



**Plate 1**

An officer of a grenadier company of an (as yet) unidentified Scottish regiment 1751. The nationality of his regiment is shown by the full achievement of the Scottish Royal Arms on the front of his embroidered "mitre" cap. His sword, slung on a heavy buff leather waistbelt, has a brass hilt (see plate 2). The regiment may be 25th (Panmure's) but this requires further research. (National Museums of Scotland)

# Blades of Glory: Swords of the Scottish Infantry 1756-1900

Stephen Wood

There is, as yet, no publication which deals solely with the swords carried in the Scottish regiments of the British army. In *Swords of the British Army* (Arms and Armour Press, London, 1975), Brian Robson dealt at length with the variety of standard patterns carried by all ranks of all regiments from the first introduction of such patterns in 1788 until the present; naturally, he included a chapter on the Scottish dimension. What Robson did not include, however, was treatment of the many non-standard types of sword carried—principally by officers—over the last two centuries and it is these oddities, some of which may well be unique, which often contrive to confuse the uninitiated when they appear. Our late and much lamented fellow member, Chuck Darling, broke new ground when he wrote *Swords for the Highland Regiments 1757-1784* (Andrew Mowbray Inc., Rhode Island, 1988) and, like so much of Chuck's work, this monograph brought a pattern of weapon long misunderstood and misidentified before collectors and curators in its true guise. The function of this paper, within the limitations imposed by both space and its author's knowledge, is to lay before its readers some (but by no means all) of the types of sword carried in Scottish infantry regiments during the century and a half that they contributed so much to the growth and maintenance of the British empire. Should any publisher, on reading the précis of the subject which follows, decide that it merits fuller treatment, its author will welcome, and willingly discuss, such a long-overdue suggestion.

Today, and—indeed—for quite a large part of the period under review in this paper, the term "Scottish soldier" is and was synonymous in the public mind with "Highland soldier". There are many reasons for this confusion but, since this is not an essay in social history, I shall refrain from enumerating and explaining them. Suffice it only to say that, in 1756, there was only one Highland Scottish infantry regiment in the British army, as opposed to five infantry regiments whose history and traditions, and—to some extent—recruitment patterns, led them to think of themselves as Lowland Scottish regiments.<sup>1</sup> Of these five, three had stood with their backs to the sleet and their faces to those Highlanders whose disastrous charge at their musketry at the battle of Culloden in April 1746 represented the beginning of the end of a way of life in northern Scotland: it was a way of life which the rest of the country had long since abandoned.



The presence of these three Scottish regiments of the British line at the last battle of the '45 rebellion symbolised—perhaps deliberately—the fact that the rebellion, more than any of its predecessors since 1689, was a civil war in Scotland, not a Scotland *versus* England contest. Apart from the regimental differences of uniform facings, lace design and button-spacing, the soldiers of The Royal Scots, of Campbell's Scots Fusiliers and of Sempill's Scottish Borderers looked little different from their equally British comrades in the rest of the government ranks at Culloden. As Chuck Darling showed, in "The British Infantry Hangers," *Canadian Journal of Arms Collecting*, Vol. 8, pp 124-136, the hangers carried by the private soldiers conformed to a set pattern, with some regimental variations, but neither pattern nor variations were noted for their demonstration of national characteristics. Their officers, although not required to conform to any regulation as regards their swords, carried swords similar to, but heavier than, the smallswords of the type worn by gentlemen in civilian dress. Contemporary portraits of officers tend to show them in their finest uniforms, and few show their swords' hilts in any detail (plates 1-3). As I shall show later in this paper, there is a lot of evidence, extant in the form of both examples and photographs, which indicates that officers in the nineteenth century carried swords for combat quite different from those which were correct wear for the Assembly Rooms. Infantry officers, too, for much of the eighteenth century copied their naval brethren and adopted short hunting swords or cutlasses for combat. Cavalry officers in the British army of this period, and later, owned both dress and fighting swords.

Among the Highland opponents of those Lowland soldiers on that cold, wet day in 1746, a wide variety of cutlery was being carried. Most of the Highlanders' swords brandished on that day, and left on the battlefield for collection as souvenirs, would be recognisable to us today as the basket-hilted broadswords now colloquially referred to as "claymores". By 1746, these weapons had assumed almost a mystique, not only among those most likely to own them but also among those most likely to be damaged by them: this mystique—on both sides—was not unlike (although we must not push the parallel too far) that conferred on "Samurai swords" by both owner and potential victim-cum-souvenir hunter fifty years ago. A disquisition on the history and derivation of the Scottish highland basket hilt has no place here but, by 1746, it had achieved most of the forms which both individual and regional styles made possible and, most flattering of all, had in some styles been copied—though fitted with a longer blade—by some regiments of Horse and Dragoons in both the British and some continental European armies.<sup>2</sup>

Just as the quality of the Highlander's traditional sword had been recognised by his opponents, so his martial arts, loyalty and biddability were noted too. The taming of the Highlands, and the cowing of those of its population which still showed fight after Culloden, was accompanied by an Act of Parliament which specifically prevented Highland males from bearing arms unless—and this is significant—they were "in the King's forces". Highlanders had been enlisting in the King's forces since the establishment of the British army in 1661—and probably before that too, so ingrained were the habits of the mercenary soldier in Scotland—but once dressed in the King's red coat and armed with his musket all visible trace of the Highlander disappeared. Regiments of Highlanders dressed as Highlanders had come and gone since 1661 in time of domestic emergency and, since 1724, Independent Companies of Highlanders in native dress had policed their neighbours with a type of loyalty that was, at best, hit and miss. In 1739 these companies had been regimented to form the 43rd Regiment, later renumbered 42nd and known as the Black Watch.<sup>3</sup> The Black Watch was kept away from Scotland during the '45 but other native levies, raised from among the clansmen of chiefs loyal to the Whig government, provided the local opposition to the Jacobite clansmen who followed Bonnie Prince Charlie.<sup>4</sup> Both officers and men of these Highland regiments, whether regular—like the Black Watch—or auxiliary, carried basket-hilted swords as part of their native dress and so any Highlander who felt dispossessed of his sartorial heritage after the passing of the Disarming Act of 1747 needed only, in order to reclaim it, to

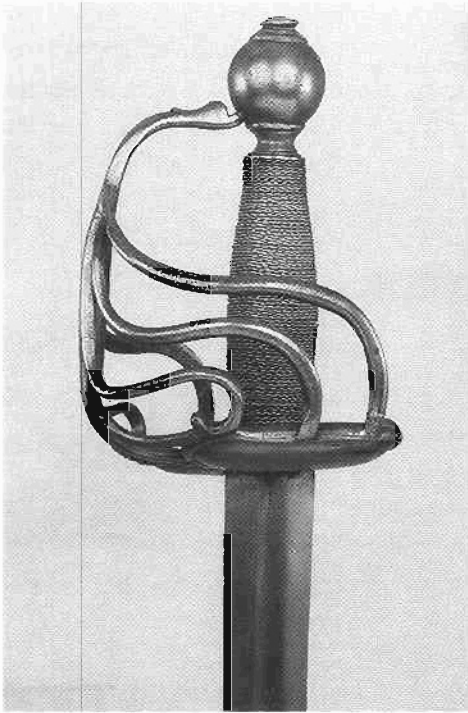
enlist into the King's Highland regiment. For over two centuries, ever since, indeed, he claimed it himself in a speech made in 1766, the bringing of Highlanders *en masse* into the British army has been popularly ascribed to William Pitt, Earl of Chatham:

"I sought for merit wherever it was to be found, it is my boast I was the first minister who looked for it and found it in the mountains of the north. I called it forth and drew into your service a hardy and intrepid race of men who . . . in the last war [the French and Indian War 1755-63] were brought to combat on your side; they served with fidelity as they fought with valour and conquered for you in every part of the world."<sup>5</sup>

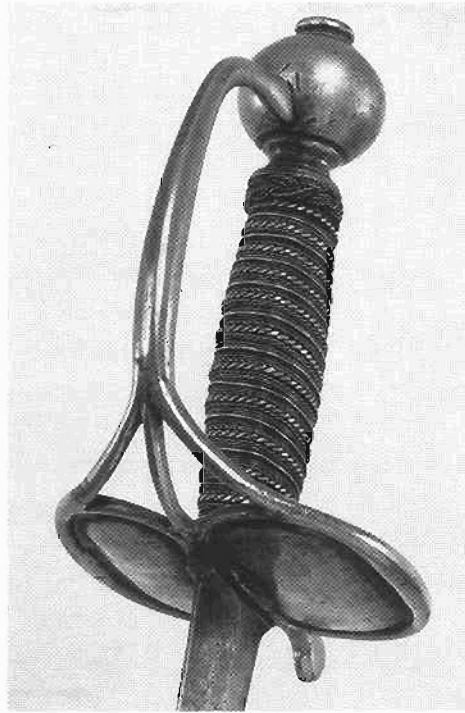
In fact, as a new biography shows,<sup>6</sup> the appreciation of the military value of the Highland infantry soldier to the British army, and especially to a British army with inexorably increasing Imperial commitments, was first registered at a senior level by the Duke of Cumberland, the Royal prince who had commanded the field army which had crushed the Highlanders at Culloden. He it was who, in the mid-1750s, volubly encouraged the British government to recruit Highland infantry for service in North America, and not merely because such troops were both intrepid and expendable.<sup>7</sup>

The French and Indian War necessitated a massive increase in the size of the British army, as Britain found itself opposed to France on three fronts: in North America, in India and on the continent of Europe. It was, truly, the first World War: it was waged on sea and land between two superpowers and involving a patchwork of alliances. In Britain this military increase manifested itself in two ways: the bringing up-to-strength of existing regiments and the raising of new battalions. Highland Scotland proved itself to be a reservoir of lusty and coercible manpower and two regular regiments of Highlanders were raised there in 1757; they were accompanied by two regiments of "fencibles"—units raised for full-time service but only within the borders of Great Britain and Ireland. The number of new Highland regular regiments was increased to five in 1759 when three further single-battalion units were raised for service on the European continent and in India.

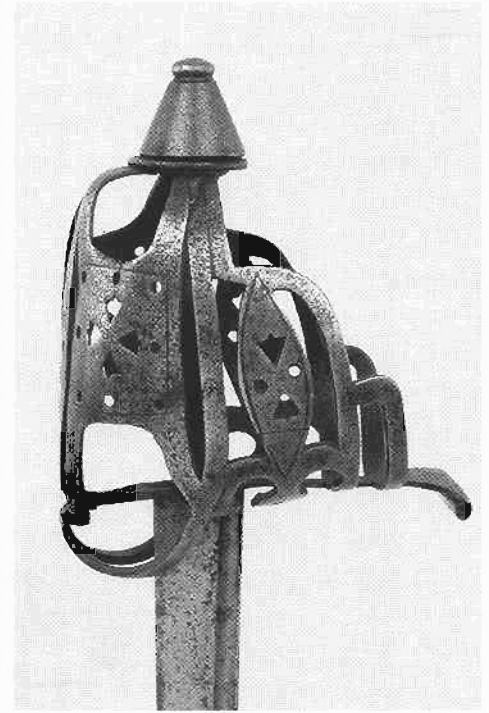
Although it is probable that the basket-hilted broadswords carried by the enlisted men in the Highland units which existed prior to 1757 conformed to some sort of pattern, or patterns, no evidence exists as to what these patterns were. Only with the raising of the new battalions of Highlanders in 1757 does an enlisted man's pattern of basket-hilt emerge, identifiably, for the first time. This pattern [plate 4] is the one examined in detail by Chuck Darling in *Swords for the Highland Regiments*. Such swords were



**Plate 2**  
 Infantry officer's sword hilt c.1750. The hilt, of brass, has ovoid shells flanking the blade and recurved bars joining them to the simple knucklebow: three on the outside, two on the inside. The broadsword blade is of German manufacture. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 3**  
 Infantry officer's sword hilt c.1760. Similar to that shown in plate 2, this example—although retaining its weight—has lost its recurved bars from knucklebow to shells. Its heavy broadsword blade is of flattened diamond section. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 4**  
 Enlisted man's basket-hilted backsword of the pattern manufactured by Nathaniel Jeffrys, London, c.1757 for the soldiers of the Highland Battalions which served in America during the French and Indian War. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 5**  
 The painting "A Pinch of Snuff" by Delacour c.1760. It depicts an officer of a Highland regiment, with soldiers of his regiment behind him, in the act of taking a pinch of snuff from his horn. Cradled in his left arm is his sword, a basket-hilted weapon with a hilt of the style popular among such officers from the 1760s to the 1790s. (Private Collection)



**Plate 6**  
 Hilt of an officer's basket-hilted backsword c.1765. This type, with its open-work, almost filigree, panels and great delicacy is known as the "Pinch of Snuff" hilt, after the painting by Delacour (see plate 5). It was a popular style, although in no sense either uniform or a pattern, with officers of Highland regiments from c.1760 until the late 1790s. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 7**  
 General The Hon. William Gordon (1735–1816) dressed partly in the uniform of 105th or Queen's Own Royal Regiment of Highlanders, of which he was lieutenant-colonel from 1762 until 1763. Painted by Pompeo Batoni, while on the Grand Tour in Rome in 1766, Gordon poses heroically, leaning on his sword. The sword, of a style popular among Highland officers from the 1760s to 1790s, survives at Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire, as does the portrait. (The National Trust for Scotland)

mass-produced, their blades simple and single-edged and their hilts crudely pierced and brazed from sheet steel. Examples are found bearing the marks of two cutlers on their blades: Nathaniel Jeffryns and Dru Drury.<sup>8</sup> These swords were carried by the enlisted men of the Highland regiments which were raised for both the French and Indian War and the war of the American Revolution; after 1784 swords ceased to be carried, except by officers of commissioned and non-commissioned rank and by musicians.

Although, at the time of the French and Indian War, officers were largely exempt from regulations in respect of the swords they wore, a degree of uniformity does seem to have been observed, a uniformity which tended to be regimental rather than universal within an arm of the Army. In Highland regiments (prior to the establishment of a prescribed pattern in 1798) several styles of basket-hilted sword were worn, the most well-known of which—and the most common—was the so-called “Pinch of Snuff” hilt [plate 6]. It has become so-called after the painting by Delacour of an officer of a Highland regiment of the period of the French and Indian War who cradles the hilt of just such a sword in his left arm while taking a pinch of snuff from the horn, or mull, held in his left hand [plate 5]. The hilt is equally well shown in the painting of General The Hon. William Gordon of Fyvie by Pompeo Batoni [plate 7]. Painted while Gordon was in Rome in 1766, it shows him dressed in the uniform coat, vest and belts of the regiment of which, from 1762 to 1763, he had been lieutenant-colonel, the 105th or Queen's Own Royal Regiment of Highlanders. The “Pinch of Snuff” hilt remained popular through the War of the American Revolution, and is shown in the portrait [plate 11] of an officer of an unidentified Highland regiment of c1780. Another style of basket-hilt popular with Highland officers is shown in plate 8 and depicted in plates 12 and 13. This style, heavier in both appearance and construction than the “Pinch of Snuff” hilt, is similar to the styles of basket hilt made by John Allan, Jr., in Stirling in the 1740s. Found fitted with a variety of blades, these hilts seem to have been carried by Highland officers from the French and Indian War until the late 1790s.

The success of Britain's Highland regiments in the French and Indian War led to their emulation during the War of the American Revolution when, once again (and especially as the war developed, France and Spain became involved and the colonists began to win) Highland Scotland was used as a reservoir of manpower for the war effort. By the 1780s the concept of the Highlander as a loyal and ferocious soldier of the Crown was well-established and the picture of him as a cattle-stealing rebel surpassed. This changed view was a result both of the Highlanders' wartime prowess and of the

fact that Jacobitism, as a threat to the Protestant Hanoverian succession, was moribund. Highland Scotland slowly became appreciated as a place for the traveller with his paint box rather than one for files of redcoats armed with fire and sword. Although most of the Highland regiments, regulars and fencibles, which had been raised for the War of the American Revolution were swiftly disbanded after the Peace of Paris of 1783, some remained. More importantly, the precedent of Highland regiments had been set: five regular regiments for the French and Indian War, eight (one of two battalions) for the War of the American Revolution. When war with Revolutionary France broke out in 1793 the same thing happened, but on a much larger scale. As, gradually, Britain was isolated, her allies failing one by one, so the threat of invasion increased. With a wealth of exposed and largely undefended coastline and with a constant fear of disaffection from Ireland, Britain needed forces to defend her shores. At the same time, troops were needed overseas to defend existing possessions or gain new footholds at the expense of France and her allies. The regular army mushroomed, the militia was embodied, the landed gentry raised local volunteer corps of cavalry and infantry and, as in the two previous wars, regiments of fencibles were raised—largely in Scotland.

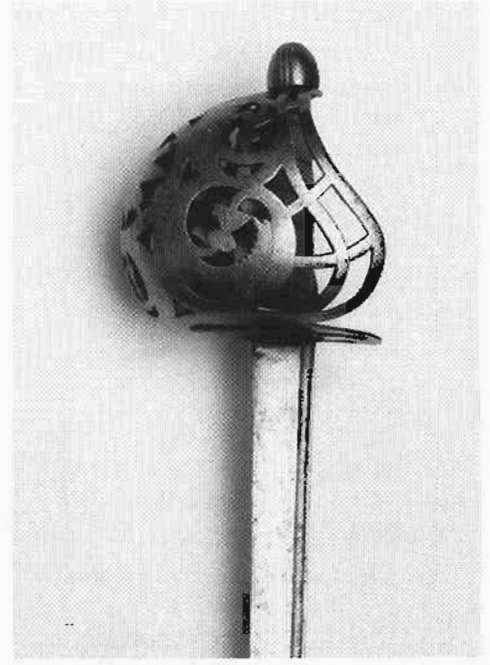
Fencible regiments were first raised in Britain, specifically in Scotland (which had no militia until 1797, unlike England, which had an organised militia from 1757), during the French and Indian War. These were originally called Regiments of Defensible Men, were raised solely for home defense (under similar regulations to those applying to the regular army) but only required to serve within the borders of Britain and Ireland (and the Channel Islands). Such regiments served in Ireland during the War of the American Revolution and did likewise in the 1790s, since the loyalty of that island to the Crown was not taken wholly for granted. The Scottish fencible regiments were clothed and equipped much as ordinary British line infantry, allowing for the occasional sartorial fancy inspired by a commanding officer; their officers' swords, however, have provided a rich canvas for study. Although raised in both Highland and Lowland Scotland, the swords of their officers did not always reflect this difference to the extent reflected in the swords of their relations in the regular Highland and Lowland regiments. Similarly, the Scottish volunteer infantry of the 1790s were governed more by enthusiasm and by role-play in their choice of swords than by any form of regulation. Regulations which affected the swords of either fencible or volunteer officers were not introduced until 1796, three years after the outbreak of war and the raising of the fencibles and the earliest volunteers: those three years produced a wide variety of



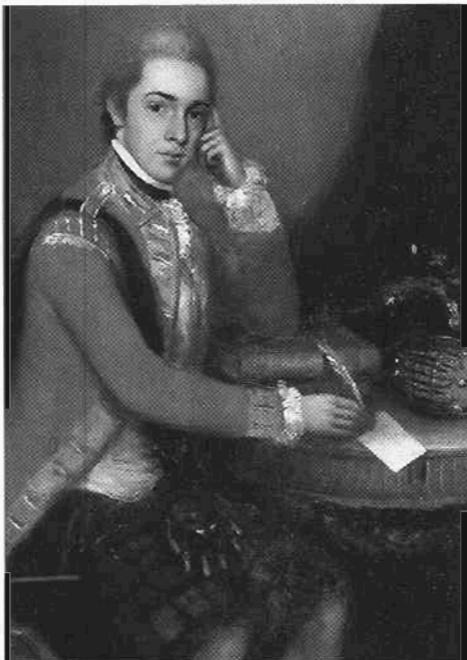
**Plate 8**  
Military basket-hilted sword of a style popular with officers of Highland regiments from the 1760s to 1790s and similar to hilts made in Stirling by John Allan, Jr., during the 1740s. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 9**  
Sword of the 1st battalion, Breadalbane Fencibles c.1794. This shows the "welded steel" hilt which is a characteristic fencible type of the early 1790s. Such swords may, initially, have been carried by enlisted men and NCOs; it is unlikely that they were carried by officers. The regiment, of eventually three battalions, was disbanded in 1801. Breadalbane, an area of Argyll and Perthshire, is pronounced "Bredalbin", with the stress on the second syllable. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 10**  
Backsword of 116th (Perthshire Highland) Regiment c.1794. Its hilt is similar to that shown in plate 9 and is of welded steel. Engraved into the centre of the star which is pierced into the front of the hilt is the numeral 116 surrounded by the motto of the Order of the Thistle: *NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT*. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 11**  
An officer of an unidentified Highland regiment by an unidentified artist, c.1780. Visible on the table is the hilt of the officer's sword, clearly a "Pinch of Snuff" hilt of the style then popular. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 12**  
Engraving of Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Murray Keith KB (1730–95) dressed as commanding officer of 87th (Keith's) Highlanders, a regiment which he commanded from 1759 until its disbandment in 1763. Keith subsequently became British ambassador in Dresden (1769–71), Copenhagen (1771–72) and Vienna (1772–88); he is recorded as having worn this uniform in his ambassadorial role in Dresden in 1770 (*Memoirs and Correspondence of Sir Robert Murray Keith*, London 1849, Vol. 1, p. 122). (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 13**  
An officer of 42nd (or Royal Highland) Regiment c.1790. His sword has a hilt of one of the styles popular with Highland officers during the period 1760–98. A watercolour by Edward Dayes. (National Museums of Scotland)

sword designs, designs unique to the auxiliary nature of their owners' corps.

Swords which can definitely be ascribed to Scottish fencibles fall into two distinct types: those with "welded-steel" hilts and those of semi-spadroon style but with additional bars to the hilt. Plate 9 illustrates a "welded-steel" hilt of 1st battalion, Breadalbane Fencibles. The Breadalbane Fencibles eventually ran to three battalions and the relative lack of scarcity of its swords indicates that they were probably carried by all ranks for a period, and certainly by all non-commissioned officers. Similarly, the cheapness and very crude design and manufacture of the hilts—cut from two pieces of sheet steel, simply welded together down the middle—implies that these swords were not intended for commissioned officers, who may well have carried any basket-hilted sword which took their fancy. Only one other regiment is known to have utilised the welded steel hilt: the 116th (Perthshire Highland) Regiment, a regiment of the line, originally fencible in nature, which existed from 1794 until 1795; an example of its sword is shown in plate 10.

The late 1780s and '90s was the period in which the spadroon appeared most regularly in the British army and, indeed, in the British Royal Navy. Derived, at least in its British military configuration, from both the civilian smallsword and its heavier military equivalent, this light cut-and-thrust sword, usually with a straight, single-edged blade, was generally adopted by British line infantry, but not by Highlanders, in the late 1780s. It took a variety of forms, most of which are outside the compass of this paper, but one of the versions most usually associated with Scottish fencible units of the 1790s is illustrated in plate 14.

The military spadroon proper was widely carried by units of British volunteer infantry, its characteristic band on the grip frequently featuring numerals, mottoes, initials or devices of regimental or personal significance. Plate 15 illustrates just one example of obviously Scottish relevance, probably of an unidentified regiment of Scottish volunteer infantry of c.1794: its grip-band is engraved with the Star of the Order of the Thistle, a device signifying Scotland in an attractively subtle way. Another, peculiarly Scottish, version of the British military spadroon is known from this period and is illustrated in plate 16. Its Scottishness is exemplified by the form of its knucklebow—looking like one of the bars from a typically reeded and pierced basket-hilt—and by its bun-shaped pommel, chased like that from a basket hilt. Other versions of this hilt are known, [Plate 17] with an inner loop to the quillon and with additional bars joining the outer loop to the knucklebow. These seem, at least to me, to be typically Volunteer swords, owing their design to native pride and

imagination rather than to any regulation or extra-Caledonian model.

In the same category, but of a different form, come the open-work basket-hilted swords similarly associated with volunteer units of the 1790s. Plate 18 illustrates one of these, a half-basket version carried by an officer of the Loyal North Britons, a volunteer regiment of expatriate Scots centred upon Knightsbridge in London. Versions exist with full baskets too, with two hilt cartouches of crowned thistles, and are found fitted with both broadsword and backsword blades. Such swords exemplify the growing respectability of the Highland ideal, a respectability promoted by the waning of Jacobitism, by the achievements in the name of Britain by Highland soldiers, and by a Romantic spirit which now regarded Highland scenery and its denizens as picturesque and not frightful. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the takeover bid by the Highlands of the Scottish consciousness was well under way and the swords of Highland soldiers, patriate and expatriate, demonstrated this.

The expansion of the army in the 1790s brought sartorial difficulties for its masters. For a century or more, the regular regiments of the Army—not to mention the auxiliary corps raised at various times—had prided themselves on their regimental distinctions. Gradually, degrees of uniformity had been imposed and grudgingly accepted but not until the late 1780s did any degree of uniformity within the Army apply to swords. Even then the regulations were only rarely obeyed to the letter and, in any case, were sufficiently vague to allow personal taste to override them on the grounds of misinterpretation. In 1796 infantry officers' swords were standardised (or, at least, the attempt to standardise them was more successful than any previous one had been). A version of the result is shown in plate 19: a light smallsword with plain, narrow knucklebow and two shells flanking the grip. Many versions of this pattern exist but the 1796 pattern infantry officers' sword is essentially a late eighteenth century smallsword, regulated, broadly, in its design and derived from the heavier versions popular among British infantry officers since c.1740 [see plates 2 and 3]. Such swords were, at least in theory, carried by officers of those Scottish infantry regiments which were not dressed as Highlanders. However, no sooner was the pattern introduced than regimental variations began to appear. Notable were those carried by officers of the senior regiment of line infantry, the 1st (or Royal) Regiment of Foot: raised in 1633, it was truly an "ancient" regiment and in an army in which age gave precedence, the Royals could be almost predicted to shun any form of uniformity with regiments junior to them. Their version of the 1796 pattern is shown in plate 20: it retains the robust



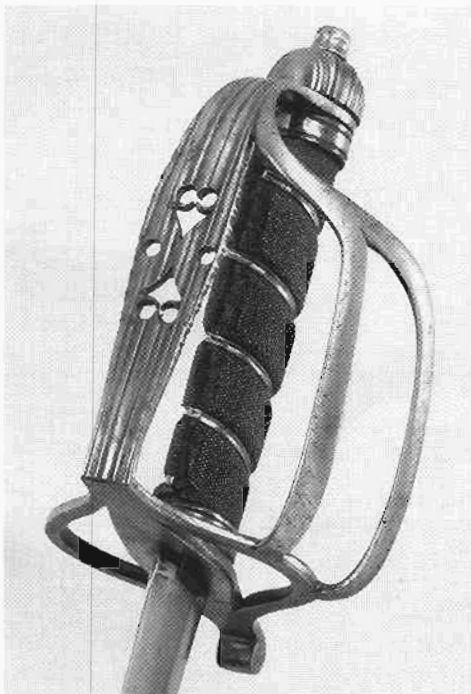
**Plate 14**  
 Officer's sword of embellished spadron style, of the type popular among officers of Scottish fencible regiments c.1794. They vary widely in detail but most have flattened pommels, chamfered backpieces, bellied and vertically reeded grips of horn or bone, a straight "half-stirrup" knucklebow and outside loop with curved bars of differing styles linking the knucklebow and loop. This example is fitted with a cut-down, multi-fullered broadsword blade of the late seventeenth century, with German blade-maker's marks. (National Museums of Scotland)



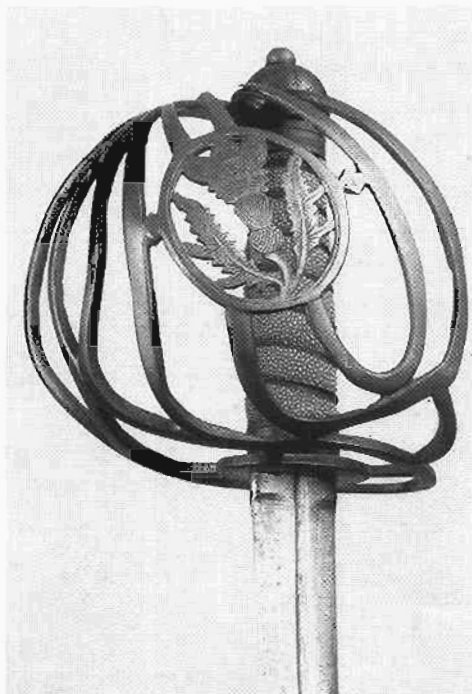
**Plate 15**  
 Officer's spadron of an unidentified Scottish volunteer infantry regiment, c.1794. Its black horn grip is encircled by a band of gilded copper, which is engraved with the Star of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's Order of Chivalry second only to the Order of the Garter in the British honours system. The urn-shaped pommel dates this example firmly to the early 1790s. (National Museums of Scotland)



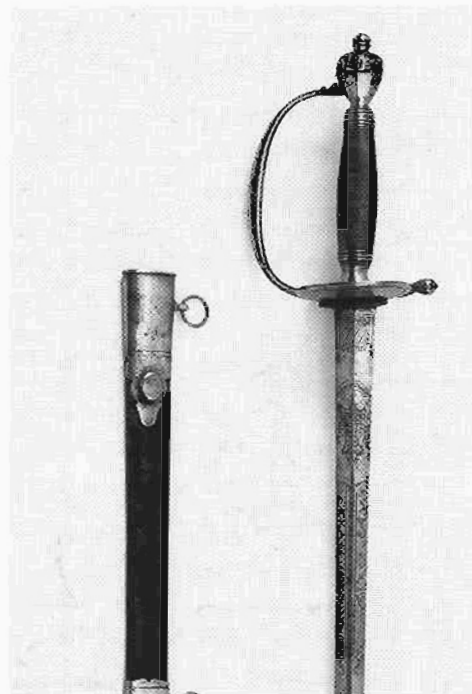
**Plate 16**  
 Spadron of an unidentified Scottish volunteer infantry regiment, c.1794. The form of its pommel and knucklebow are clearly reminiscent of late eighteenth century basket hilts. Swords of this type, which in no sense represent a pattern, vary slightly in their hilt design and are usually fitted with poor quality broadsword blades of flattened diamond section and having a single fuller positioned half-way down the blade. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 17**  
 Spadron of an unidentified Scottish volunteer infantry regiment, c.1794. Similar to that shown in plate 16, this example has an additional (inner) loop to the hilt and two bars joining the knucklebow to the outer loop. This example was retailed by Woolley & Co., of Birmingham. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 18**  
 Officer's half-basket hilted broadsword of the Loyal North Britons Volunteers, a regiment of expatriate Scots based in Knightsbridge, Middlesex, which was raised as part of the volunteer movement in Britain of the 1790s. Similar swords were carried in other Scottish volunteer units. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 19**  
 1796 pattern infantry officer's sword and scabbard. This version is mounted in steel, with a light blade of flattened diamond section and fixed shells on its hilt. Variations on this design include: mounting in gilded brass, having a single-edged, fullered blade and having an inner shell on the hilt which folds flat against the blade. (National Museums of Scotland)



fighting blade, of flattened diamond section, of the infantry swords of the 1750s and bears, mounted upon the shells of its hilt, regimental motifs and battle honours.

An attempt to impose uniformity on the swords of Highland officers in 1798 met with a similar degree of success and the result is, likewise, encountered in a wide variety of forms. The most common is shown in plates 21 and 22 and depicted in the painting shown in plate 24: a broadsword with a plain, single-fullered blade and a hilt of heavy brass, which would originally have been gilded. Many of the blades for these broadswords were made by Runkel of Solingen<sup>9</sup> and some of the hilts made in Britain under contract in the workshops of cutlers and silversmiths such as Francis Thurkle.<sup>10</sup> Uniformity was no more welcome in Highland regiments, with their inherited and all-too-recent traditions of clannishness, and so one often encounters regimental variations on the 1798 pattern broadsword, such as that shown in plate 23.

I have mentioned above the way in which the concept of regimental pride and rivalry defeated most attempts at uniformity in swords and, while on the subject of the 1798 pattern broadsword, it will now be relevant to examine the way inter-regimental pride and status had a similar effect. Plate 25 shows a damaged 1798 pattern, which lacks its forward bars, but which has, mounted on its brass hilt, a silver grenade. It is clear that, in this unidentified Highland regiment, the officers of its grenadier company—the battalion's *élite* unit and undoubtedly highly conscious of the fact—decorated their swords with grenades to denote their status. Many readers will be familiar with the flank companies of infantry battalions which existed throughout the eighteenth century and until 1855. In a typical battalion, both the grenadier and the light infantry company regarded themselves as *élite* troops and their status was reflected in their dress and accoutrements. I shall dwell on this further below but, before leaving the 1798 pattern broadsword, would like to show it in its last—and, perhaps, most debased—form: the short-bladed, ungilded, half-basket drummers' sword which was carried in most Highland regiments from the 1820s until 1857 (plates 26 and 32).

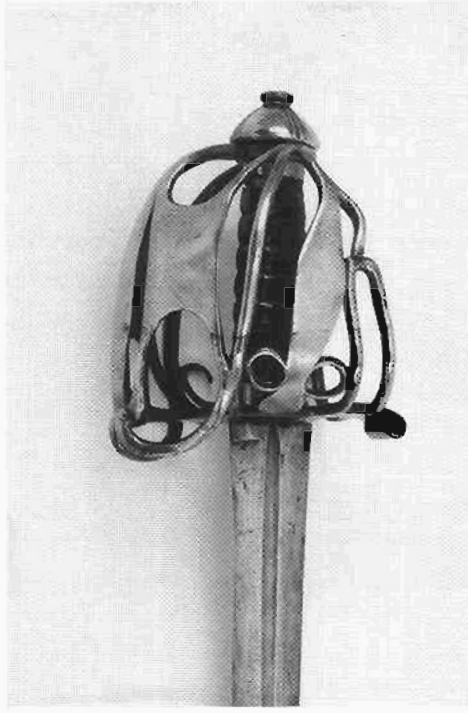
Thus far, aside from a brief mention of cutlasses and *couteaux de chasse* early on in this paper, we have considered only straight-bladed swords. It seems to be the case that, before the late 1790s, straight-bladed swords were generally preferred by British infantry officers, whose fighting swords were usually just more robust forms of those which they wore in civilian clothes. However, it is known that short swords with slightly-curved blades like *couteaux de chasse* were carried by both naval and army officers in the eigh-

teenth century and when on active service and so, clearly, the curved blade was not anathema to infantry officers. Its popularity burgeoned in the last year or so of the eighteenth century, and equally in the first five years of the nineteenth century; this was a burgeoning for which the campaigns in the eastern Mediterranean were largely to blame. Of course, British officers, especially those based on Minorca or at Gibraltar, had encountered the curved swords of North Africa in the eighteenth century and the similarly curved swords of India, Persia and the Turkish empire were well known. But they had never, officially, been emulated before Britain's victories over France at sea and on land between 1798 and 1801. Just as the Sphinx became important as both a decorative icon and a battle honour, so the curved blades of Turkish Egypt were affected, first by the French and then by their conquerors, the British. It was thus no accident that, for British infantry officers, a curved bladed sword began, gradually, to oust the 1796 pattern before the end of the eighteenth century. It has been suggested<sup>11</sup> that these swords were first carried in some battalions of Foot Guards and, certainly, the inherent *élitism* of such battalions would increase, rather than decrease, the likelihood of such affectation. Within the infantry of the line, curved swords seem first to have been adopted by the flank companies, whose pride in themselves has been alluded to above. Both grenadiers and light infantrymen had to sustain a reputation for intrepidity, for dash and for notable valour. While the examples illustrated here are all Scottish, only one betrays this fact by the use of any of the iconography nowadays associated with Scotland. Plates 27 and 34 show a fairly typical hanger, probably an officer's rather than that of an NCO, of the grenadier company of 71st Highlanders c.1797. Hangers such as this grew in popularity as Egyptian influence increased and by the very early 1800s had adopted the form shown in plate 35, a form which was codified in the form of a new pattern sword in 1803.

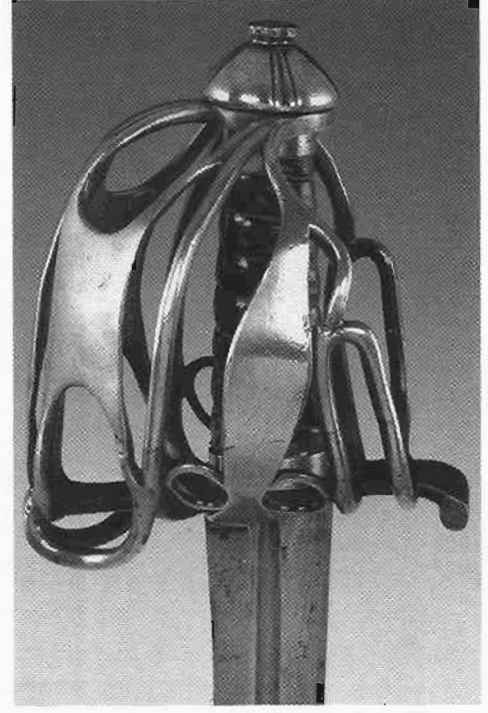
Creation of the new sword, the 1803 pattern, was almost certainly the recognition by government of a *fait accompli* on the part of its infantry officers, for whom the curved sword, or sabre, had become an essential fashion accessory as well as a weapon that could do a lot of damage at close quarters. Like its predecessor, the 1803 pattern came in a wide variety of versions, the most common of which incorporated the King's crowned cypher *GR* in the knucklebow and had a slotted stool. Plate 28 shows how the 25th Regiment modified the hilts of their swords and plate 36 shows the Royals' version. 1803 patterns are found, too, with grenades (for grenadiers) and bugle-horns (signifying light infantry) incorporated into their knucklebows and these



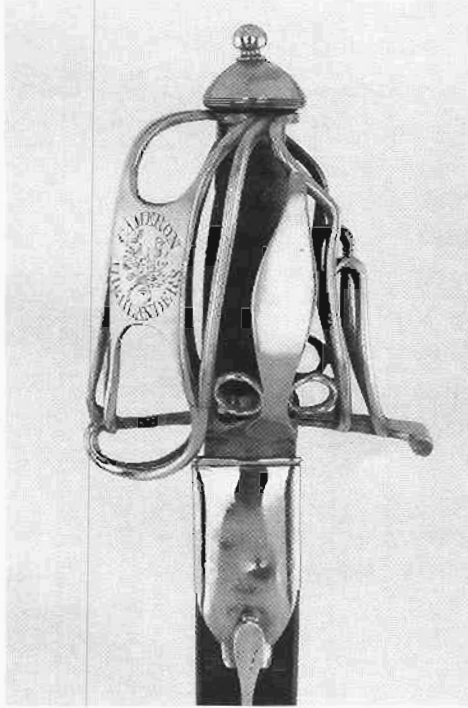
**Plate 20**  
Version of the 1796 pattern infantry officers' sword carried in the early 1800s by officers of 1st, The Royal, Regiment of Foot. Mounted in gilded brass, its hilt shells are fixed, its blade heavy, broad and of flattened diamond section and regimental devices are mounted on both shells. Swords of this type are often found with heavy brass or steel scabbards and were clearly intended for active service. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 21**  
1798 pattern broadsword for officers of Highland regiments. It has a broadsword blade with a single fuller giving next-to-no strength or rigidity. Its hilt, now brass, is heavy and would once have been gilded; easily crushed or distorted, it would have been far less effective (as a mailed fist) in a *mêlée* than its ancestors. (National Museums of Scotland)



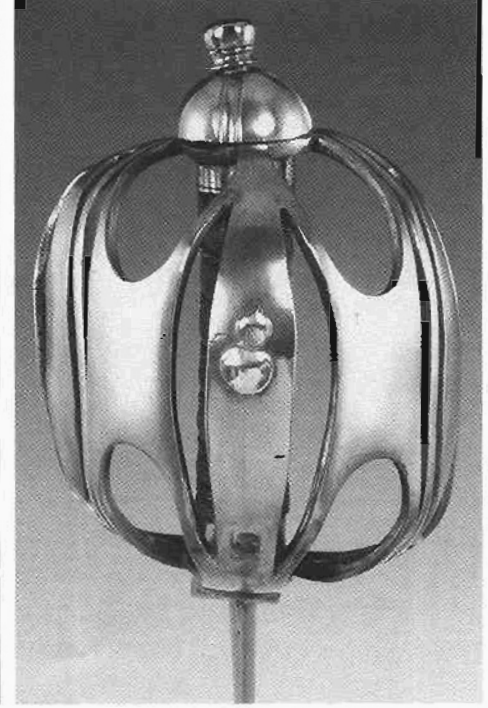
**Plate 22**  
Close-up of the hilt of the sword shown in plate 21. Being brass, its tendency to damage and distortion can be easily seen. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 23**  
1798 pattern broadsword: regimental version carried by officers of 79th (Cameron) Highlanders c.1820. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 24**  
Officer of an unidentified Highland regiment c.1800, showing the 1798 pattern broadsword tucked under his arm. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 25**  
Hilt of a 1798 pattern broadsword decorated with a silver grenade and carried by an officer of the grenadier company of an unidentified Highland battalion, c.1810. Its forward bars are missing. (National Museums of Scotland)

indicate just how it continued to be necessary for the *élite* flank companies to continue to demonstrate their distinction from the remaining companies in their battalion. The 1803 pattern survived until after the defeat of Napoleon but it remains a rarity as a depiction in portraits of Highland officers. Plate 30 shows how an officer of a light company in 92nd (Gordon) Highlanders dressed c.1816: he kept the feather bonnet which marked him as a Highlander but eschewed the kilt, preferring the breeches, soft boots and curved sword of the light infantry company. His battalion company colleagues would have been kilted in full dress (but probably wore breeches in action) and his grenadier colleagues may well have retained the 1798 pattern broadsword.

The Napoleonic wars brought regiments both of riflemen and of light infantry into the British army. Initially, the regiments of rifles dressed much like light cavalry: in short, frogged jackets, breeches, boots and crested leather helmets. Just as their rifles were short, like a cavalryman's carbine, so the swords of their officers emulated those of the light cavalry: curved sabres with light hilts. Plate 29 shows just such a hilt, of one of the two Scottish light infantry regiments of the early nineteenth century.

A further cavalry influence seems to have been prevalent in some Scottish regiments, but perhaps only in the light infantry companies, during the first four decades of the nineteenth century. Shortly after the victory in Egypt, British light cavalry officers began to adopt swords similar in form to the Turkish *şamşir* and *kılıç*: because of their association with the Mameluke troops encountered in Egypt these quickly became known as "mameluke swords" or "mameluke hilted swords". Although most prevalent in British hussar and lancer regiments, they were gradually adopted by general officers, too, and even the US Marine Corps began to wear them during the century, because of the Shores of Tripoli. Three versions of mameluke swords are known for Scottish regiments. All date from c.1820-40 and two are illustrated in plates 31 and 55; a third version was, apparently, worn by some officers of the 93rd Highlanders c.1835.

By 1822 the exaggeratedly curved sabre had fallen from favour as a combat weapon among infantry officers, and those Scottish officers not in Highland regiments found themselves required to adopt a new pattern of sword. It was a pattern that was to be worn, in many different versions and by a variety of dismounted British units, for the next seventy years. Known familiarly nowadays to collectors of British military swords as the "gothic" hilt (because of the passing resemblance of part of the design of its bowl guard to a style of pointed "gothic" window), the 1822 pattern infantry officers' sword was adopted by the Scottish Lowland regi-

ments and few regimental or personal variations upon it are found during the sixty years that they carried it. A typical example is shown in plate 37 but plate 38 shows how one Scottish regiment contrived to vary the design of the sword in a regimental version unique to the 21st (Royal Scots Fusiliers). Other than the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the Lowland Scottish regiments seem to have been relatively content with the 1822 pattern until the 1880s and so we can now safely leave them and return to the Highlanders and their basket hilts.

The military basket-hilted sword, increasing—officially—becoming known as a "claymore", equally increasingly became associated with the Highland soldier throughout the nineteenth century. A new pattern was introduced in 1828 to replace the 1798 pattern with its gilded brass hilt. The new pattern had a steel hilt, decorated and pierced in a recognizably "traditional" manner and, once adopted, it went through numerous slight variations, including an almost imperceptible pattern change in 1863. A typical example of the 1828 pattern is shown in plate 33. Plate 39 shows the spherical form of the basket hilt well and a cutaway version, made in 1857, is shown in plate 40. It is clear, from the number of cutaway basket hilts encountered, that some officers found the full basket hilt an encumbrance, especially when wearing the sword in a belt frog, and the variation in hilt type is shown, in the Crimea, in plate 57.

An investigation of the wide variety of swords carried in Highland regiments during the nineteenth century, and especially at times of conflict, leads one inevitably to the conclusion that, while the basket-hilt may have looked very fine when accompanied by full dress and on the parade ground, it was, actually, not the most popular of weapons for combat. The fighting swords carried by Highland officers during the second half of the nineteenth century are a study in themselves and shortage of space prevents much more than an attempt at it being made here. Extant examples, such as those illustrated in plates 46 and 50, indicate that 3-bar hilted swords—adopted by light cavalry officers in 1822 and Royal Artillery officers in c.1846—were carried by some Highland officers in the Crimean War of 1854-56. A complicating factor is that, from at least the 1840s, certain categories of officers in Highland regiments had begun wearing bowl-hilted swords in certain orders of dress. Initially, this may have been confined to battalion adjutants, for no clear reason and as is shown in plate 54, but, by the middle of the century, and certainly by the 1860s, bowl-hilted swords were being worn in preference to the basket hilt by field officers: officers of the rank of major and above who generally wore trews in kilted regiments because their duties required them, traditionally, to be mounted.

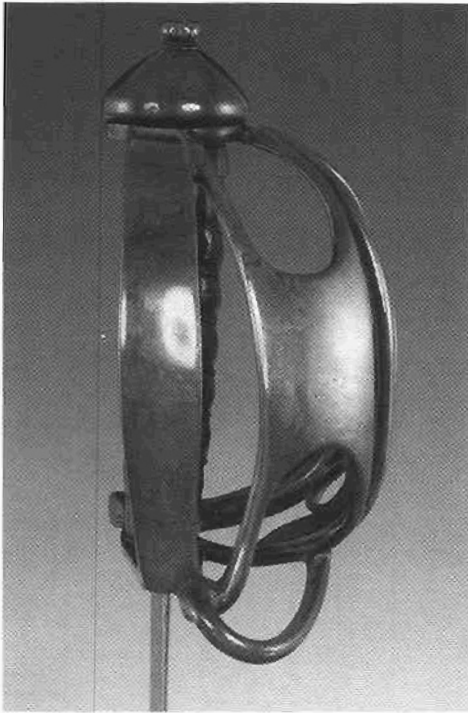


Plate 26  
Close-up, front view, of the hilt of the sword shown in plate 32. (National Museums of Scotland)

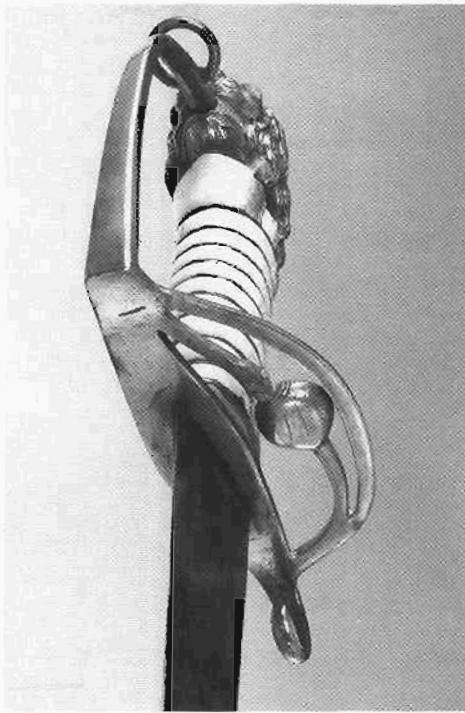


Plate 27  
Close-up of the hilt of the sword shown in plate 34, showing the number 71 engraved on the ball of a grenade set within the hilt's side ring. Other versions are known, without the engraved number. (National Museums of Scotland)



Plate 28  
Close-up of the hilt, front view, of the sword shown in plate 35, showing how the sword can be confidently identified to the 25th Regiment: the crowned thistle within the motto of the Order of the Thistle, *NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSET*, indicates a Scottish regiment; the battle honour *Minden* denotes one which distinguished itself at that battle in 1759. The 25th was the only Scottish candidate. (National Museums of Scotland)

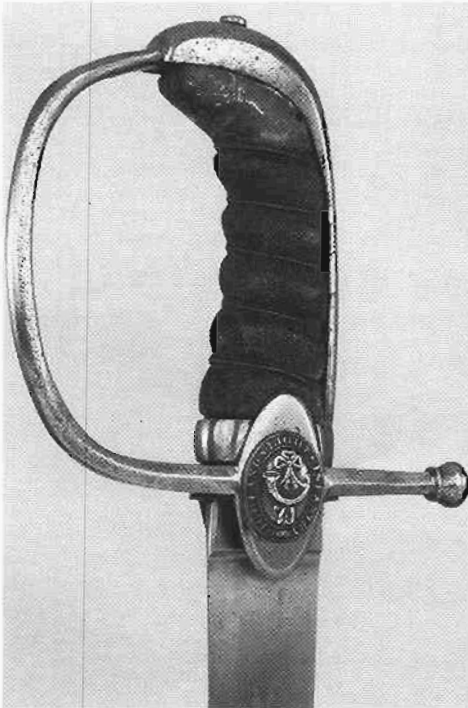


Plate 29  
Hilt of an officer's sabre of 71st (Highland) Regiment (Light Infantry) c.1816. Mounted in steel, its blade is wedge-shaped in section and deeply curved. (National Museums of Scotland)



Plate 30  
Portrait of an unidentified officer of the light company of 92nd (Gordon) Highlanders c.1816. Aside from the breeches, boots and curved 1803 pattern sword which mark him out as a flank company officer of a Highland regiment, he also wears the "wings" of the flank company on his shoulders and sports the green feather of the light company in his bonnet. (National Museums of Scotland)

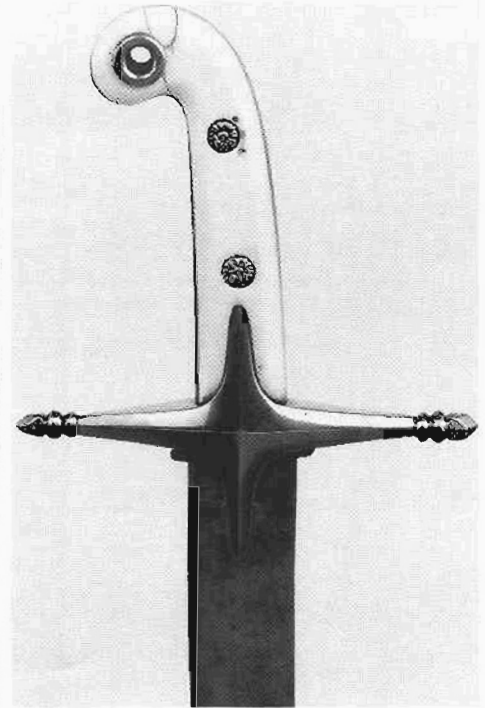
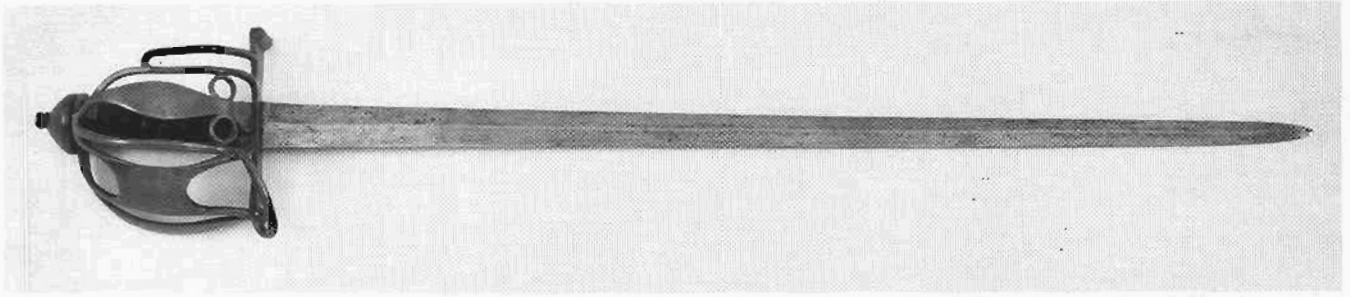
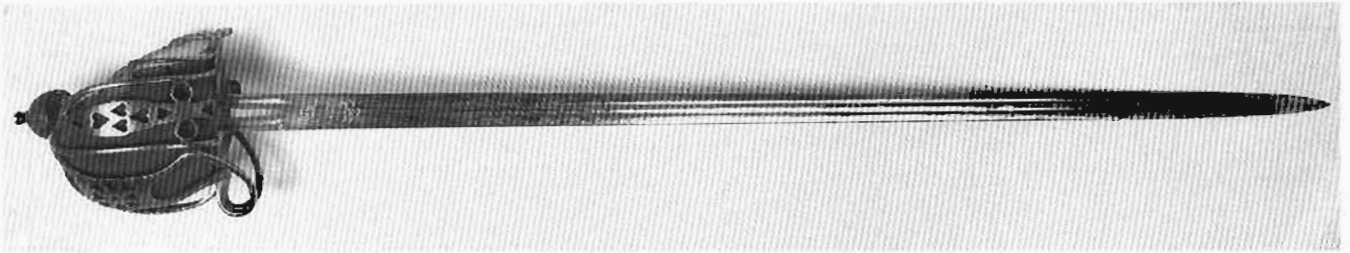


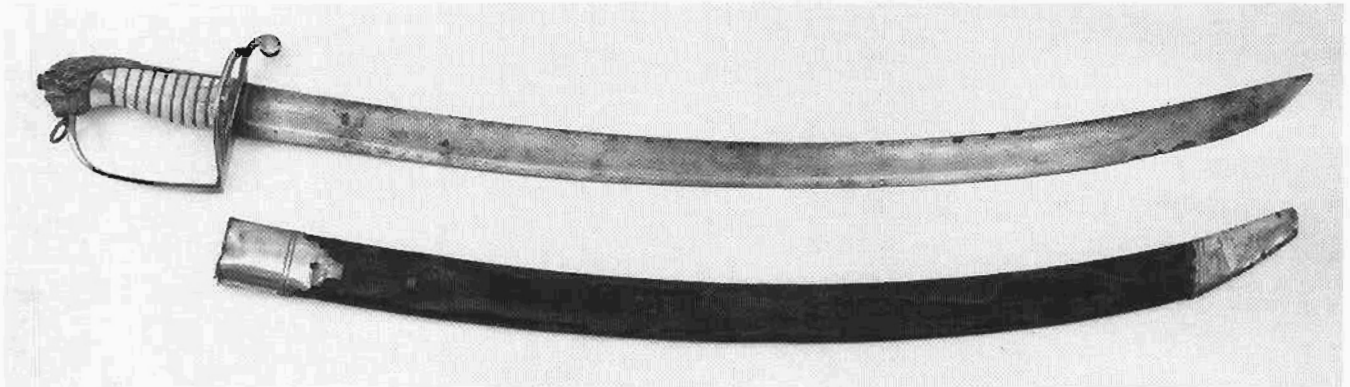
Plate 31  
Hilt of an officer's mameluke hilted sabre of 26th (Cameronian) Regiment c.1825. Its hilt is of steel, with bone or ivory grips and its scabbard is steel. Like that shown in plate 55, the blade of this sword is lightly etched with the Roman numerals *XXVI*. This sword may be a decade earlier than the date ascribed to it here. (National Museums of Scotland)



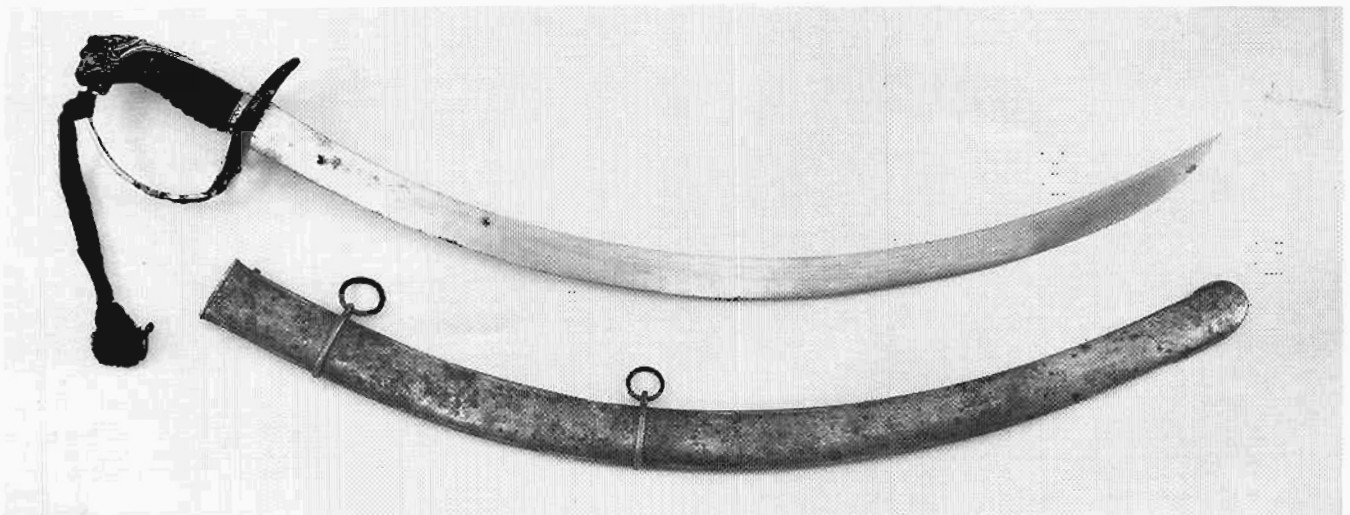
**Plate 32**  
 Highland regiments' drummers' sword of c.1820–57, based on the 1798 pattern broadsword but in ungilded brass, fitted with a short blade of flattened diamond section and having its hilt cut away to enable it to lie flat when carried in a belt frog. Some regiments retained the full basket but with a shorter blade. (National Museums of Scotland)



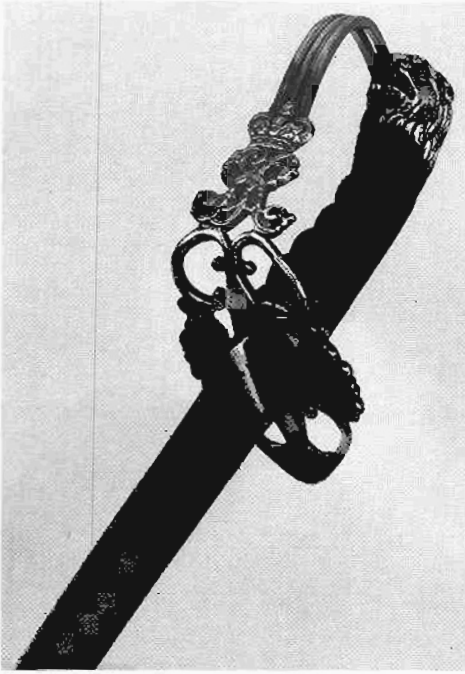
**Plate 33**  
 1828 pattern basket-hilted broadsword for officers of Highland regiments. Carried between c.1830 and c.1852 by an officer of 72nd Highlanders, this sword has a hilt lined with white buckskin faced with scarlet cloth; its liner would originally have been edged with royal blue silk. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 34**  
 Officer's hanger, grenadier company, 71st (Highland) Regiment of Foot c.1797. Its hilt is of gilded brass, its grip of bone and its scabbard of black leather, mounted with gilded brass. (National Museums of Scotland)



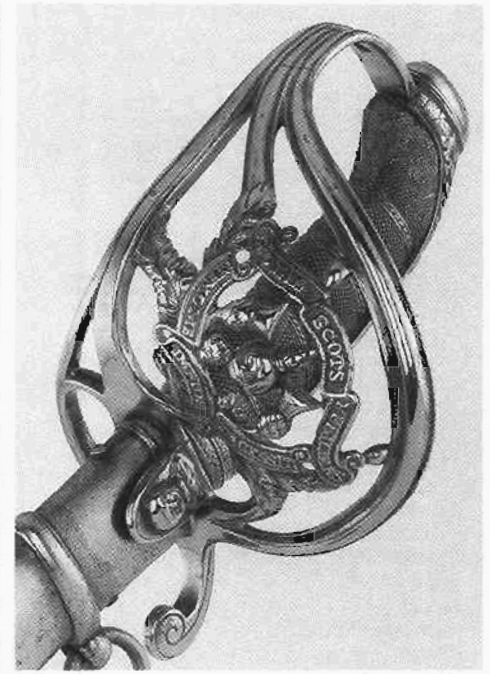
**Plate 35**  
 1803 pattern infantry officer's sword, 25th Regiment of Foot, c.1810. Its hilt is of gilded brass and its grip of black fishskin. Its blade is unfullered and wedge-shaped in section and it has a leather sword knot. Its scabbard is steel. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 36**  
Hilt and section of blade of an 1803 pattern infantry officers sword, 1st (The Royal) Regiment c.1812, showing how regimental devices are incorporated into the stool of the hilt (compare with plate 20). The regiment's subsidiary title, *The Royal Scots*, adopted in 1812, is etched on the blade. (National Museums of Scotland)



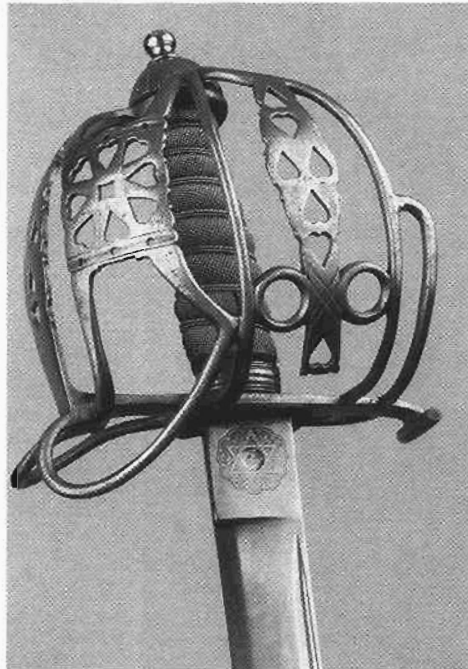
**Plate 37**  
1822 pattern infantry officers' sword of the type carried by field officers from c.1845 to c.1855. Its hilt is of gilded brass, with a leather liner and fishskin-covered grip and has a folding inner shell. Its sword knot is of crimson silk and gold lace with a bullion tassel. Its scabbard is brass. Three distinct blade types existed and four patterns of scabbard; after c.1855 the inner shell no longer folded down. Some examples are found with steel hilts. (National Museums of Scotland)



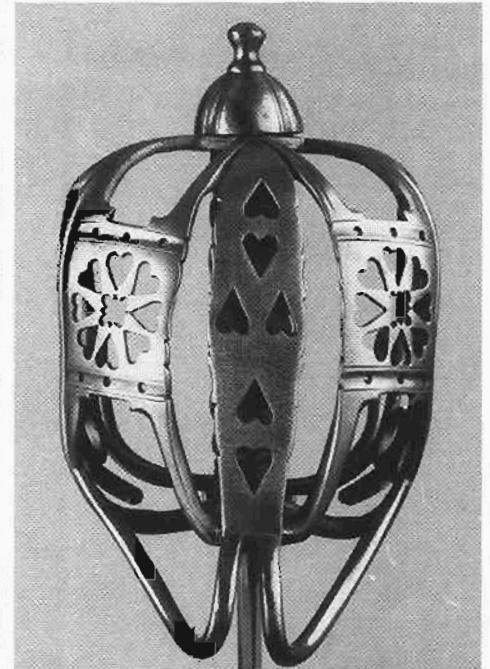
**Plate 38**  
Hilt of an officer's sword, one of the regimental versions of the 1822 pattern infantry officers' sword carried in 21st (Royal Scots Fusiliers) from c.1830 until the 1880s. Its hilt is gilded brass, its scabbard steel. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 39**  
Close-up of the hilt of the sword shown in plate 33. The clearly spherical form of the 1828 pattern, superseded later in the century by a much more box-shaped basket, is clearly shown. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 40**  
Hilt of an 1828 pattern basket-hilted broadsword fitted with a backsword blade made by Messrs Wilkinson in 1857. The hilt is cutaway on the inner side, probably to allow the sword to be carried in a frog; the grip is distinctly angled forward, aiding the thrust as well as the cut; the blade is highly-tempered and has a very sharp edge and long point. It was probably made as a fighting sword for an officer *en route* to the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58. (National Museums of Scotland)



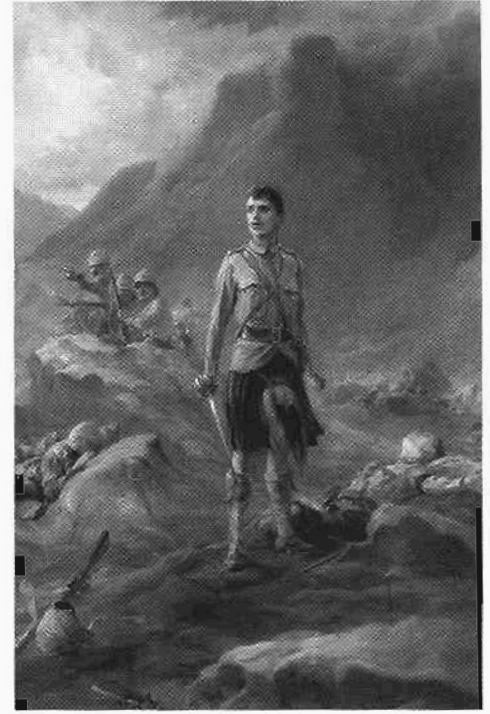
**Plate 41**  
Hilt of an 1863 pattern basket-hilted broadsword for officers of Highland regiments. This example lacks its liner but the "boxy" lines of the new pattern are easily apparent. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 42**  
 Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Brownlow, commanding officer, 72nd Highlanders c.1878. Brownlow wears a field officer's sword of regimental pattern. He was killed at Kandahar in 1880. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 43**  
 A lieutenant-colonel of the Highland Light Infantry in full dress, mounted order, wearing a regimental pattern cross-hilted sword c.1890. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 44**  
 Painting *Stand Fast Craigallachie* by Elizabeth, Lady Butler, c.1880. It depicts a Highland subaltern standing by a fallen comrade on the North-West Frontier of India. (National Museums of Scotland)

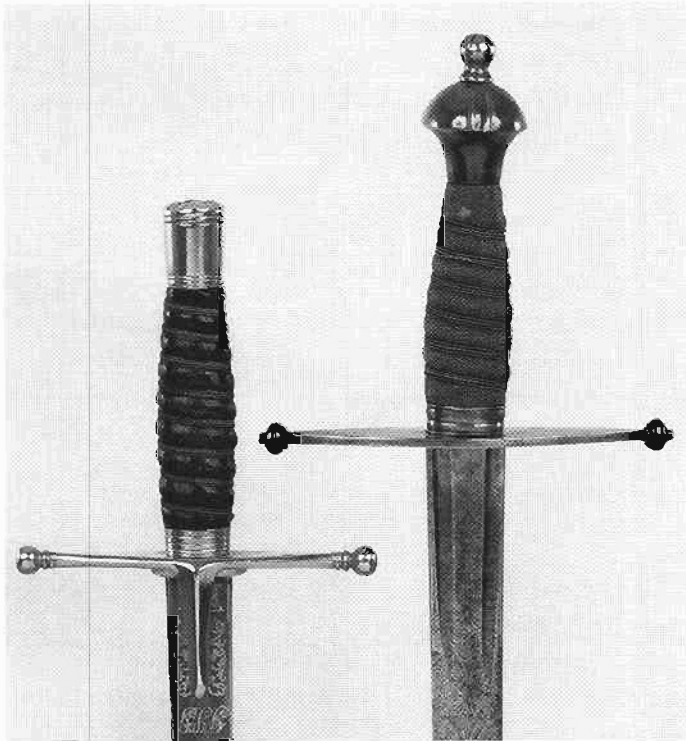


**Plate 45**  
 Painting *The Black Watch at Tel-el-Kebir 1882* by Alphonse de Neuville, 1883. Officers, with broadswords, and men of the regiment are depicted leaving their trench to assault the town. (National Museums of Scotland)

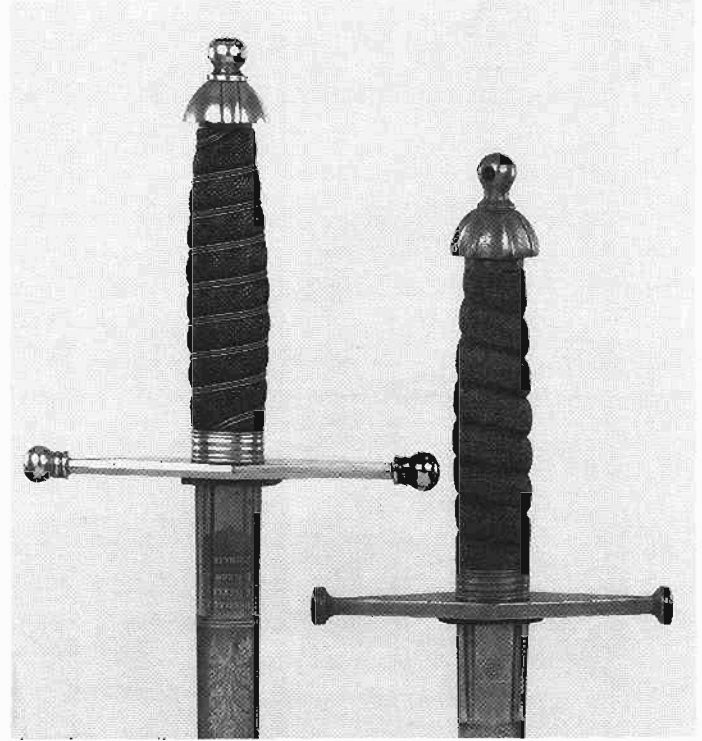


**Plate 46**  
The hilt of the sword in plate 50 (right) contrasted with another Garden-made 3-bar hilted sword, its grip wrapped in leather to improve grip, also sold for the Crimean War, this time to an officer of 93rd (Sutherland) Highlanders. (National Museums of Scotland)

**Plate 47**  
Field officer's bowl hilted sword of 74th Highlanders, 1881. The "tommy" bar hole in the pommel button can be clearly seen. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 48**  
Broadswords fitted with cross hilts for wear in undress uniform by officers of Highland regiments: Left: 71st (Highland Light Infantry) pattern, c.1875. Right: An extremely rare pattern, the earliest recorded: 74th Highlanders, 1856 (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 49**  
Broadswords fitted with cross hilts for wear in undress uniform by officers of Highland regiments: Left: Pattern worn in the Scaforth and in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; an example of c.1914. Right: An example worn in the Dunbartonshire Rifle Volunteers c.1880. (National Museums of Scotland)



By 1863, therefore, when the new pattern of broadsword was introduced, it arrived at a time when Highland officers, for a variety of motives, were increasingly finding reasons not to wear the basket-hilt. These reasons and motives must have led to increased personal expense too, as officers would have found that they needed several swords, one for each different function or order of dress. In addition to field officers' and adjutants' bowl-hilted swords, light-weight swords were increasingly being carried for wear at Court or on evening picquet duty and broadswords with simple cross hilts were being adopted for wear with undress uniform.

The new basket-hilt of 1863 went some way towards reducing the expense, even if it did not reduce the number of sword permutations possible in a Highland regiment. As a style, its hilt was less spherical and much more cube-like than the 1828 pattern; this is particularly well shown in plate 41. In profile [plate 56] its "boxy" nature is less apparent, at least on nineteenth century examples, but it has a distinct economy of curve at the front. In a plated form, with rather thin bars and plates to the hilt, the 1863 pattern remains in use today.

As can be seen in plate 56, a distinctive feature of the 1863 pattern broadsword was that its hilt was easily disassembled. Swords were supplied with a short, thin bar—known as a "tommy" bar—and this could be inserted through the hole in the pommel button to unscrew it and so to remove pommel, grip and basket-hilt in order to replace them with either a bowl hilt or a simple cross guard. A bowl hilt fitted thus is shown in plate 47. By no means all regiments adopted this sensible economy measure fully and plates 51 and 42 show field officers swords which are clearly made as such and not created from disassembled broadswords. All Highland regiments had patterns of bowl hilt which were regimental in style, although not all were unique to specific regiments. In the 79th (Cameron) Highlanders a 3-bar hilted sword was worn by all officers when dressed in the blue frock coat from c.1840 until the demise of that elegant garment in this century, and it is a version of this sword which appears in plate 46.

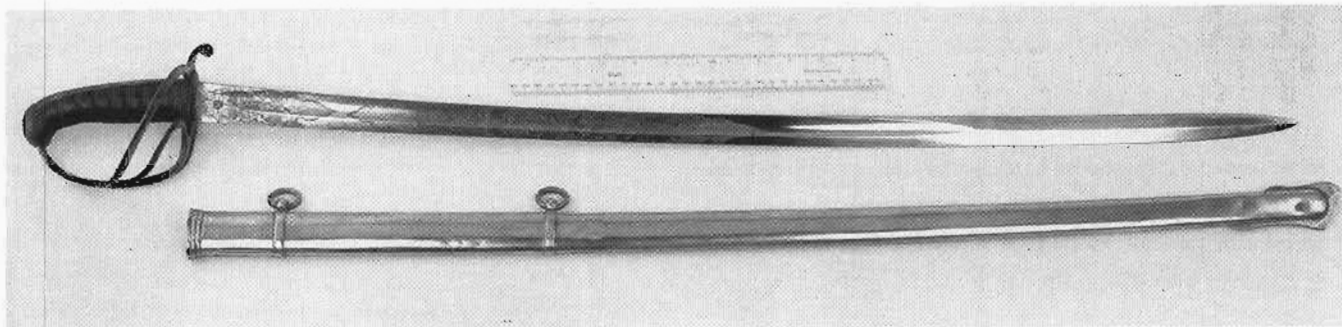
Plates 48, 49, 52 illustrate some of the patterns of cross hilt worn between 1856 and 1900 by officers of Highland regiments in undress or khaki service dress uniform. Some regiments, notably the 79th (Cameron) Highlanders never wore the cross hilt and in others it was worn in orders of dress other than undress [see plate 43].

The heyday of the fighting sword, distinctly different from prescribed regimental or other patterns, was probably the 1850s. Not only were revolvers in their infancy but also officers of the British army were still being trained to rely on

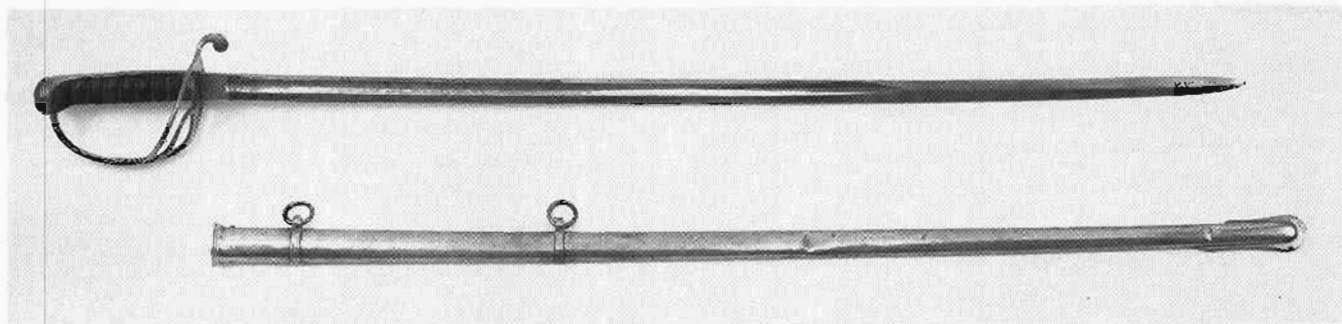
their swords. The emergence of cutlers like Wilkinson, together with the need for robust, reliable fighting swords for close-quarter fighting in the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny of the late 1850s combined to produce a wide variety of functional and entirely non-regulation weapons at that time. This will, of course, come as no surprise to those readers of this paper who have seen active service and who know that an empirical choice of both clothing and accoutrements is almost always superior to anything procured from government. When representing Highland officers in combat, artists have always depicted the broadsword in use, so much is it a part of the mythology of the Highland soldier. As a counterpoint, and as this paper draws to its close, it is worth contrasting the stylised, idealised and mythologised Highlanders in plates 44 and 45 with those real hard-bitten heroes, Afghan-fighters to a man, shown in the reality of plate 58. In plate 53 is shown the sword of one of them: not an elegant Highland broadsword but a plain, heavy, killing weapon of best Wilkinson quality; its heavily-moustached owner, and his sword, are in the centre of plate 58.

In my experience, fighting swords of the late nineteenth century have been only associated, in their Scottish context, with Highland regiments. As I said above, the Lowland regiments seem, as far as one can tell, to have been satisfied with their regulation swords for both dress and active service occasions. In addition, their comparatively straightforward uniforms did not require the many variations adopted in Highland regiments. This all changed in 1881. In that year, a year of great change for the British army, the Lowland regiments—hitherto largely indistinguishable at a distance from their English, Irish or Welsh comrades in the line—adopted uniforms which marked them as Scottish, or, rather, as Lowland versions of Highland Scottish. They adopted doublets, rather than tunics, wore cross-belts rather than waist-belts, acquired kilted pipers and, with one exception, carried the Highland broadsword, with all its garniture of hilts. The exception was the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), whose rifle green uniform nodded in the direction of Scottishness with its dark tartan trews, but whose sword remained resolutely of the rifle pattern: a steel "gothic" hilt adopted by British rifle regiments in 1827. So, after 1881, one encounters broadswords with the usual hilt variety associated with Lowland Scottish regiments such as The Royal Scots or King's Own Scottish Borderers.

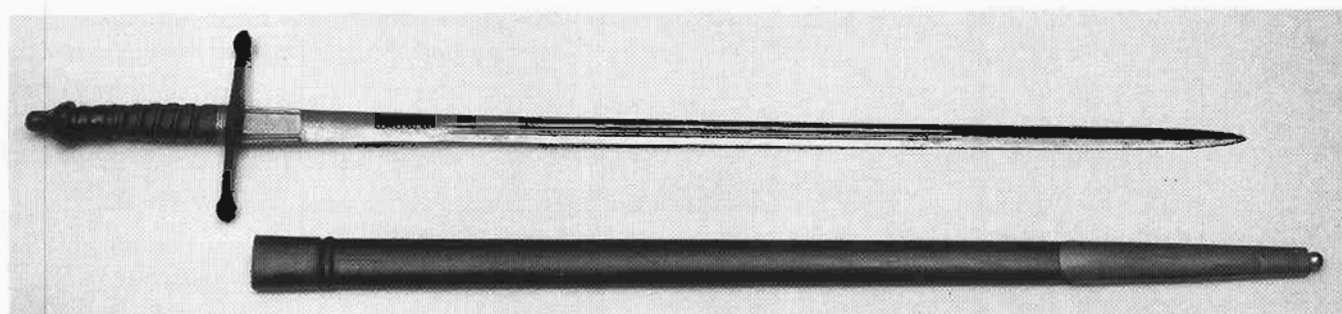
Improved firearms rendered swords obsolete by 1900 and so there is little to say about those made and worn, but little used, after that date. In this paper, although—as I said at its beginning—limited by both space and knowledge, I have attempted to convey a little, a very little, of the complexities



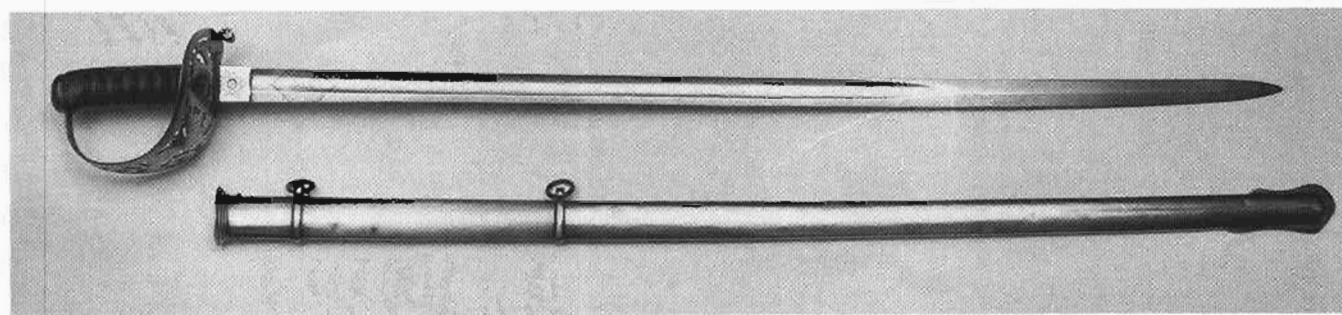
**Plate 50**  
Sword, similar to the 1822 pattern for officers of light cavalry, carried by an officer of 42nd Regiment (Royal Highlanders) c.1854. Made by the London cutler Garden and Co., this sword, which has a patent hilt incorporating a grip-width tang, was probably sold as a fighting sword to an officer bound for the Crimean War in 1854. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 51**  
Officer's 3-bar hilted sword of 79th (Cameron) Highlanders c.1875. Uniquely in the 79th, all officers, after c.1840, were required to carry swords of this pattern when wearing blue frock coats in undress. Field officers of the 79th wore these too. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 52**  
A cross-hilted broadsword of an unidentified Scottish regiment, its pommel and cross-guard covered in brown leather to eliminate reflection and the resultant attention of an enemy sniper. With its brown leather scabbard, this sword dates from c.1900. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 53**  
Officer's fighting sword 1879. Made by Wilkinson and Co. for Captain J. V. Lendrum, 72nd Highlanders, 1879. It has a patent "solid" hilt, with a full-width tang, and a robust heavy blade and bowl hilt, all in steel. (National Museums of Scotland)

of the subject of Scottish military swords when Scottish soldiers and their swords were in the ascendant in the British empire. Much has had to be left both unsaid and unillustrated and, like all authors in search of a publisher, I continue to amass references and collect examples for my museum: Scotland's national museum of the British armed services. As a young curator, I was regularly reminded by an older and wiser one, one whom I have never ceased to respect for his scholarship (among many other qualities), that the best is the enemy of the good. It was some years before I realised that he was quoting Voltaire and had not thought up this piece of wisdom himself. The paper I have written here is neither the best on the subject, nor particularly good. For the time being, though, and in the absence of a publisher to magnify these words and pictures by a factor of one hundred, it will have to do. I hope that it will contribute slightly to the corpus of knowledge on arms and armour so diligently amassed and disseminated by this distinguished society.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

#### NOTES

1. The five were: 3rd Regiment of Footguards (now the Scots Guards); The Royal Regiment, St. Clair's, (now The Royal Scots); 21st Regiment, Royal Scotch Fusiliers, Campbell's (now part of The Royal Highland Fusiliers); 25th Regiment, Sempill's (now King's Own Scottish Borderers); 26th Regiment, Cameronians, Anstruther's (later part of The Cameronians, Scottish Rifles, disbanded 1968).

2. See Darling, Anthony D.: "The British Basket Hilted Cavalry Sword," *Canadian Journal of Arms Collecting*, Vol. 7, pp 79-96.

3. In Gaelic: *Am Freiceadan Dubh*. "Black" from the dark colour of their tartan plaids. "Watch" from their original function as a native police force.

4. Charles Edward Stuart, the "Young Pretender", son of James Francis Edward Stuart, titular King James III of England and VIII of Scotland and known to his opponents as the "Old Pretender".

5. Quoted in: Prebble, J., *Mutiny: Highland Regiments in Revolt 1743-1804* (London. Secker & Warburg, 1975).

6. Whitworth, R., *William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland; a Life* (London, Leo Cooper, 1992)

7. James Wolfe, who, in 1746, had faced Highlanders at Culloden and who, in 1759, would lead them at Quebec, wrote of the Highlanders in about 1750: "They are hardy, intrepid, accustomed to a rough Country, and no great mischief if they fall. How can you better employ a secret enemy than by making his end conducive to the common good?" (quoted in Prebble, *op. cit.*)

8. Nathaniel Jeffrys worked at 32 Strand, London, from c.1768 to 1779; where he worked prior to 1768 is unrecorded. Swords from his workshop are marked on their blades with the impressed letters *IEF* over *RIS*, all below an impressed crowned GR. Dru Drury II worked in partnership with Jeffrys in the early 1770s after his father, Dru Drury I, had set up a business in, first, Noble Street and, later, Wood Street in the City of London. Both Drurys supplied Highland enlisted men's swords, impressed *DRURY* on the blades beneath a crowned GR; Dru Drury II supplied the swords carried in the Highland regiments during the War of the American Revolution. Both Jeffrys and the Drurys also supplied other military blades as well as civilian ones.

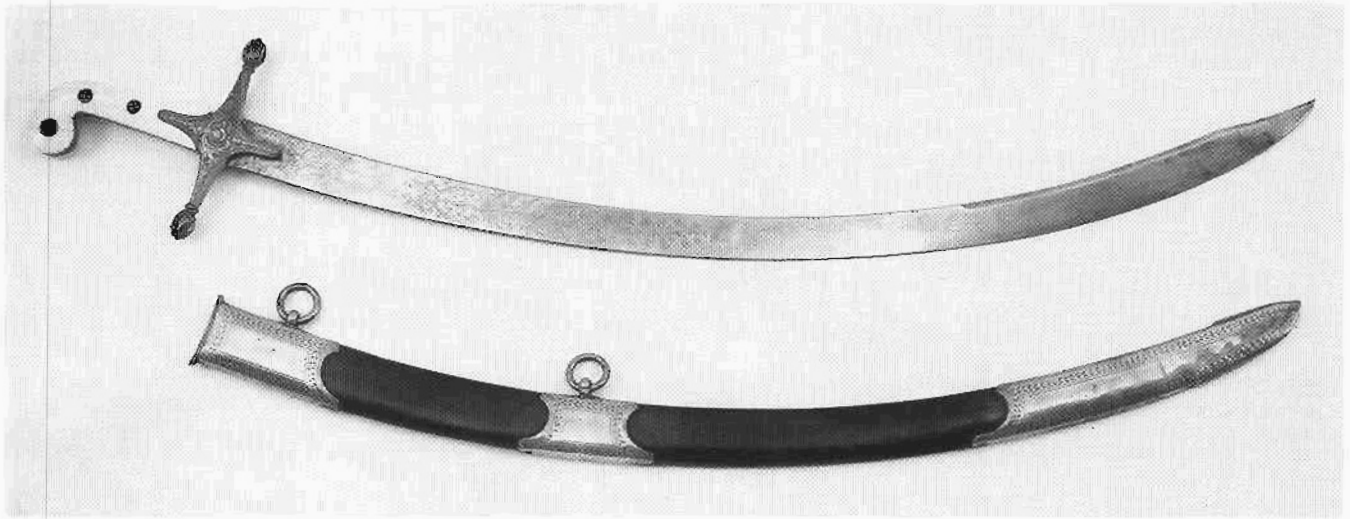
9. Runkel, John Justus; an importer, or possibly maker, of German blades from Solingen.

10. Francis Thurkle II, sword cutler and belt manufacturer, of 15 Great New Street, Shoe Lane, London, operated 1791-1801. He was the son of Francis Thurkle who operated in that vicinity 1766-90. Both father and son are recorded marks as hiltmakers in the 1780s and '90s.

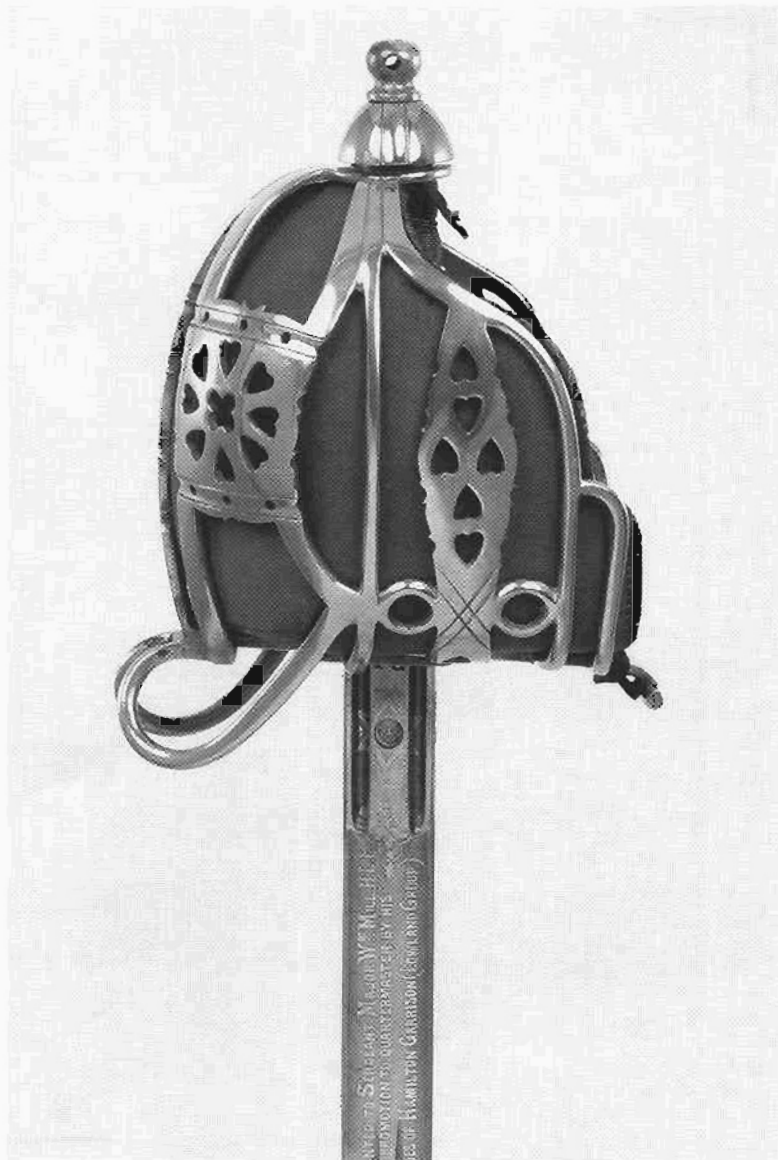
11. By no less an authority on the subject than A.V.B. Norman, former Master of the Armouries at the Tower of London, now engaged upon the catalogue *raisonné* of the swords in the Royal Collection.



Plate 54  
Officers and other ranks of 74th (Highland) Regiment in 1846; an oil painting by Daniel Cunliffe. Although a Highland regiment from its raising until 1809, and again after 1845, the 74th wore trews rather than the kilt; only its pipers were kilts. All the officers, as well as the regimental sergeant-major and the pipe-major, are depicted carrying 1828 pattern basket-hilted broadswords. The adjutant, by contrast, in his blue frock coat on the right of the painting, carries a bowl-hilted sword similar in style to the pattern adopted in 1821 by heavy cavalry officers for undress wear. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 55**  
 Officer's mameluke hilted sabre of 21st Regiment (Royal North British Fusiliers) c.1825. Its unfullered and engraved blade is very lightly etched with the Roman numeral *XXI* and its scabbard is of brown-enamelled and gilded brass. Its hilt is of gilded brass with bone or ivory grips. It may be a decade earlier than the date ascribed to it here. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 56**  
 Hilt of an 1863 pattern basket-hilted broadsword for officers of Highland regiments. This is a late nineteenth century example, c.1899, and the hole in the pommel button to facilitate the removal of the hilt—in order to substitute an alternative style—is clearly visible. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 57**  
A group of officers of 42nd Regiment (Royal Highlanders) in the Crimea c1855, from a glass negative (damaged) by Roger Fenton. The officer in the tartan coat is clearly posing with a cutaway hilted sword. (National Museums of Scotland)



**Plate 58**  
Officers of 72nd Highlanders at Cabul, Afghanistan, 1879. Captain J. V. Lendrum, owner of the sword in plate 53 is shown, together with the sword, in the centre of the group. (National Museums of Scotland)