

10: King and Country

Fighting Skills required

1. Scottish Regimental Broadswords 1830-1900

Top: Scottish regimental broadsword. The steel blade is engraved with maker 'Henry Wilkinson, Pall Mall, London' and 'VR' and 'nemo me impune lacessit' (no one cuts me with impunity) a crown and star of David, dated circa 1830-1900. Double edged blade with prominent mid-rib, decorated with foliage. The basket hilt is decorated with pierced hearts and a wheel, and a tassel at the end, whilst the grip is covered in sharkskin. The blade is approximately 97cm in length.

ELGNM: 1978.357

Bottom: Scottish regimental broadsword; basket-hilt decorated with pierced hearts and tassel. The steel blade is approximately 91cm long, stamped 'MOLE B25 x01' with a crown stamp; made in England circa 1830-1900.

ELGNM: 1978.677

2. Powder Horn

Service issue globular powder horn with flat front, leather body and metal top engraved on the front 'W.K.' and 'Quebec' and '1759': 1759 was the year in which Fraser's Highlanders, under General Wolfe, scaled the Heights to capture the French capital of Quebec, Canada, with the 78th regiment.

ELGNM: 1845.1

The Home Front

3. Plaque

An armoured fighting tank was presented to Elgin by The Scottish War Savings Committee in 1919 and this plaque was affixed to the tank:

"This tank was presented to the City of Elgin by the Scottish War Savings Committee in recognition of the subscriptions from October

1917 to May 1919 for National War Bonds and War Savings Certificates of £584,467. Being £82 per head of population, August 1919”.

ELGNM: 1970.7

4. Gas mask, bag and ARP Whistle

Gas mask, bag and whistle used by Joseph Pirie Senior during World War II, as an Air Raid Precaution warden; Pirie owned the New Elgin Bar.

ELGNM: 2001.41

5. Dress

Girl's dress, made of parachute silk for the Land family of Lossiemouth in 1943 by Godmother, Biddy Smethers, a Women's Auxiliary Air Force member (a WAAF).

ELGNM: 2001.17.2

6. Bicycle Blackout Lamp

This bicycle blackout lamp was designed to comply with blackout regulations during World War II, clipping onto a bicycle to allow use at night but without alerting the enemy overhead.

ELGNM: 2000.39.5

The Volunteers

When the Crimean War ended in 1856, there was general unease about a possible invasion of Britain. Volunteer corps were formed throughout the country, with three companies organised in Moray in 1860. By the late 19th century, volunteers were fighting in South Africa. These were the forerunners of the Territorials.

7. Helmet

Domed and peaked black helmet with leather and red silk lining, chain strap, white metal spike on top and eight-pointed star badge with crown on top. The badge is of the 1st Administrative Battalion Elginshire Rifles but the helmet is of the type worn by a Lieutenant in the later consolidated Battalion – 1st Elginshire Rifle Volunteers, c1860-1886. Donated by local historian, H. B. Mackintosh in 1942.

ELGNM: 1942.9

8. Coat

Red wool coat with silk lining made by Firman and Sons, London circa 1880-1886 for a Sergeant of the 1st Elginshire Rifle Volunteers.

ELGNM: 1971.10

9. Brass Shoulder Belt Plates

From left to right:

Strathspey Fencibles

Raised by Sir James Grant of Grant, the regiment assembled at Forres, April 1793, shortly after the declaration of war by France but disbanded in 1799.

ELGNM: 1936.3

Second Company Elginshire Volunteers, circa 1803-1808

ELGNM: 1857.3

Elgin Local Militia, circa 1808-1816

Possibly an Officer's plate.

ELGNM: 1985.12

Elgin Local Militia, circa 1808-1816

Found in a garden in Aberlour in 1940.

ELGNM: 1940.5

Elgin Local Militia, circa 1808-1816

ELGNM: 1978.765

World War I – 1914 to 1918

10. Seaforth Highlander's Uniform

The Seaforth Highlander's was a historic line infantry regiment of the British Army, mainly consisting of men from the Moray and North Highlands. The regiment existed from 1881 to 1961, seeing active service in World War I and II along with many numerous smaller conflicts.

This kilt, glengarry, tam o' shanter, hose tops and belt belonged to Seaforth Highlander, Alexander Ross of Fochabers; the collection was returned to Moray by his Australian descendants.

ELGNM: 1995.21

Wire cutters

Barbed wire cutters found on the Somme, France in 1916.

ELGNM: 1939.3.7

World War II – 1939 to 45

Pith helmet

Canvas pith helmet that belonged to Major Ian Robertson, Veterinary Surgeon, Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

Please see side panel for further information on Major Robertson.

ELGNM: 2001.28.16

Unknown Heroes

14. Volunteer Badges

From top left, clockwise:

War Worker badge for the Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society, World War II.

ELGNM: 1990.29

World War I War Volunteer worker VW lapel badge.

ELGNM: 1990.47.16

The Royal Voluntary Service, Women's Voluntary Service for Civil Defence badge, World War II.

ELGNM: 1990.47.15

On War Service 1915 - this small, triangular metal pin badge was issued by the Ministry of Munitions, intended solely for women engaged in urgent war work (men were issued with a buttonhole fitting on the back).

ELGNM: 1978.1513

On War Service 1916 (as above)

ELGNM: 1978.1512

Known Heroes

'Dead Man's Penny'

Cast in bronze, the Memorial Plaque was issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war. They came to be known as the 'Dead Man's Penny' because of their similarity in appearance to the much smaller penny coin and because they commemorated the deceased. The legend reads: "He died for freedom and honour".

15. Memorial Plaque to commemorate James Corstorphine

Corstorphine was signaller of H. M. Trawler 'Eric Stroud'.

ELGNM: 1982.3.5

16. Memorial Plaque to commemorate Alexander Guthrie Cumming

Cumming was signaller on HMS Lord Nelson during action in the Dardenelles in 1915.

ELGNM: 1988.3.1

17. Medals

From left to right:

Military General Service Medal, 1793-1814, awarded to Lieutenant John Alves (later Major General), for service in the Peninsular War (1807-1814).

The Peninsular War was a military conflict between Napoleon's empire and Bourbon Spain, assisted by the United Kingdom and its ally, Portugal, for control of the Iberian Peninsula during the Napoleonic Wars.

Alves served in the Napoleonic Wars in the 74th Foot with Wellington, in Portugal and Spain, 1810 - 1814.

The eleven campaign bars represent active service at:

- Toulouse
- Orthes
- Nive
- Nivelles
- Pyrenees
- Vittoria
- Salamanca
- Bada Joz
- Ciudad Rodrigo
- Fuentes d' Onor
- Busaco

ELGNM: 1863.4

China War Medal awarded to Lieutenant C. Smith, Assistant Surgeon on HMS Wellesley during the first Opium War, 1840 -1842 (*ribbon missing*).

ELGNM: 1930.3

Egyptian Medal (Tel-el-Kebir) awarded to Private F. Christie, 1st^t Battalion Cameron Highlanders, 1882-1889.

ELGNM: 1943.3

Queen's South Africa Medal and King's South Africa Medal

Awarded to Private H. Sim, of the Gordon Highlanders, 1899-1902 for active service in the Boer War, South Africa.

The campaign bars represent active service at:

- South Africa 1901
- South Africa 1902
- Belfast
- Laing's Nek
- Defence of Ladysmith
- Elandsplaagte

ELGNM: 1950.5 and 1950. 6

Queen's South Africa Medal awarded to Private W. Corbett, of the Gordon Highlanders, 1899-1902 for active service in the Boer War, South Africa.

The campaign bars represent active service at:

- South Africa 1902
- Transvaal
- Orange Free State
- Cape Colony

ELGNM: 1967.124

Military Medal for Bravery in the Field awarded to Private Donald Cameron (*brother of John Cameron, see below*), of the Seaforth Highlanders, 1914-1918. Cameron lived in Elgin High Street.

ELGNM: 1976.50

Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded to Private Alexander George, stretcher-bearer for the Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps. Like many men, George returned shell shocked; he later became a Butler at The Dowans, Craigellachie.

The Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) was a high-level award for bravery. It was a second level military decoration awarded to other ranks of the British Army and formerly also to non-commissioned personnel of other Commonwealth countries. Recipients are entitled to the post-nominal letters DCM.

ELGNM: 2001.10.2

Distinguished Conduct Medal for Bravery in the Field awarded to Private John Cameron (*brother of Donald Cameron, see above*), stretcher bearer with the Seaforth Highlanders; for conspicuous gallantry under heavy bombardment on the Somme in 1918.

ELGNM: 1976.49

18. Letter Case

Two leather letter cases containing letters from the Grant of Wester Elchies family archive, from 1780 to 1906; including details of the massacres during the Indian Mutiny of 1857.

In the Peephole

Internationalism

We can take pride in the nation of Scotland, but we should remember the dangers of nationalism. The Internationalists give our country breadth and vision; they look to the future of this small planet.

Knight's Cross in the Order of Saint Sava

The Order of Saint Sava was established to recognise civilians for meritorious achievements to the Church, to arts and sciences, the royal house and the state.

This medal was presented to Dr James Cooper, Professor of Theology, Glasgow University, for services rendered to Serbian refugees of the First World War.

ELGNM: 1933.4