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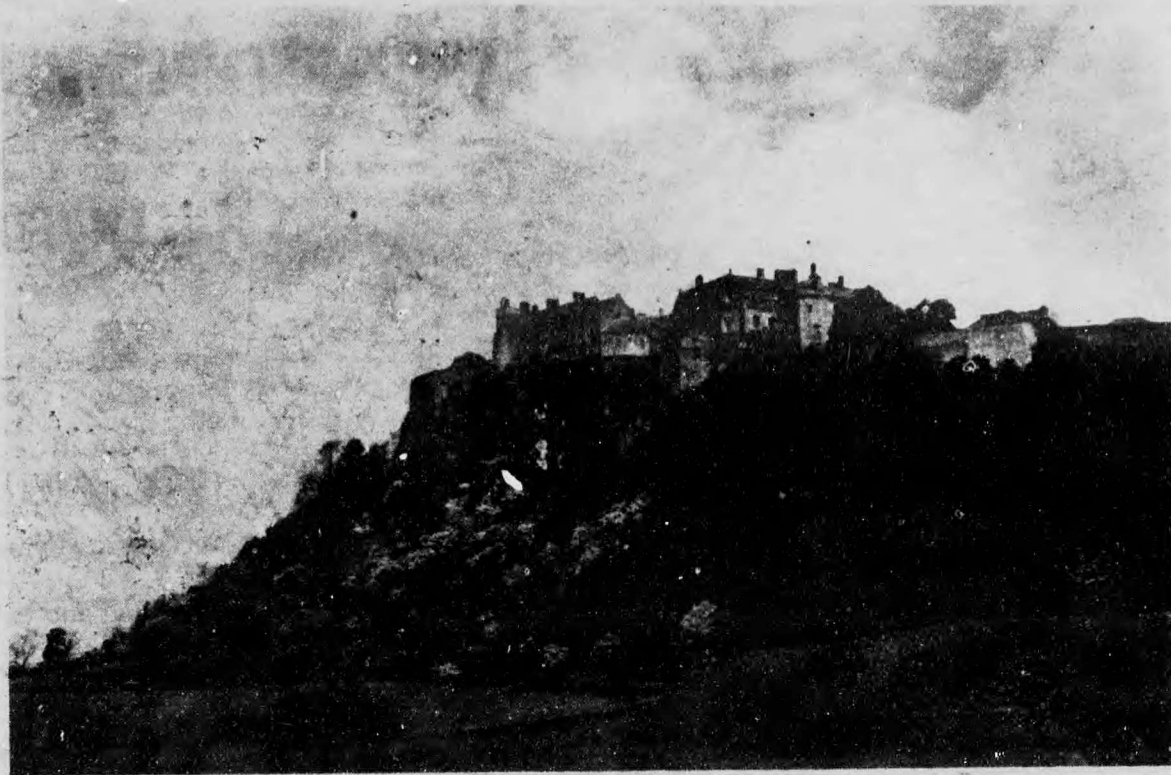
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# Scots' Stirling Castle home of regiment museum

By DAVID WILLINGS

From either Edinburgh or Glasgow it is only a short train ride to Stirling. Stirling is the town of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (this was the regiment and I am about to be a partisan). There is a Youth Centre barely a few minutes walk from the Castle. The Castle itself overlooks the Forth Valley. The view should not be missed. The Regimental Museum of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is also located in the Castle. As a museum I doubt if it will excite the interest of those who have no connection with the Regiment, but so what? Well everyone in the Central Highlands has. "The Thin Red Line" refers to the Argylls in full uniform who beat back the Russians after attack in the Crimean War. I find the story as set out in the Museum a bit hard to swallow. Their commander said "here you are...you must die and die" and the men are supposed to have said with one voice "Aye Sir Colin, if needs be we'll do just that". Perhaps some are a bit anxious to get his name out of their mouths but I cannot believe a Scottish soldier's sentiments would be anything but "What the...would you do after; promotion?"

The Officers' Banqueting Hall, the Regimental Silver laid out on a table may seem a mausoleum, but I assure you it is very much part of present tradition. Try to think of it and of the whole when this Hall is in use. I assure you if you will an autumn evening. All day the NCO's of the Regiment have been polishing up in Full Highland Dress and leading the drill for the coming evening. In one of the upstairs rooms the Pipe Band has been practising all day with the Pipe Major expressing his disgust at their efforts as only a Scottish Pipe Major can. He may cuss at them but he will work them till they drop but he would cut off his right arm if any one of his pipers. They have to swear at, but let anyone come from the General down say



Scotland's Stirling Castle, overlooking Forth Valley, is the home of the regimental museum for the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

anything adverse about them—well they just wouldn't dare.

In sundry houses all over Stirling the Officers have been polishing and pressing their ceremonial dress and their wives and/or fiancées, girlfriends have been buying evening dresses and the bou-tiques and hairdressers have done a roaring trade. By eight o'clock the NCO's have been inspected and dispatched to their various posts assured by the Regimental Sergeant Major that this is the worst turn out he has ever seen. The Pipe Band is standing by having been assured by the Pipe Major that they are a lot of... The gates of the Castle are opened and the Regimental Sergeant Major, all six foot two of him, all 220 pounds of him, resplendent in Highland Dress waits for the cars to pull up at the gate one by one. Each car pulls up at the bridge, one of them would be mine. I hand the Sergeant Major my invitation. In a way this is superfluous because he knows me, he and I have been up in the hills

weekend after weekend umpiring exercises on escorting a stretcher party. Nevertheless he will say, Sergeant, carry on please" Please is a relatively new addition to army vocabulary. Giving him leave to carry on is necessary. The salute means "I am your servant. I await your orders". I have no orders for him that evening and there will be other cars coming up the hill. I say precisely the same when the guards at the door of the Regimental Museum salute. At the top of the stairs a Corporal, without headdress which is never worn inside, will direct us to the place where we can leave our coats. This again has its roots in centuries of tradition for we both know this castle like the back of our hand. In the days when ceremonial dress included a sword no officer would come to table wearing one. So we hang up our coat and our belt. In one of the ante-rooms sherry and sundry other aperitifs are being served. But first of all I go up to the Colonel and ask permission to introduce

"Mr. Willings?" and I will answer in the affirmative. This goes back to the days when anyone approaching the castle had to be recognized by the NCO in charge of the guard — or shot. He will take a pace back, come to attention, cut a salute that positively whistles and I will proceed in second gear up a steep hill and through the archway. At either side of the archway and guard will jump to attention and salute.

The parade ground is being used as a car park. The Drill Sergeant escorts each car to a vacant parking place. As we get out of the car he salutes. I do not return this salute. On this occasion it is directed to the officer's lady. I reply verbally "Thank you my wife. Again this is traditional. He has known her longer than I have but she is his guest and he introduces her to his guest of honour, the General.

The formalities over we can get down to socializing. At a set time a few bars from a single bagpipe will signal that it is time for the Colonel to proceed to the Ban-

queting Hall. As he opens the door six other pipes take up the tune. It is not because of his rank that he is the first to be "piped" into the Hall. He must be there to

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## Levine's Swinger Room



**FASHION SHOW**  
by LEVINE'S SWINGER ROOM  
TIME: Wednesday, November 1st  
8:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Off-Campus Lounge  
(back of Tibbits)  
ADMISSION: \$1.00 (Tickets to be sold in advance).



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