

Scotland's Drill Halls

Preliminary Report

April 2015



Contents

1. Preface	3
1.1 Project Summary	3
1.2 Methodology	3
1.3 Limitations	4
2. Scoping results - Overview	5
3. Geographical spread	7
4. Historical Background	8
5. The Development of Drill Halls	12
5.1 Architectural Components	12
5.2 Architectural Style	13
6. Typological Division	15
6.1 Type 1. Conversions	16
6.2 Type 2. Architecturally ambitious drill halls	19
6.3 Type 3. Drill halls of domestic appearance	23
6.4 Type 4. Single storey, stone built drill halls	26
6.5 Type. 5 Utilitarian drill halls	29
7. Regional Distinctions	30
7.1 Major Architects	31
7.2 Regional Architects and standardisation	32
8. References	34

1. Preface

In the late 1850s there was concern in the British Government about their ability to defend both the home nation as well as the Empire. Britain's military defences were stretched and resources to defend Britain needed to be found. One solution was to create 'Volunteer Forces', a reserve of men who volunteered for part-time military training similar to that of the regular army and who could therefore help to defend Britain if the need arose.

In 1859 the Rifle Volunteer Corps was formed and the Volunteer Act of 1863 provided more regulation on how the volunteer forces were run and it set out the standards for drills and a requirement for annual inspections. Most purpose-built drill halls constructed at this time were paid for by a major local landowner, the subscriptions of volunteers, local fundraising efforts or a combination of all three. The Regularisation of the Force Act 1871 (known as the Cardwell Reforms after the Secretary of State for War, Edward Cardwell) gave forces the legal right to acquire land to build a drill hall and more purpose-built drill halls began to be constructed after this date. The largest period of drill hall construction, aided by government grants, took place between 1880 and 1910. The Territorial and Reserve Forces Act 1907 (known as the Haldane Reforms after the Secretary of State for War, Richard Haldane) came into force in 1908 and the various Volunteer Units were consolidated to form the Territorial Force. The construction of drill halls largely ceased during the First World War and in 1920 the Territorial Force became the Territorial Army.

1.1 Project Summary

In preparation for marking the centenary of the First World War, Historic Scotland and The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland commissioned an academic review of associated structures relating to the prosecution of war. Following this work the listing and designed landscapes team are undertaking a review of drill hall structures in Scotland.

The purpose of the project is to establish all the surviving drill halls constructed before 1918 and to gather information about the halls to inform a project which will assess unlisted drill halls for listing and review the designation of existing listed drill halls.

1.2 Methodology

This scoping report follows the work of the First World War review compiled by Dr Gordon Barclay. The primary source for the audit of the drill halls was a UK wide survey of the building type completed by Mike Osborne, published in the book *Always Ready: the Drill Halls of Great Britain's Volunteer Forces* (2006). This data was used alongside historical mapping to find new or 'lost' halls.¹ The research work of Alan Kilpatrick of The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland added to the list of known halls from the audit and updated information.

¹ G.J.Barclay, WW1 Audit, p 53.

Data recorded from GIS, aerial photographs and historic maps was compiled to establish which halls were extant, those that were purpose built and those constructed after 1918. It identified the number of listed drill halls and showed those still in military use.

An overview of architectural style was established through the examination of historical photographs, where possible, and the use of Google Street View which led to categorisation of building type and architectural form.

Some gaps in information relating to the date of construction and the architects of a number of the halls were filled in by searching newspaper archives and the records of The Dictionary of Scottish Architects. It is likely that much more information will be found within these archival sources and other local archives as the review continues.

1.3 Limitations

Images of the interior spaces of the drill halls were difficult to obtain.

2. Scoping results - Overview

The First World War Audit produced a total of **344** drill halls that appear to have been in use in Scotland before 1918. Of these **109** have been demolished, and **10** were not located.

First World War Drill Halls (1860-1918)	Statistic	Number	%Total
	Extant	225	65.4
	Demolished	109	31.9
	Not Located	10	2.9
Total		344	

This total was further categorised by halls which had been purpose built and previously existing buildings which had been acquired by the Volunteer Forces temporarily or permanently converted.

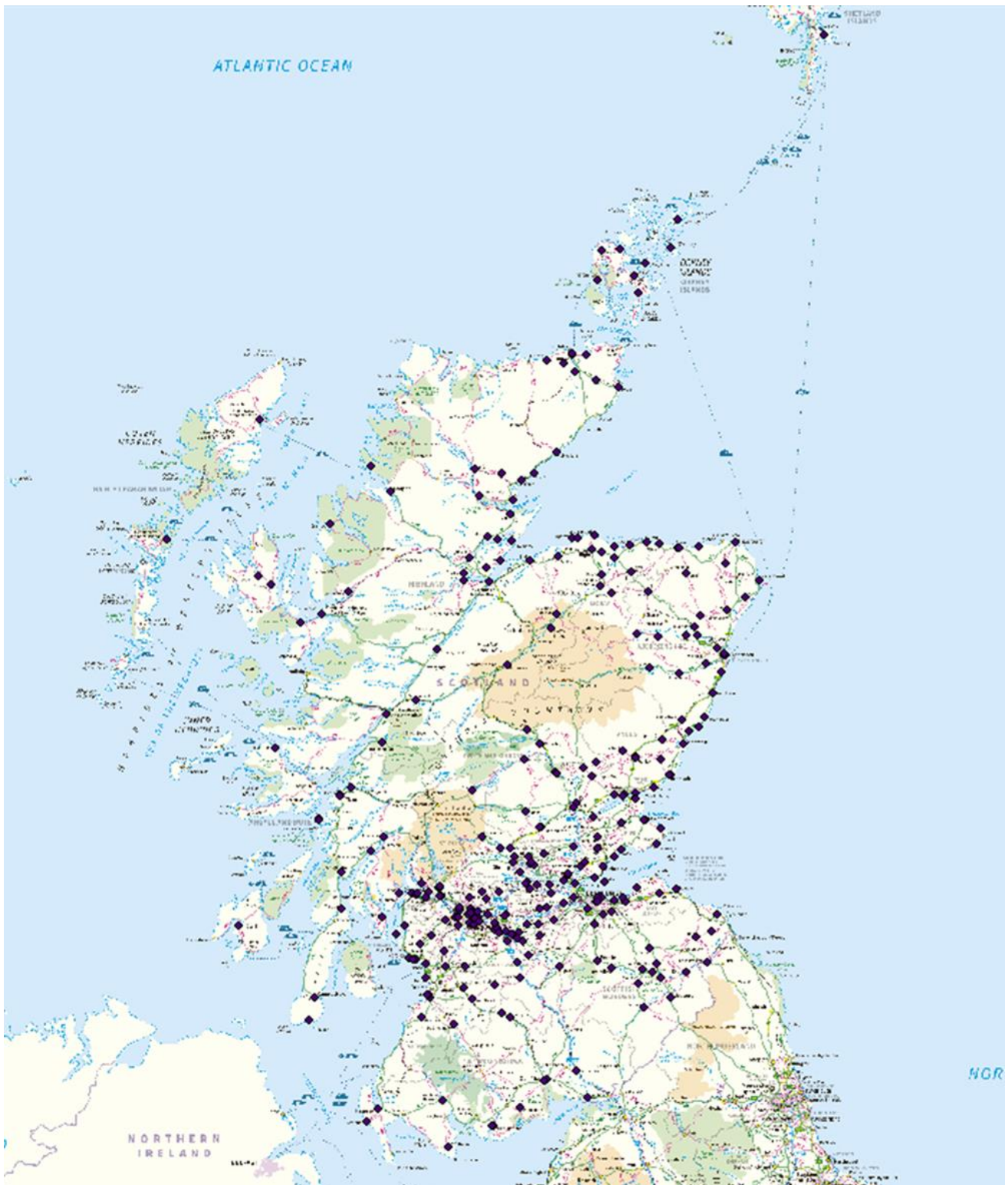
First World War Drill Halls (1860-1918)	Statistic	Number	%Total
	Purpose Built	301	87.5
	Conversion	43	12.5
Total		344	

A number of the extant drill halls appear to still be in military use. In these instances there may be an increased chance that this continued use would have resulted in unaltered interior space than for others which have changed use. A number also became village halls, where the open space of a hall may have been retained for use.

Extant, Purpose Built Drill Halls	Statistic	Number	% Total
	Still In Military Use	38	20.9
	On the Buildings at Risk Register	4	2.2
Total		182	

3. Geographical spread

Drill halls were built across Scotland in both urban and rural areas. The map below, which plots the 344 halls identified in the audit, shows clusters of drill halls in the central belt and in coastal areas as well as eight halls identified on the Orkney Islands.



4. Historical Background

The development of drill halls follows the history of the Volunteer Forces movement in Britain. Peaks of building activity often followed legislative changes to the military and volunteers, as forces were formed and means of funding made available.

Broad Timeline of the Volunteer Forces

- **1859 – The formation of Corps of Rifle Volunteers**

The 12th of May 1859 saw the sanctioning of the establishment of Volunteer Rifle Forces in Great Britain by the War Office Circular of General Peel. In the context of anxiety about French invasion the government had accepted the public appeal to form defensive forces of volunteers. The circular “*authorised the Lords Lieutenant of counties to submit proposals for the formation of volunteer rifle corps, and of artillery corps in maritime town where there might be forts and batteries.*”² The force was to be raised under the provisions of the Volunteer Consolidation Act 1804 (which had consolidated previous acts relating to the volunteers).³ The Lord Lieutenant was responsible for the nomination of “proper persons” to be appointed commanding officers upon whom the financial responsibility of the force would rest.⁴

Following the sanctioning a great number of forces were quickly formed by enthusiastic middle-class professional and landowning men. Hugh Cunningham writes of the Force in their conception,

“The Volunteer Force was the military expression of the spirit of Self Help. Captains of industry became captains of companies”.⁵

Few drill halls were constructed in this initial period. Corps appeared to have utilised outdoor training spaces, such as the use of rifle ranges at Hunter’s Bog, Holyrood Park by the Queens Edinburgh Rifle Brigade. The conversion or temporary use of existing public buildings for use as drill halls is also recorded. The Queens Edinburgh Rifle Brigade also used the Grassmarket Corn Exchange in Edinburgh before constructing a purpose built hall.

- **1863 – The Volunteer Act 1863 sets the standard for drills and the requirement for annual inspection**

The Volunteer Act 1863 brought regulation to the volunteer forces, setting out the standard for drills and service and requiring annual inspections. The act also granted Volunteer units the legal right to acquire land or buildings for purposes approved by the Secretary of State, such as the construction of drill sheds.⁶

² J. M. Grierson, *Records of the Scottish Volunteer Force 1859-1908*, (Edinburgh, 1909), p. 6.

³ H. Cunningham, *The Volunteer Force*, (1975), p 12.

⁴ Grierson, *Records of the Scottish Volunteer Force*, p 7.

⁵ Cunningham, *The Volunteer Force*, p. 5

⁶ M. Osborne, *Always Ready; The Drill Halls of Britain’s Volunteer Force*, (2006), p.30.

The creation of large numbers of volunteer corps led to the need for covered areas for training, meeting and organisation. Some Volunteer units found accommodation in existing buildings such as church halls. Desire was generally felt however for a purpose built building for the volunteers' training and the formation of a building type was seen with the early drill halls constructed in the 1860s and 1870s. An article in the Scotsman of 1866 reporting plans for a new drill hall on Grindlay Street, Edinburgh summarises the situation for many volunteer forces,

“It was found to be indispensable that each corps should have a large hall or shed in a convenient situation in which the company drill and other necessary instruction could be carried on, because most of the Volunteers being engaged for the greater part of the day with their various professional and business occupations, could devote only the evening; and that chiefly in the winter seasons, to their military duties, which necessitated these being carried on under cover.”

Funding for the construction of the halls could come from the patronage of wealthy local landowners or through subscriptions. Some halls served a dual purpose as public halls and meetings and balls and concerts and other events were held in order to raise money and increase subscriptions.

- **1880s – Following army reforms the volunteers were formed into volunteer battalions of the county regiment to which they were affiliated**

The Regulation of the Forces Act 1871 brought through under Secretary of State for War, Edward Cardwell (in office 1868-74) divided the country into local regimental districts. Known as the 'Cardwell Reforms' these were largely realised by successor to the War Office Hugh Childers in the 1880s, as Volunteer units were aligned to Regiments of the Regular army with many local units combined to form larger regional forces. The largest period of drill hall construction, aided by government grants, took place between 1880 and 1910, and has been called the 'heyday' of the drill hall.⁷ Some drill halls for these new affiliated Volunteer Units were built as Battalion Headquarters for several companies and these are of greater scale and architectural ambition; combining multiple spaces for training, administration and recreation.

- **1907 – Territorial and Reserve Forces Act 1907**

By the early twentieth century international military circumstances required expeditionary forces rather than forces for defence. The Territorial and Reserve Forces Act 1907, brought through under then Secretary of State for War Richard Haldane, disbanded the 'Volunteer Force' combining former volunteers and Yeomanry to create the 'Territorial Force'. Haldane had originally intended for the reform of the Reserve Forces to provide an Expeditionary Force that would support the Regular Army, however he was unable to 'impose a foreign service liability'.⁸ As Cunningham says,

⁷ <http://www.drillhalls.org/>

⁸ P. Dennis, *The Territorial Army 1906-40*, (1987), p. 2.

“So great was the entrenched power of the volunteer officers in parliament and in society that they were able to withstand the demand for conscription but also the reform of their own body. Haldane was unable to convert the Volunteer force into a reserve for the expeditionary force. Volunteers became territorials, but continued to see their role as that of home defence.”⁹

Known as the ‘Haldane Reforms’ this came into force in 1908 and did however bring significant change to the Territorial Forces as Administration and financial responsibility passed from the Volunteer’s commanding officers to County Associations.¹⁰ The creation of the Territorial Force also had a number of immediate effects on drill hall construction and design as new units had to be accommodated and grants were given by the War Office to meet the cost of building.¹¹ This led to a greater equality of provision between the forces and brought a move toward standardisation in some of the new drill hall designs.

- **1914 – 1918 - Construction of drill halls largely halts during the First World War**

Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, appointed Secretary of State for War in 1914, did not hold the military training of the Territorial Forces in high regard.¹² When an army needed to be raised for war he initially disregarded the Territorial Forces and created his own ‘New Armies’.

In late 1914 however, with more men needed at the front, it was decided that the Territorial Force divisions would be sent overseas and that new formations would be created to replace them. Every territorial unit was authorised to form a second (and later third) line unit – and the units were renumbered – for example the 7th Battalion Royal Scots became the 1/7th Bn. Royal Scots and the second line unit became the 2/7th Bn. Royal Scots.¹³

Like other Regular Army forces the Territorials were trained for war at camps. Many of these training camps were in England and much of the accommodation was improvised. During this time drill halls predominantly served as centres of administration for the Territorial Forces, functioning as ‘clearing houses’ for the processing of units for mobilisation. A number of the battalion headquarter drill halls continued to serve as recruiting offices, whilst some were adapted to meet the most pressing needs such as the conversion of a drill hall for use as an auxiliary hospital at Lockerbie.¹⁴

- **1920 – The Territorial Force is reconstituted as the Territorial Army**

⁹ Cunningham, *The Volunteer Force*, p 2.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 142

¹¹ *The Scotsman*, May 25 1907, p 8.

¹² Dennis, *The Territorial Army 1906-40*, p 30.

¹³ <http://www.edinburghs-war.ed.ac.uk/fighting-front/territorial-force>

¹⁴ *The Scotsman*, 1916.

At the end of the First World War the Territorial Force was disbanded. A few years later in 1920 the force was reconstituted as the Territorial Army.

Following demobilisation in 1918 many Volunteer Units were never reconstituted and the force underwent a number of changes such as the conversion of most Yeomanry regiments to field artillery or armoured units.¹⁵ With the disbandment of some territorial units and changes in function and organisation of a number of others, many drill halls would no longer retain the association to the regiment who built them. In addition, many of the existing drill halls were found unsuitable for the new demands of warfare with weaponry requiring larger spaces.¹⁶ The inter-war period therefore saw communities finding new uses for drill halls, and in some instances demolishing them.

The rearmament period which preceded the Second World War in the late 1930s saw an upsurge in drill hall building activity in England. The situation differed in Scotland, however, where only six new drill halls were constructed in the 1930s rearmament period.¹⁷

Whilst there were few new drill halls constructed in the interwar period, existing halls were adapted for new purposes. The majority of drill halls in Scotland remaining after the First World War continued to serve as training centres for the Territorial Army through the Second World War.

¹⁵ Osborne, *Always Ready*, p. 53.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, p 56.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, p 110.

5. The Development of Drill Halls

5.1 Architectural Components

Immediately clear from examination of the 182 surviving drill halls is that there was never a standardised plan or design for purpose-built drill halls. As stated by Osborne “No two drill halls are the same”¹⁸, however, training requirements determined the need for certain accommodation, space and facilities and most drill halls conformed to the following pattern:

- **Training space:** this includes the hall itself; a large covered space unrestricted by structural supports which was required for drills and marching of the units. Training facilities also included rifle ranges that were built within the hall or in a separate structure attached or nearby.¹⁹
- **Administration:** this could include offices and orderly rooms, an armoury for storage of weapons, and further stores for equipment and uniforms.
- **Accommodation:** provision was often made at the front of the hall for living accommodation for a caretaker or drill instructor and possibly his family.

The vast majority of drill halls were modest, utilitarian structures with an administrative and accommodation block, usually facing the street and to the rear would be the drill hall itself. At their most basic drill halls consist of the simple ‘training space’ of the hall, and these were usually called “drill stations”. In these cases forces may also have used off-site rifle ranges and equipment stores. For example, a rifle range of up to 1100 yards at Hunter’s Bog in Holyrood Park served the numerous Edinburgh corps of the Royal Scots.²⁰ At their most elaborate drill halls comprised all of these elements and further social space.

Occasionally more extensive accommodation was required, such as battalion headquarters. Social spaces could be found in some of the larger halls such as reading rooms and an Officers’ or Sergeants’ mess. Billiard rooms and bars were also added occasionally. These spaces were added simply as recreational facilities in the manner of a gentlemen’s club, or constructed as a means of ensuring use of the hall by the wider community in order to fund building projects.²¹

Provision of these facilities depended on regimental needs and a range of factors determined the scope of the venture. These included: the general size and affluence of the community, the existence of patronage, the enthusiasm of the volunteers, availability of sites and materials, and the density of population. Rifle Volunteers would require a rifle range of sufficient length (200 yards at least) whilst Artillery Volunteers would need a gun emplacement and perhaps a drill shed or storage hut.

¹⁸ Osborne, *Always Ready*, p 106.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, p 33.

²⁰ Grierson, *Records of the Scottish Volunteer Force*, p 183.

²¹ Osborne, *Always Ready*, p.28.

The most commonly seen drill hall layout accommodates offices, armoury and stores in a one- or two-storey block fronting the site. The hall lies behind this, often with a firing range along one side forming a T shaped plan.²² Variations included side-by-side hall and accommodation, as seen at Custom House Street, Ullapool where a stone rectangular plan hall with an arched roof stands connected on the long façade to the drill instructors house which has a pitched roof.

The design of the roofs of drill halls was an important consideration for the function of the building type. Design had to provide a space unimpeded by pillars and often also to allow for light from above, as halls often has few windows on the elevations. This can be seen in some of the larger drill halls in urban areas such as the drill halls at Forrest Hill in Edinburgh and High Street in Paisley. The roof structures could be constructed of iron or wood and form varies from pitched to arched.

Some larger halls also possessed viewing balconies, which reflect the importance of display and ceremony in the calendar of the volunteer forces.

Notable of many of the drill halls is an absence of windows on the long façade. This may have been due to the presence of internal rifle ranges or designed for other reasons of security or practicality.

Other specific adaptations could include the insertion of a wide arched entrance doorway in the façade to allow access for equipment and groups of volunteers drill marching.

5.2 Architectural Style

From the first drill halls of the 1860s to the halls of the 1910s the buildings recorded in this survey cover a substantial period of architectural development.

The organisation of the volunteer forces for much of this period depended to a large extent on the work and enthusiasm of individuals or communities and also private funding. This led to a disparity in style and architectural ambition of the drill halls. The geographical spread of the forces across Scotland and the differences between building in urban and rural locations equally served to create variation in the architectural style. Yet, whilst an individual approach to architectural design of the drill halls was adopted, clear trends did develop.

Osborne notes a trend across Britain of the early drill halls adopting architectural motifs from medieval castles for their increasingly elaborate designs.²³ As could be seen in military building types such as barracks, castellated architectural elements were the preferred choice for defensive architecture and variations on the style of Scots Baronial were adapted. A prevalence of towers, crow-stepped gables and crenellations defined this style. Such details can be seen at Princes Street in Stirling, Deveron Road in Huntly and Blair Atholl.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid*, p.38.

There were exceptions, however, including the drill hall in Back Row Selkirk of 1867 which has a large pediment dominating its classical front block, the drill hall in Cathedral Square Fortrose of 1881 has a Romanesque-style entrance arcade and the drill hall in Old Bank Street, Golspie of 1893 has a very unusual pagoda roofed tower. Large urban drill halls of the early twentieth century also looked to grand classical styles for their drill halls as seen at 261 Princess Street, Glasgow of 1909 and Dalmeny Street of 1901, Edinburgh.

By the beginning of the twentieth century a change in style could be seen with many drill halls beginning to appear more informally domestic, with two-storey 'house like' blocks fronting single storey halls.²⁴ This trend continued with the 'Haldane' reforms of the Territorial Force triggering the first signs of standardisation of drill hall architecture. A group of four drill halls constructed in West Lothian after 1908 by architect Sir T. D. Rhind were essentially variations on a single design. Further drill halls constructed in the decade before the outbreak of First World War have a simple, domestic style with occasional castellated elements such as those constructed at Larkhall and Blantyre.

Across the period of this study drill halls, were simple, utilitarian structures constructed of timber or corrugated iron. Drill halls that attempted to create a style of military authority or grandeur occurred only where there was a particular well-funded ambition to do so. In this sense the nature of the Volunteer Forces, as locally initiated groups of volunteer individuals, is reflected in the variation of the architectural style of their drill halls.

Key points

- Many drill halls remained very simple public hall or utilitarian structures with little pretention to architectural style. In these cases it is often difficult to distinguish the buildings specifically as drill halls.
- Whilst a clear move towards a more domestic style can be seen by the beginning of the twentieth century, simpler hall constructions continued to look to styles in keeping with the architecture of the local area and the availability of materials and resources.
- Baronial elements remained the dominant architectural style of choice throughout the period.
- By contrast, drill halls such as that seen at Golspie have an individual style that is difficult to categorise.

²⁴ *Ibid*, p 38.

6. Typological Division

After collating data about the history and appearance of Scotland's drill halls an attempt at an initial categorisation was made from distinctions of their plan, form and style.

Firstly, the halls were separated into those that had been purpose-built and those that were formed by the conversion or temporary use of existing buildings.

The purpose-built halls were further categorised into four broad types. The types generally follow distinctions of form and size, from complex multi-room Battalion Headquarters to single space halls. Divisions also reflect architectural style and materials and the overall architectural ambition of the design.

Not purpose-built

- **Type 1.** Converted buildings.
Some public buildings such as town halls or churches were converted or temporarily requisitioned for use as drill halls. Building types were generally chosen for the existence of large, open interior spaces.

Purpose built

- **Type 2.** Architecturally ambitious drill halls.
Volunteer Halls or drill halls of grand, often Baronial style. These halls were often the headquarters of a Battalion and have the greatest variation in plan. The majority were built in the late nineteenth century and before the Haldane Reforms.
- **Type 3.** Drill halls of domestic appearance.
Halls usually designed with a rectangular or T-plan form. Administration and accommodation found within a residential front block (usually of 2 or more storeys) with a hall behind. These halls were particularly prevalent following the Haldane Reforms.
- **Type 4.** Single storey, rectangular plan, stone built drill halls.
Halls of a simple form often with an added porch. Architectural character is often expressed through the form of the roof or windows.
- **Type 5.** Utilitarian drill halls.
Single storey halls with rectangular plan forms. Usually constructed of corrugated iron or timber.

6.1 Type 1. Converted buildings

Some volunteer units were able to meet their drill accommodation needs in the first instance simply through utilising existing local building stock. **43** of the **225** surviving drill halls, in use before First World War, were existing buildings requisitioned for the purpose of drill. Some of these buildings were adapted or converted, some temporarily or permanently requisitioned.

The most common building type converted for use were churches or church halls. The church form of a long open nave with a high ceiling and space free from supporting elements provided the flexible accommodation required for drill exercises. Osborne suggests that the common availability of this building type may have been due to “amalgamations of non-conformist congregations” which left some churches redundant and available for use.²⁵

Other buildings that were acquired for temporary use include town halls, corn exchanges, schools and village halls. Reports of the use of the Leith Corn Exchange and the Grassmarket Corn Exchange prior to the construction of purpose built drill halls in Edinburgh show how this initial adaptive use of public buildings in larger towns was common and whilst many saw the need to raise funds for a purpose built hall some continued in their use through to 1914-18.²⁶

Building choice in some areas, however, was clearly made on simple availability. Converted building types ranged from a Charcoal Shed (*Furnace, Craleckan Ironworks*) and a former Jail (*Dornoch, Castle Street, Drill Hall*) to a Museum (*Henderson Street Museum Hall, Bridge of Allan*) and a Tower House (*Dundee, Barrack Road, Dudhope Castle*).

Within this category is also a particular type of conversion seen in Edinburgh and South Ayrshire where drill halls were added to the rear of early nineteenth century classical terraced houses. These are not strictly conversions but extensions and occur within the densely built up areas of cities or main streets of towns. The front terraced house would serve as the office or drill master’s house with the hall as an extension at the back.



Old Jail and Former Drill Hall Castle Street, Dornoch (LB24638) © Historic Environment Scotland



Skeabost House Hotel, Skye © Crown Copyright HES (DP 010350)

²⁵ Osborne, *Always Ready*, p 25.

²⁶ *The Scotsman*

Local Authority	Drill Hall Address	Original Function	Date if known
Argyll and Bute	Furnace, Craleckan Ironworks	Charcoal Shed	1880s
City of Dundee	Dundee, Barrack Road, Dudhope Castle	Castle	
Clackmannanshire	Dollar, Hillfoot Road, Castle Campbell Hall	Woollen Mill	
	Alloa, Marshall Street, Ochil House	Hotel	
	Sauchie, Rosebank	School	
Dumfries and Galloway	Whithorn, Drill Hall Lane, Reformed Presbyterian Church	Church	
Edinburgh (City of)	28 York Place		
	31 Gilmore Place		
	71 Gilmore Place		
	33-35 Gilmore Place		
	12-22 Dundonald Street		
Fife	Newburgh, 2, 3 Clinton Street		
	Cupar, Castlebank Road	Jail and Barracks	
	Inverkeithing, 2 Hope Street, Old Corn Exchange	Corn Exchange	
	Charlestown, 8 - 20 Rocks Road	Granary and Cart Shed	
	Burntisland, 67 East Leven Street	School	
	Anstruther Easter, Backdykes, Free Church School	School	
Highland	Ballachulish, Loanfern, Drill Hall		
	Nairn, King Street, Community Centre	Free Church	
	Skye, Skeabost House Hotel	House	
	Dornoch, Castle Street, Jail and Drill Hall	Jail	
	Halkirk, Church Street	Chapel	
	Fort Augustus	Public Hall	
Moray	Aberlour, 7 The Square	School	
	Garmouth Spey Street, Village Hall	Church Hall	
	Roths, New Street, Town Hall	Town Hall	1898

Perth and Kinross	Auchterarder, Montrose Road	Church Hall	
	Scone, Queen's Road, Public Hall	Church	
	Kinross, Swansacre	Church	
	Perth, 2 Charlotte Street	Post Office	
Scottish Borders	Galashiels, Paton Street, Mid Mill		
	St Boswells, Main Street, Village Hall	Village Hall	
	Jedburgh, 2 High Street	Church	
	Coldstream, Church Lane	Church Hall	
South Ayrshire	24 Wellington Square	House	
	16 Wellington Square	House	
South Lanarkshire	Biggar, High Street, Corn Exchange	Corn Exchange	
	Lanark, 40 Broomgate	Poor House	
Stirling	Dunblane, 124-126 High Street, Free Church	Church	
	Bridge of Allan, Henderson Street Museum Hall	Museum	
	Callander, South Church	Church	
	Street, Free Church School	Free Church School	
West Dunbartonshire	Dumbarton, Latta Street, Hartfield House		
TOTAL	43 DRILL HALLS		

6.2 Type 2. Architecturally ambitious drill halls

The drill halls in this category have an authoritative architectural language through stone details appropriate to their defensive and civic purpose. What distinguishes this category is investment in exterior appearance and their size with most constructed over two or more storeys.

The style chosen for these halls varies, with some classical and gothic examples but the majority use baronial motifs to establish their appearance as the headquarters of a military force.

The drill halls in this category were largely constructed between the 1880s and the early 1900s. Osborne states of this period,

“..It may have been this reorganisation or it may have been other economic and social factors that appear to have triggered a spate of new drill hall building. Many of these new drill halls, especially in the densely populated industrial towns were designed to accommodate whole battalions of infantry.”²⁷

Features such as indoor rifle ranges and viewing balconies are more likely to be found in these drill halls. They were usually constructed in urban centres where there would likely be large numbers of volunteers, however, ambitious halls were also found in rural areas.

The plan form of the halls in this category are comparable to those of type 4 with a front block containing administrative and storage facilities, accommodation for a drillmaster and a large hall at the rear. In this category the plan form is not so easily identifiable due to the elaborate treatment of the exterior, principally the façades. The addition of towers, turrets and sometimes porticoes evoking baronial, classical or gothic styles can appear anachronistic and at odds with the often innovative technical construction methods of the interior.



Selkirk, Back Row, 1867 © Historic Environment Scotland



Dunfermline, 37-40 Bruce Street, 1887-88 © Crown Copyright HES

²⁷ Osborne, *Always Ready*, p 34.



Huntly, Deveron Road © Historic Environment Scotland



Edinburgh, Dalmeny Street © Crown Copyright HES



Blair Atholl © Historic Environment Scotland



Fortrose, Cathedral Square © Crown Copyright HES

Local Authority	Drill Hall Address	Date if known
Aberdeen City	26-32 Guild Street, Custom House	2 nd Edition OS
Aberdeenshire	Fraserburgh, Grattan Place	2 nd Edition OS
	Inverurie, Jackson Street	1896
	Huntly, Deveron Road	1901-2
Angus	Brechin, Bank Street	1897
Argyll and Bute	Cardross, Geilston Hall	1889-90
	Campbeltown, Kinloch Road	1885-86
Edinburgh (City of)	5 Forrest Hill	1872, 1904-5
	89 East Claremont Street	1911-12
	32-36 Dalmeny Street	1900-01
	30 Grindlay Street	1888

Dumfries and Galloway	43 Newall Terrace, Loreburn Hall	1890
East Ayrshire	Kilmarnock, 43 Titchfield Street	1914
Fife	Dunfermline, 37-40 Bruce Street	1887-8
Glasgow City	164-172 Yorkhill Street	1901
	Berkeley Street	2 nd Edition OS
	261 West Princes Street	before 1894
	24 Hill Street	1882/92
	140 Whitefield Road	1905-06
	Govanhill, 35 Coplaw Street	1884
	21 Jardine Street	1894
	University Place	1900
Highland	Fortrose, Cathedral Square	1881
	Golspie, Old Bank Road	1892
	Castletown, Main Street	1892
	Thurso, Orlig Street, Masonic Hall	1873
	Thurso, Sinclair Street	1882
	Wick, Dempster Street	2 nd Edition OS
	Fort Augustus, Territorial Drill Hall	1891
Moray	Elgin, Cooper Park	b. 1908
Orkney	Junction Road	1887
Perth and Kinross	Blair Atholl, Main Road	1906-07
Renfrewshire	Paisley, Whitehaugh Avenue	1912
	Paisley, 76 High Street	1899
Scottish Borders	Selkirk, Back Row	1867
South Ayrshire	Ayr, 1-7 Burns Statue Square	1901
Shetland Islands	Lerwick, 2 Market Street	1903
Stirling	Princes Street	1892

TOTAL	38 DRILL HALLS	
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6.3 Type 3. Drill halls of domestic appearance

A style of drill hall with recognisably domestic façades began to be constructed in the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. This domestic appearance is characterised by the scale of predominantly two storey, three bay principal elevations often with dormer or bay windows. The drill halls of this category are usually of a rectangular or T-plan form with the hall at the rear of the front block. Military or baronial details continued to be used in some of the buildings of this type with examples of Arts and Craft architecture appearing around 1910.



Barrhead, 64 Paisley Road © Crown Copyright HES



Forres, High Street © Crown Copyright HES

Local Authority	Drill Hall Address	Date
Aberdeenshire	Turriff, Balmellie Street,	3 rd Edition OS
	Laurencekirk, High Street	
Angus	Montrose, Wellington Street	2 nd Edition OS
	Forfar, Brechin Road	3 rd Edition OS
	Kirriemuir, Roods	c. 1911
	Arbroath, 22-26 East Abbey Street	2 nd Edition OS
	Arbroath, Marketgate	1883
Edinburgh (City of)	Kirkliston, Main Street	3 rd Edition OS
	124 McDonald Road	1912
Clackmannanshire	Alva, 77 Park Street	2 nd Edition OS
Dumfries and Galloway	Sanquar, Station Road	
East Ayrshire	Kilmarnock, John Finnie Street	2 nd Edition
	Stewarton, Standalane	3 rd Edition
East Lothian	Dunbar, High Street	

	Musselburgh, 66 New Street	3 rd Edition
	Prestonpans, Harelawhill	4 th Edition
East Renfrewshire	Barrhead, 64 Paisley Road	
Falkirk	Falkirk, Cow Wynd	1898
Fife	Dunfermline, 55 Elgin Street, Bruce House	1911-1912
	Kirkcaldy Hunter Street	1912
	Leven, Glenlyon Place	
	Lochgelly, Bank Street	1882
	Tayport, 27 Queen Street	
	East Wemyss, 9-11 The Haugh	3 rd Edition
Highland	Fort William, Mary Street	3 rd Edition
	Inverness, Farraline Park, Rose Street	3 rd Edition
	Kingussie, High Street	2 nd Edition
	Brora, Gower Street	
	Helmsdale, Dunrobin Street	
	Skye, Portree, Park Road	
	Grantown-on-Spey, Forrest Road	
	Ullapool. 1 and 2 Custom House Street	1887
Midlothian,	Loanhead, 6 Academy Lane	
Moray	Keith, 9-11 Union Street	2 nd Edition OS
	Forres, 11 High Street	2 nd Edition
	Buckie, West Church Street	1885
Perth and Kinross	Auchterarder, Montrose Road	
	Alyth, 20 Cambridge Street	
	Dunkeld, Cathedral Street	
	Blairgowrie, Union Street	2 nd Edition OS
Renfrewshire	Johnstone, 35 Dimity Street	

Scottish Borders	Galashiels, St John Street	1874
	Chirnside, Main Street	1877
	Duns, Langtongate	1895
South Lanarkshire	Larkhall, Victoria Street,	
	Uddingston, 163 Main Street	
West Dunbartonshire	Alexandria, 1-5 Overton Street	1889
West Lothian	Bathgate, 8 Torphicen Street	1912
	Fauldhouse, Bridge Street	
	Broxburn, West Main Street	1908
	West Calder, Young Street	
Western Isles	Lewis, Stornoway, 50 Church Street	1879
TOTAL	53 DRILL HALLS	

6.4 Type 4. Single storey, rectangular plan, stone built drill halls

Perhaps the broadest and most varied category of drill halls, these structures generally consist of a rectangular hall with an adjoining single storey porch or administrative accommodation.

What distinguishes this type of drill hall is a lack of overall architectural stylistic pretention and preference for a form that reflects its local (usually village) surroundings. The halls of this category might be indistinguishable from church or village halls in their architectural style and can be sparse in their military association.

Stylistic variation is often to be found in the adaption of functional elements such as chimneys with crenellations or the insertion of windows with pointed or round arches.



Cromarty, High Street © Crown Copyright HES



Birnam, Perth Road © Historic Environment Scotland

Local Authority	Drill Hall Address	Date if known
Aberdeenshire	Banchory, 17 Kinneskie Road	3 rd Edition OS
	Kintore, School Road	1894
	Oldmeldrum, 4 King Street	1873
	Portsoy, 14 Roseacre Street	2 nd Edition OS
	Inverbervie, Victoria Terrace	2 nd Edition OS
	Kildrummy, Volunteer Hall	1 st Edition OS
	Portlethen, Jubilee Hall	1888
	Gardenstown	2 nd Edition OS
Angus	Carnoustie, Links Avenue	2 nd Edition OS
Argyll and Bute	Islay, Bowmore	2 nd Edition OS
	Lochgilphead, Manse Brae	
	Bute, Rothesay	2 nd Edition OS
	Helensburgh, Lomond Street	2 nd Edition OS
	Easedale Island, The Drill Hall	1898
Dumfries and Galloway	Kirkcudbright, Dee Walk	

	Burn Street, Dalbeattie	2 nd Edition OS
	Kirkconnel, Main Street	
	Stranraer, Bellevilla Road	3 rd Edition OS
East Lothian	East Linton, High Street	1875
	Aberlady, Seawynd	1884
Falkirk	Bo'ness, Corbiehall	
Fife	Falkland, South Street	
	Leven, North Street	
Glasgow City	Govanhill, Butterbiggins Road	3 rd Edition OS
Highland	Bonar Bridge, Lairg Road	2 nd Edition OS
	Lairg, Main Street	2 nd Edition OS
	Lochcarron, Main Street	2 nd Edition OS
	Munlochy, Millbank Road	2 nd Edition OS
	Dingwall, Ferry Road	
	Watten	
	Ballachulish, Loanfern	
	Roy Bridge	1869
	Cromarty, High Street	1887
	Tain, Chapel Road	
Midlothian	Penicuik, Kentigern Way	2 nd Edition OS
Moray	Lossiemouth, 45 Church Street	
	Hopeman, Farquar Street	2 nd Edition OS
	Dufftown, Church Street	
	Lhanbryd	2 nd Edition OS
North Ayrshire	Ardeer, Shore Road	
Orkney	Evie	2 nd Edition OS
	St Mary's	2 nd Edition OS
	Stronsay	2 nd Edition OS
	Shapinsay	2 nd Edition OS
	Stromness, Helliahole Road	1888
	Sanday	1 st Edition OS
	Twatt	2 nd Edition OS
Perth and Kinross	Aberfeldy, Home Street	2 nd Edition OS
	Birnam, Perth Road	1885/95
	Creiff, Meadow Place	

	Pitlochry, Armoury Road	
Scottish Borders	Innerleithen, High Street	1877
	Peebles, Walkerhaugh	2 nd Edition
	Coldingham, Bridge Street	1870s
	Lauder, The Avenue	2 nd Edition OS
Stirling	Callander, South Church Street	
	Killin	2 nd Edition OS
West Dunbartonshire	Latta Street,	
TOTAL	58 DRILL HALLS	

6.5 Type. 5 Utilitarian drill halls

A number of drill halls of little architectural pretention were built across the country and are largely indistinguishable as a building type from other utilitarian structures such as huts or sheds. These halls usually consist only of a hall or training space with no accommodation facilities attached.

This category of drill halls comprise single storey rectangular-plan buildings sometimes constructed of stone but often of corrugated iron. They are generally devoid of architectural detailing or decoration. The use of a central gable oculi window, also common in 'simple stone halls' can also be seen in a large number of the utilitarian drill halls. Whilst an absence of windows on the long building façade is seen across all types of halls, the lack of obvious sources of light in these halls makes them appear more like equipment stores rather than training spaces.

Local Authority	Drill Hall	Date if known
Aberdeenshire	Aboyne, Golf Road	
	Kenmay, Bridge Street	
	St Cyrus	
Argyll and Bute	Southend	1913
Edinburgh (City of)	Juniper Green	1900
Dumfries and Galloway	Laurieknowe, Free Church	1893
East Ayrshire	Muirkirk, Lovedale Crescent	
Fife	Forth Defences, Inchkeith Island	
Highland	Gairloch, Auchtercairn	
	Kyle of Lochalsh, Church Road	
	Muir of Ord, Seaforth Hall	
	Achiltibuie, Village Hall, Wooden	1913
	Balclaggan, (1st ed)	1 st Edition OS
	Reay	2 ND Edition OS
North Ayrshire	Great Cumbrae Island, Millport, Miller Street	
North Lanarkshire	Newmains, School Road	Before 1910
Perth and Kinross	Auchterarder, Castle Wynd	Before 1901
	Coupar Angus, Causeway End	
Scottish Borders	Kelso, East Bowmont Street	2 nd Edition OS
West Dunbartonshire	Bonhill, Burn Street	
TOTAL	20 DRILL HALLS	

7. Regional Distinctions

In some local authority areas regional distinctions in drill hall design and provision can be identified. The following provide a few examples of the ways in which the use of local stone was adapted to the new building type.

In Aberdeenshire the Deveron Road, Huntly drill hall of 1901-2 and the Peterhead, Kirk Street drill hall (demolished) display similarity in the use of granite to form a stark baronial style of crenellated towers.

In Glasgow, red brick and red sandstone were used to create imposing drill halls that fitted into the urban fabric using a variety of stylistic influences. This densely populated city had large numbers enrolled in volunteer units, and this is reflected in the large number of drill halls. Between 1884-1905 at least 8 drill halls were constructed in Glasgow for whole battalions.²⁸

In Orkney, two of the eight drill halls built are known to have been designed by the architect T. S. Pearce, such as Junction Road, Kirkwall in 1887 and Hellihole Road, Stromness in 1888. Further, more modest, halls in Orkney such as those at Evie, Sanday and Twatt display a common style with pitched roofs and were constructed of local stone.

²⁸ Osborne, *Always Ready*, p 90.

7.1 Major architects

The majority of early drill halls in Scotland were designed individually by local architects and this accounts for the great variety of styles. Between 1880-1900 some of Scotland's foremost architects were commissioned to design halls and the early twentieth century saw evidence of a single architect designing halls for an entire region.

The local architects who designed drill halls of the nineteenth century were sometimes active volunteers themselves. Thomas Martin Cappon who designed the Brechin drill hall in 1897 "was an enthusiastic volunteer and by the later 1890s was a senior captain in the First Volunteer Battalion of the Black Watch".²⁹

Drill hall designers also included some of Scotland's foremost architects such as Sir Robert Rowand Anderson in partnership with Anderson, Simons & Crawford for the Dalmeny Street drill hall in Edinburgh of 1901. Honeyman & Keppie designed the Cardross drill hall in 1889-90. Charles Rennie Mackintosh was employed as a draughtsman by Honeyman and Keppie from late 1888-1889 and the Dictionary of Scottish Architects notes that Mackintosh designed additions to the building in 1911.³⁰



Cardross, Geilston Hall (1889-90) © Historic Environment Scotland

²⁹ http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200227

³⁰ http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200362

7.2 Regional architects and standardisation

With the army reforms of the early twentieth century, drill hall architects increasingly came by county or war office appointment. John Alistair Ross of Alexander Ross & Son (1907-1950s) was appointed architect to Inverness County Council and to the Inverness and North Board of Control. In this role, Ross designed the Fort Augustus Territorial drill hall in 1913 and the Territorial drill hall and instructors house in Broadford, Syke in 1914.³¹

- **Fife**

Another example of an architect designing multiple drill halls for a particular area can be seen in Fife with the architectural practice of Gillespie and Scott. In 1875 Gillespie enlisted as a volunteer in the Rifle brigade. It appears that this practice was employed in some way in the majority of drill hall construction in Fife in the twentieth century. It is recorded that the practice constructed rifle ranges for the government and some of the drill hall construction references include adaptations of old buildings. Instances of government commissioned architects working on drill halls are relatively rare but show the directed effort of the war office in commissioning drill halls after the Haldane reforms.

The following is a list of Drill Hall buildings associated with Gillespie and Scott, taken from the Dictionary of Scottish Architects:

- 1890s or 1900s or 1910s, Cupar Old Prison, Fife, Unspecified Work
- 1908, Drill Hall for 'D' Company, 7th Royal Highlanders, Cowdenbeath, Fife
- 1909, Drill Hall, Leven, Fife
- 1909, Kirkcaldy Drill Hall, Kirkcaldy, Fife, *Sub-division*
- 1910 Drill Hall Cupar Fife Scotland
- c. 1910(?) Ladybank Drill Hall Ladybank Fife
- 1910 Volunteer Drill Hall and miniature rifle range Dunfermline, Fife
- 1911 Burntisland Drill Hall, Burntisland ,Fife
- 1911 East Wemyss Drill Hall East Wemyss, Fife, (Proposed additions)
- 1911 Hall, Elgin Street Kirkcaldy, Fife
- 1911 Newburgh Drill Hall Newburgh, Fife
- 1912 Drill Hall Leven, Fife, Mobilisation wagon shed
- 1913 Highland Cyclists' Battalion Drill Hall Ladybank , Fife
- 1913 Kirkcaldy Drill Hall Kirkcaldy, Offices and headquarters. Architect responsible named as J Gillespie junior in Building News
- 1913 Miniature rifle ranges for the Government
- 1914 Fife & Forfar Yeomanry Headquarters, Fife

The halls Gillespie and Scott designed are some of the only halls to use an Arts and Crafts style in their designs. The practice appears to have avoided standardisation of building type and rather designed each hall by individual site.

³¹ http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=201873

- **West Lothian**

Architect Sir Thomas Duncan Rhind who designed the large ambitious Macdonald Road and East Claremont Street drill halls in Edinburgh also designed a series of drill halls in West Lothian. Bathgate, Fauldhouse, Broxburn and West Calder all appear as variations of the same design. The halls all contain a door with one or two bay windows under a shallow porch, a first floor triple or Venetian window and a second floor window in a gable to the street.³² The West Lothian drill halls were all associated with the 10th Battalion Royal Scots (Cyclists).³³ Four of the halls of this regiment received funding from the war office.³⁴ These drill halls designed by Rhind in West Lothian are a rare example of standardisation of drill hall design and their period of construction between 1908 and 1912 demonstrates the impact the Haldane reforms had on the development of the building type.

³² G.J.Barclay, WW1 Audit, p 66.

³³ *The Scotsman*, Sep 6, 1915, p 5, "Lord Roseberry – honorary Colonel. Royal Scots cyclists, companies are drawn from Linlithgow, Bo'ness, Bathgate, Armadale, Broxburn, Fauldhouse, West Calder and Kirkliston."

³⁴ *The Scotsman*, Dec 3, 1912, p 7

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