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XXXV.

DESCRIPTION OF THE HILLS, GLENS AND PASSES IN  
THE COUNTIES OF ABERDEEN, &c. July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1747.

A Description of the Chain formed by Capt. MacPherson's Additional Company of Lord John Murray's Regt. for the Protection of the Counties of Angus, Mearns, Aberdeen and Banff against Depredations from the Highlands.

At Glen Tilt in Glen Shee the farthest South Post	“	“	3
At Glen-Clunie north of that	1	“	7
At Dubrach in the head of Braemarr which is the principal out Station and Central to y <sup>e</sup> whole	1	“	10
At Ribbalachlagan on the head of the River Garin nigh Loch- builg, a Central Post betwixt the Heads of Dee and Don, North East of Dubrach	“	1	6
At Inchrory 3 Miles North from Ribbalachlagan in the Braes of Strathavin	1	“	9

Of these are three Men detached to the Foord of Carnagavall three Miles Northward from Inchrory, which last Post lies farthest Northward.

The Party near Glentilt in Glenshee patrolle to Glen Tamuck and Hills betwixt Glenshee and Glenclunie, and meet the Glenclunie Post on Carnvalg.

The Glenclunie Post patrolle to Glencallader, the Hills of Baddoch and Glen Ey, and meet with the Dubrach Post at Allanamhoir.

The Dubrach Post Patrolle through Glenbeg, Glenmore, Cornriogh, Fallar, Corryvrion, the Forrest of Gaulaig (where they meet a party of Capt. Mackay's Company) and through Glenguishich, Glendee, Glenlug,

and meet the Ribbalachlagan Party at Allanabium, they also patrolle the length of Glentilt to y<sup>e</sup> South.

The Ribbalachlagan Post, through Fallny, Lochnagowr, Lochnashien, Essie, Binnavordy, and meet with the Inchrory Post at Lochnagowr.

The Inchrory Party Patrolle through Elick, Caplich, Lagganamhearlich, Loch Avin, Glenbuilg, and Northward the length of the Foord of Carnagavall.

These are the Hills and passes through which the Soldiers have Patrolled twice or thrice a week, tho' not upon fixed days.

There is hereto Subjoined a Note of the Hills and Passes through which the Thieves drive such Cattle as the Steal from any of the above mentioned Counties.

When Cattle are Stoin from Angus or Mearns, or from any part of Aberdeenshire South of Dee, they generally come through the Hill betwixt, Glentandar, and Glenesk, Then through the Hills of Glenclova and Corryvooe and cross the Carnvalg betwixt Glenshee and Glenclunie, Next through the Baddoch, Glentatnick, Cornriogh, Glenbeg, Glenmore, and Glenfearnell (which all betwixt Braemar and Braes of Angus). Then crossing at Invergary they go through Binnbikrattich, But sometimes coming into the Baddoch they go through Glenmore, down by Fallar and cross Dellchruinach and Pollturie, Or coming from the Baddoch betwixt Cornriogh and Altanamhoir, through the Dualtean and the Corryvroin, they go up Gaulaid and Boynag, then into the Hills of Badenoch, and must pass somewhere betwixt Dalnacardoch and Ruthven.

After they bring Cattle the length of the Braes of Clova, they sometimes turn through Glen Callader and Ballochbuee, and crossing Dee below Invercauld, pass through the Hills betwixt Invercauld and Water of Gairden, then through Glenluy and Glenguissich, and at Stromwoldick, and then into the Hills of Badenoch, where they must after follow the route above mentioned.

Sometimes when they drive Cattle from the Forrest of Birse and Glentandar to the South of Dee, they cross the Dee at Tullich, Six miles above Aboyne, and then take the Route mentioned in the following Paragraph.

When Cattle are Stolen from any part of Aberdeenshire betwixt Dee and Don, they generally drive then through the Hills and Forrest of Morvine, and pass at Altnashein or Loch Builg near Ribbalachlagan,

betwixt Gairnside and Inchrory, they then go into Glenavin and Cross the River of Avin at Loch Avin, afterwards pass through the Braes of Glenfechy into the Hills of Badenoch, and then they must pass near Loch Cuaigh, Loch Garry, or Loch Erach, after which they can go into Rannoch, Lochaber or Glengary as they please.

When Cattle are stolen from any part betwixt Don and Spey, they either take the Route mentioned in the preceeding paragraph, or if the Cattle are taken up near Spey, or from any part of Banffshire, they must come through the Forrest of the Blackwater and the Hills of Cabrach and Glenbucket, into the Hills of Glentoughty and Glenernan, from whence they must fall into the Route before mentioned through Glenavin or pass at Inchrory or the foord of Carnagavall, and from thence through Glenmore in Strathspey, where they may either go by the Braes of Glenfichie into the Hills of Badenoch, or pass the Spey at Dellnaverta a little below Invereshie, and then up the Hills on the North side of Spey, which Road the Glengary and Lochaber Thieves frequently take.

These are the Routes the Thieves usually take when they Steal Cattle from any of the above mentioned Countries, But the Trade is so much improved, and the Thieves are so cunning, and have so many faithfull Correspondents in the different Countries, even so far down as Buchan, that they change their Roads and alter the Measures just as they see cause or receive information of Danger.

When the Thieves who live in the Country are deprived of the Benefit of corresponding with their west Country Friends, they carry on a Smuggling Trade of their Own, by stealing one, two, or three Cattle at a Time, and these they convey from hand to hand, either to the South or North, or sometimes to Buchan, or the Low Country, and get Cattle or Horses in Exchange, and sometimes Slaughter them at home.

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*Report of Lieut. Ogilvy from Tomantoul of Genl. Pulteney's Reg<sup>mt</sup>.  
Detach'd from Strathbogie June 15, 1750.*

May 25<sup>th</sup>. March'd from Strathbogie to the Kirk Mortlick, Cross'd the River Devoron, 2 Miles from Strathbogie, by Aswanley, by Edenglassie, by Achendown Castle, thro' the Head of Glen Fitech to the Kirk of Mortlich 10 Miles. The 2 C. march'd by Achmoor in Glen Rinis, cross'd the Water Levitt, a little above Blairfinee, over the Com out of the Head of Glen Levitt to Tomantoul in Strathavin 11 Miles.

Disposition of the Troops under the Command of Lieut. Ogilvy.

No.	Posts.	Sub.	Serjts.	Corpl.	Men.	
1	1	1	1	"	11	Tomantoul. Head Quarters.
2	"	"	"	1	4	Achnahyle.
3	"	"	"	1	5	Downan.
4	"	"	1	"	6	Shelan and Achnasra.
5	"	"	"	1	4	Cabrach
	1	2	2	3	30	Total.

Tomantoul is situated 6 Miles from the Castle of Corgarff up the River Awn near the ford call'd Garnagoul, formerly a noted pass for driving of stolen Cattle, from Tomantoul to Achnahyle up th River Awn 2 Miles, from thence to Achnasra and Shelan 5 Miles, over a Moor, crossing the water of Conliss from Achnasra to Tornachalt in the Cabroch by the Sewa over the Stepler (a large Mountain) to Blackwater to Tornachalt 5 Miles, from thence to Downan in Glen Levitt by a Town call'd Craffthead, to Glen Fidich, to Achmoor in Glen Rinis to Tombrachie in Glen Levitt to Downan and Miles from Downan to the Head Quarters by the Seal by the River Awn to Kirk Michael on Do. then cross the water of Conliss at Rayven to Camdelmoor to Tomantoul 5 Miles.

All the parties of the different posts Quarter'd on the farmers but oblig'd to Lie in Barns, and furnish'd by the Inhabitants with Blanketts.

There is plenty of provision, and the Soldiers of the Different parties are well acquainted with the whole Country.

I can hear of no Body wearing the Highland Dress, none as I can find carry Arms, without having property Authority, and there has been no Cattle stolen from this, these four years past.

A Copy. Cha: Collier, Aid-de-Camp.  
Sent to Col. Napier June 23rd, 1750.

REPORTS OF THE CAPTAINS AND OFFICERS OF THE HIGHLAND  
POSTS.

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*Report of Lieut. Ogilvy of Genl. Pulteney's Reg<sup>mt</sup>, At Tomantoul  
detached from Strathbogie.*

July 26, 1750.

I have received information that one Stewart that is in y<sup>e</sup> French Service was in this Country listing men about three weeks ago, it is reported he listed some men and march'd with them with an intention to ship them at Leith for France, they tell me he wears a Black Cockade and has a Dutch pass and that when he is settled in Scotland, he lives mostly at Grants y<sup>e</sup> Priests, but as all the people in the Country are Roman Caltholicks it is impossible for me to get almost any intelligence, and on account of my taking up the priest, they tell me that they are so much enraged against me, that they say they want only an opportunity of being revenged. I likewise received information, that one John Grant

brother to Grant of Blairfindie in Glenlevitt lists men for the french Service. I am likewise informed that this Grant was in Lord Loudoun's Reg<sup>mt</sup>. and was with Gen<sup>l</sup>. Cope in the North, but deserted and joined the Rebels, but I have no proof of either of his listing men for the french or his being a deserter, as I am inform'd that Grant lives Constantly at his Brother's house, I shall do my best endeavours to get proof against him, so that I may apprehend him. I am this moment inform'd by Tho<sup>s</sup>. Roye soldier in Lord Drumlanrick's Reg<sup>mt</sup>. of Scotch Hollanders who was sent to be by Corpl. Ross before he went to Strathbogie, that one Will: Gowe came into his Quarters this morning, at the Cabrach, in full Highland Dress, that he challenged him for wearing the same contrary to act of parliament and told him he was to go prisoner, on which the said Gowe refus'd to go with him, struck the Corpl. in the execution of his Duty. Thos. Stables soldier coming to the Corpl.'s assistance, the s<sup>d</sup> Will: Gowe knock'd him down, and immediately a Mob rose and threatened the Corpl. and his party, ordered him not to meddle with Gowe otherwise it should cost them their lives, upon which the Corpl. and Stables, fir'd upon Gowe and wounded him in such a way, that it is thought he cannot recover, immediately the Mob join'd and Corpl. Ross and Stables thought proper, to make the best of their way to Strathbogie. I have ordered the party at Achnasera, to join that at the Cabrach, to keep good order; as they are all Roman Catholicks in that Country.

(Sign'd) DAVID OGILVY.

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