

NEW COLOURS FOR CAMERON HIGHLANDERS:

Balmoral's ageless hills look down on a scene of splendour as the First Battalion Cameron Highlanders parade to receive new colours from Her Majesty. From a castle window, Prince Charles watches.

Accompanied by the Duke and by Colonel of the Regiment Major-General Wimberley, the Queen inspects the soldiers who bear the proud title of "The Queen's Own".

Waterloo, Sevastopol, Khartoum, Ceruzna, South Africa, the Somme - this battalion's battle honours cover the world and a century and a half of history.

Only once before has the regiment received new colours at Balmoral, when Queen Victoria honoured the Second Battalion in 1898.

This is the First Battalion's seventh stand of colours, but only their fifth presentation ceremony; on two occasions they were on their way overseas before the new colours were ready. Typical of a unit whose tradition is one of constant readiness.

The presentation over, the Queen crosses the lawn where once her great-great-grandmother walked, confident that the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders will bear her colours with honour.