

AUSSIE-SCOTS NEWS

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A publication of the AUSTRALIAN SCOTTISH COMMUNITY (Qld) Inc.

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OUR AIM: "To collaborate with other Scottish and Celtic Groups to maintain, promote and advance the Scots culture and Heritage in Australia."

REMEMBERANCE DAY 11TH NOVEMBER



On July 18th, RAF Bomber Command struck back for the bombing raids on United Kingdom targets with night raids on the Krupp armament

works at Essen, targets at Bremen and on the Hamm marshalling yards. The next night, Dornier 17 bombers hit the Rolls Royce aero engine factory at Glasgow. Each day, air raids by each side on shipping and land targets continued, and the pressure on the aircrews mounted. In late July, Goering formed the Luftwaffe's first night fighter squadron with Messerschmitt 110 twin-engine fighters, and claimed the first night fighter "kill" of the war - an RAF Whitley bomber over North West Germany. On July 22nd, two days later, the RAF night fighters claimed their first night "kill", a Dornier 17 near Brighton, shot down by a Blenheim using the new AI radar.

RAF Fighter Command's First Kill On October 16, 1939, German JU 88s from the island of Sylt, attacked naval ships in the harbour at Rosyth, Scotland. About to enter dry dock for repairs was the battle cruiser HMS Hood, but the pilots had strict orders not to attack. A personal order from Hitler stated "Should the Hood already be in dock, no attack is to be made, I won't have a single civilian killed." After the raid, in which the 9,100 ton cruiser HMS Southampton was damaged, Spitfires from RAF Turnhouse, near Edinburgh, attacked the departing JUs and one was shot down, hitting the sea off Port Seton. This was the first enemy plane to be brought down by RAF Fighter Command.

The first B-17 'Flying Fortress' to be shot down in WW II was 525 D-Dog based at Kinloss, Scotland. Delivered to 90 Squadron of the RAF and flown by a British crew, D-Dog was shot down on September 8, 1941, by Lt. Alfred Jakobi's Bf-109 of 13/JG77 based at Stavanger-Sola near Oslo. The B-17, piloted by Canadian Flying Officer David Romans and his co-pilot Flying Officer F. G. Hart, plummeted to the ground in a near vertical dive and exploded just before hitting the mountainside at Bygland killing all seven crew members. The bodies were buried in the local Church Cemetery at Bygland by a Luftwaffe unit. In spite of its huge publicity the B-17 was no match for German fighters and drastic changes in armaments and other equipment were undertaken before the B-17 became the true backbone of USAAF units stationed in Britain.

A total of 12,726 B17s were built at a cost of \$276,000 each. Later, the B29 replaced the B17 at a cost of \$639,000 each. The most famous B29 was named 'Bockscar' which dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

(Since Pearl Harbor (Dec.1, 1941) to the end of the war in

the Pacific, the US had lost 22,948 aircraft in combat operations. This involved the loss of 19,265 lives).

Near Disaster (October 30,1939) The German submarine U-56, commanded by Lieutenant Wilhelm Zahn, found itself in the middle of a contingent of the British Home Fleet sailing just west of the Orkney Islands. Leading the contingent was the battleship HMS Rodney followed by the HMS Nelson and HMS Hood, all surrounded by a protective screen of destroyers. Here was the U-56, sitting at periscope depth in an ideal firing position and straight ahead was the Flagship of the Fleet, HMS Nelson. Elated, Zahn fired three torpedoes at the target which was impossible to miss. Two of the torpedoes actually hit the Nelson but did not explode! The U-56 made a quick getaway. Had the torpedoes exploded, the V.I.P.s on board the Nelson would have been in great danger. They had gathered for a conference to determine what action had to be taken after the sinking of the Royal Oak at Scapa flow. The illustrious guests included the C-in-C Home Fleet, Admiral Sir Charles Forbes, the First Sea Lord, Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Dudley Pound, and Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Winston Churchill! This heaven sent opportunity caused Admiral Karl Donetz, the German U-boat supremo, to write in his war diary "Without doubt, the torpedo inspectors have fallen down on their job ... at least 30% of our torpedoes are duds!" Gunther Prien, hero of Scapa Flow, remarked "How the hell do they expect us to fight with dummy rifles". Without doubt this was a great embarrassment to the German Navy - 31 U-boat attacks from favourable positions, 4 attacks on the Warspite, 12 attacks on various cruisers, 10 attacks on destroyers and 5 attacks on troop transports - without a single hit! All torpedoes failed to explode. How lucky we were!

The third civilian killed in an air raid on Britain was James Isbister during a German raid on Scapa Flow in the Orkneys on July 24, 1940. A bomb fell near the Bridge of Waith killing 27 year old Isbister. On a previous raid on November 13, 1939 during an attack by a Heinkle bomber on the Shetland Islands, all that resulted was a large bomb crater in the countryside and the only fatality was a rabbit, which gave rise to the famous WWII marching song 'Run Rabbit, Run'.

There is some speculation that the rabbit was actually purchased from a local butcher and placed in the crater for effect ... or a laugh; but either way, this must be the world's most famous dead rabbit!

These stories were taken from Little known facts of WWII.



Joseph Wells

Age 22, Stockman, Arrived from NSW in 1878.

Before 1880, only one person had been executed in Queensland for armed robbery with wounding. Joseph Wells became the second and last Queenslander to be executed for the crime.

He had committed an armed robbery at a Cunnamulla bank and was escaping with a bag of money in one hand and a revolver in the other, when a shopkeeper from a neighbouring store arrived on the scene. Wells jumped up on the bank counter and warned the shopkeeper to 'keep back', but his warning was ignored and a struggle broke out. The gun was discharged and the shopkeeper was wounded in the shoulder. Wells rushed outside and when he found himself being pursued by a policeman he tried to climb up a tree to hide. He insisted he would not give up his gun and had no intention of being taken alive, saying:

"I would rather be shot, I have stuck up the Bank a short time ago and I believe shot a man dead, I may as well be shot now as to spend my lifetime in gaol"

He then climbed down the tree and tried to mount a horse before he was arrested. Wells was tried in Toowoomba shortly afterwards, and he also had no legal representation. Although the government of the day provided council for the defence of Aborigines and Islanders, none was provided for poor whites like Wells. Because of this, Wells was unaware that he was facing a capital charge and despite claiming that his gun had gone off accidentally, he pleaded 'guilty'. On the Judge's advice he changed this to 'not guilty'. At the conclusion of the trial the Judge reminded the jury that they could only find Wells guilty if they believed the gun had not been fired accidentally, but as no evidence had been presented to back Wells up, they only took a short time to find him guilty and he was sentenced to death. This decision stirred up public opinion, and a large proportion of the populations of Toowoomba and Ipswich campaigned to have the sentence commuted. Their campaign was supported by several politicians and the *Toowoomba Chronicle*, and although it led to a postponement of the execution of Wells, the respite was short-lived and the hanging went ahead a few weeks later.

Wells was to be the last person hanged in Queensland for armed robbery with wounding, and the offence ceased to be a capital crime when a new Criminal Code was introduced in 1901.

(This Week 27 March 1880) (*The Prisoners of Toowong Cemetery*)

A Queenslander's Choice

The Scotsman likes his heather bells,
The Englishman his rose,
And shamrocks please the Irishman -
But I choose none of those.

Surrounding my homestead I see,
And spread far to the west,
The arrows of the sugar cane,
And these I like the best.

Above maturing sticks of cane,
In rustling fields of green,
Cane arrows take on many hues
At different times I've seen.

All wet with dew in the sparkling dawn,
Deep cream when the sun rides high,
Pale mauve when the heavens are overcast,
Ash-pink from a smoke-filled sky.

But best of all by Queensland eyes,
I see when day is done,
Erect and tall the arrows stand,
Silver-lined by the setting sun.

Note: Smoke-filled sky—when cane is being burnt for harvesting.

By D.L. Moffatt

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Insured Against Nessie Attack There are some who are sceptical about the existence of "Nessie" - the Loch Ness Monster - even though a large creature has been reported on many occasions. Scientific searches of the loch have proved that the creature is elusive, however, to say the least. But the organisers of the "First Monster Duathlon" - a star-studded line-up of 250 teams of four will run and cycle on a 120 kilometre course around Loch Ness - are taking no chances. The organisers say that they are planning for "all eventualities" and with so many finely tuned athletes, Nessie might be stirred into action. The insurers (who struggled a bit to work out the risks and the premium to be paid) have agreed that they will pay out if proof is produced during the race that Nessie has been sighted. Since the bizarre insurance policy was reported extensively by the media, the organisers have obtained much free publicity which will be worth far more than any (nominal?) premium they are having to pay... *Scottish Rampart Newsletter*

Tartan Register for Highlands? The Scottish Executive agreed in the last session of parliament to the setting up of a new National Tartan Register to "protect, promote and preserve one of Scotland's most iconic and valuable assets". The register will be under the control of the Lord Lyon of Scotland. That body is one of the oldest heraldic organisations in the world and is based in Edinburgh. But this week Highland Council called for the new body to be located in the Highlands, arguing that tartan was very much a symbol of the Highland clan system. The Highlands form the geographical centre of the historic legacy of tartan and also boast a wealth of experience and knowledge of tartan. However, it seems more likely that the organisation will be Edinburgh based, under the Lord Lyon's guardianship. But even if the register and its staff are located in the Capital, it is argued that the associated national archive and museum could be set up in Inverness, the capital of the Highlands. *Scottish Rampart Newsletter*

OATCAKES

1 cup oatmeal pinch bicarbonate of soda
 ¼ teaspoon salt 1 teaspoon melted lard

hot water to mix

Mix the dry ingredients. Add the fat and water to make a stiff dough.

Roll out thinly on a board well-covered with dry meal. Cut into shapes. Heat a girdle or a thick frying pan and cook one side of the oatcakes until they curl. Toast the top under the grill to finish. Alternatively, the oatcakes may be baked in a moderately hot oven (190°C, Gas 5) until nicely cooked and dry.

Another Neolithic Settlement Uncovered The 5,000-year-old neolithic settlement at Skara Brae in Orkney is already a World Heritage site. But archaeologists have been working on another site on Orkney for the last three years, which they say could be equally important, now that they have been able to unearth more of the site. The dig at Ness of Brodgar has provided evidence of domestic structures and also those used for ritual and ceremonial purposes. The regular layout shows a refined architecture, with many hidden under ground. Beautifully decorated prehistoric pottery "by the bucketful" has been found, with lots of stone tools, a polished stone mace head, which probably came from the Western Isles or central Scotland, and a kind of volcanic glass that only occurs in Arran. The remnants of one stone wall show that it was over 300 feet long and over 16 feet wide - its height is not yet known, but it could well have been very high, based on its width. The archaeologists have named it "The Great Wall of Brodgar" and it is thought to have been a symbolic barrier between those living in the village and the dead represented by nearby Ring of Brodgar standing stones. *Rampant Scotland Newsletter*

Her Majesty's Greenest Ship HMS Daring, which has successfully completed its initial sea trials in the Firth of Clyde, may have more firepower than any previous ship in the Royal Navy, but it is also being touted as the "greenest". It has an enviable low fuel consumption, which would allow it to sail to the Falkland Islands and back without refuelling. And its exhaust emissions are a fraction of its predecessor - and the casings for its shells from the 4.5 inch guns can be recycled. HMS Daring is the first of six Type 45 destroyers being built on the Clyde. She is no slouch, either, accelerating to 29 knots in 70 seconds - and can go from 30 knots to zero in 5.5 ship lengths. The ship is also designed to produce a low profile on radar - it appears like a large fishing boat. Its own radar could pick up a cricket ball travelling at three times the speed of sound and can simultaneously deal with dozens of incoming threats. The destroyer is now back at its berth in Scotstoun prior to embarking on further rigorous trials. *Rampant Scotland Newsletter*

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Argyle Highlanders
OLD SEVENTY-FOURTH HIGHLAND REGIMENT.
 1778—1783.

This regiment was raised by Colonel John Campbell of Barbreck, who had served as captain and major of Fraser's Highlanders in the Seven Years' War. To him letters of service were granted in December 1777, and the regiment was completed in May 1778, when it was inspected at Glasgow by General Skene. The lower orders in Argyleshire, were closer to the sea and therefore more addicted to the navy than to the land service, so did not embrace the military profession with the same alacrity as the other Highlanders; the result was, that only 590 Highlanders entered this regiment. The remainder were Lowlanders recruited in Glasgow and the western districts of Scotland. With the exception of 4, all the officers were Highlanders, of whom 3 field-officers, 6 captains, and 14 subalterns were of the name of Campbell.

The 74th embarked at Greenock in August 1778, for Halifax, in Nova Scotia, where they were garrisoned along with the Edinburgh Regiment (the 80th) and the Duke of Hamilton's (the 82d), all under the command of Brigadier-General Francis Maclean. In spring, 1779, the grenadier company, commanded by Captain Ludovick Colquhoun of Luss, and the light company by Captain Campbell of Balnabie, were sent to New York, and joined the army immediately before the siege of Charlestown. The battalion companies, with a detachment of the 82d regiment, under the command of Brigadier-General Maclean, embarked at Halifax in June of the same year, and took possession of Penobscot. With the view of establishing himself there, the brigadier proceeded to erect defences; but before these were completed, a hostile fleet from Boston, with 2000 troops on board, under Brigadier-General Lovel, appeared in the bay, and on the 28th of July effected a landing on a peninsula, where the British were erecting a fort. The enemy immediately began to erect batteries for a siege; but their operations met with frequent interruption from parties that sallied from the fort. Meanwhile General Maclean proceeded with his works, and not only kept the enemy in complete check, but preserved the communication with the shipping, which they endeavoured to cut off. Both parties kept skirmishing till the 13th of August, on the morning of which day Commodore Sir George Collier entered the bay with a fleet to relieve the brigadier. The enemy immediately raised the siege, and retired to their ships, but a part only were able to escape. The remainder, along with the sailors of some of their ships which had grounded, formed themselves into a body, and attempted to penetrate through the woods; but running short of provisions, they afterwards quarrelled among themselves, and fired on each other till all their ammunition was spent. After upwards of 60 had been killed and wounded in this affray, the rest dispersed in the woods, where numbers perished.

In this expedition, the 74th had 2 sergeants and 14 privates killed, and 17 rank and file wounded. General Maclean returned to Halifax with the detachment of the 82d, leaving Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Campbell of Monzie with the 74th at Penobscot, where they remained till the termination of hostilities, when they embarked for England. They landed at Portsmouth, whence they marched for Stirling, and, after being joined by the flank companies, were reduced in the autumn of 1783

DUNDEE CAKE

170 gms Butter	170 gms castor sugar
3 eggs	250 gms flour
½ teaspoon Baking powder	
170 gms sultanas	100 gms currants
100 gms raisins	100 gms mixed peel
20 gms ground almonds	
100 gms blanched almonds	milk to mix

Cream the fat and sugar. Add the eggs one at a time and beat well. Add the dry ingredients, prepared fruit, and all but 20 gms of the blanched almonds. Add milk if necessary to make dropping consistency. Put in a greased and lined tin and place the rest of the almonds on top to make pattern. Bake at 180°C (Gas 4) for 1½ hours. If not cooked lower heat to 150°C (Gas 2).

We ask for heroic duties, but the duties that lie to our hand are heroic. The so-called heroic occurrences are, after all, often easier and therefore less heroic than the commonplace trials that daily test the stuff of which we are made.

H. Blane

Chief of Clan Scott Dies The Duke of Buccleuch, one of Scotland's biggest landowners and head of the Scott clan, died this week, after a short illness, aged 83. He had been confined to a wheelchair ever since a riding accident in the early 1970s and worked with various bodies on behalf of disabled people. He also sat in the House of Lords, speaking on rural, disability and constitutional issues. He was appointed a Knight of the Order of the Thistle - the highest honour in Scotland. He was outspoken in his defence of the countryside and could speak with the wide experience of managing the 270,000 acres of Buccleuch Estates in the Scottish Borders. He will be buried in historic Melrose Abbey next week. He is succeeded by his eldest son, the Earl of Dalkeith. *Scottish Rampart Newsletter*



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*** LIFE IN THE 1500'S ***

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be . Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water..

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying . It's raining cats and dogs.

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house.. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, Dirt poor. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a thresh hold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old..

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat..

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and re-use the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a ...dead ringer.

And that's the truth. Now, whoever said History was boring !!!
(Sent to me by Helen Macgregor. Thank you Helen)

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DIARY DATES

Saturday 6th October Beenleigh Hist. Village Octoberfest 9am to 5pm.

Saturday 6th October Historical Ormiston House Music Under The Stars, Timeless Classics Bookings essential 3824 1285

Sunday 7th October Celtic Day Railway St Helidon. 10am till 5pm.

Sunday 14th October Multicultural Fest. 9am – 7pm Roma St Parklands.

Sunday 14th October Celtic Caper & Music by the Lake. Lake Eden at Nth Lake Town Park, Nth Lakes. 2pm to 6pm. More info contact Kathy Morgan 3480 6704.

Sunday 21st October Beenleigh Historical Village Classic Car Show 10am to 3pm

Sunday 21st October Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Sausage Sizzle. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, 27 Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, look for Aussie Scots Sign. 11.30am Meeting starts 12.30pm.

Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary.

Saturday 27th October Redlands Sporting Club P. Band—Halloween, Community Hall, Smith St. Contact 3207 0928 or 3286 2783

Sunday 18th November Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Sausage Sizzle, Monthly Meeting and A G M

Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, 27 Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park. 11.00am Meeting starts 12.00pm.

A G M commences 2pm.

Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary.

Friday 7th December Beenleigh Historical Village Carols by Candlelight 6pm on wards.

Christmas Party 16th December Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, 27 Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, look for Aussie Scots Sign. 9.30am Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary.

Dates for 2008

19th January Irish Pipe Band Burns Supper, Irish Club.

Contact Rowena on 3369 4014 or Mavis on 3849 8271

30th March 2008 Beenleigh Celtic Gathering

24th May Q I A Pipe Band Debutante Ball. Contact Rowena on 3369 4014 or Mavis on 3849 8271.

6th July Tartan Day at South Bank Cultural Forecourt.

The Black Douglas *The following lines are from an old lullaby that is said to have been sung to their children by the women of the English garrisons, during the War of Independence:*

Hush ye, hush ye, little pet ye,

Hush ye, hush ye, do not fret ye,

The Black Douglas shall not get ye.

A story used to be told about the re-capture of Roxburgh Castle.

Douglas, leading his men by twos and threes, crept silently through the dusk and effected an entrance.

The first person he encountered was a woman singing her child to sleep.

Suddenly, as she sang 'The Black Douglas shall not get ye,' a

steel-gloved hand was laid on her arm and a voice said: 'I am not so sure of that!' It was The Black Douglas himself. (Scottish Lore & Folklore)

Disclaimer The Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc Newsletter is produced for the information of the members of the association and kindred Scottish organisations. It has been compiled with due care and in good faith from sources that are not necessarily the views of the executive and/or members of the Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc, and no responsibility attaches to the association.

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