

capitulation, stating that the Texan prisoners would be held on the border, the Mexicans made plans to march them to the interior. On

January 14, the main group of prisoners started to march towards Mexico City under the command of General Canales.

THE BLACK BEAN EPISODE

Leaving Matamoros on January 14, 1843, the main body of prisoners arrived near Camargo a few days later. There the Texans planned an escape. Captain Ewen Cameron was to give a prearranged signal when the Mexicans brought in dinner. Just prior to the meal's arrival, a group from Cameron's company convinced him that the escape would not be successful. When the time came, Cameron did not give the signal, and the escape attempt was aborted.

Arriving in Monterey on January 29, Canales turned over command to Colonel Baragan. The Mexican infantry guard was also changed. The new guard consisted primarily of Mexicans taken from the prisons of Monterey, thus, increasing the feeling amongst the Texans that an escape attempt would be successful. Before leaving Monterey on February 2, sandals were issued to those prisoners who needed them. Additionally, each Texas received 61/4 cents per them to purchase food from local merchants. This payment was supposed to be issued to the prisoners on a regular basis, however, it was generally withheld. As a result, the Texans could not purchase needed supplies and suffered greatly. When the Texans reached Rinconada, another escape was planned. As the Mexicans seemed to be unusually vigilant and organized at daybreak, it was determined that they had somehow received advanced warning and the Texan escape was again aborted.

The prisoners arrived in Saltillo on February 5, where they were joined by several of the Dawson and San Antonio prisoners who were captured by Adrian Wolf in September 1842. The Texans left Saltillo on February 7, and arrived at "El Rancho Salado" (the Salt

Ranch or the Salt Farm), about 80 miles from Saltillo, on the evening of February 10. That night, with Ewen Cameron as their leader, a portion of the Texans planned another escape. There was some feeling among the prisoners that the Mexicans were again warned of the escape attempt, because when the Texans awoke on the 11th, they found that their guard had been doubled. Nevertheless, on February 11, 1843, as breakfast was about to be served, Cameron gave the prearranged signal by throwing his hat about his head. The Texans rushed the guards around them and quickly succeeded in capturing the Mexican muskets. They rushed for the exit from the courtyard in which they had been held. Dr. Richard Fox Brenham and John Lyons were the first through the portal and received the full volley of musket fire from the Mexicans who, hearing the commotion, had prepared for the Texan onslaught. Before the Mexicans could reload, the other Texans had a chance to rush out of the passageway and overtake them. Five or six Mexicans were killed. Five Texans were killed, and three were wounded. The Mexican casualties were low because Cameron had instructed his men to kill only when absolutely necessary. Though there were approximately 200 Texan prisoners at the Rancho, it is reported that only about one-third of them took an active part in the escape against 400 armed Mexicans.

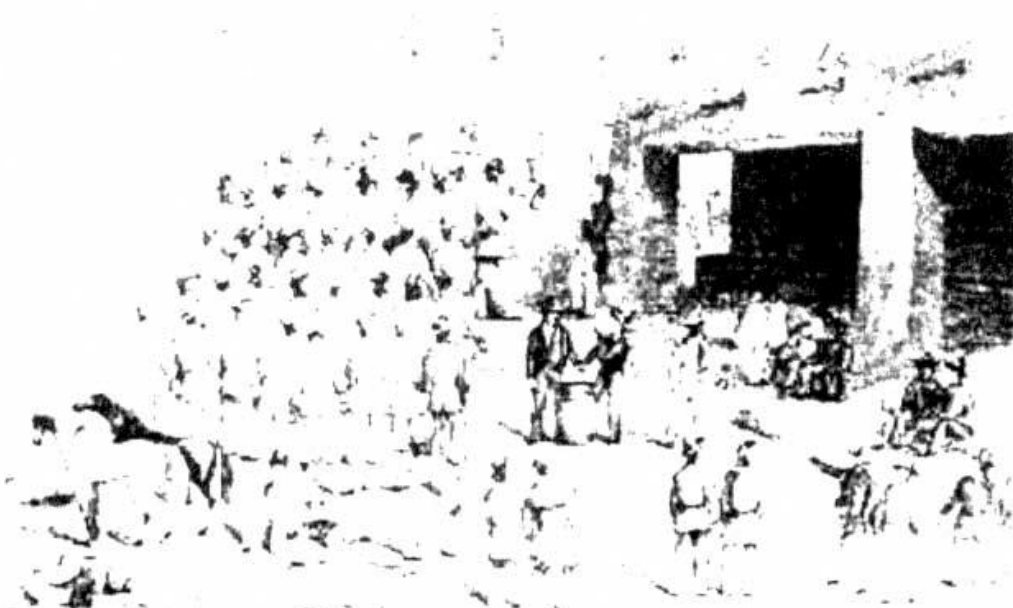
The escapees headed for the Rio Grande, about 200 miles away. About one half mile from the Rancho, the escapees were intercepted by Colonel Baragan, from whom they had just escaped, and a small Mexican troop he had rallied. Colonel Baragan, after requesting and being granted permission to approach, remonstrated against the madness of the escape attempt and offered clemency to all the Texans

who would surrender. The Texans all refused and rode on. Baragan followed them for several days, periodically lighting fires to signal his position.

Later the Texans met an Englishman (or American) who told them that the countryside had been alerted to their escape and that their best chance was to travel quickly and stay on the road until they were beyond the Pass of Venado. That night, the 13th, after some debate and against the advice of Cameron, the group left the road in favor of traveling through the mountains. On the 15th, they located a water hole and being in need of food, killed their horses for meat. After this, no more water was found as the Texans progressed through a disorienting maze of canyons and mountains. The trails they followed, made by animals, crossed and recrossed each other. Lost and desperate for water, the escapees dispersed into increasingly smaller groups. Some became too weak to travel and were left behind to fend for themselves. On February 18th, Cameron and 40 of his men mistook a Mexican cavalry troop's campfire for a signal from their companions that water had been found. The Texans approached

and, desperate for water and food, decided to surrender. The following day, the recaptured Texans were marched about 12 miles to the Pass of Venado (believed to be northwest of Saltillo). By February 25, approximately 150 Texans had been recaptured at the pass. In all, 176 Texans were recaptured. Of the remaining escapees, seven died in the mountains and five successfully returned to Texas.

On March 2, the recaptured Texans arrived in Saltillo. There they learned that President Santa Ana had ordered General Francisco Mejia to execute every one of them. Mejia, however, refused to obey the order and was arrested, removed from his office and replaced by Colonel Domingo Huerta. The prisoners were then marched from Saltillo on the 22nd, and arrived at El Rancho Salado on the 25th, where they were met with an order from Santa Ana that one-tenth of them be shot. To carry out the order, Huerta had 176 beans put in an earthen pot, of which 159 beans were white and 17 were black. The Texans, chained together in pairs, were blindfolded and ordered to draw beans. Those who drew black beans were John L. Cash, James D. Cocke, Robert



Captain Cameron in the act of drawing first. He said, with his usual coolness, "Well, boys, we have to draw, let's be at it," so saying, he thrust his hand into the mug, and drew out a white bean.

Sketch by eyewitness Charles M'Laughlin

Holmes Dunham, William Mosby Eastland, Edward E. Este, Robert Harris, Thomas L. Jones, Patrick Maher, James Masterson Ogden, Christopher Roberts, William H. Rowan, James L. Shepherd, Joseph N. M. Thompson, James N. Torrey, James Turnbull, Henry Whalen and Martin Carroll Wing. These men were immediately separated from their companions and given a chance to write home. Thereafter, at about 6:30, on the evening of March 25, 1843; nine of the condemned group were bound together, set upon a log and shot within hearing of their companions. The remaining eight were then executed in the same manner. In all, the firing continued for about ten to twelve minutes, lacerating and mangling most of the bodies.

Henry Whalen did not die and continued to curse his executioners until they put a gun to his head and shot him at point-blank range.

On March 26, the remaining Texans left El Rancho Salado and were marched to San Luis Potosi, arriving on April 5. From there they traveled towards Mexico City, arriving at Huehuetaco on the 24th. There as a result of a petition from Colonel Antonio Canales to Santa Ana, Ewen Cameron, the leader of the Texan escape from El Rancho Salado was also to be executed. Cameron was taken from his companions at midnight and shot on the morning of April 25, several hours after his Texan comrades had departed.

THE TEXANS IN PRISON AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT RELEASE

On April 26, 1843, the prisoners arrived in Mexico City. From Mexico City the Texans were marched to Tacubaya, a small village about four miles from Mexico City in which the President's Palace was located. The prisoners were told that they would get new clothes if they would work on constructing a road. The Texans at first refused the new clothes, but later agreed to take them when they were informed that the clothes would be forced upon them at the point of bayonets if not "willfully" accepted. The Texans worked as slowly and

unprofitably on the road as their captors would allow.

Sixteen Texans escaped from Perote prison with 9 reaching safety, and 7 recaptured. On September 12, 1844, Santa Anna issued an order for the release of all Texans.

It seems Turnbulls have difficulty restraining themselves from being involved in Border conflicts.

Sources:

The Dawson and Mier Expeditions and Their Place in Texas History By - Mark Abolafia-Rosenzweig
Soldiers of Misfortune The Somervell and Mier Expeditions By - Sam W. Haynes
Samuel H. Walker's Account of the Mier Expedition Edited By - Marilyn McAdams Sibley

THE TURNBULL PIPERS

As some of you know, John G. Turnbull of New York City played the Highland Bagpipes for many years. Because the Bagpipe is so closely associated with Scotland and to some lesser extent with Ireland, he here provides information about other Turnbells who have achieved some fame in this area.

Joseph Turnbull 1756

Several years ago, I met William Butler, the current piper to the Duke of Northumbria, who sent me some information on Joseph Turnbull.

Joseph Turnbull was the first Ducal piper to The Duchess of Northumbria, and his picture hangs somewhere in Alnwick Castle (actually, the Dukedom was not established until 1766, so she was technically still a Countess). It is not known when he left that post.

**Pipe Major Charles Turnbull
P/M 2nd Battalion-The Gordon
Highlanders 1925-1937
Pipe Major-The London Scottish
Regiment 1939-1945**

Charles Turnbull took lessons from the "great George McLennan" (A world renowned piper) and served in the 2nd Battalion, beginning probably just after WWI.

He made some contributions to The Gordon Highlanders Collections of Pipe Music, the first volume being published in 1983 and the second volume in 1985, wherein they listed Charles as a contributor to the volumes, which means he was probably the oldest living Pipe Major at that time, being in his 80's.

Turnbull Tunes

Donald Varella is the composer of "The Turnbells' March," which he wrote for a friend of his who was a jazz musician. I tried to play to tune and it would not take to memory (or to my fingers). Then, sometime around 1985 I was receiving a "visit" lesson with P.M. Angus Mac Donald, the former Pipe Major of the Scots Guards, 2Bn. As a Pipe Major with the Scots Guards, he was also Piper to Queen Elizabeth. So, why not ask Angus what he thought of it. After going over the tune with Canntaireachd (similar to singing the tune with different sound noises for each note) Angus concluded that the tune was not musical, and should not be played.

Another tune, called The Turnbull's Gathering, was written by P.M. John W. Scott, in 1985. This is a March and is a very enjoyable tune.

THE BULLS OF WAR

Col. William Turnbull
San Antonio, TX

In 1986 this newsletter's previous incarnation, the Bull's Eye Bulletin, published an article about one Colonel William Turnbull of the US Army and then the Air Force after it became separate from the Army.

Col. Turnbull was the first commander of what later became Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, OK. He took over command of the base on Jan 15, 1942.

Col. Turnbull was born in Charleston, Mass. on September 10, 1889 and attended Pace School of Certified Public Accounting (now Pace University of New York) and began a career with Singer Sewing Machine Co.

At the outbreak of World War One he enlisted in the Aviation Branch of the Signal Corps. of the US Army, and after the Armistice transferred to the regular Army as a second lieutenant. He advanced to the rank of Captain in 1932, Major in 1934, and to Lieutenant Colonel in early



A Tradition of Excellence

1942 and finally Colonel in late 1942.

The reader should note the slow progress of promotion from second lieutenant to Captain, and then the sudden rise from there, due no doubt to the coming of World War II. This was true also in the British Army, which resulted in the toast at officers mess "Here's to a plague or a bloody war".

Colonel Turnbull ran Tinker until April 9, 1943 at which time it had over 22,000 military and civilian personnel.

He retired to San Antonio, Texas where he died in 1963 at the age of 74.

THE FOUR AMERICANS WITH THE NAME OF TURNBULL KILLED IN VIETNAM.

Information supplied by Mark A. Turnbull of Manchester, New Hampshire.

Gary Allen Turnbull of Saugus, California was born on March 3, 1946 and killed in action on May 10, 1970 at the age of 24. His rank was E4, MOS 67N20, or a Utility Helicopter Repair

mechanic.

Joseph Parkhill Turnbull of Tampa, Florida, was born on September 26, 1948 and was killed in action on February 2, 1968, at the age of 19. His rank was E3, MOS 11B20, or Light Infantryman.

Juston Glaston Turnbull of New York. New York was born on December 15, 1944, and was killed in action March 21, 1968 at the age of 23. His rank was E3. MOS 11B1P, or Airborn Infantryman. Juston was the only African American bearing the name of Turnbull to be killed during the Viet Nam war.

Robert Chester Turnbull of Andover, New Jersey was born on March 29, 1946 and killed in action on February 7, 1968 at the age of 21. He was a 1st Lieutenant with the US Marines.

All four were killed on their first tour of duty in Vietnam.

For information on Turnbuls who served in Scottish and Irish regiments of the British army, see The Bulls of War webpage at <http://www.turnbuls.org/bulls.htm>

This page is the result of extensive research by Dick Crawford, as an incident to his current research project. This webpage is currently being expanded to include Turnbuls in the American and other armies.



LIEUTENANT TURNBULL OF THE BLACK WATCH

COMPILED BY FRANK TIMONEY
SPECIAL TO THE BULL'S EYE -

The 42nd of Foot was not a Royal Regiment until 1759. The 42nd was engaged in two battles at Fort Ticonderoga: the first and the bloodiest was in July 1758, where 18 lieutenants made the attack, four (4) killed, and eleven (11) wounded. Lt. Turnbull and a Lt. John Small were not hit.

Lt. Turnbull was also at the second Battle of Fort Ticonderoga in July 1759, but there were no casualties, as the French had abandoned the Fort.

Clearly, Lt. Turnbull was a lucky man.

However, the luckiest man in the B.A. (British Army) was Lt. John Small. He was at the first and second battles of Fort Ticonderoga, and was not wounded. He also fought at Breed's Hill (Bunker

Lt. Alexander Turnbull of Stracathro
1st Bn 42nd of Foot, Royal Highland Regiment
- The Black Watch

Dates of Service:	
Appointed Ensign	3 June 1752
Promoted to Lt.	29 Sept. 1756
Promoted to Capt.	14 Aug. 1762
Half Pay	1763

Major 32nd (Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry)

Died in 1804 with the rank of Major.

From A Military History of Perthshire, Tullybardine 1911

Hill) and participated in all three British Charges at the Colonists. He also fought at Widow Moores Creek Bridge in North Carolina, and in the Ohio region, and yet remained unwounded.

In 1776 Lt. Small raised the Second Battalion Bn. of the 84th of Foot, the Royal Highland Emigrants, who were recruited from the Scottish populations of lower Canada, Nova Scotia and upstate New York. The uniforms of the

84th were very similar to the Black Watch, with the exception that the 42nd had badger sporrans, while the 84th had raccoon sporrans.

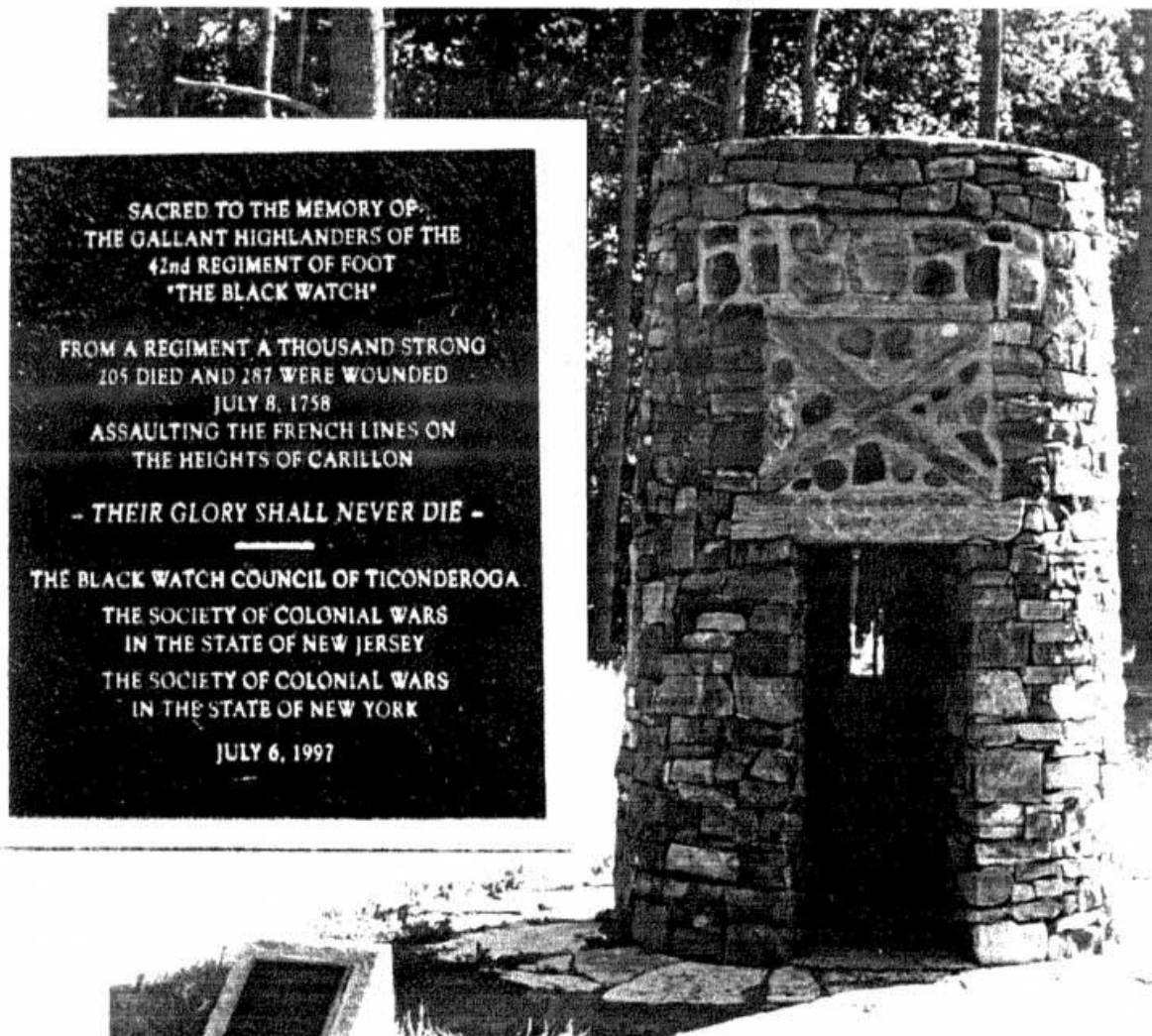
It also should be noted that the current Pipe Major of the Black Watch is

one P/M Steven Small who toured the United States in 1998 with the Pipe Band of the Black Watch and the Regimental Band of the Scots Guards. He was also at the Loon Mountain games in New Hampshire in 1997.

Frank Timoney is founder and president of the British Military Historical Society of the United States. See his article in the December, 1987 issue of The Piping Times for a description of the Battle of Widow Moores Creek Bridge, at which Lt. Turnbull also fought, as did Donald Ruagh McCrimmon, last of the line of the famous McCrimmon piping family.



The Cairn at Fort Ticonderoga



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE GALLANT HIGHLANDERS OF THE
42nd REGIMENT OF FOOT
"THE BLACK WATCH"

FROM A REGIMENT A THOUSAND STRONG
205 DIED AND 287 WERE WOUNDED
JULY 8, 1758
ASSAULTING THE FRENCH LINES ON
THE HEIGHTS OF CARILLON

- THEIR GLORY SHALL NEVER DIE -

THE BLACK WATCH COUNCIL OF TICONDEROGA
THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS
IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK
JULY 6, 1997

TURNBULL AWARDED VICTORIA CROSS

Sergeant James Yuill Turnbull Remembered

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty, when having with his party captured a post apparently of great importance to the enemy he was subjected to severe counter-attacks, which were continuous throughout the whole day. Although his party was wiped out and replaced several times during the day, Sergeant Turnbull never wavered in his determination to hold the post the loss of which would have been very serious. Almost single handed he maintained his position and displayed the highest degree of valour and skill in the performance of his duties. Later in the day this very gallant soldier was killed whilst bombing a counter attack from the parados of the Trench.

--From the Citation for the Victoria Cross awarded to Sergeant James Yuill Turnbull, as reported in the London Gazette, 27th Nov. 1916



Sergeant James Turnbull was the son of Mr. James Turnbull, a well known Glasgow businessman who was a member of the Incorporation of Maltmen. Sgt. Turnbull was educated at Albert Road Academy and later employed with Messrs Wallace, Scott & Co. Ltd. wholesale specialty tailors. He was a prominent player of football (soccer) of the Cartha Athletic Club.

Prior to WWI he was a member of the old Glasgow Third Lanark Volunteers and because of this early military training rose to the rank of Sergeant quickly. His officers suggested that he should obtain a Commission as an

officer, but he preferred to remain a non commissioned officer. He served in the Highland Light Infantry, 17th Battalion (Glasgow BN)



Sergeant Turnbull

Sgt. Turnbull was killed at the Battle of the Somme on July 3, 1916. He was 33 years old. He was survived by his father and two brothers: one in the Army attached to the Canadian Pay department, and the other in the Royal Engineers.

Sources: "Proud Heritage: The Story of the Highland Light Infantry" Vol: # 3 By Lt.Col L.B.

*Oatts, D.S.O. The House of Grant Ltd. Glasgow, London and Toronto.
Highland Light Infantry Chronicle, Jan. 1917, Vol XVII #1*