



ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND 1947

ROYAL SCOTTISH MUSEUM, EDINBURGH

For release first edition Thursday 31st July

Release date 31.7.47 a.m.

"FIERY CROSS" TO BE CARRIED IN RELAYS TO LONDON

Reference No. S.G.9.

Marathon Runners in Teams

The runners of the Scottish Athletic Association who are carrying the "Fiery Cross" to London on the first stage of its journey round the world will leave Edinburgh at 7.30 p.m. on 6th August after a picturesque ceremony in Edinburgh Castle in the presence of a large gathering of the Scottish Chiefs and their Clans.

The first 25 miles of the course will be covered in a single stretch by Duncan McNab Robertson of the Maryhill Harriers of Glasgow, who was the British Marathon champion up to his entering the Army in 1939. Further stretches of 25 miles will be covered by other Scottish Marathon runners who are taking part in the relay to London.

The route taken by the bearers of the "Fiery Cross" will be via Peebles, Galashiels, Hawick, Newcastle, Durham, Northallerton, York, Doncaster, Newark, Stamford, Biggleswade to London.

A piper of the Scottish Military Command will travel with the relay teams, and the Scottish Societies and pipers along the 400 mile route will be turning out to welcome the runners.

The fullest co-operation has been received from the civic authorities along the route. The civic heads at Galashiels, Northallerton, York, Newark and Stamford are generously providing civic receptions for the runners. Other authorities such as Newcastle, Doncaster and Biggleswade are generously helping to provide accommodation for the teams.

The many offers of hospitality from the English civic authorities have been very greatly appreciated by the Scottish "invaders". Civic and other receptions will have to be kept, however, to a minimum otherwise there is a risk that the progress of the "Fiery Cross" to London will be delayed. The civic receptions which have been arranged will not interrupt the relays since at least one bearer of the "Cross" will always be on the road.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Details of London reception arrangements to follow.

74,792

~~W. J. Mearns Committee~~

Cross Bands		6.15 p.m.
Entry of Pipe Bands)		
Massed Playing)		6.40 p.m.
Fanfare		6.55 p.m.
Lord Provost and Party proceed to Dais		
National Anthem		
Sir Steven Bilsland's introduction	1)	7.00 p.m.
Lord Provost	3)	
Albany Herald	3)	
		7.07 (7.10) p.m.

Fanfare.

Lighting Ceremony

Fanfare (First Cross held up and extinguished)

Pipe Bands play slow march while other Crosses are lit.

(Pistol shot and Runners Away)
(Pipes - "Blue Bonnets over the Border")
and march past the Dais and the Lord Provost takes the salute;
after which the cars call at the Dais for the Lord Provost and Service Chiefs.

DUNCAN
McNeill
ROBERTSON

(Handwritten signature/initials in a circle)

hope 777!

"FIERY CROSSES" TO BE FLOWN TO SCOTTISH
COMMUNITIES OVERSEAS
FIRST TIME IN 1800 YEARS

Monday
6 pm
Stratton

W. H. G. G. G.

For the first time in their 1800 years' history, "Fiery Crosses", the Scottish chieftains' traditional method for summoning their clans, will be flown to Scottish communities in the Dominions, Europe and America, urging them once more to a new rising, but this time of a peaceful nature -- to support the coming "Scottish Enterprise 1947" exhibition.

At this moment (Friday) runners bearing the "Fiery Crosses" are making their way in relays along the highways of the East Midlands of England, en route for London, whence B.O.A.C. Speedbirds will carry five of the crosses over some 40,000 miles of land and sea to Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and America, and B.E.A. Vikings will take them to some of the capitals of Europe.

The road journey of the "Fiery Crosses" will occupy about 90 hours. Then, transferred to modern air liners, the remainder, but far greater part, of their journey will be flown in much less time.

For instance, Australia's cross will complete its 12,000 miles journey between London and Sydney in little more than 60 hours; Canada's will be in Montreal on about 14 hours and Scots in Johannesburg will have received the summons to South Africa within 80 hours of the start of its Speedbird flight from London Airport. In Europe the crosses will arrive at their destinations within a few hours.

Scottish history shows that the ancient rallying symbol of the "Fiery Cross" was never invoked in vain. Those who send it out today are certain that the 1947/air invocation - to support the exhibition opening in Edinburgh at the end of this month - will not mar a great record.

BRITISH OVERSEAS AIRWAYS CORPORATION
Press Branch
Airways Terminal, S.W.1
Tel: Vic.2323

8th August 1947

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TWIGHT
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FOR
N.Y.
F.T.P.



Sur Staff
ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND 1947

ROYAL SCOTTISH MUSEUM, EDINBURGH

"FIERY CROSS" GOES ROUND THE WORLD

EDINBURGH CEREMONY, RUNNERS, AND ROUTE DOWN ENGLAND

Dope
Release date Immediate

Reference No. S.G.11.

The "Fiery Cross" - the ancient method of summoning the Scottish Clans - will be despatched from Edinburgh Castle at 7.15 p.m. this evening, August 6th, to Scottish Communities all over the world.

The "Fiery Cross" will be used to convey a message to Scottish people overseas about "Enterprise Scotland 1947", the Scottish Exhibition of Industrial Design which opens in Edinburgh on August 25th.

A great gathering of the clans will assemble at 6.15 p.m. to the tune of Scottish airs played by the massed pipe bands of the Scottish Pipe Bands. The gathering will include many of the chiefs of the Scottish Clans whose ancestors raised the "Fiery Cross" in Scotland on the last occasion in 1745 to support Bonnie Prince Charlie's wift march on London which ended at Derby.

This time the "Fiery Cross" will not only reach London, but will be carried to the Scottish Communities scattered all over the world, to SYDNEY, AUCKLAND, JOHANNESBURG, CALCUTTA and MONTREAL, to NEW YORK, and many European capitals including PARIS, BRUSSELS and STOCKHOLM.

Following the reading of a message (copy attached) to Scotsmen all over the world by Sir John Falconer, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the "crosses", destined for many overseas cities, will be lighted and then extinguished in the traditional manner in goats blood.

TEAM OF RUNNERS. The "crosses" will be handed to a team of 25 runners, drawn from clubs affiliated to the Scottish Athletic Association, who will carry them in relays down the 400 mile route to London.

The team was picked by ballot from over 100 runners who personally volunteered to carry the "crosses", without relief the whole distance from Edinburgh to London. It will include DUNCAN McNAB ROBERTSON, of the Maryhill Harriers of Glasgow, who was the British Marathon champion up to his entering the army in 1939, and McLEOD WRIGHT, who won the British Empire Marathon Championship at HAMILTON, Ontario, in 1930.

The runners will also carry messages from the Lord Provost of Edinburgh to the Civic heads of the main cities and towns on the route.

CIVIC RECEPTIONS ON ROUTE. To the strains of "Blue Bonnets over the Border" the runners will move off from Edinburgh Castle at approximately 7.15 p.m. The first lap of 25 miles will be covered in a single stretch by Duncan McNab Robertson.

It will be "Blue Bonnets over the Border" all the way down England, for a piper who is accompanying the runners, will herald their approach by playing this tune in all the main towns.

Civic receptions are being held at PEEBLES, GALASHIELS, HAWICK, NEWCASTLE, DARLINGTON, NORTHALLERTON, YORK, DONCASTER, EAST RETFORD, NEWARK, GRANTHAM, STAMFORD and BIGGLESWADE, when the Lord Provost's messages will be read. The generous hospitality extended by the English Civic Authorities will not interfere with the progress of the "Fiery Cross" since at least one bearer of the "cross" will always be on the road.

At the Guildhall, London, on Monday August 11th at 1 p.m. the runners will deliver personally to the Lord Mayor of London, the message from the Lord Provost of Edinburgh. The "Fiery Crosses" will be handed over to Mr. Atholl Robertson representing the Caledonian Society who will be supported in the Guildhall yard by a distinguished gathering of London Scots. The ceremony will include the handing over of the "crosses" to the representatives of the British Overseas Airways Corporation and British European Airways who will despatch them to the Scottish Communities overseas. Further particulars of this ceremony are to follow.

TIME SCHEDULE FOR ROUTE

- Wednesday, August 6th. Depart EDINBURGH (approx. 7.15 p.m.).....to PEEBLES
Via Penicuik, Leadburn, Eddleston, PEEBLES (approx. 10 p.m.)
- Thursday, August 7th.to DURHAM
Via Cardrona, Innerleithen, Cadonfoot, GALASHIELS (approx. 11 a.m.)
Selkirk, HAWICK (approx. 1.15 p.m.)
Kirktown, Bonchester, Chesters, Carter Bar, Byrness, Rochester,
Horsley, Otterburn, Monkridge, Kirkwhelpington, Angerton, Belsay,
Ponteland, NEWCASTLE (approx. 8 p.m.)
Birtley, Chester le Street, DURHAM (approx. 10 p.m.)
- Friday, August 8th. to BAWTRY
Via Ferryhill, Ayecliffe, DARLINGTON (approx. 10.30 a.m.)
Croft, Smeaton, NORTHALLERTON (approx. 12.30 p.m.)
Thirsk, Easingwold, YORK (approx. 4.15 p.m.)
Escrick, Riccall, Selby, Whitley, Askern, Bentley, DONCASTER (approx. 8.15 p.m.)
BAWTRY (approx. 9 p.m.)
- Saturday, August 9th. to BIGGLESWADE
Scrooby, Ranskill, Barnby Moor, EAST RETFORD (approx. 9.30 a.m.)
Gamston, Markham Moor, Tuxford, Weston, Sutton on Trent, Cromwell,
South Markham, NEWARK ON TYNE (approx. 12 noon).
Balderton, Bennington, Foston, GRANTHAM (approx. 2 p.m.)
Stretton, STAMFORD (approx. 4.30 p.m.)
Alwalton, Norman Cross, Stilton, Sawtry, Allenbury Weston,
Buckden, Easton Socon, Sandy, BIGGLESWADE (approx. 10 p.m.)
- Monday, August 11th to GUILDHALL
Via Radwell, Baldock, Stevenage, Broadwater, Knebworth, Woolmer Green,
Welwyn, Hatfield, Potters Bar, Barnet, WHEATSTONE (approx. 11.30 a.m.)
High Road Finchley, Tally Ho Corner, Archway Road, Holloway Road to
Seven Sisters Road, Upper Street, Pentonville Road, Goswell Road,
Clerkenwell Road, Aldersgate, Long Lane, Bart's Hospital, Holborn
Viaduct, Snow Hill, Farringdon Street, Ludgate Hill, St. Paul's
Gresham Street, GUILDHALL YARD (1 p.m.)

SPEECH BY LORD PROVOST AT THE "FIERY CROSS" CEREMONY 6.8.47.

Scotsmen: Greetings from Edinburgh!

This message comes to you with the Fiery Cross, ancient rallying symbol which our fathers invoked in times of danger and trouble. It was never invoked in vain. I feel that it is not being invoked in vain today.

The Fiery Cross, which is encircling the globe, is once more the symbol of Scotland's faith in itself. That faith, in turn, is symbolised in a great exhibition, "Enterprise Scotland 1947", of which you are all going to be proud. From August 25th to September 30th, the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh will house, in the most splendid of settings, the widest range of Scottish products ever concentrated in the national "shop window". They are all hand-picked goods, selected for their design, quality and finish; they represent the cream of Scottish craftsmanship.

If you could see these exhibits you would be surprised at their wide range. Scotland has learnt from the bitter lesson of the past; she depends no longer only on her famed heavy industries and traditional crafts. She is building up a new reputation for sound workmanship in lighter industries so badly needed to give the country a better-balanced economy. This exhibition will demonstrate the amazing progress she has made in these new industries.

Concurrently with the exhibition will run a great international festival of music and drama which also will bring thousands of visitors to Edinburgh. "Auld Reekie" is ready to welcome them all. The old castle is as magnificent as ever. Princes Street Gardens have never looked so fresh and green and lovely as they do now after one of the worst winters within living memory. There is an air of solid permanence about your capital which bodes well for the future. With all of you sharing our hopes and giving us your encouragement, we at home are looking to that future with confidence.

With the Fiery Cross on its world-wide mission go the best wishes of Scotland to all its wandering sons. Speed it on its journey! Send it back to us, and we will know that you wish us well.

HISTORY OF THE "FIERY CROSS"

When a Scottish Chieftain wished to summon his Clan upon any sudden emergency, he slew a goat and making a cross of birchwood tied with leather thongs, seared its extremities with fire and extinguished them in the blood of the animal.

The cross was delivered to a swift and trusty messenger who ran full speed with it to the next hamlet where he presented it to the principal person with the name of the place of rendez-vous. He who received the cross was bound to send it forward with equal despatch to the next village and thus it passed as swiftly as possible through all the districts which held allegiance to the Chief and also among his allies if necessary.

The Scottish custom of using the "Fiery Cross" to summon the clans goes back to the earliest period of Scottish history. For example when the Roman general Agricola tried to push north into Scotland in A.D. 83 the Scottish chief Calgacus used the "Fiery Cross" to summon Scots to repel the Roman invaders.

Robert Finlayson, the Sheriff-Depute of Shetland in 1620 had a complaint lodged against him because he used the "Fiery Cross" to get express delivery of his private letters.

In the 1715 Revolution the "Fiery Cross" went round Loch Tay and raised 500 men in a few hours and in the '45 rising it went through the whole of Breadalbane a distance of 32 miles in 3 hours.

The last time the "Fiery Cross" was used in war was in 1745 when it summoned the Clans to the Standard of Bonnie Prince Charlie, when the Highlanders rapidly swept down England via Carlisle and Manchester to Derby before giving up their attempt to seize the City of London.

The Gaelic name for the "Fiery Cross" is "Ane Crois Tara".

USED IN EUROPE. The "Fiery Cross" is also known as "Crean Tarigh" - the Cross of Shame - referring to the shame which falls on anyone who fails to obey the summons. It is a pre-Christian symbol which was used over a wide area of Europe.

In ancient Scandinavia it was a straight stick about 3 hands in length burned at each end, with a piece of cord in the middle to indicate that any refusal meant that the man's house would be burned and he himself, hanged. It became a cross in Christian times.

In the very early times, it was used in Sweden and Iceland. It was used in the Isle of Man as late as 1662.



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Release date 11.8.47.

Reference No. S.G.14.

"FIERY CROSS" FLIES TO NEW YORK TODAY

The "Fiery Cross", which is being used to convey a message to the Scottish people overseas about the Scottish National Exhibition - "Enterprise Scotland 1947" - will be ceremonially handed to Captn. Donald Anderson for embarkation aboard the B.O.A.C. "Speedbird" departing for New York from London Airport at 8 p.m. this evening. The "cross" will be received by the Scottish Communities in New York at 11.30 a.m. local time. Captn. Anderson, a 36 yr. old Scot is one of B.O.A.C.s leading trans-Atlantic pilots having flown the Atlantic over 200 times.

THE COMMONWEALTH. The following are the times of departure and arrival (local time) for the "Fiery Crosses" which will be despatched to the Commonwealth cities:-

Sydney & Auckland (N.Z.) Dep. London Airport Tuesday August 12th. 4.30 p.m.
Arr. Sydney Friday " 15th. 3.30 p.m.
Arr. Auckland Saturday " 16th. 3.30 p.m.

Montreal Dep. London Airport Tuesday August 12th. 8. 0 p.m.
Arr. Montreal Wednesday " 13th. 10.30 a.m.

Johannesburg Dep. London Airport Wednesday August 13th. 9.30 a.m.
Arr. Johannesburg Saturday " 16th. 3.55 p.m.

EUROPE. The Scottish Communities in the following European capitals will receive the "Fiery Crosses".

Amsterdam Dep. Northolt Tuesday August 12th. 8.50 a.m.
Arr. Amsterdam " " 10.20 a.m.

Brussels Dep. Northolt Wednesday August 13th. 2.30 a.m.
Arr. Brussels " " " 3.50 p.m.

Copenhagen Dep. Northolt Wednesday August 13th. 8.30 a.m.
Arr. Copenhagen " " " 11.40 a.m.

Paris Times of departure and arrival to be issued later.

NOTE TO EDITORS. The team of Scottish Marathon runners representing the Scottish Athletic Association will have completed their Edinburgh - London run, a distance of 407 miles, in 47½ hrs. (actual running time), which represents an average of 8½ miles per hour.

Duncan McLeod Wright who represented Scotland in the British Empire Games Marathon, London, 1934, will be carrying the message from the Lord Provost of Edinburgh to the Lord Mayor of London in place of McNab Robertson.

Members of St. Christophers Catholic Cycling Club, London, will escort the runners from Whetstone, Middlesex to the Guildhall.