon’s threatened invasion of England. These military groups were later disbanded and it was not until after the Crimean War that the country’s security seemed again to be in danger. So, in 1859, sponsored by The Highland Society of London and The Caledonian Society of London, a group of individual Scots raised The London Scottish Rifle Volunteers under the command of Lt Col Lord Elcho, later The Earl of Wemyss and March.

He decided to clothe the Regiment in Hodden Grey, the homespun cloth known throughout Scotland. This avoided all interclan feeling on the subject of tartan and, as Lord Elcho said "A soldier is a man hunter. As a deer stalker chooses the least visible of colors, so ought a soldier to be clad."

Nowadays known as the London Scottish (nickname Cockney Jocks) the formerly regiment, which served during the South African campaign and the two world wars, is now a company of The London Regiment.

The Cockney Jocks March John Haynes



1918

In 1918, a series of major German and Allied offensives broke the stalemate of trench warfare on the Western Front, resulting in the near-collapse of the German Army and the end of the fighting before the end of the year.

The German spring offensive, which began on March 21, created the biggest crisis of the war for the Allies. Following American entry into the war in April 1917, the Germans decided that their only remaining chance of victory was to defeat the Allies before the United States could ship soldiers across the Atlantic and fully deploy its resources. The German Army had gained a temporary advantage in numbers as nearly 50 divisions had been freed by the Russian defeat and withdrawal from the war with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.

There were four German offensives, codenamed *Michael*, *Georgette*, *Gneisenau*, and *Blücher-Yorck*. *Michael* was the main attack, which was intended to break through the Allied lines, outflank the British forces (which held the front from the Somme River to the English Channel) and defeat the British Army. Once they began advancing, the Germans struggled to maintain the momentum, partly due to logistical issues.

The German Army made the deepest advances either side had made on the Western Front since 1914. They re-took much ground that they had lost in 1916–17 and took some ground that they had not yet controlled. Despite these apparent successes, they suffered heavy casualties in return for land that was of little strategic value and hard to defend. The offensive failed to deliver a blow that could save Germany from defeat.

In July 1918, the Allies regained their numerical advantage with the arrival of American troops. In August, they used this and improved tactics to launch a counteroffensive. The ensuing Hundred Days Offensive resulted in the Germans losing all of the ground that they had taken in the Spring Offensive, the collapse of the Hindenburg Line, and the capitulation of Germany that November.

Hill 212

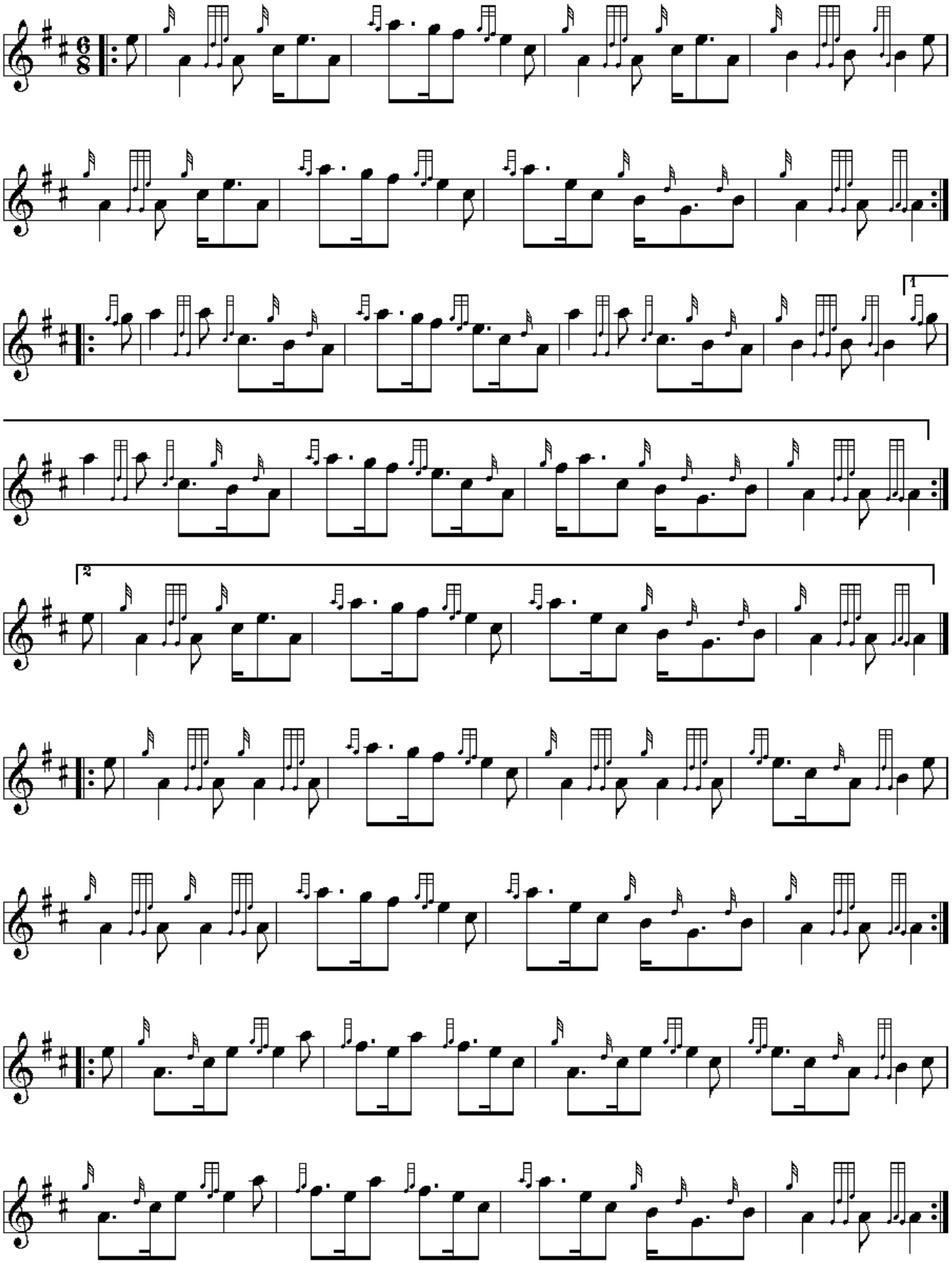
By late July 1918, the Germans were in retreat. Their spring offensive had brought them close to winning WWI, but it had not been enough. The Allied lines had held, and the Germans were now being pushed back. They implemented a fighting retreat as they sought to withdraw without suffering terrible losses. Enormous amounts of supplies had been brought up to support the spring offensive. The troops had to buy time for these to be extracted. On the night of July 26, German forces pulling back from the Marne Salient reached the River Ourcq. There they formed a line on the River's far bank, hoping to slow advancing American forces while their comrades withdrew from elsewhere in the salient.

The Germans had a knack for defensive combat throughout the war. They chose good ground for their positions, and they had dug strong, deep defenses. Their stand on the Ourcq was no exception. The River was swollen with torrential rain, making it eight feet deep and 40 feet across. The bridges across it had been decimated. A crossing would be difficult and expose American troops to German gunfire. Two hills on the east bank of the river – Hill 212 and Hill 184 gave the Germans high ground from which to watch and fire upon the enemy. Together with the village of Sergy, the hills gave them good defensive positions.

On July 28, the Americans began their attack across the Ourcq. Three divisions – the 3rd, 28th, and 42nd – were to advance early in the morning and cross the river. The 3rd managed it, easily taking Ronchères. The 28th were reliant on French guides, who turned up late. They missed their chance to set out early and came under heavy fire from German troops at La Motte Farm. It was past 1500 before they got across the river. Then heavy gunfire from the Germans on Hill 212 and north of Ronchères forced them to halt. Only a quarter of a mile from the River, they stopped and dug in.

Over six days of hand to hand combat, key positions at Hill 212, Sergy, Meurcy Farm, Bois Colas, and Seringes et Nesles were captured. The Rainbow Division, including attached units, suffered 6,459 casualties; 5,049 wounded and 1,410 killed.

The event is commemorated by Pipe Major R. Batt of the Irish Guards in the tune, ***Hill 212.***



Major Moir of Villevecque

Robert Gifford Moir was born in Alloa in June 1894. Educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh, Moir was aged twenty when war was declared. He was commissioned into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in October 1914. By June 1915, Moir had been awarded the recently instituted MC and in November 1915 he had been promoted captain. Moir was appointed to his first staff post in December 1916 as GSO3 VII Corps, commanded at that time and throughout the Corps' involvement with the Battle of Arras by Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Snow. After some three months, Moir was posted to 152 Brigade as Thomson's replacement at the age of twenty-two.

The rate of Moir's career progress had been little short of remarkable. Moir's period as SC was relatively brief encompassing the Brigade's involvement at both Arras and Passchendaele. After less than eight months, Moir was appointed on October 15, 1917 as an acting major to the command of 8/A&SH.

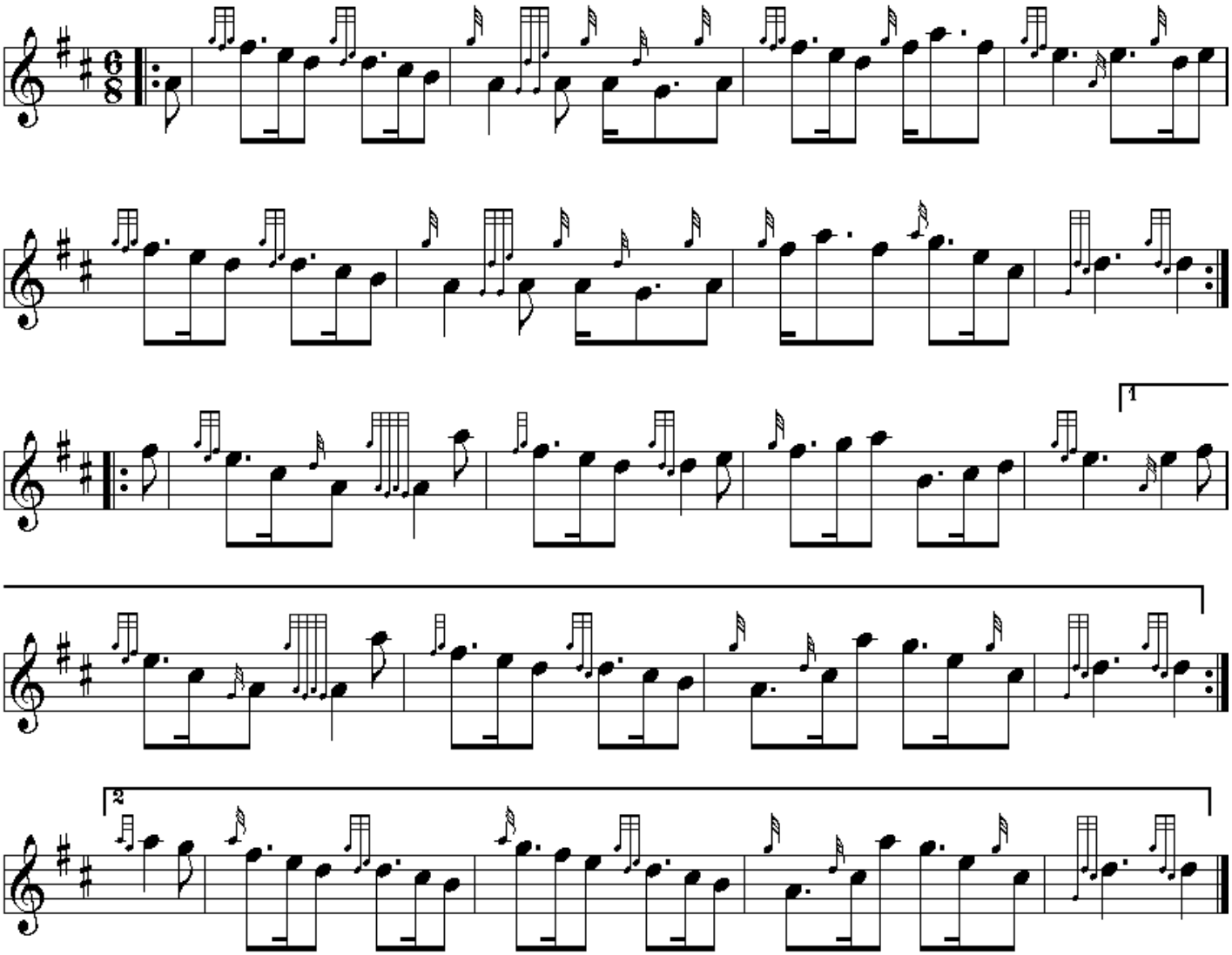
Earlier in the war Colonel Robin Campbell DSO was the commanding officer of the Argylls. He was involved in heavy fighting in May 1917 and personally led a counter attack which swept the enemy out of their positions. In October 1917 Lt. Colonel James Robert Macalpine-Downie of Appin became the commanding officer. He had previously been in command of the battalion of reinforcements and replacements stationed in the UK. In an attack on battalion HQ at Villeveque, west of Saint Quentin, Colonel MacAlpine-Downie was killed on March 21, 1918, the first day of a German offensive. Major Moir commanded the remains of the battalion until they were pulled out of the line five days later, having lost C Company and suffered 542 casualties. He was awarded the DSO, '*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in temporary command of a battalion. Both in attack and defense he has done consistently well, and kept his battalion up to a high standard of fighting spirit, so that they have not lost a position.'* He was wounded for a second time in August 1918 and finished the war as Major Moir MC DSO. He became commanding officer of the Argylls in 1919.

During World War II he was a Brigadier. He and his wife were reported missing in Singapore and spent the rest of the war in a prison camp. He died in 1965.

The tune, ***Major Moir of Villevecque*** was composed by Pipe Major John McLellan dedicated to the memory of the 50th Division's stand against overwhelming German assaults around St. Quentin.

The Battle of St. Quentin Canal began on September 29, 1918 and involved British, Australian and American forces operating as part of the British Fourth Army. The objective was to break through one of the most heavily defended stretches of the German *Siegfriedstellung* (Hindenburg Line), which in this sector used the St Quentin Canal as part of its defenses. The assault achieved its objectives (though not according to the planned timetable), resulting in the first full breach of the Hindenburg Line, in the face of heavy German resistance. In concert with other attacks of the Grand Offensive along the length of the line, Allied success convinced the German high command that there was little hope of an ultimate German victory.

Major Moir of Vilevecque March PM John McLellan

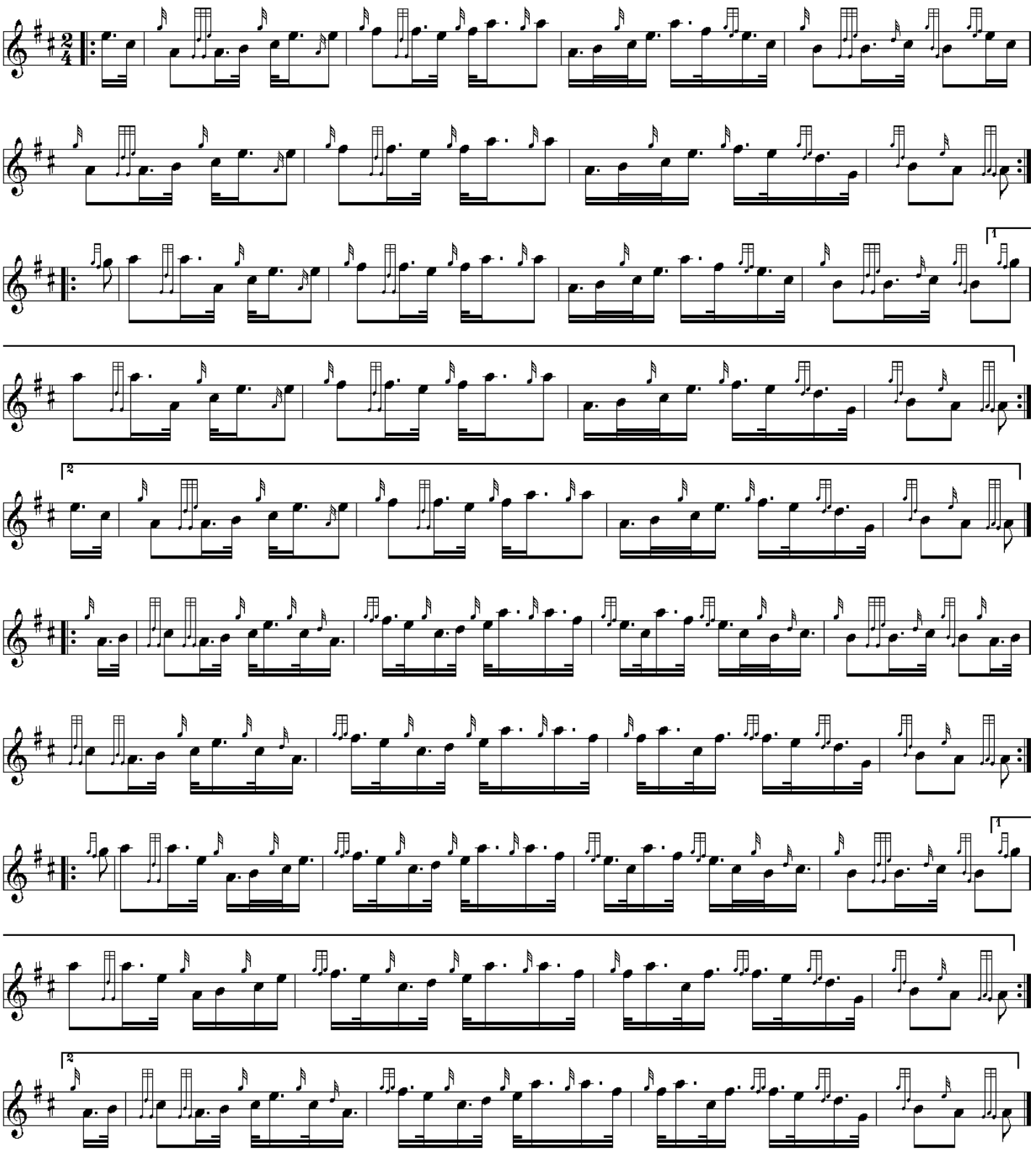


Kemmel Hill

The Battle of the Lys, also known as the Fourth Battle of Ypres, was fought from April 7-9, 1918 and was part of the German spring offensive in Flanders. It was originally planned by General Erich Ludendorff as Operation George but was reduced to Operation Georgette, with the objective of capturing Ypres, forcing the British forces back to the Channel ports and out of the war.

Kemmel village is around six miles south-west of Ypres. In the early morning of April 9, 1918 the German Fourth and Sixth Armies launched the Flanders offensive, operation “Georgette”, the second in the planned series of attacks on the Allied Front for spring 1918. South of Ypres the Portuguese troops holding the Allied Front in Artois were pushed westwards by four miles. In the south of the Ypres Salient sector the British Second Army was pushed westwards also, losing its hold of the Messines Ridge, Wytschaete and Messines villages which had been captured from the German Army in June 1917, just under a year before. The village of Passchendaele, captured by the Allies after such hard fighting during the Third Battle of Ypres, was retaken by the German Army on April 16. South of Ypres the German advance was held at Kemmel Hill (Kemmelberg). However, a German attack on Kemmel Hill on April 25 succeeded in pushing French troops, recently arrived in the area as reinforcements, off this important high ground.

The tune, ***Kemmel Hill 1918*** was composed by Pipe Major Richard Ancell to celebrate the 2nd Battalion A&SH’s defense of part of the Ypres Salient against the German’s last assault in April 1918. The 93rd/2nd A&SH held Kemmel Hill during the offensive.

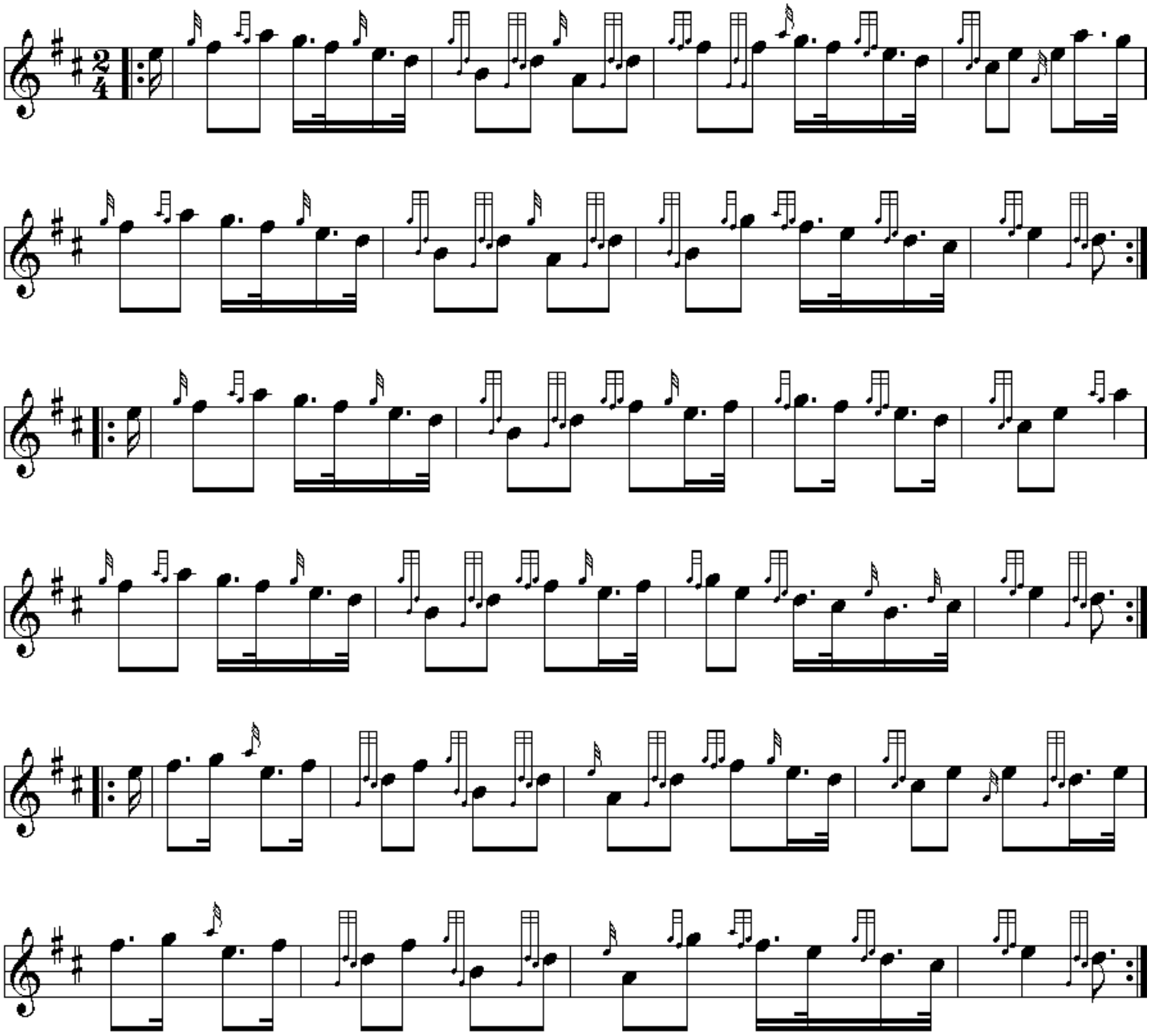


Hamelincourt

Hamelincourt is a commune in the Pas-de-Calais department in the Hauts-de-France region of France.

Hemelincourt was occupied on August 26th, 1918 by the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders during the Allied counter-offensive of that year. It was in the area of this village that heavy fighting occurred as commemorated by Pipe Major George S. McLennan in the tune, ***Hemelincourt.***

Hamelincourt March PM George S. McLennan



Buzancy

Buzancy is a commune in the department of Aisne in Hauts-de-France in northern France.

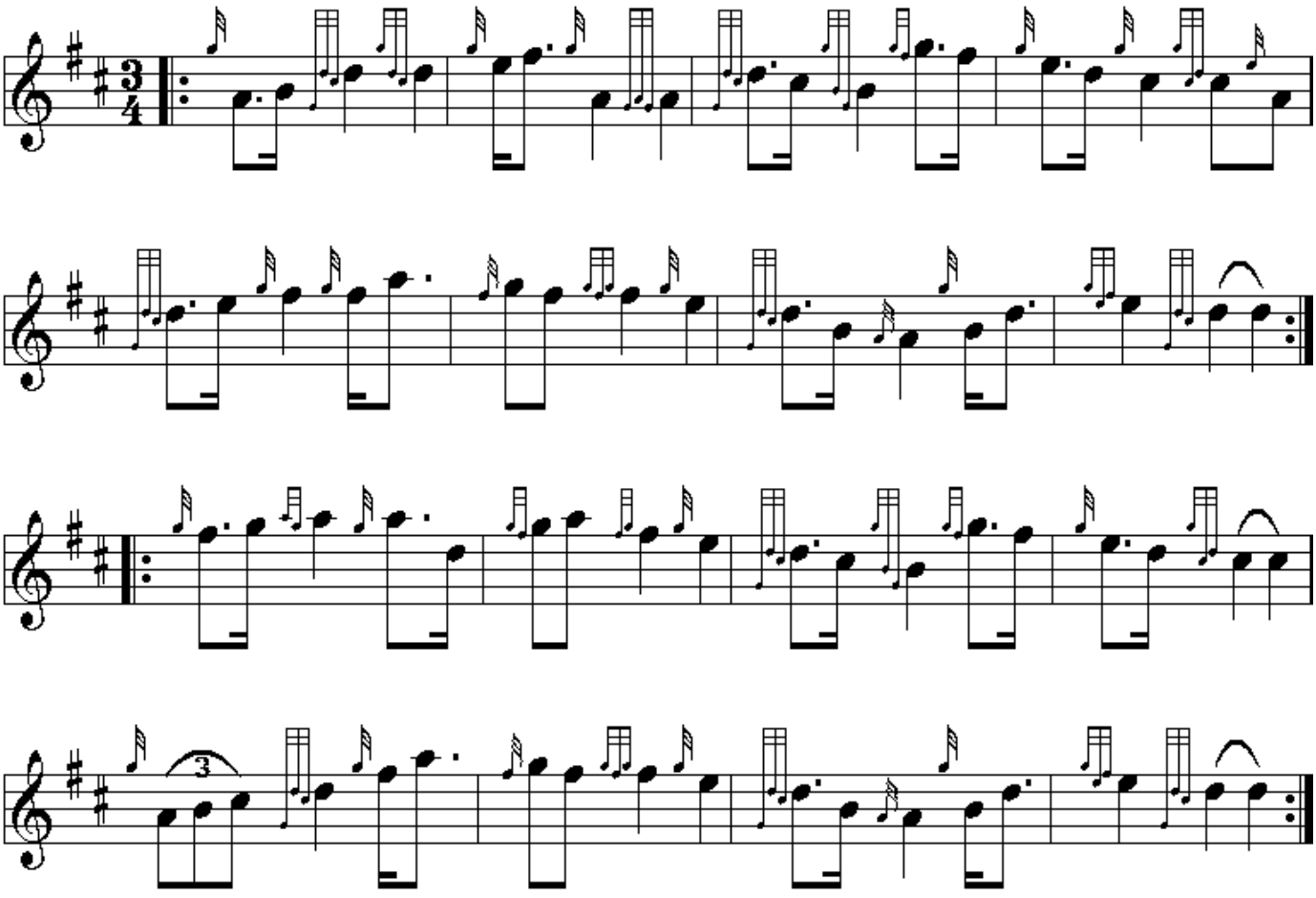
At the end of May 1918, the Imperial German Army's attempt to strike for Paris in the Third Battle of the Aisne swept over Soissons and its hinterland, including Buzancy. Eventually checked by the resistance of various Allied forces, the advance nevertheless left a threatening salient between Soissons and Rheims. Realizing the opportunity for a decisive victory by "pinching-off" the salient, the Allied supremo General Foch ordered a counteroffensive across its "neck" from both sides, commencing very successfully on the Soissons side on July 18, 1918, assisted very effectively by Renault FT light tanks. The Germans, realizing the enormity of what was at stake, defended the two strategic hinges of the salient with utmost determination in order to win sufficient time to withdraw the remainder of their forces from within the (shrinking) pocket.

The initial thrust towards Buzancy was entrusted to the already heavily-committed US 1st Division, to whose memory a monument now stands prominently by the side of the D1 Château-Thierry to Soissons main road near the turn-off up to the village. The battle-weary American infantry were relieved in some haste and confusion during the night of July 22/23 by the 15th (Scottish) Division, one of the four divisions of the British XXII Corps which a few days previously had been rushed to the salient as insurance against a German breakthrough to Paris. (he first task of the division was to bury the many American dead still lying in swathes in the cornfields where they had fallen. The Corps command itself moving further south, the 15th and 34th divisions came under direct French Army command. Supported by US 1st Division heavy artillery pending arrival of their own, the 15th Division's first attack northwards of Buzancy in the coming dawn was poorly coordinated, suffered badly from unsuppressed machine-gun fire, and had only limited success.

After a move sideways to directly face Buzancy, shortly after noon on July 28, 1918, the Scots, accompanied by a French flamethrower section, and with the support of French heavy artillery in addition to their own, launched a surprise attack eastwards up the slope towards the chateau and the village itself, in conjunction with French forces to its right. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting around the chateau and through the narrow, sloping streets ensued, the attackers of the former having to scale its boundary walls on the shoulders of their comrades. Unfortunately, the Division's rapid advance left its flanks mercilessly exposed, the French being unable to make similar progress. As the afternoon progressed, a strong counterattack developed by the German 5th Inf. and 50th Res. divisions, and the Scots found themselves slowly being forced to give up their hard-won positions, and by the evening had made a fighting retreat back to where they had started. A few days later the Germans withdrew, their salient having been completely reduced.

The tune, ***Buzancy*** was composed by Pipe Major John McLellan of Dunoon.

Buzancy Retreat PM John McLellan



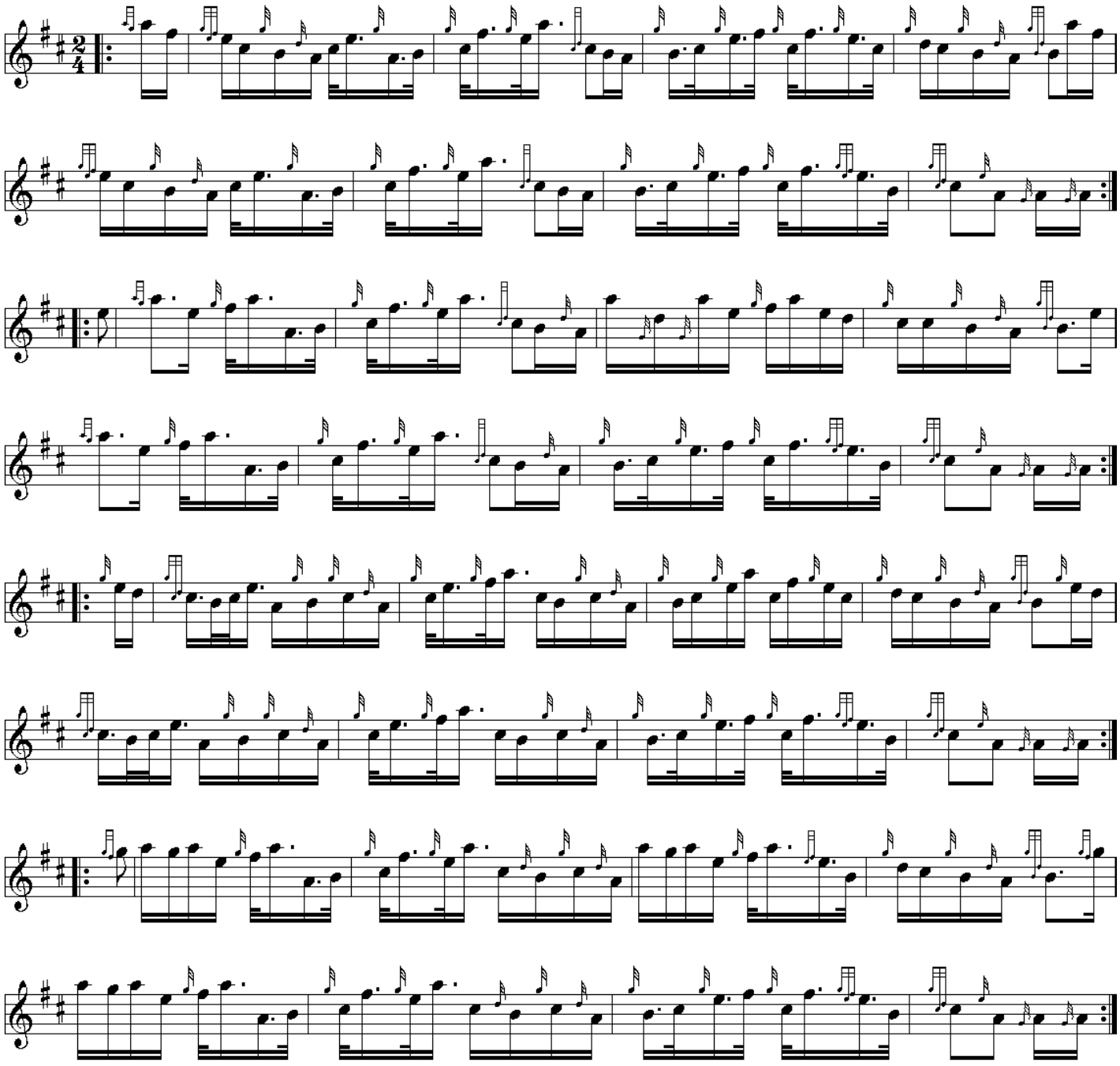
The Highland Gathering at Tincques

On July 6, 1918 the dominion Day sports event, which the Canadians held every year of the war, took place at Tincques, a village near Arras. While planes flew protectively overhead, fifty thousand soldiers watched and participated in track and field events, soccer and baseball games.

Dominion Day was especially well celebrated that year. The corps were in reserve. On that day the 2nd Division returned and fifty thousand Canadians assembled for sports at Tincques, fourteen miles west of Arras. A stadium had been knocked together by the engineers, complete with a platform for distinguished guests. Sir Robert Borden, General John J. Pershing (Commander-in-chief, American Expeditionary Forces) and the Duke of Connaught all attended. There were marquees for refreshments and an open-air theatre where the "Dumbells" gave continuous performances. Planes hovered over head to protect the Corps from enemy bombing. That night the "Volatiles", the concert party of the 1st Division, presented it revue, "Take a Chance". Sir Robert Borden inspected units of the Corps next day, and on the 6th, the 3rd Brigade, which had three Scottish battalions, played host to Highland regiments of the British Army. The week was peacetime soldiering, brass and weapons twinkling in the sun, flags, massed bands and stirring music, the Highland Gathering wound it up in proper style with Highland games, skirling pipe bands, and the march of pipes and drums. Morale was extremely high when on July 15 the Corps came out of reserve and relived the British XVIIth corps in the line.

The tune, ***The Highland Gathering at Tincques*** was composed by piper W.M. Buchanan of the 16th Battalion.

The Highland Gathering at Tincques March W.M. Buchanan



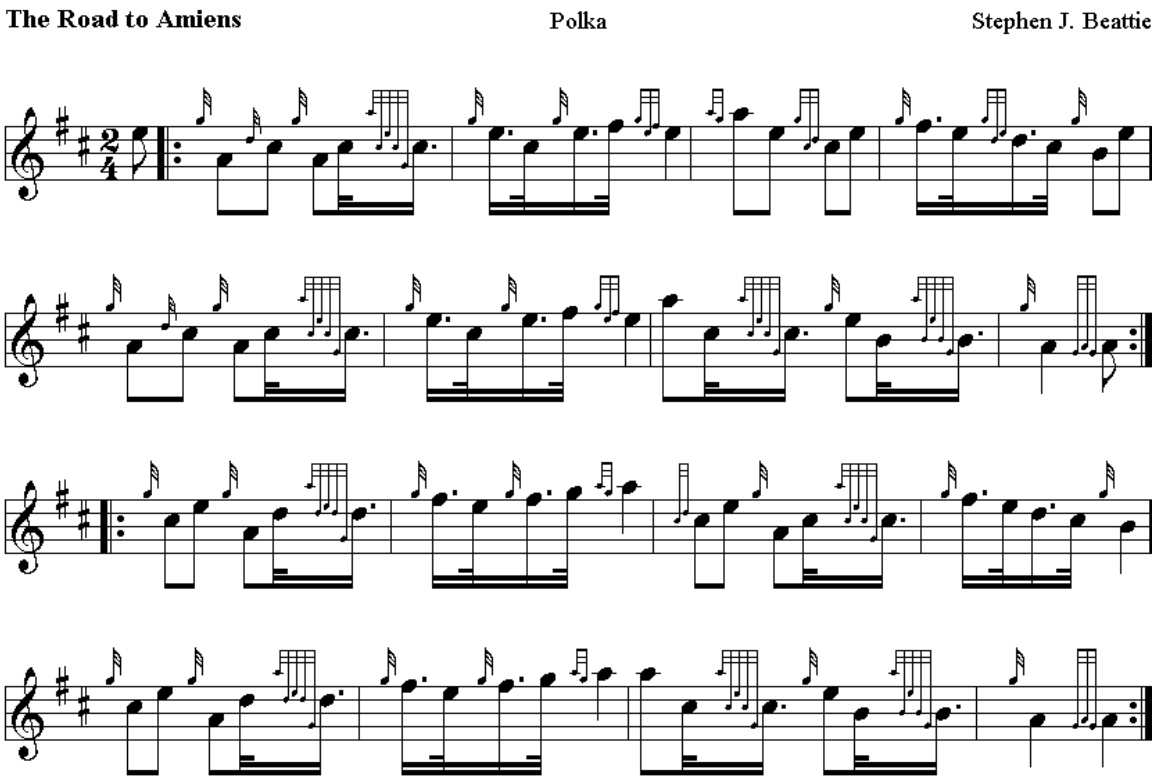
The Road to Amiens

On August 8, 1918, the Allies launch a series of offensive operations against German positions on the Western Front with a punishing attack at Amiens, on the Somme River in northwestern France.

After heavy casualties incurred during their ambitious spring 1918 offensive, the bulk of the German army was exhausted, and its morale was rapidly disintegrating amid a lack of supplies and the spreading influenza epidemic. Some of its commanders believed that the tide was turning irrevocably in favor of Germany's enemies; as one of them, Crown Prince Rupprecht, wrote on July 20, "We stand at the turning point of the war: what I expected first for the autumn, the necessity to go over to the defensive, is already on us, and in addition all the gains which we made in the spring—such as they were—have been lost again." Still, Erich Ludendorff, the German commander in chief, refused to accept this reality and rejected the advice of his senior commanders to pull back or begin negotiations.

Meanwhile, the Allies prepared for the war to stretch into 1919, not realizing victory was possible so soon. Thus, at a conference of national army commanders on July 24, Allied generalissimo Ferdinand Foch rejected the idea of a single decisive blow against the Germans, favoring instead a series of limited attacks in quick succession aimed at liberating the vital railway lines around Paris and diverting the attention and resources of the enemy rapidly from one spot to another. According to Foch: "These movements should be exacted with such rapidity as to inflict upon the enemy a succession of blows….These actions must succeed each other at brief intervals, so as to embarrass the enemy in the utilization of his reserves and not allow him sufficient time to fill up his units." The national commanders—John J. Pershing of the United States, Philippe Petain of France and Sir Douglas Haig of Britain—willingly went along with this strategy, which effectively allowed each army to act as its own entity, striking smaller individual blows to the Germans instead of joining together in one massive coordinated attack.

The event is commemorated by Stephen J. Beattie in the tune, ***The Road to Amiens***.



Armistice and Occupation

On Nov. 11, 1918, after more than four years of horrific fighting and the loss of millions of lives, the guns on the Western Front fell silent. Although fighting continued elsewhere, the armistice between Germany and the Allies was the first step to ending World War I. The global reaction was one of mixed emotions: relief, celebration, disbelief and a profound sense of loss.

When World War I began in August 1914, few expected the conflict to last beyond Christmas. Over the course of the next few months, however, it was clear this would not come to pass. The conflict, already expanded beyond Europe, included great movements of imperial colonies in Africa and Asia. As it progressed, further independent nations like Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, the Ottoman Empire, China and Japan joined the fighting. Not until 1918 would the war's end be in sight. In October of that year, an armistice between the Ottoman Empire and the Allies ended fighting in the Middle East. Only days later, the disintegrating Austro-Hungarian Empire signed an armistice with Italy.

In the west, the German Army's imminent collapse led Germany to pursue an armistice. The Allied delegation, led by Supreme Allied Commander Marshal Ferdinand Foch, largely ignored United States President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points for Peace and left no room for negotiation. The German delegation was given 72 hours to accept the terms, which were purposefully severe to prevent Germany from resuming fighting. These included complete demilitarization, the evacuation of France, Belgium and Alsace-Lorraine (a territory that had been annexed by Germany in 1871 following the Franco-Prussian War), and the immediate release of Allied prisoners of war and interned civilians.

On Nov. 10, the Germans received word that Kaiser Wilhelm II had abdicated and instructions from the new government that they should sign the armistice. At 5 a.m. on Nov. 11, the armistice was agreed upon. Marshal Foch sent word to Allied commanders that "Hostilities will be stopped on the entire front beginning at 11 o'clock, November 11th (French hour). The Allied troops will not go beyond the line reached at that hour on that date until further orders." The war on the Western Front had finally come to an end. Though one of several armistices signed in 1918, it is the armistice of Nov. 11 that left a lasting global legacy.

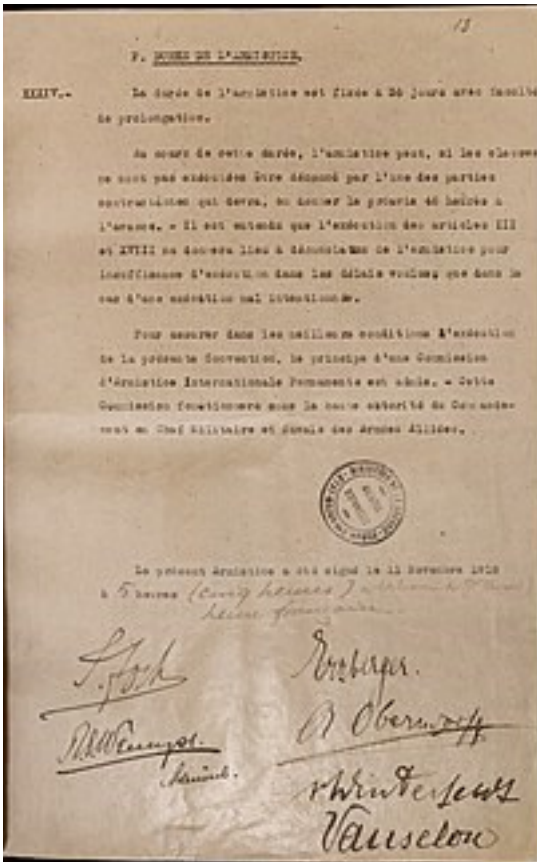
The Armistice of 1918

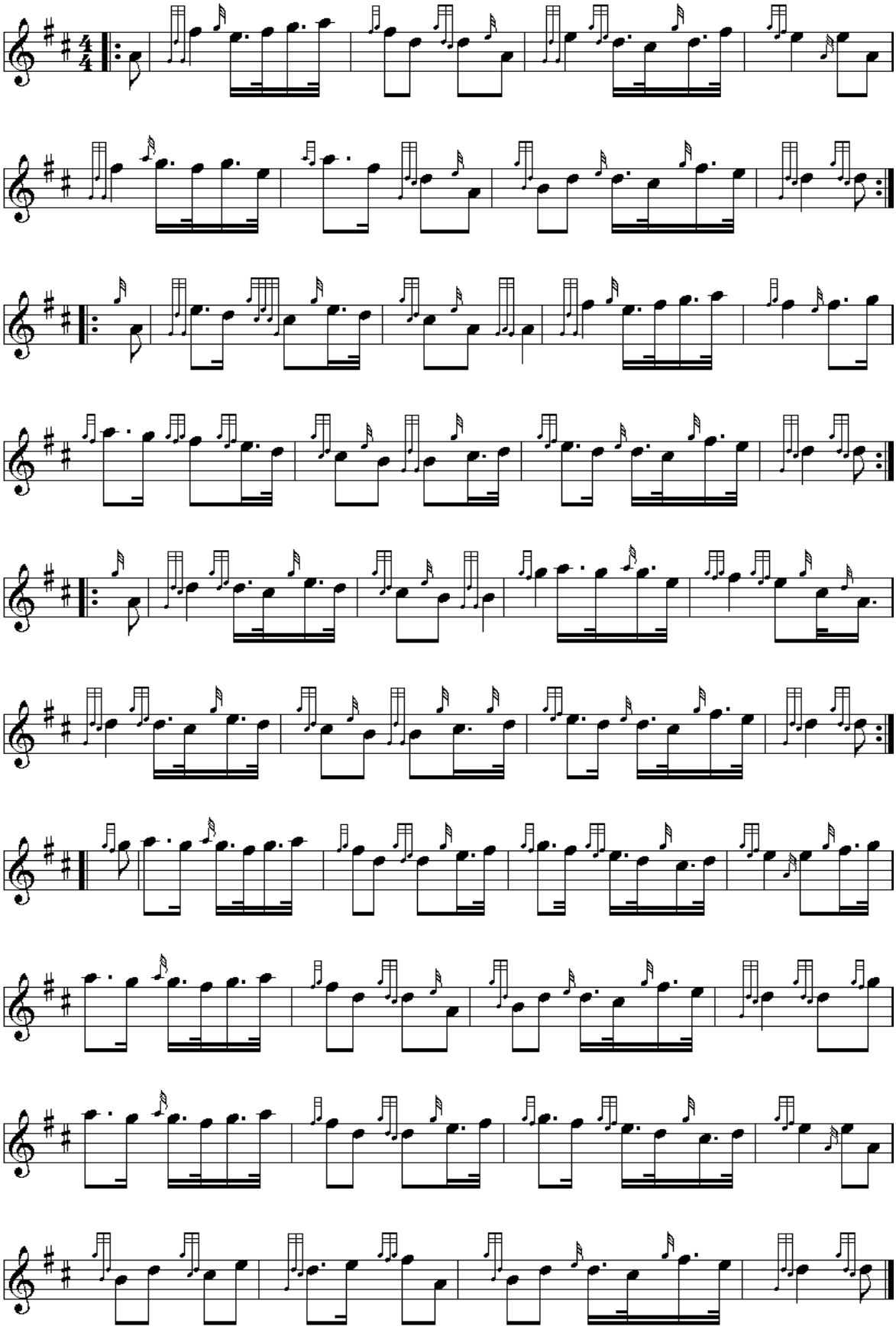
The Armistice of November 11, 1918 was signed at Le Francport near Compiègne that ended fighting on land, sea, and air between the Entente and their last remaining opponent, Germany. Previous armistices had been agreed with Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire and Austria-Hungary. It was concluded after the German government sent a message to American president Woodrow Wilson to negotiate terms on the basis of a recent speech of his and the earlier declared "Fourteen Points", which later became the basis of the German surrender at the Paris Peace Conference, which took place the following year.

The actual terms, which were largely written by Foch, included the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front, the withdrawal of German forces from west of the Rhine, Allied occupation of the Rhineland and bridgeheads further east, the preservation of infrastructure, the surrender of aircraft, warships, and military materiel, the release of Allied prisoners of war and interned civilians, eventual reparations, no release of German prisoners and no relaxation of the naval blockade of Germany. The armistice was extended three times while negotiations continued on a peace treaty. The Treaty of Versailles, which was officially signed on June 28, 1919, took effect on January 10, 1920.

Fighting continued up until 11 a.m. CET on November 11,1918, with 2,738 men dying on the last day of the war.

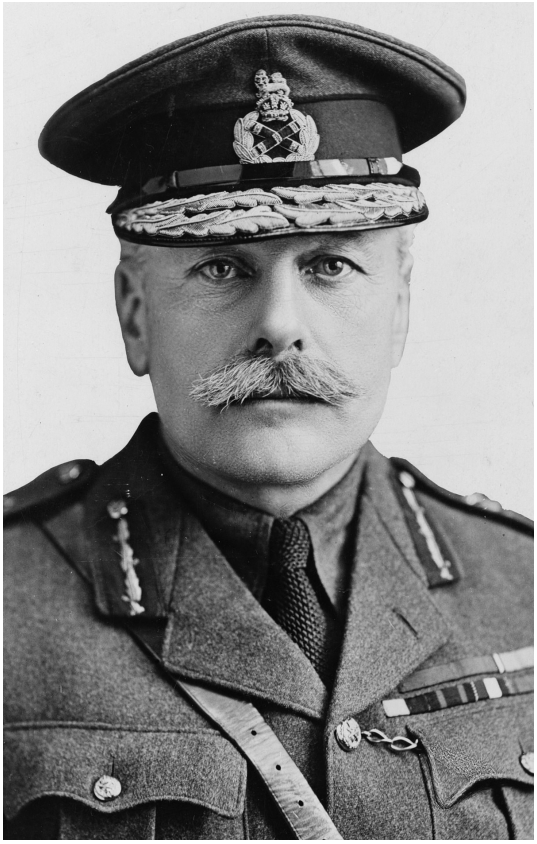
The tune, ***The Armistice of 1918*** was composed by Pipe Major George S. McLennan. The idea came when he was in the trenches in Vendin near the village of Choques, France in June 1918, but it wasn't until November 15 of that year that he composed the tune after hearing pipers play and French and Scots soldiers singing a few days after Armistice. He completed the tune in Aberdeen in 1922.





The Allies Triumphant March on Berlin

The tune, ***The Allies Triumphant March to Berlin*** by Alexander Rose MacLeod of the Royal Scots Fusiliers was dedicated to General Sir Douglas Haig.

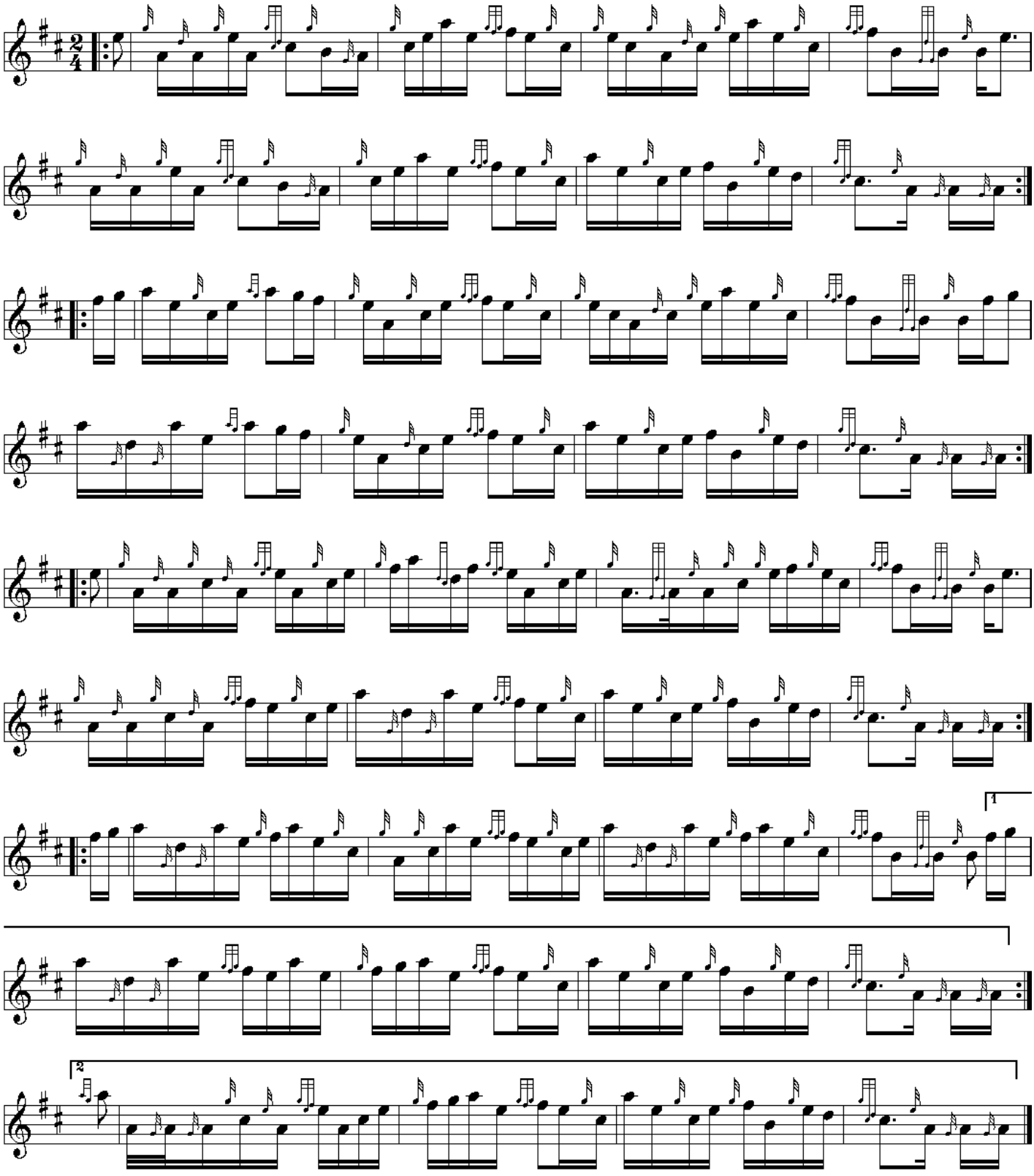


Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, KT, GCB, OM, GCVO, KCIE (June 19, 1861 – January 29, 1928) commanded the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on the Western Front from late 1915 until the end of the war. He was commander during the Battle of the Somme, the Battle of Arras, the Third Battle of Ypres, the German Spring Offensive, and the Hundred Days Offensive.

His military career included service in the War Office, where he was instrumental in the creation of the Territorial Force in 1908. In January 1917 he was raised up to the rank of Field Marshal, subsequently leading the BEF during the final Hundred Days Offensive, when it crossed the Canal du Nord and broke through the Hindenburg line, capturing 188,700 German prisoners. This campaign, in combination with the Kiel mutiny, the Wilhelmshaven mutiny, the proclamation of a republic on November 9, 1918, and civil unrest across Germany, led to the armistice of November 11, 1918. It is considered by some historians to be one of the greatest victories ever achieved by a British-led army.

He gained a favorable reputation during the immediate post-war years, with his funeral becoming a day of national mourning. However, he also had some prominent contemporary detractors and, beginning in the 1960s, has been widely criticized for his leadership during the First World War. He was nicknamed "Butcher Haig" for the two million British casualties endured under his command. The Canadian War Museum comments: "His epic but costly offensives at the Somme (1916) and Passchendaele (1917) have become nearly synonymous with the carnage and futility of First World War battles."

Major-General John Davidson, one of Haig's biographers, praised Haig's leadership, and since the 1980s many historians have argued that the public hatred with which Haig's name had come to be associated failed to recognize the adoption of new tactics and technologies by forces under his command, the important role played by British forces in the allied victory of 1918, and that high casualties were a consequence of the tactical and strategic realities of the time.



The Guns Have Ceased

The tune, ***The Guns Have Ceased*** was composed by Pipe Major Joe Massey.

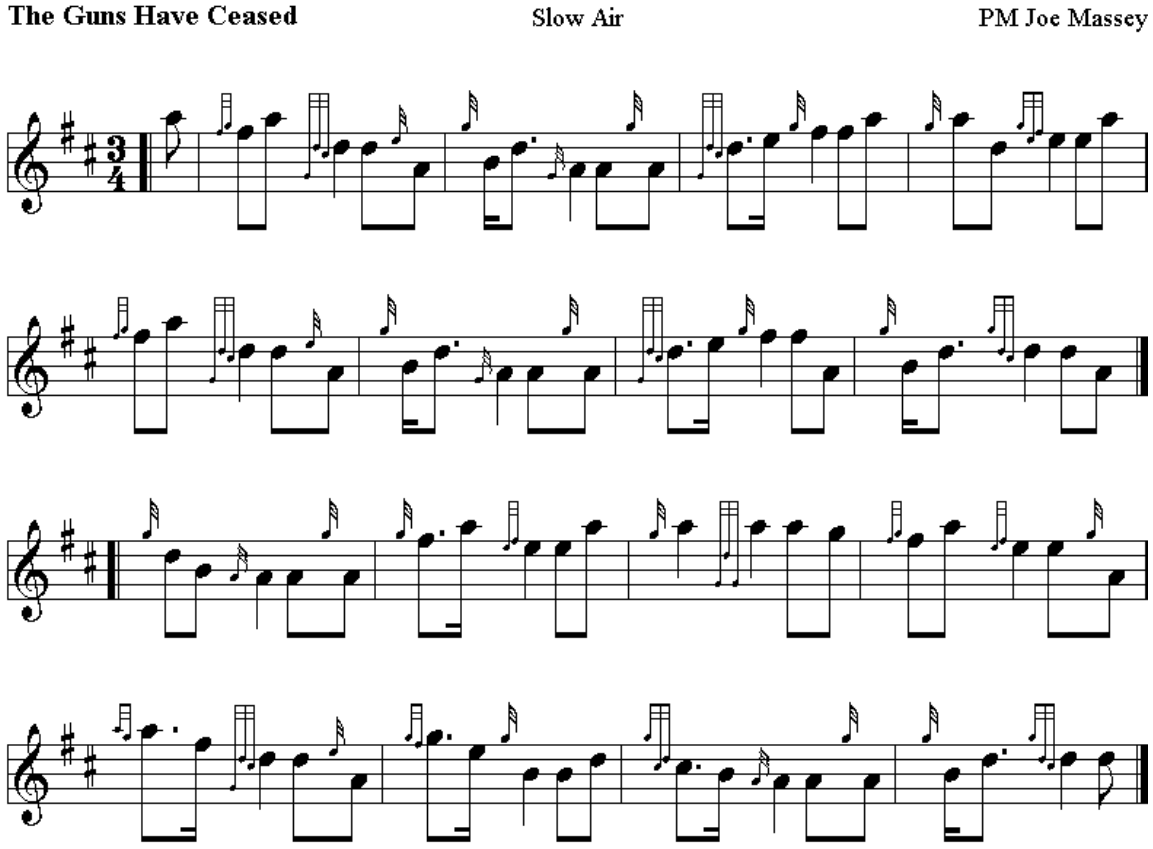
Massey joined the Scots Guards after leaving school, one of three brothers who served with the regiment, the eldest being killed in action. He learnt his piping with the 2nd Battalion and also studied at Buckingham Palace under Alec MacDonald, the then Sovereign's Piper.

For a while he played with the Clan MacLeod Pipe Band. Later he become Pipe Sergeant of the Clan Cruachan Pipe Band. He then joined the Cameron Highlanders 1st Battalion the Liverpool Scottish until its disbandment in 1967.

He then became Pipe Major of the Liverpool Irish and was that regiment's last Pipe Major. The Irish became the 103 Light Air Defense Regiment, and Massey was asked to form a new band and became its first Pipe Major.

Joe then moved to Ayr, where he was P/Sgt of the Killoch Colliery Pipe Band and was called upon during this time to judge the Killoch Junior Solo Piping competition. He then played with British Caledonian Airways Pipe Band for several years before retiring to Anglesey.

PM Joe Massey died on Christmas Eve in 2013.



Victory Reel—Kaiser Bill Lament

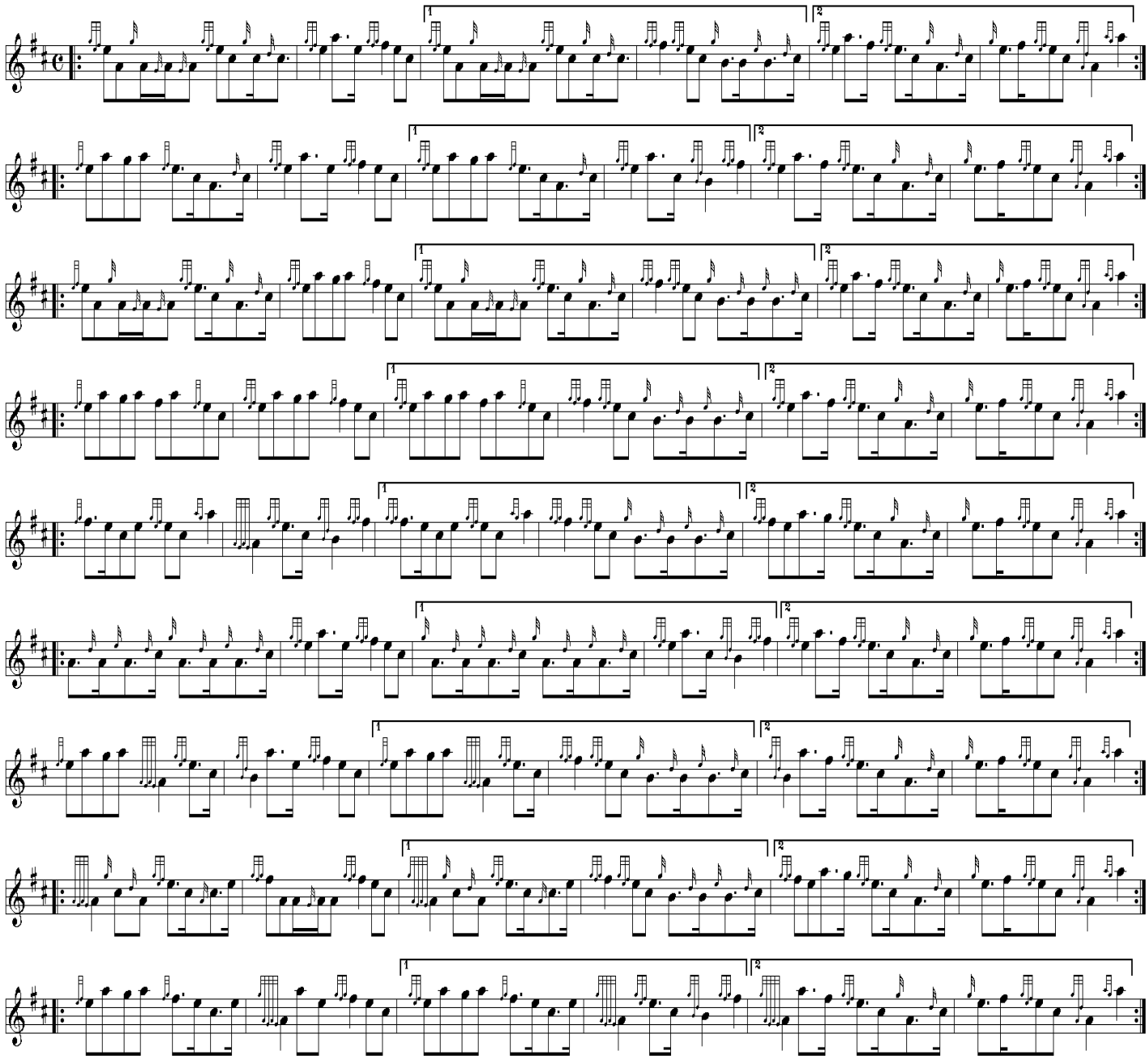
The tune, ***Victory Reel*** by A.K. Cameron has the subtitle of Kaiser Bill Lament, undoubtedly referring to Kaiser Wilhelm II. (Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor Albert; January 27, 1859 – June 4, 1941).

Wilhelm II was a member of the House of Hohenzollern who reigned as the last German Emperor and King of Prussia from June 15, 1888 until his abdication on November 9,1918. Despite strengthening the German Empire's position as a great power by building a powerful navy, his tactless public statements and erratic foreign policy greatly antagonized the international community and are considered by many to be one of the underlying causes of World War I. When the German war effort collapsed after a series of crushing defeats on the Western Front in 1918, he was forced to abdicate, thereby marking the end of the German Empire and the House of Hohenzollern's 300-year reign in Prussia and 500-year reign in Brandenburg.

Born during the reign of his granduncle Frederick William IV of Prussia, Wilhelm was the son of Prince Frederick William and Victoria, Princess Royal. Through his mother, he was the eldest grandchild of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom. In March 1888, Frederick William ascended the German and Prussian thrones as Frederick III. Frederick died just 99 days later, and his son succeeded him as Wilhelm II.

In March 1890, Wilhelm dismissed Chancellor Otto von Bismarck and assumed direct control over his nation's policies, embarking on a bellicose "New Course" to cement its status as a leading world power. Over the course of his reign, the German colonial empire acquired new territories in China and the Pacific (such as Kiautschou Bay, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Caroline Islands) and became Europe's largest manufacturer. However, Wilhelm often undermined such progress by threatening and making tactless statements towards other countries without first consulting his ministers. Likewise, his regime did much to alienate itself from other great powers by initiating a massive naval build-up, contesting French control of Morocco, and building a railway through Baghdad that challenged Britain's dominion in the Persian Gulf. By the second decade of the 20th century, Germany could rely only on significantly weaker nations such as Austria-Hungary and the declining Ottoman Empire as allies.

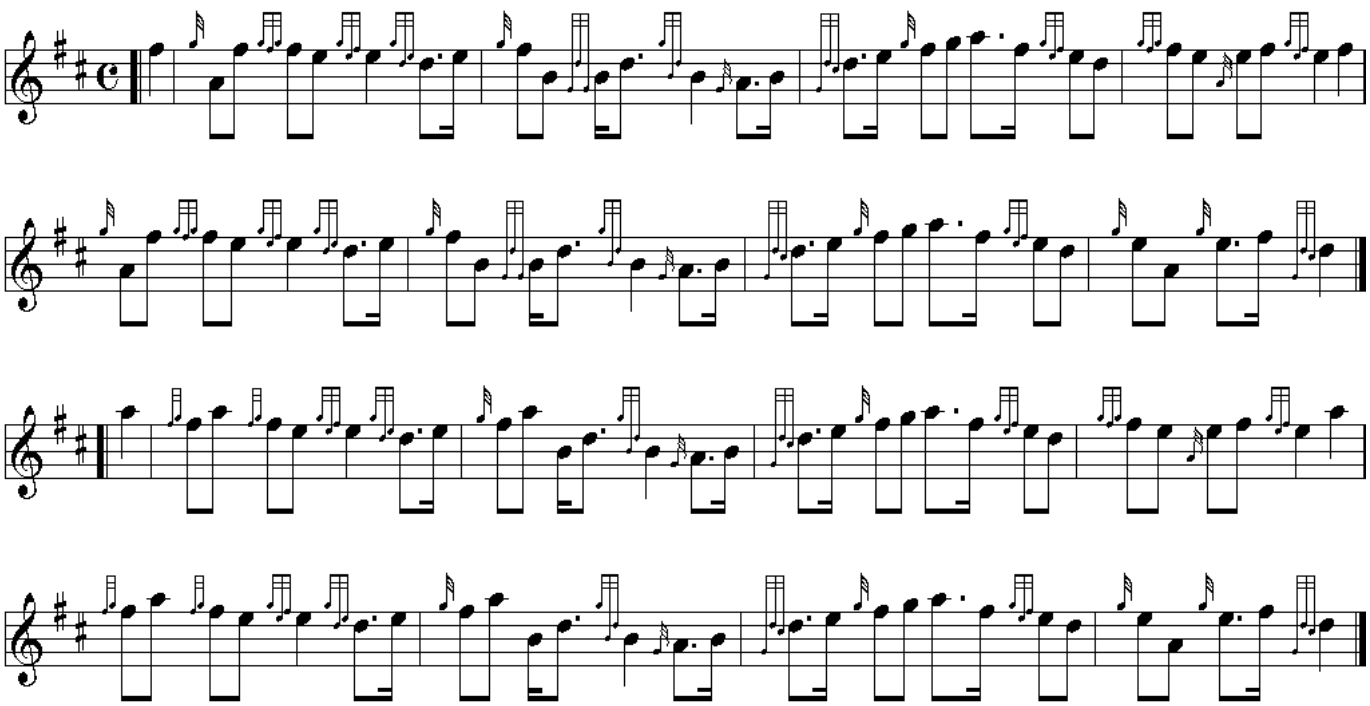
Wilhelm's reign culminated in Germany's guarantee of military support to Austria-Hungary during the crisis of July 1914, one of the immediate causes of World War I. A lax wartime leader, Wilhelm left virtually all decision-making regarding strategy and organization of the war effort to the German Army's Great General Staff. By August 1916, this broad delegation of power gave rise to a de facto military dictatorship that dominated national policy for the rest of the conflict. Despite emerging victorious over Russia and obtaining significant territorial gains in Eastern Europe, Germany was forced to relinquish all its conquests after a decisive defeat on the Western Front in the fall of 1918. Losing the support of his country's military and many of his subjects, Wilhelm was forced to abdicate during the German Revolution of 1918–1919. The revolution converted Germany from a monarchy into an unstable democratic state known as the Weimar Republic. Wilhelm fled to exile in the Netherlands, where he remained during its occupation by Nazi Germany in 1940. He died there in 1941.

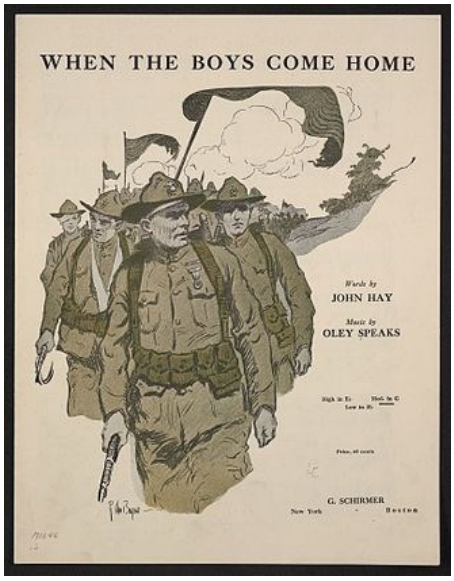


When the Boys Come Home Again

The tune, ***When the Boys Come Home Again*** was composed by Pipe Major William Mann. Mann was born in 1864 in Ellon, Aberdeenshire. He was P/M of the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Gordons and then with the full regiment from 1904. During the war he was probably with 2/4th Gordons which then combined with 2/5th as reserve battalion as his obituary states he coached pipers from other units at Scone, Bedford and Norwich where these second line battalions were stationed. These tunes are in Logan's War Memorial Collection of 1914-1918 tunes.

When the Boys Come Home Again March PM William Mann



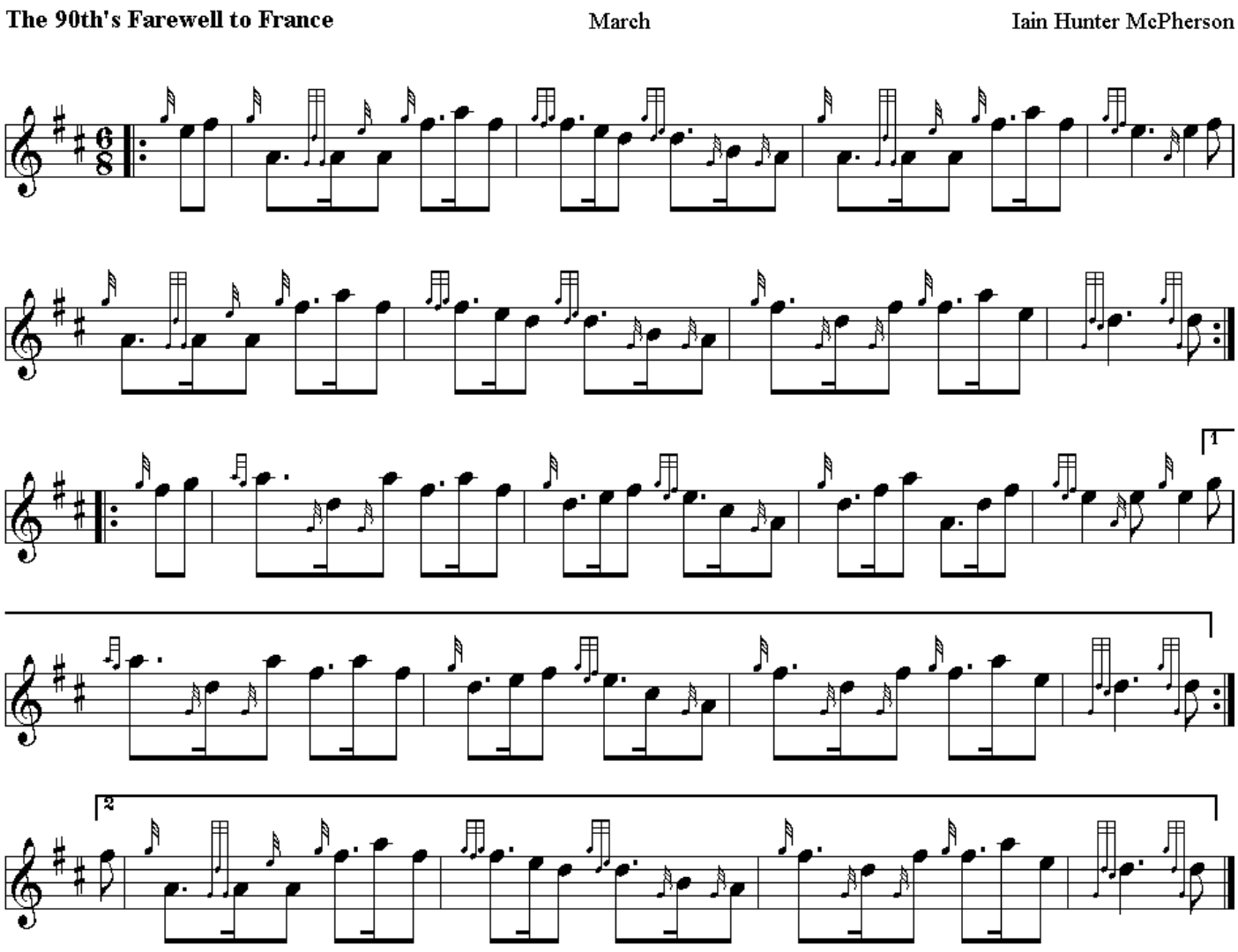


"**When the Boys Come Home**" was also a popular song in WW1. It was first published as sheet music in 1915 with music by Oley Speaks and lyrics by John Hay. Oley Speaks composed the song. John Hay wrote the lyrics. The piece was written for both voice and piano. The song, written in first person, takes on a positive tone. The lyrics detail the happiness and celebration that will be felt when the soldiers return home from war. Another song published in 1918 with the same name had lyrics by John Hay and music by Calvin W. Laufer.

The 90th's Farewell to France

The 90th Regiment of Foot (Perthshire Volunteers) amalgamated with the 26th (Cameronian) Regiment of Foot to form the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). After the amalgamation, the 1st Battalion preferred to be known as "The Cameronians" while the 2nd preferred to be known as "The Scottish Rifles".

The 2nd Battalion landed in France as part of the 23rd Brigade in the 8th Division in November 1914 for service on the Western Front where they remained until the end of the war.

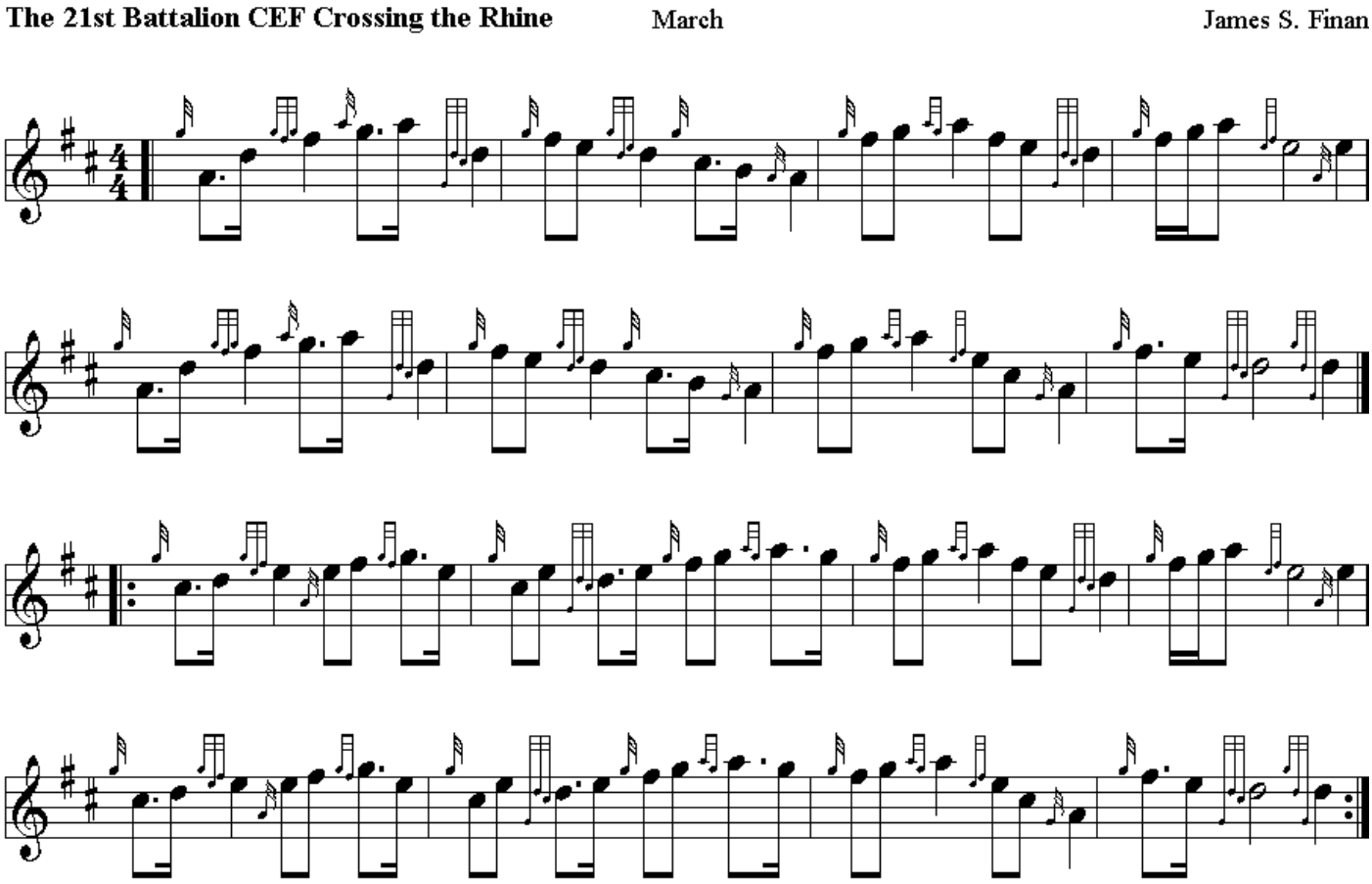


The 21st Battalion CEF Crossing the Rhine

The 21st Battalion (Eastern Ontario) Canadian Expeditionary Force was authorized on November 7, 1914 and embarked for Britain on May 6, 1915. It disembarked in France on September 15, 1915, where it fought as part of the 4th Canadian Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division in France and Flanders.

The Battalion served with distinction until the end of the war. They earned several Battle Honors with which to emblazon their Colors. Sadly, many heroes paid the supreme sacrifice and remain in Flanders Fields. 1,013 men left Kingston in May of 1915 with the Battalion, but when they marched into Germany as part of the occupying force at war's end, only 103 of those originals remained.

The tune, ***The 21st Battalion CEF Crossing the Rhine*** was composed by Dr. James. S. Finan.



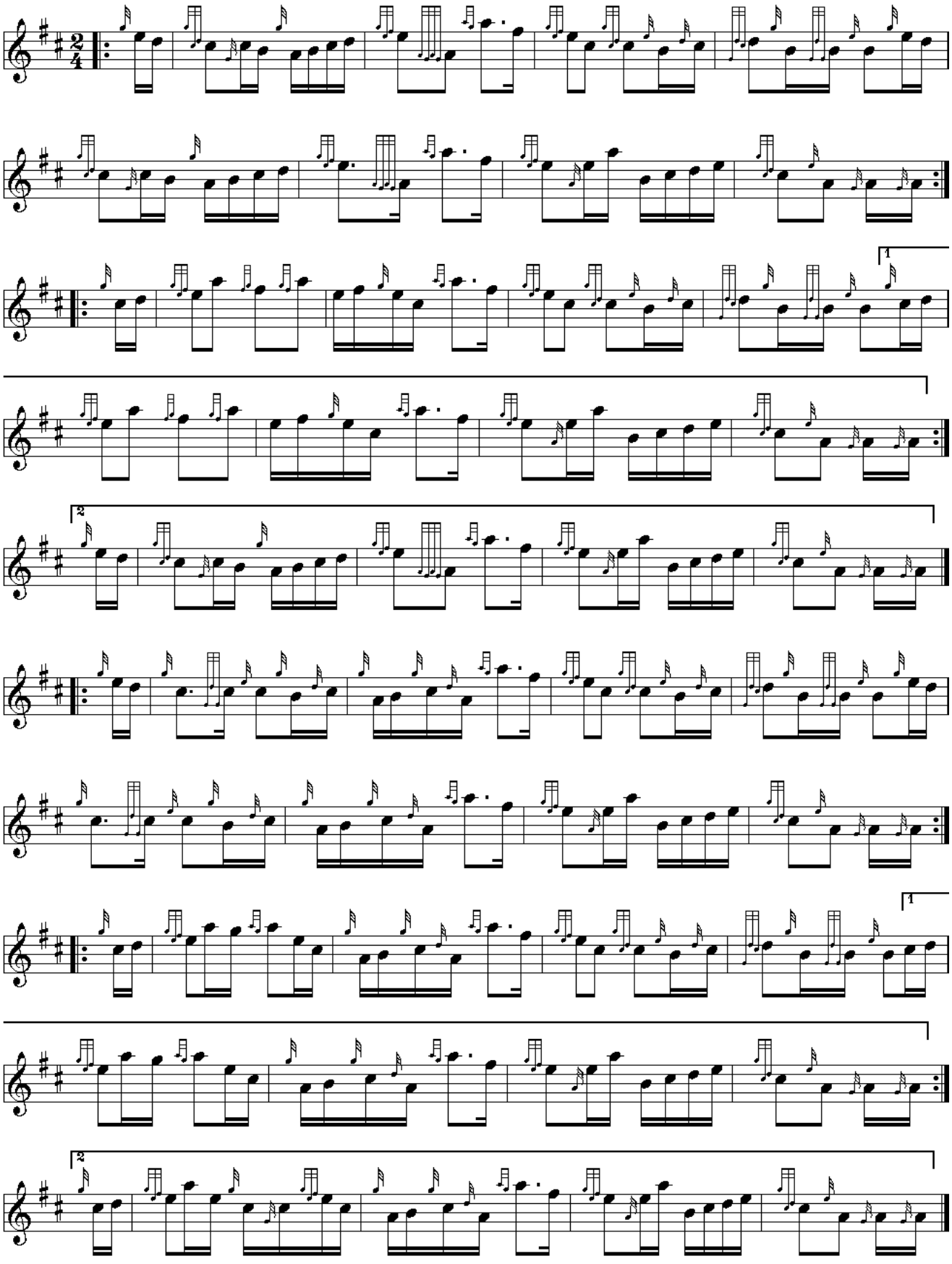
The 12 Battalion The Royal Scots on the Rhine

The 12th (Service) Battalion, Royal Scots was raised at Edinburgh in August 1914 as part of Kitchener's First New Army. After initial training in the area, they joined the 27th Brigade, 9th (Scottish) Division and moved to Bordon. They arrived in France in May, 1915 and went into action at The Battle of Loos. In 1916 they were in action at the Battle of the Somme, including the capture of Longueval, The Battle of Delville Wood, and The Battle of Le Transloy. In 1917, they fought in the First and Second Battles of the Scarpe during the Arras Offensive, The First Battle of Passchendaele, and The Action of Welsh Ridge. In 1918, they fought on the Somme, in the Battles of the Lys and The Advance in Flanders, capturing the Outtersteene Ridge and seeing action in the Battle of Courtrai and action at Ooteghem. Ehy were resting in billets at the Armistice. The 9th Division was selected to be part of the occupation force and on December 4 they crossed into Germany to take up a position at the Cologne bridgehead on the Rhine. In late February 1919, the original units were demobilized, being replaced by others and the Division was renamed the Lowland Division.

The tune, ***The 12th Battalion The Royal Scots on the Rhine*** was played as the Reveille in Mesopotamia ever since the capture of Samarra in April 1918 in the same was as the American Reveille is played on Sunday mornings by the 1st Battalion.

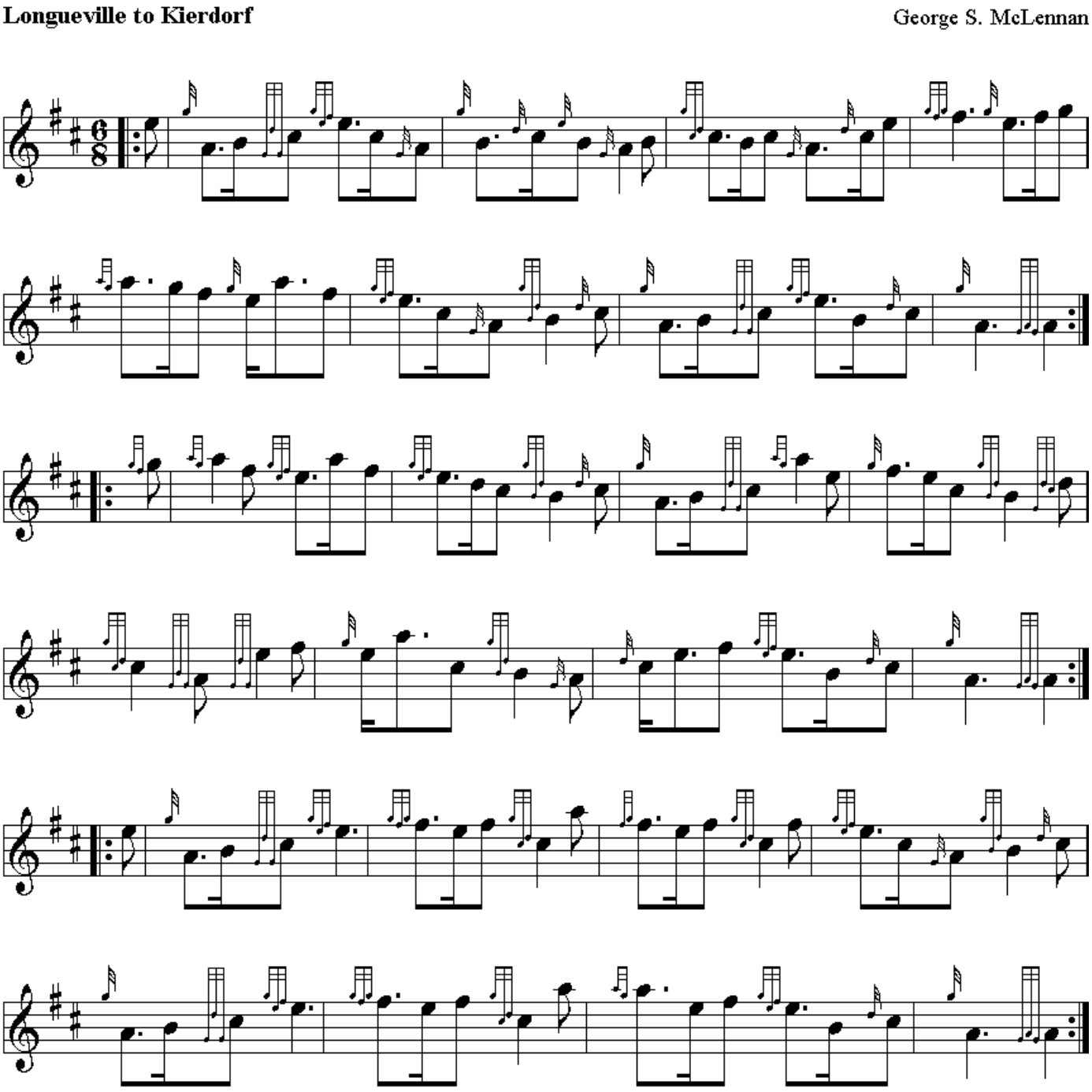
12th Royal Scots on Patrol, 1918

The 12th Battalion The Royal Scots on the Rhine W. Cowie



Longueville to Kierdorf

The tune, ***Longueville to Kierdorf*** was composed by Pipe Major George S. McLennan. McLennan was Pipe Major of the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders in 1918 and was with it at Longueville near Maubeuge, Flanders when the Armistice was signed. When Germany was to be occupied, the Battalion marched from Longueville to Kierdorf just west of the Rhine near Cologne; the march took from the 24th of November to December 19, 1918. McLennan took part in this event and it was for this reason that his son gave the tune its name.



Banks of the Bosporus

The tune, ***Banks of the Bosporus*** was composed by Pipe Major James Robertson in 1920 and was named because the 1st Battalion of the Regiment served for part of that year in Touzla, Turkey, and the town is near the Bosporus.

Born in Bannffshire on August 23, 1886, Robertson began learning pipes at the age of 15 from P/M William Sutherland of Airdrie.

In 1906 he enlisted in the Gordon Highlanders, where he would befriend and come under the influence of the great G. S. McLennan, the greatest Gordon piper of all. G. S. taught Robertson from 1906 to 1913, recommended him for promotion to Lance Corporal in 1912, and oversaw his advancement to Pipe Corporal in 1913.

Just before the Great War, he attended the Military School of Piping at Inverness under John MacDonald of Inverness, where he certainly would have studied piobaireachd, and became the tenth graduate of what would come to be known as the Army School of Piping.

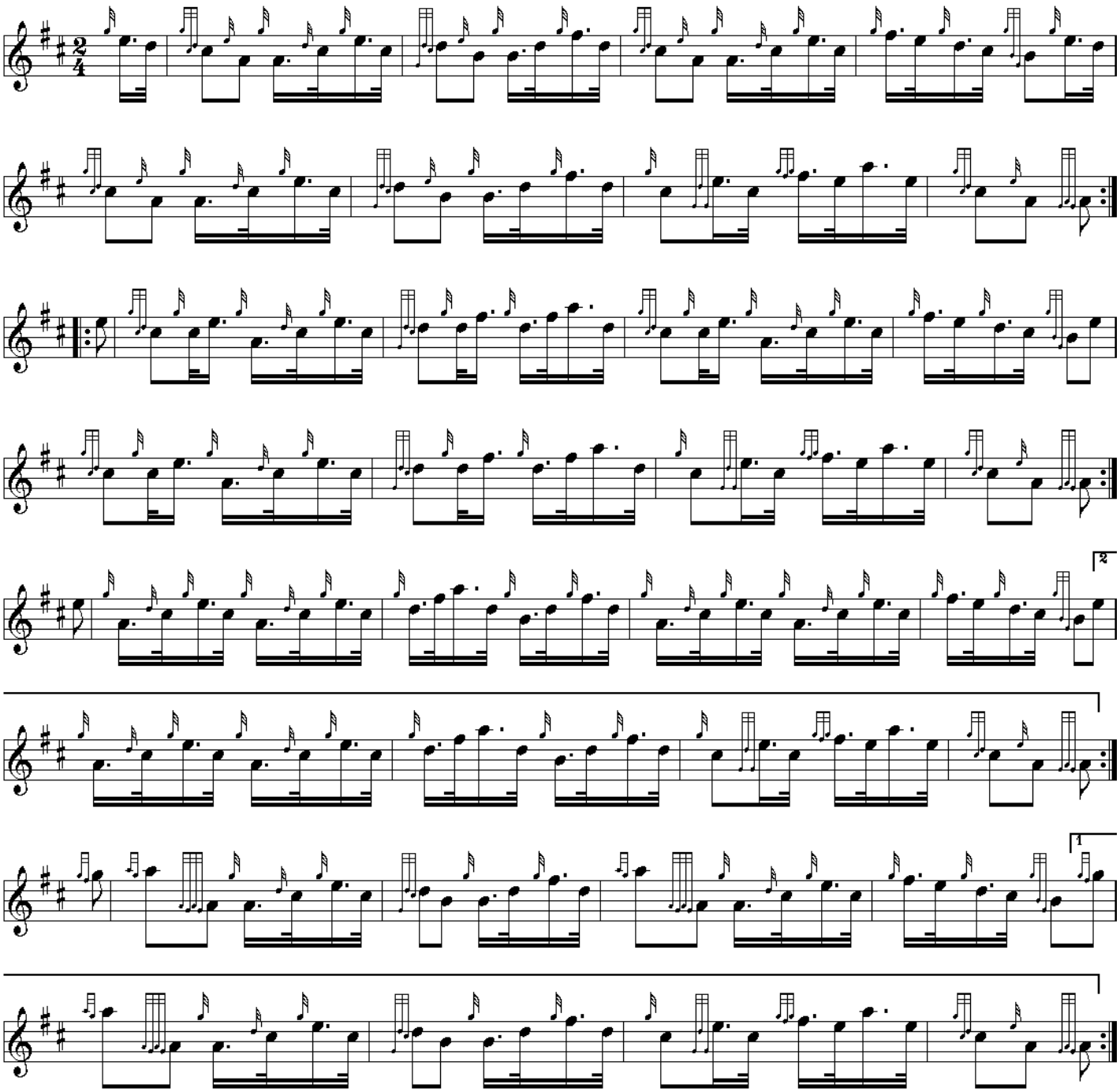
In August 1914 he went with the 1st Battalion of the Gordons to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. *The Gordon Highlanders Pipe Music Collection Volume II* (1985) describes his trials and adventures during the war years:

On August 13th there were eighteen pipers in the Battalion, most of whom had been pupils of G. S., but by 27th August only two had escaped capture or death. Robbie was amongst the former being taken with the majority of the Battalion at Bertry on 27th August, and he was to spend virtually the whole War as a prisoner. He was sent to Sennelager near Paderborn in September 1914 and was court martialled by the Germans on three occasions during his time as a POW for 'refusing to carry out work of a military nature, i.e. building Zeppelin sheds and, as a Non-Commissioned Officer, inciting men to refuse similar work." For years afterwards, Robbie, in his inimitable, amusing style, would recount his experiences as a prisoner in charge of liquidising human excrement prior to its application as a fertiliser on the surrounding German farmland. This typically efficient German approach was frequently sabotaged by the prisoner in charge, which leaves much to the imagination! Indeed, on 17th December, 1915, so difficult had he become to his captors that he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment. Actually, a large part of this period was spent in solitary confinement and the sentence took one year, ten months to complete. He would not give in. Indeed, such had been his example to others that in February 1920 he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his valuable services as a prisoner of war.

In April of 1918 he was exchanged as a prisoner and the next year he rejoined the 1st Battalion in Limerick. But it was during his incarceration as a POW in 1915 that he composed his best known tune, "Farewell to the Creeks." It was about the Creeks of Portknockie, where he used to holiday at his uncle's. Many years later he spoke be still being in possession of the piece of yellow blotting paper onto which he first transcribed the tune, apparently while he was in solitary confinement.

A champion boxer in the regiment as a young man, he was respected as a pipe major, a piper and a soldier, though the war and his foreign service perhaps robbed him of his due as a competitive player.

After serving in Malta and finally at the depot in Aberdeen, he retired in April, 1927 and worked as a janitor at the Banff Academy until 1953. He also served as a Special Constable in Banff, achieving the rank of Sergeant. He died in 1961.

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