



Macintyre Battle Honours

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Victories

As the celebrated Macintyre piping family from Rannoch owned the **Bannockburn** pipes – the oldest surviving Highland bagpipes, otherwise known as the Faery Pipes of Moidart - it's highly likely that their ancestors led Clan Menzies into battle at this greatest of all Scottish victories, won by the forces of Robert the Bruce against the much larger army of Edward II of England, on Midsummer's Day 1314. The main body of the Macintyre clan, by then long-established, was in all likelihood mustered as part of the large Highland contingent, Argyllshire being well represented, though of this we have no direct record.

The Macintyres' most conspicuous success on the battlefield, as a distinct force, was probably at **Altinarlach** in 1680, Scotland's penultimate clan battle, between the Campbells and the Sutherlands. The Glenorchy Macintyres – with strong feudal ties to Campbell of Breadalbane - formed a sizeable unit of Breadalbane's army, in support of his claim to the Earldom of Caithness, and were singled out for their prowess on the field:

*Glenorchy's bold Macintyres, true shots that will not miss,
Bullets sure hitting that fast slay the carles,
There where the river bends, arrows fast pierced you quick,
Many's the house-head who rests without waking.*

The sons of the veterans of Altinarlach acquitted themselves well at **Sheriffmuir** during the Jacobite Rising of 1715. Glenorchy levies made up half of Breadalbane's force of 400, which – contrary to normal clan symmetry - charged with Clan Donald on the Jacobite side, routing the Government troops facing them. The Badenoch Macintyres, too, took the field for the Old Chevalier during the 'Fifteen, along with their Clan Chattan allies under Mackintosh of Borlum. Borlum, commanding the Highland contingent, led the bold march into England, (a presage of the more famous incursion of Bonnie Prince Charlie a generation later), putting to flight the Cumberland Militia at **Penrith Fell**.

The Ardeonaig Raid of 1598 was a joint expedition launched by the Macintyre chief, in alliance with the Glencoe MacDonalds and renegade Campbell John Dubh, the Tutor of Inverawe. Targeted were the Ardeonaig Campbells of Perthshire, with whom John Dubh was in a state of

fued. John Dubh was later reprimanded by the Campbell chief, the Earl of Argyll, for his excesses – suggesting that things didn't go well for his Perthshire kinsmen.

In the **Civil War**, while clansman found himself facing clansman at **Inverlochy** in 1645 – a defeat for the chief, though not for a number of the rank and file – several of the Badenoch Macintyres fought under Donald Macpherson of Phoness, a captain with Montrose, on the winning side at **Auldearn** later that year.

During the 'Forty-Five, the Appin Macintyres – and those who joined the Appin Regiment from adjoining districts – were present during all major engagements, playing an active role at the Jacobite victories of **Prestonpans** and **Falkirk**, as well as the March to Derby, terminus of the daring advance on London. Also present during the incursion into England were the Badenoch Macintyres, forming the rearguard for much of the march back into Scotland, serving with Macpherson of Cluny's Regiment. It was Cluny's that carried the day at **Clifton**, the last battle fought on English soil.

Defeats

The circumstances surrounding the departure of the Macintyres from the Isle of Skye, probably towards the end of the 12th century, remain obscure. The celebrated Gaelic bard Allan Dall MacDougall, six hundred years later, refers to the event but unfortunately not its causes:

*...Macintyres from Cruachan, bold, hardy and fleet,
Though they lost what belonged to the clan in Sleat...*

The Macintyres wouldn't have relinquished their *duthchas* lightly. A defeat of sorts is implicit, though a single pitched battle with their kinsmen the MacDonalds – later Lairds of Sleat – seems unlikely. A slow process of attrition in the aftermath of the Viking Period is more probable, as a result of continuing maritime raids. Sleat, as the Garden of Skye, must have been a rich target for marauders – and, for a small clan, difficult to defend. In real terms the Viking Age continued to define life in the Hebrides until post-Medieval times, as the heavyweight Norse-Gaels – MacLeods, MacDonalds and others – took to their galleys in a relentless cycle of carnage and retribution.

Skye appears not to have been kind to the clan. The one pitched battle in which the Macintyres are known to have taken part, as one of the two main protagonists, ended in defeat and tragedy at **Kilmore**, during the early 17th century. Taken unawares by the MacLeods staging a sea-borne raid from the north, the Sleat Macintyres put up stiff resistance, but were soon overrun. These were the descendents of those who had not accompanied their chief to Glenoe, and – critically - were attached to Clan Donald. The survivors took refuge in Kilmore Church, but no quarter was given by the raiders who locked them inside and incinerated them – man, woman and child. The inevitable reprisal launched by Clan Donald on the MacLeods - the burning of the Trumpan Church – is considered to be one of the darkest deeds in Highland history, though it generally goes unmentioned that this was a carbon copy of a previous atrocity .

In the disaster that befell the Scottish army at **Flodden** in 1513 the Macintyres shared the fate of most. The Highland Division, in eerie parallel to Culloden two centuries later, was never properly brought into play, and the clans, awaiting the order to charge, were used for much of the battle as target practice - on this occasion by the English longbowmen. Among those who died in the arrow-storm may have been Glenoe himself, as it was Macintyre of Stranmore who carried the Earl of Argyll's body off the battlefield, a task that would clearly have been performed by the chief had he survived.

As we have seen, the destruction of the Covenanters by Montrose's Royalists at **Inverlochy** in 1645 could be claimed both as a victory and a defeat for the clan. With the Covenanters - at Argyll's insistence - were Glenoe and his neighbour Malcolm Macintyre of Letterbaine, (both with fuedal obligations to the Campbell chief prior to their 1656 wadset agreements). On the other hand, many of the Macintyre tenantry, including the chief's piper, had joined the Royalist army when the Clan Donald captain, Alasdair MacColla MacDonald, had spared their community from the torch, on the grounds of ancient kinship. Some of these men would have been present with MacColla at the Royalist victory at Auldearn, along with their kinsmen from Badenoch.

The Jacobite incursion into England, during 1715, like the final sortie of 1745, failed in its objective to rally active support from the English Jacobites, and came to grief in the final battle at **Preston**. The Clan Chattan Regiment, led by Borlum's nephew and chief, Lachlan Mackintosh of Mackintosh, fought well, though strategically the position of the Jacobite army was hopeless, and the small force of less than two thousand was finally compelled to surrender. A number of Macintyres, most of them Laggan men, appear among the transportation lists.

At **Culloden** in 1746 the brunt of the defeat, as it affected the clan, was borne by Macintyres in the Appin Regiment, one of the few units that managed to break through the Hanoverian lines. In the aftermath of the battle, the Macintyres of Cluny's Regiment again formed part of a heroic rearguard as the defeated Jacobite army withdrew from the field. Cluny's missed the battle by an hour, despite a forced march up from Perthshire, where it had pulled off a series of lightning raids, neutralising Government commands across the southern Highlands. The Atholl Brigade, which also took part in this operation, broke off to join the main body of the army in the North, and were present at Culloden, though Cluny's remained behind to lay siege to Blair Castle.

Awards for Gallantry

Of the 158 Scots who have won the **Victoria Cross**, Britain's highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy, two have belonged to the clan. (The MacKenzies and MacGregors top the list with three).

Maj. General Donald Macintyre VC, of the 2nd Gurkha Rifles, won the medal for leading his men over the walls at the storming of Lalngoor, India, in 1872.

Capt. David Lowe MacIntyre VC, CB, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, received the honour for single-handedly over-running a German machine gun post near Hénin on the Western Front in 1918.

Two of the clan were recipients of France's highest award for gallantry, **The French Legion of Honour**, or *Légion d'Honneur*.

Maj. General Frank McIntyre, DSM, LdH, of the US Army, was decorated for his brave conduct on the Western Front during WWI.

The Royal Navy's **Capt. Ian Agnew Patteson Macintyre, DSO, CB, CBE, LdH**, son of Donald VC, received the medal during WWII for pursuing and sinking a blockade runner off La Rochelle, hub of Germany's U-boat fleet.

The **Distinguished Service Order** – the British Commonwealth's second most prestigious award for valour – was received by the following members of the clan.

Lt. Col. D.E. McIntyre, DSO, MC, Saskatchewan Regt., (Canada). Decorated for his contribution to the storming of the Vimy Ridge, France, 1917.

Brig.General Sir Duncan MacIntyre, CMG, DSO, OBE, ED. New Zealand soldier and politician, who distinguished himself in the Middle East and Italy during WWII. (Later Deputy Prime Minister of NZ).

Brig. Hugh Murray Johnstone McIntyre, CBE, DSO. Commanded the 51st Regiment of the Royal Artillery at El Alamein during the Desert War, and was present at the Siege of Tobruk. Earned the nickname "Mad Mac" in the field.

Capt. Donald George Frederick Wyville Macintyre, DSO, DSC.** The Royal Navy's most prolific surviving U-boat hunter of WWII, who won three DSOs, one for the capture of Germany's top U-boat ace, Otto Kretschmer. He is credited with the sinking or disabling of nine enemy submarines. Donald's cousin, **Capt. I.A.P. Macintyre** (above), received the medal for his services on the Arctic convoy runs to Murmansk.

Five of the clan received America's second highest award for gallantry, the Distinguished Service Cross, during WWI.

Sergeant John McIntyre, DSC. US 110th Engineers. With another sergeant attacked and captured a machine-gun nest near Cheppy, France, 1918.

Corporal Eugene McIntyre, DSC, US 130th Ambulance Company. Severely wounded by an enemy shell at his dressing station, but continued caring for the wounded until he collapsed through loss of blood.

Pt. William M. McIntyre, DSC. US Marine Corps. Decorated for his role in the storming of a German machine-gun post near Vierzy, France, 1918.

The others, (no rank or citation discovered), were **Donald R McIntyre, DSC,** and **James McIntyre, DSC,** both of the US Army.

One of the leading young flying aces of WWI was **Robert Macintyre-Gordon, DFC,** of the Royal Naval Air Service. As a seventeen-year-old in 1918, he shot down nine enemy planes in his Sopwith Camel fighter, and gallantly intervened during a dogfight to save the life of his flying commander. He was one of the early recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

WWII recipients were:

Flying Officer William Joseph McIntyre, DFC, RCAF, (Royal Canadian Air Force), of 408 and 434 Squadrons; and **Flight Lt. Gordon Leslie MacIntyre, DFC,** RAF, another Canadian pilot, flying from Britain and Iceland during the Battle of the Atlantic, who was credited with the location and sinking of a German U-boat.

Holders of the American DFC were:

Lt. George P. McIntyre, DFC, USAAF, who flew numerous missions in B-17s over Germany; and **Capt. Patrick W. McIntyre,** USAAF, who performed with distinction in the Far East.

Lt. Alan G. McIntyre, SS. US 157th Infantry. Won the Silver Star posthumously for his bravery during the Italian Campaign of 1944. In all, twenty-two of the clan received the Silver Star for courage under fire during WWII. Of these, **Malcolm N MacIntyre** of US XII Corps won three, fighting in France and Austria; while **Harold D McIntyre** of the US 45th Infantry Division, present at both the Italy and Normandy landings, and the advance into Germany, won two. A further two were won by Macintyres in Korea, and another more recently during the Iraq War.

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