

The Uprising Trail

The Battle of Glenshiel (continued)

by the Munro Highlanders and Clayton's regiment. The mortars were then fired on the Spaniards causing confusion in the narrow pass where the heather was burning. This left the pass unguarded. Meanwhile the Mackay troops had used the ascent to get round Seaforth's flank. Rob Roy Macgregor, stationed at the centre of the main Highland line, moved to assist Seaforth, but was forced to retreat when the line folded. The centre was held for a while by the Earl Marischal's men, but they soon fled in disarray with Lord Tullibardine and the remainder of the Spaniards.



Bernera Barracks and the Military Road

Started in 1720 and completed in 1725 by the British Government to suppress the Jacobites after the 1719 uprisings, it housed up to 200 soldiers and was strategically placed to control the crossing from Skye at Kylerhea.

Government forces were based at the Barracks until 1790.

THE BARRACKS CAN ONLY BE VIEWED FROM THE FOOTPATH. THEY ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AS THEY ARE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

Parts of the military road over Mam Ratigan to the Bernera Barracks are still in use today.



With thanks to Pulteneys 13th Foot and Clan MacBran for the use of photographs.



Follow the trail of events connected to...

The Battle of Glenshiel

An itinerary of sites in Lochalsh relating to the 1719 Jacobite Uprising

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Introduction...

During 1718 the Spanish became increasingly hostile towards Great Britain, and in December 1718 the British declared war on Spain. The Spanish Cardinal Alberoni tried to use the Jacobite movement to defeat

the British and re-instate the Catholic exiled King James. He supplied troops and aid to support the Duke of Ormonde who was leading an expedition in the south-west and the Earl Marischal who recruited prominent

exiles such as the Marquess of Tullibardine and the Earl of Seaforth in France. The Duke of Ormonde's expedition of twenty nine ships, with 5000 troops on board,

set sail from Cadiz, but met with bad weather and had to turn back. The Jacobite leaders set out from France with 307 Spanish soldiers and eventually arrived on the west coast of Scotland in April 1719.

The Siege Of Eilean Donan Castle

With difficulty, all the arms and powder were safely landed at the Castle where Spanish troops were based for some weeks. There was discord between the Jacobite leaders with both Tullibardine and The Earl Marischal both trying to take command. To prevent the Spanish troops re-embarking James Keith, the Earl Marischal's brother, sent the ships away. The intention of the Jacobites was to gather more forces and march on Inverness.

However, royalist ships had been

despatched to the west coast to hunt out the rebels, and good luck led them to Loch Alsh and Eilean Donan Castle. The Castle, which had not been built to withstand mortar fire, was destroyed, and the rebels were quickly forced to flee heading

towards Inverness by way of the dangerous road through Glen Shiel where they would meet the Hanoverian troops under the command of General Wightman a multi-national contingent including English, Dutch Swiss and Munro and Mackay clansmen.

The Battle of Glenshiel

The Jacobites arrived at Glen Shiel at the end of May and were quickly joined by more Highlanders under the Earl of Seaforth. News soon reached them that General Wightman and his army had passed through Fort Augustus and was marching down Glen Moriston. The Jacobites prepared to defend the pass and General Wightman arrived at Loch Cluanie on 9th June. On June 10th 1719 Battle commenced. General Wightman positioned mortars in the pass attacking Lord George Murray's men who eventually withdrew to safer ground when stormed...

