



## CLAN MACCALLUM - MALCOLM SOCIETY

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### **Lieutenant Colonel George Ian Malcolm (1903 - 1976)** 18th Laird of Poltalloch

Founder of the now famous Edinburgh Tattoo &  
Past Chief of Clan MacCallum/Malcolm

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo was conceived and first performed in 1950 as the Army in Scotland's contribution to the Edinburgh International Festival. Today with its blend of music, ceremony, entertainment, and theater set against the backdrop of Edinburgh castle, it is without question one of the world's greatest shows. Each year, 200,000 people see the Tattoo. About 35% of the audience are from overseas.

The Tattoo is not just a Scottish show, nor is it confined to music. As years have passed, it has presented a whole host of international performers – military and civilian – from 30 countries.

The whole spectacle of the Tattoo not only has music at its heart, but also has historical roots. The word "tattoo" derives from the cry of the innkeepers in the Low Countries in the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. At closing time, the fifes and drums of the local regiment would march through the streets, their music signaling a return to quarters, and the shout would go up – "Doe den tap toe" (turn off the taps).

From this beginning, a "tattoo" became a ceremonial performance of military music by massed bands, and the Edinburgh Tattoo is the leading example of the modern development of the early events held in Britain, Germany, Austria, and France.

The range of music presented at the Edinburgh Tattoo is now as diverse as the countries represented. From pomp and circumstance to show biz razzamataz, with about everything in between – the audience can now expect to hear, for example, New Orleans jazz, modern pop, and Bavarian music

From the lone piper playing his lament to the communal singing of Abide With Me, the Edinburgh Tattoo continues to have music as its heart and soul – coming a long way since, and a far cry from closing time in the Low Countries – "Doe den tap toe" (turn off the taps).