GIVEN TO KIT-KAT CLUB OF COLUMBUS BY WILLIAM W. MILLIGAN March 15, 1988

SCOTS WHA HAE

THANK YOU JOHN, FELLOW MEMBERS OF KIT-KAT AND GUESTS.

SCOTS, WHA HAE WI' WALLACE BLED,
SCOTS, WHAM BRUCE HAS AFTEN LED,
WELCOME TO YOUR GORY BED

OR TO VICTORIE!

THIS, OF COURSE, IS THE FIRST STANZA OF WHAT HAS BECOME THE NATIONAL SONG OF THE SCOTTISH PEOPLE.

THE WORDS ARE THOSE OF ROBERT BURNS, AND ARE HIS VISION OF ROBERT BRUCE'S ADDRESS TO HIS MEN BEFORE THE HISTORIC BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN.

BURNS EXPLAINED THE GENESIS OF "SCOTS WHA HAE":

"THIS THOUGHT IN MY YESTERNIGHT'S EVENING WALK, ROUSED ME TO A PITCH OF ENTHUSIASM ON THE THEME OF LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE, WHICH I THREW INTO A KIND OF SCOT'S ODE, THAT ONE MIGHT SUPPOSE TO BE THE GALLANT SCOT'S ADDRESS TO HIS HEROIC FOLLOWERS ON THAT EVENTFUL MORNING . . ."

BURNS LATER ELABORATED:

"INDEPENDENTLY OF MY ENTHUSIASM AS A SCOTSMAN, I HAVE RARELY MET ANY THING IN HISTORY WHICH INTERESTS MY FEELINGS AS A MAN EQUAL WITH THE STORY OF BANNOCKBURN. ON THE

ONE HAND A CRUEL, BUT ABLE USURPER, LEADING ON THE FINEST ARMY IN EUROPE, TO EXTINGUISH THE LAST SPARK OF FREEDOM AMONG A GREATLY-DARING AND GREATLY INJURED PEOPLE; ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DESPERATE RELICS OF A GALLANT NATION, DEVOTING THEMSELVES TO RESCUE THEIR BLEEDING COUNTRY OR PERISH WITH HER.

TO RETURN TO THE ODE ITSELF:

II

NOW'S THE DAY, AND NOW'S THE HOUR

SEE THE FRONT O' BATTLE LOUR,

SEE APPROACH PROUD EDWARD'S POWER
CHAINS AND SLAVERIE!

III

WHA WILL BE A TRAITOR KNAVE?

WHA CAN FILL A COWARD'S GRAVE?

WHA SAE BASE AS BE A SLAVE?

LET HIM TURN AND FLEE!

IV

WHA FOR SCOTLAND'S KING AND LAW
FREEDOM'S SWORD WILL STRONGLY DRAW
FREEMAN STAND OR FREEMAN FA',
LET HIM FOLLOW ME.

V

BY OPPRESSION'S WOES AND PAINS
BY YOUR SONS IN SERVILE CHAINS,

WE WILL DRAIN OUR DEAREST VEINS
BUT THEY SHALL BE FREE!

VI

LAY THE PROUD USURPERS LOW!

TYRANTS FALL IN EVERY FOE

LIBERTY'S IN EVERY BLOW!

LET US DO OR DIE.

MY INTEREST IN WILLIAM WALLACE, BEGAN AT THE AGE OF 11, WHEN I SAW MY FATHER READING "THE SCOTTISH CHIEFS" BY JANE PORTER.

AFTER DAD WAS DONE, I READ THE BOOK FROM COVER TO COVER AND WAS FASCINATED. HERE WAS HIGH ADVENTURE, HEROISM, AND ROMANCE.

BESIDES, AS A MEMBER OF A SCOTTISH FAMILY, I COULD TAKE PRIDE IN SHARING THE RACE OF THE INCOMPARABLE WALLACE AS DEPICTED BY MISS PORTER.

WHEN JOHN CARNAHAN TOLD ME OF MY ASSIGNMENT TO GIVE A PAPER TO KIT KAT, THE THOUGHT OCCURRED TO ME -- WHAT WOULD BE MY REACTION NOW, AFTER 50 YEARS, TO RE-READING "THE SCOTTISH CHIEFS."

I HAVE DONE SO, AND CAN REPORT ALAS THAT JANE PORTER'S WORK PROBABLY DOES NOT GIVE US A VERY ACCURATE PICTURE OF 13TH CENTURY SCOTLAND OR OF WALLACE HIMSELF.

JANE PORTER, THE AUTHOR, WAS AN ENGLISH MAIDEN LADY WRITING ABOUT 1800 AND THE STYLE IS CLEARLY OF HER TIME AND PLACE.

MISS PORTER'S WORK DOES INDEED HAVE SOME MEMORABLE PASSAGES.
AS AN EXAMPLE, THE SCOTTISH CHIEFS BEGINS AS FOLLOWS:

TO THE WAR GIVE LAW.

"BRIGHT WAS THE SUMMER OF 1296. THE WAR WHICH HAD DESOLATED SCOTLAND WAS AT AN END. AMBITION SEEMED SATISFIED; AND THE VANQUISHED, AFTER HAVING PASSED UNDER THE YOKE OF THEIR ENEMY, CONCLUDED THEY MIGHT WEAR THEIR CHAINS IN PEACE. SUCH WERE THE HOPES OF THE SCOTTISH NOBLEMEN, WHO EARLY IN THE PRECEDING SPRING, HAD SIGNED THE BOND OF SUBMISSION TO A RUTHLESS CONQUEROR, PURCHASING LIFE AT THE PRICE OF ALL THAT MAKES LIFE ESTIMABLE -- LIBERTY AND HONOR.

"PRIOR TO THIS ACT OF VASSALAGE, EDWARD I,

"PRIOR TO THIS ACT OF VASSALAGE, EDWARD I, KING OF ENGLAND, HAD ENTERED SCOTLAND AT THE HEAD OF AN IMMENSE ARMY. HE SEIZED BERWICK BY STRATAGEM; LAID THE COUNTRY IN ASHES; AND ON THE FIELD OF DUNBAR, FORCED THE SCOTTISH KING AND HIS NOBLES TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIM THEIR LIEGE LORD.

"BUT WHILE THE COURTS OF EDWARD WERE CROWDED
BY THE HUMBLED SCOTS, THE SPIRIT OF ONE BRAVE
MAN REMAINED UNSUBDUED. DISGUSTED ALIKE BY
THE FACILITY WITH WHICH THE SOVEREIGN OF A
WARLIKE NATION COULD RESIGN HIS PEOPLE AND
HIS CROWN INTO THE HANDS OF THE TREACHEROUS
INVADER AND THE PUSILLAMINITY OF THE NOBLES
WHO HAD RATIFIED THE SACRIFICE, WILLIAM

WALLACE RETIRED TO THE GLEN OF ELLERSLIE.
WITHDRAWN FROM THE WORLD, HE HOPED TO AVOID
THE SIGHT OF OPPRESSION HE COULD NOT REDRESS
AND THE ENDURANCE OF INJURIES BEYOND HIS
POWER TO AVENGE."

SHORTLY AFTER IN "THE SCOTTISH CHIEFS" IS THE FOLLOWIN

"WALLACE . . . SPRUNG ON A HIGH CLIFF

PROJECTING OVER THIS MOUNTAIN VALLEY, AND

BLOWING HIS BUGLE WITH A FEW NOTES OF THE

WELL-KNOWN PIBROCH OF LANARKSHIRE, WAS

ANSWERED BY THE REVERBERATIONS OF A THOUSAND

ECHOES.

"AT THE LOVED SOUNDS WHICH HAD NOT DARED TO VISIT THEIR EARS SINCE THE SCOTTISH STANDARD WAS LOWERED TO EDWARD, THE HILLS SEEMED TEEMING WITH LIFE. MEN RUSHED FROM THEIR FASTNESSES . . .

"'SCOTSMEN,' CRIED WALLACE WAVING HIS SWORD,
'I COME TO CALL YOU TO VENGEANCE. I COME IN
THE NAME OF ALL YE HOLD DEAR, OF THE WIVES OF
YOUR BOSOMS AND THE CHILDREN IN THEIR ARMS TO
TELL YOU THE PONIARD OF ENGLAND IS UNSHEATHED
-- INNOCENCE AND AGE AND INFANCY FALL BEFORE
IT. LAST NIGHT DID HESELRIGGE, THE ENGLISH
TYRANT OF LANARK, BREAK INTO MY HOUSE AND
MURDER MY WIFE.'"

TO A TO THE TENNER OF THE TENE

THE SHRIEK OF HORROR THAT BURST FROM EVERY
MOUTH INTERRUPTED WALLACE. "VENGEANCE,
VENGEANCE!" WAS THE CRY.

AND LATER THE BEAUTIFUL HELEN, WHO WAS TO BECOME WALLACE'S SECOND WIFE, ADDRESSED HER OWN FOLLOWERS:

"I WILL THEN BESTOW UPON EVERY MAN IN THIS BAND A WAR-BANNER PLUMED WITH MY COLORS; AND THIS BANNER SHALL THEN LEAD YOU TO THE SIDE OF SIR WILLIAM WALLACE. IN THE SHOCK OF BATTLE LOOK AT ITS GOLDEN ENSIGN AND REMEMBER THAT GOD ARMETH THE PATRIOT'S HAND."

JANE PORTER'S ACCOUNT OF WALLACE'S LIFE NOT ONLY HAS A FLOWERY ELEGANCE THAT I SUSPECT WAS ABSENT FROM SCOTLAND IN 1300 -- THE HISTORICAL FACTS ARE STRETCHED CONSIDERABLY. AS ONE EXAMPLE, THERE IS NO HISTORICAL RECORD THAT WALLACE WAS MARRIED ONCE, LET ALONE TWICE, AS SO VIVIDLY PORTRAYED IN "THE SCOTTISH CHIEFS."

IN DEFENSE OF MISS PORTER, IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT SHE WAS BY NO MEANS THE FIRST TO EMBROIDER WALLACE'S LIFE WITH A RICH OVERLAY OF LEGEND. ONE OF THE FIRST, KNOWN AS "BLIND HARRIE," MANAGED TO RECOUNT IN HIS EPIC POEM HEROIC DEEDS OF WALLACE IN ALMOST EVERY TOWN OF SCOTLAND.

AND EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE TO A FOLK SONG AFICIONADO SUCH AS I, WALLACE IS THE SUBJECT OF A TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH BALLAD.

CHILD BALLAD 157 (IN PART)
"WOULD YE HEAR OF WILLIAM WALLACE

The state of the s

AND SEK HIM AS HE GOES
INTO THE LAN OF LANARK
AMANG HIS MORTAL FOES.

- --THERE WAS FIFTEEN ENGLISH SOGERS

 UNTO HIS LADIE COM

 SAID, GIE US WILLIAM WALLACE

 THAT WE MAY HAVE HIM SLAIN
- --THAT VERRA NICHT AT SEVEN

 BRAVE WALLACE HE COME IN

 AND HE COME TO HIS LADIES BOUIR

 WITHOUTEN DREAD OR DIN.
- --AND HE HAS DRAWN HIS TRUSTY BRAND
 AND SLEW THEM ONE BY ONE
 THEN SAT DOWN AT THE TABLE HEAD
 AND CALLED FOR SOME WINE
- --NOW, IF THERE BE A SCOTSMAN HERE
 HE'LL COME AND DRINK WI ME
 BUT, IF THERE BE AN ENGLISH LOUN
 IT IS HIS TIME TO FLEE
- --THE GOOD MAN WAS AN ENGLISHMAN
 AND TO THE HILLS HE RAN
 THE GOOD WIFE WAS A SCOTSWOMAN
 AND SHE CAME TO HIS HAND."

THE LEGEND OF WALLACE IS A CONSIDERABLE ONE. NO SCOTTISH HERO STANDS HIGHER IN THE AFFECTIONS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN. THE HISTORICAL RECORD OF HIS LIFE IS SPARSE. BUT WALLACE MUST HAVE

HAD A DEEP EFFECT ON THOSE HE CAME IN CONTACT WITH FOR SUCH AN IMPRESSIVE BODY OF LEGEND TO GROW UP AROUND HIS NAME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AUTHENTICATED RECORD IS SUFFICIENT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WILLIAM WALLACE WAS NOT ONLY A LEGENDARY FIGURE, BUT HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT.

WHEN WALLACE WAS A BOY, ALEXANDER III WAS KING OF SCOTLAND.

HE HAD REIGNED OVER A PERIOD OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY. RELATIONS

WITH ENGLAND WERE CONGENIAL.

MISFORTUNE STRUCK IN 1286 WHEN ALEXANDER DIED IN AN ACCIDENT. HIS SOLE HEIR WAS A THREE-YEAR-OLD GRANDDAUGHTER NAMED MARGRETE. SHE WAS KNOWN AS THE MAID OF NORWAY, BEING THE DAUGHTER OF THE KING OF NORWAY AND ALEXANDER'S DECEASED DAUGHTER.

MARGRETE THUS BECAME, AT THE AGE OF THREE, THE QUEEN OF SCOTLAND. THE SCOTCH INSISTED THAT SHE COME TO SCOTLAND. DURING A STORMY CROSSING IN 1290, LITTLE MARGRETE DIED IN THE ORKNEY'S. THIS LEFT THE THRONE OF SCOTLAND VACANT WITH A NUMBER OF CANDIDATES AVAILABLE. THE TWO LEADING CONTENDERS WERE JOHN BALLIOL AND ROBERT BRUCE. AT THIS POINT, THE KING OF ENGLAND, EDWARD I, ENTERED THE STAGE OF SCOTTISH HISTORY.

EDWARD ULTIMATELY WENT DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE DREADED MALLEUS SCOTORUM OR HAMMER OF THE SCOTS.EDWARD HAD PREVIOUSLY SUBDUED WALES. WHEN THE WELSH INSISTED THAT HE APPOINT A NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING PRINCE, HE PROMISED THAT HE WOULD DO SO AND KEPT HIS PROMISE BY APPOINTING HIS INFANT SON, THE PRINCE OF WALES.

HE WAS EQUALLY DETERMINED TO ADD SCOTLAND TO HIS DOMINIONS. HE SAW HIS OPPORTUNITY IN THE DEATH OF THE MAID OF NORWAY.

HIS FIRST MOVE SEEMED BENEVOLENT ENOUGH. EDWARD OFFERED TO SET UP A COUNCIL TO DECIDE WHO HAD THE BEST CLAIM TO THE SCOTTISH THRONE. THIS WAS DONE -- BALLIOL WAS CHOSEN AND CROWNED. EDWARD'S NEXT MOVE WAS TO TREAT BALLIOL AS HIS VASSAL. HUMILIATED, BALLIOL ULTIMATELY REVOKED HIS ALLEGIANCE TO EDWARD.

ON MARCH 28, 1296, EDWARD CROSSED THE TWEED AT COLDSTREAM AT THE HEAD OF AN IMMENSE ARMY IN THE CAMPAIGN WHICH WAS TO LAY SCOTLAND AT HIS FEET.

THE FIRST ACT OF THIS INVASION WAS THE MOST DISASTROUS CRIME IN BRITISH HISTORY. THIS WAS THE SACK OF BERWICK. THE CITY OF BERWICK IN THOSE DAYS WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL CITIES IN THE BRITISH ISLES. IT WAS THE MAIN PORT OF SCOTLAND'S VAST WOOL TRADE.

THE CITY WAS SOON TAKEN AND ITS PEOPLE SLAUGHTERED SO THAT THEIR BLOOD RAN IN RIVERS ALONG THEIR STREETS. NEITHER AGE NOR SEX WERE SPARED. THE DEAD WERE COUNTED IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS. EDWARD'S ARMY MOVED ON, DEFEATING BALLIOL AND SENDING HIM A PRISONER TO THE TOWER OF LONDON. MOST OF THE SCOTTISH NOBLES PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE TO EDWARD.

EDWARD PROCEEDED TO SCONE WHERE HE HAD THE FAMOUS STONE OF SCONE ON WHICH SCOTCH KINGS HAD BEEN CROWNED REMOVED TO LONDON. HE HAD RECORDS AND SACRED OBJECTS OF THE KINGDOM DESTROYED.

EDWARD DOUBTLESS BELIEVED HIS EFFORT TO SUBJUGATE SCOTLAND WAS COMPLETE. IN FACT, IT WAS JUST BEGINNING. HE FAILED TO

REALIZE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD A FATAL FLAW -- IT EXISTED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND.

AN ENTRY IN JOHN OF FORDON'S ANNALS REGARDING 1297: "IN THAT SAME YEAR, WILLIAM WALLACE LIFTED UP HIS HEAD," THIS WAS IN AN INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE IN LANARCK, SCOTLAND, A TOWN NOT TOO FAR SOUTH OF GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH.

THERE WAS APPARENTLY A BRAWL BETWEEN WALLACE AND SOME ENGLISH SOLDIERS IN THE STREETS OF LANARCK. WALLACE WAS HARD PRESSED AND ESCAPED THROUGH THE HOUSE OF HIS LEMAN OR SWEETHEART. SHE WAS AFTERWARDS ARRESTED AND VINDICTIVELY PUT TO DEATH BY HESELRIG, THE ENGLISH SHERIFF. WALLACE RETURNED WITH A BAND OF THIRTY MEN, ATTACKED THE SHERIFF'S LODGING, BURST IN THE DOOR, AND SLEW HIM ON THE SPOT.

THE ENGLISH DECLARED WALLACE AN OUTLAW. ACCORDING TO FORDON:

"FROM THAT TIME THERE GATHERED TO HIM ALL WHO WERE OF A BITTER HEART AND WERE WEIGHED DOWN BENEATH THE BURDEN OF BONDAGE UNDER THE INTOLERABLE RULE OF ENGLISH DOMINATION. AND HE BECAME THEIR LEADER."

WALLACE FOLLOWERS GREW AND HE SWEPT THROUGH THE COUNTRY BETWEEN THE FORTH AND THE TAY. ALL ENGLISH TROOPS WHICH HE ENCOUNTERED WERE PUT TO THE SWORD. ALL ENGLISH PRIESTS WHICH KING EDWARD HAD PRESENTED TO SCOTTISH BENEFICES WERE SUMMARILY EJECTED. WALLACE'S ACTIONS IN REGARD TO THE CLERGY MAY BE

CONSIDERED A HARBINGER OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION IN SCOTLAND SEVERAL CENTURIES LATER.

WALLACE'S GREATEST VICTORY TOOK PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1297
AT STIRLING BRIDGE. A LARGE AND LAVISHLY EQUIPPED ENGLISH ARMY
UNDER EDWARD'S VICEROY SURREY MARCHED NORTH TO PUT DOWN THE
REBELLION, REACHING THE TIDAL WATERS OF THE FORTH. STIRLING
BRIDGE, WHICH WAS NARROW, CROSSED THE RIVER AT THIS POINT.
WALLACE'S ARMY LAY TO THE NORTH ON ABBEY CRAIG. THIS IS A ROCKY
PROMONTORY ON WHICH TODAY CAN BE FOUND AN IMPRESSIVE MONUMENT
RAISED IN HONOR OF WALLACE'S LIFE, WHICH MY FAMILY AND I VISITED
DURING OUR TRIP TO SCOTLAND SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

IN ANY EVENT, BEFORE THE BATTLE OF STIRLING BRIDGE, TWO FRIERS WERE SENT BY THE ENGLISH TO PARLEY WITH WALLACE TO "MOVE HIM TO THE KING'S PEACE." WALLACE'S ANSWER WAS:

"TELL YOUR PEOPLE THAT WE HAVE NOT COME HERE TO GAIN PEACE, BUT ARE PREPARED FOR BATTLE, TO AVENGE AND DELIVER OUR COUNTRY. LET THEM COME UP WHEN THEY LIKE, AND THEY WILL FIND US READY TO MEET THEM TO THEIR BEARDS."

THE ENGLISH ARMY BEGAN TO CROSS THE STIRLING BRIDGE. IN HIS BOOK, "WILLIAM WALLACE, GUARDIAN OF SCOTLAND," AUTHOR JAMES FERGUSON DESCRIBES WHAT THEN HAPPENED AS FOLLOWS:

"THE RANKS HELD THEMSELVES IN A TENSE AND EXPECTANT SILENCE WHILE WALLACE, STANDING ON THE CREST OF THE HUGE CRAG, WATCHED THE CRAWLING FILES BELOW HIM AND MEASURED IN HIS

TALLE LES TOUT CONTRACTOR SE LA LES TOUTES DE LA LES TOUT

MIND THE CHANCES OF HIS SPEAR-ARMED INFANTRY AGAINST THE STEADY GROWTH OF THE FORCE... THE MAILED KNIGHTS ON THEIR GREAT HORSES, THE DISCIPLINED ENGLISH SPEARMEN, AND THE WELSH ARCHERS, ABOVE WHOSE HEADS HUNG THE BANNERS AND PENNONS OF THE KNIGHTS AND THE HATED GOLDEN LEOPARDS OF KING EDWARD. THE PRIME ADVANTAGE OF WALLACE'S BATTLE PLAN WAS THAT HE WAS ABLE TO CHOOSE EXACTLY AGAINST WHAT ODDS HE WOULD FIGHT.

HE WAITED, AT ANY RATE, UNTIL AS MANY OF THE ENEMY HAD COME OVER AS HE BELIEVED THEY COULD OVERCOME. THEN HE GAVE THE SIGNAL TO ADVANCE, PROBABLY A BLAST ON A HORN, AS IN BLIND HARRIES ACCOUNT:

"IN ALL THE HOST SULD NO MAN BLAW BUT HE."

ON WALLACE'S SIGNAL, THE WHOLE ARMY OF THE

SCOTS CHARGED AT ONCE.

HOLINSHED'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND IS MEMORABLE AS THE SOURCE OF THE PLOTS OF MANY OF SHAKESPEARE'S HISTORICAL PLAYS.

HIS HISTORY CONTAINS A DESCRIPTION OF THE BATTLE OF STIRLING BRIDGE WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

"THE ENGLISH ARMY PRESSED TO THE BRIDGE AND HASTING TO PASS THE SAME. THE SCOTTISH MEN CAME UPON THEM BEFORE THE ONE-HALF COULD GET

OVER AND SO FIERCELY ASSAILED THEM THAT THE ENGLISHMEN WERE BEATEN BACK AND SLAIN DOWN."

THE BATTLE OF STIRLING BRIDGE IS MEMORABLE NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS A SCOTTISH VICTORY BUT BECAUSE THE ARMY WALLACE HAD ASSEMBLED INCLUDED SOLDIERS FROM ALL PARTS OF SCOTLAND. THE VICTORY OWED MUCH TO THE STORIED HIGHLAND CHARGE.

THE RISING OF THE SCOTS LED BY WALLACE HAD AN HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THAT IT MARKED ONE OF THE FIRST CLEAN BREAKS WITH THE MENTALITY OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

IN MEDIEVAL TIMES DIVISIONS ACROSS EUROPE WERE DRAWN PRIMARILY ALONG CLASS LINES. WALLACE AND CONTEMPORARIES IN SWITZERLAND FIRST INTRODUCED THE PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONALISM. WALLACE HIMSELF CAME FROM WHAT WE WOULD NOW CALL THE LAND-OWNING GENTRY AS DISTINGUISHED FROM THE NOBILITY.

ACCORDING TO FERGUSON THE HEART OF WALLACE'S STRENGTH WAS HIS NAMELESS INFANTRY -- THE PEASANTS, THE FARMERS, THE SMALL LAIRDS AND THEIR SONS, THE CRAFTSMEN, THE BURGESSES WHO HAD TAKEN UP ARMS NOT AT THE BIDDING OF A FEUDAL SUPERIOR, BUT IN THE CAUSE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND FOR THE DEFENSE OF THEIR HOMES AND FIELDS.

FOLLOWING THE BATTLE OF STIRLING BRIDGE, WALLACE'S ARMY PURSUED THE ENGLISH AND INVADED THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OF ENGLAND ITSELF.

WALLACE IS OUOTED AT THIS TIME AS SAYING:

"THE KINGDOM OF SCOTLAND, GOD BE THANKED, HAS BEEN RECOVERED BY WAR FROM THE POWER OF THE ENGLISH."

IT WAS ALSO DURING THE INVASION OF ENGLAND THAT AN HISTORICALLY DOCUMENTED CONVERSATION OF WALLACE TOOK PLACE.

APPARENTLY, SOME OF WALLACE'S MEN HELD UP AND ROBBED THREE PRIESTS DURING THE CELEBRATION OF MASS. WALLACE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND DID HIS BEST TO MAKE AMENDS FOR THE EXCESSES OF HIS MEN. "DO NOT GO ANYWHERE AWAY FROM ME," HE ADVISED THE PRIESTS, "BUT STAY WITH ME AND YOU WILL BE SAFE. THESE MEN ARE FULL OF MISCHIEF AND CANNOT BE CONTROLLED OR PUNISHED."

BACK IN SCOTLAND, WALLACE BECAME NOT ONLY COMMANDER OF THE SCOTTISH ARMY, BUT GUARDIAN OF THE KINGDOM ON BEHALF OF THE ABSENT KING JOHN -- BALLIOL, WHO WAS AT THE TIME A RESIDENT OF EDWARD'S TOWER OF LONDON.

WALLACE'S POSITION AT THIS TIME AS GOVERNOR OF SCOTLAND CAN BE COMPARED WITH THAT OF CROMWELL DURING THE PURITAN REVOLUTION. WHILE WALLACE HAD GREAT SUPPORT AMONG THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND, HIS SUPPORT AMONG THE SCOTTISH BARONS WAS SOMEWHAT LESS ENTHUSIASTIC. THE SCOTTISH NOBILITY AT THE TIME WERE PRIMARILY NORMANS -- AS WAS THE NOBILITY OF ENGLAND. MANY HAD ESTATES IN BOTH SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND. THEIR LOYALTY AS BETWEEN WALLACE'S SCOTLAND AND EDWARD'S ENGLAND WAS AT BEST DIVIDED. THIS WAS TRUE EVEN OF ROBERT THE BRUCE WHO WAS LATER TO BECOME SCOTLAND'S KING. NO ONE TODAY WOULD SAY THAT ROBERT BRUCE WAS NOT A GOOD SCOTSMAN. BUT HIS PATRIOTISM WAS ONE WHICH HE LEARNED. HIS PRINCIPAL TEACHER WAS WILLIAM WALLACE.

IN THE YEAR 1298, EDWARD RETURNED TO ENGLAND FROM THE FRENCH WARS AND CALLED THE ENGLISH PARLIAMENT TO ASSEMBLE AT YORK. ITS

PURPOSE WAS TO TAKE VENGEANCE ON SCOTLAND FOR DARING TO DEFEND ITSELF.

THIS TIME, IN JULY, 1298, EDWARD HIMSELF LED HIS ARMY NORTH WITH ONE OBJECTIVE -- TO CRUSH WALLACE.

HOLINSHED DESCRIBED THE SCENE THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE OF FALKIRK IN EDWARD'S CAMP:

"A GREAT ALARM WAS RAISED, SO THAT EVERY MAN GOT HIM TO ARMOUR, SUPPOSING THE SCOTS TO BE AT HAND. THE HORSE APPOINTED FOR THE KING'S SADDLE THAT DAY, AS THE KING SHOULD HAVE GOT UPON HIM, FRIGHTED WITH SOME NOISE, STARTED ASIDE AND THREW THE KING DOWN WITH SUCH VIOLENCE THAT HE BROKE TWO OF HIS RIBS, BUT HE STAYED NOT TO PASS FORWARD IN HIS PURPOSED JOURNEY, BUT MOUNTING UPON ANOTHER HORSE, WENT FORTH WITH HIS ARMY TILL HE CAME TO A PLACE CALLED FALKIRK, WHERE BOTH THE ARMIES OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND MET AND FOUGHT."

THE FORMATION OF WALLACE'S ARMY AT FALKIRK WAS THAT OF FOUR SCHILTRONS WITH ARCHERS IN BETWEEN AND CAVALRY IN THE REAR.

A SCHILTRON WAS A FORMATION OF INFANTRY IN A HOLLOW SQUARE- FORMING TWO RANKS BEARING LONG WOODEN SHAFTS TIPPED WITH SPEARS
-- THE FRONT RANK KNEELING. THE SCOTCH SCHILTRON, PERHAPS
IRONICALLY, ULTIMATELY EVOLVED INTO THE BRITISH SQUARE. WALLACE'S
FORMATION AT FALKIRK WAS THE SAME AS WELLINGTON'S AT WATERLOO.

GRETTING TOT THE REST STREET ARTICLES OF STREET, AND S

TO ME, WALLACE'S SCHILTRONS ARE SYMBOLIC OF WHAT HE STOOD FOR.

THE PIKEMEN OF HIS SCHILTRONS -- FIRST OF ALL-- WERE INFANTRYMEN, COMMON FOOT SOLDIERS, NOT ARISTOCRATIC KNIGHTS. THEY WERE PRIMARILY FROM LOWLAND SCOTLAND, WHICH WAS WALLACE'S HOME. THE MEN OF WALLACE'S SCHILTRONS HAD A SPIRIT AND TOUGHNESS WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO SUFFER GREATLY AND STILL REMAIN STEADFAST IN THE DEFENSE OF THEIR HOMELAND.

WALLACE WAS APPARENTLY CONFIDENT BEFORE FALKIRK. HE SAID TO HIS TROOPS: "I HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO THE RING, DANCE THE BEST YOU CAN."

ACCORDING TO HOLINSHED, THE ENGLISH HORSEMEN CHARGED THE SCHILTRONS BUT THE SCOTCH "KEEPING THEMSELVES CLOSE TOGETHER, AND STANDING AT DEFENSE WITH THEIR SPEARS LIKE A THICK WOOD, THEY KEPT OUT THE ENGLISH HORSEMEN AND FOUGHT MANFULLY."

AT THIS CRITICAL POINT IN THE BATTLE, KING EDWARD ARRIVED WITH THE ENGLISH ARCHERS. ARROWS FROM THE LONG BOWS OF THE ENGLISH INFANTRY DECIMATED THE SCHILTRONS AND PAVED THE WAY FOR A CRUSHING DEFEAT OF WALLACE AND HIS ARMY.

THIS WAS THE FIRST HISTORIC BATTLE IN WHICH THE ENGLISH LONG BOW WAS DECISIVE. THE MOST FAMOUS WAS THE ENGLISH VICTORY OVER THE FRENCH AT CRECY IN 1346. BUT IT WAS WALLACE'S BAD FORTUNE TO BE THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE POWERFUL ENGLISH LONG BOW. AFTER FALKIRK, HIS CAREER WENT INTO SERIOUS DECLINE -- AS EDWARD'S FORCES ONCE AGAIN CRUSHED ALL RESISTANCE IN SCOTLAND, WALLACE ULTIMATELY BECAME A HUNTED FUGITIVE.

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EDWARD'S DETERMINATION TO CAPTURE AND PUNISH WALLACE WAS UNRELENTING. WHILE HE WAS AT TIMES WILLING TO PARDON MEMBERS OF THE NOBILITY, POSSIBLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT BARONS WILL BE BARONS, HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS WALLACE WAS DIFFERENT.

AFTER THE CAPITULATION OF THE SCOTCH RESISTANCE IN 1304, ONE OF THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED WAS AS FOLLOWS:

"AND AS TO MESSIRE WILLIAM LE WALEYS, IT IS AGREED THAT HE SHALL GIVE HIMSELF UP TO THE WILL AND GRACE OF OUR LORD THE KING, AS IT SHALL SEEM GOOD TO HIM."

WALLACE WAS CAPTURED BY THE ENGLISH NEAR GLASGOW ON AUGUST 5, 1305. HE WAS ACTUALLY BETRAYED BY A SCOTSMAN NAMED SIR JOHN MENTIETH, WHO MUST RANK WITH OUR BENEDICT ARNOLD IN INFAMY.

WALLACE WAS TAKEN A PRISONER TO LONDON, WHERE THE GRACE AND WILL OF EDWARD BECAME ALL TOO APPARENT.

WALLACE'S TRIAL WAS CONDUCTED IN THE THEN NEW WESTMINSTER HALL ON AUGUST 23, 1305. WESTMINSTER HALL, WHICH STILL STANDS NEXT TO THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT IN LONDON, DURING THE MIDDLE AGES WAS THE LARGEST PUBLIC BUILDING IN EUROPE. IT IS THE SAME HALL REFERRED TO IN GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S "TRIAL BY JURY:"

"IN WESTMINSTER HALL, I DANCED A DANCE LIKE A SEMI DESPONDENT FURY. FOR I THOUGHT I NEVER SHOULD HIT ON A CHANCE OF ADDRESSING A BRITISH JURY."

IT WAS THE SAME WESTMINSTER HALL WHICH HAS SINCE BECAME A SHRINE OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN LAW.

THE TRIAL OF WALLACE WAS THE FIRST OF THE GREAT STATE TRIALS

TO BE HELD IN WESTMINSTER HALL. IT WOULD BE HARD, HOWEVER, TO

DESCRIBE THE PROCEEDING AGAINST WALLACE AS DUE PROCESS OF LAW.

THE CHARGE WAS READ. AS AN OUTLAW, WALLACE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO PLEAD. HE WAS IMMEDIATELY FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO A TRAITOR'S DEATH. THE CHARGE WAS READ BEFORE THE SPECIALLY APPOINTED COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE MAYOR OF LONDON AND THE CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER. THE FIRST SPECIFIC CHARGE WAS OF THE SLAYING OF THE SHERIFF OF LANARK.

WALLACE DID MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE COMMISSION:

"I CANNOT BE A TRAITOR TO EDWARD FOR I OWE HIM NO ALLEGIANCE . . . AS GOVERNOR OF MY COUNTRY, I HAVE BEEN ENEMY TO ITS ENEMIES. I HAVE SLAIN THE ENGLISH. I HAVE MORTALLY OPPOSED THE ENGLISH KING."

WALLACE'S ELOQUENCE DID NOT STOP THE PREORDAINED SENTENCE.

THE EXECUTION OF WALLACE IS DESCRIBED WITH RELISH BY THE ENGLISH

CHRONICLER, MATTHEW OF WESTMINSTER:

"HE WAS HUNG IN A NOOSE, AND AFTERWARDS LET DOWN HALF LIVING; NEXT . . .

" . . . HIS BOWELS WERE TORN OUT AND BURNT IN

A FIRE; THEN AND NOT TILL THEN, HIS HEAD WAS

CUT OFF AND HIS TRUNK CUT INTO FOUR PIECES."

OTHER ACCOUNTS TELL US THAT HIS HEAD WAS STUCK ON A SPEAR AND FIXED UPON LONDON BRIDGE. THE QUARTERS OF HIS BODY WERE

DISTRIBUTED TO NEW CASTLE, BERWICK, ABERDEEN, AND STIRLING "FOR TERROR AND REBUKE TO ALL WHO SHOULD PASS BY AND BEHOLD THEM."

THE SAVAGE EXECUTION OF WALLACE DOUBTLESS HAD AN EFFECT IN SCOTLAND.

PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT WAS THAT ROBERT THE BRUCE DECIDED TO RENOUNCE HIS FORMER ALLEGIANCE TO EDWARD TO BECOME KING OF SCOTLAND HIMSELF. HE WENT TO SCONE AND WAS CROWNED KING.

FOLLOWING BRUCE'S CORONATION, EDWARD SENT AN ARMY TO SCOTLAND TO PUT DOWN THIS LATEST CHALLENGE TO HIS AUTHORITY. THIS CAMPAIGN SUCCEEDED AND BRUCE HIMSELF BECAME A FUGITIVE. BUT SHOWING GREAT RESILIENCE, BRUCE RETURNED TO SCOTLAND AND GRADUALLY RE-ESTABLISHED HIS AUTHORITY. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE AT THE BATTLE OF LOUDON HILL, WHERE BRUCE SHOWED CONCLUSIVELY THAT HIS SPEARMEN HAD THE MEASURE OF THE ENGLISH HEAVY CAVALRY.

GIVEN THESE DEVELOPMENTS, EDWARD I HIMSELF, THOUGH A SICK MAN, SET OUT FOR SCOTLAND AT THE HEAD OF A GREAT ARMY WITH WHICH TO SUBDUE HIS FORMER LIEGE.

ON JULY 7, 1307, EDWARD DIED AT BURGHAM SANDS IN ENGLAND. WITH HIS DYING BREATH, HE ORDERED THAT HIS BONES WERE TO BE BORNE AT THE HEAD OF HIS ARMY IN A LEATHER BAG UNTIL SCOTLAND HAD BEEN CRUSHED.

BUT EDWARD'S SON, EDWARD II, DID NOT TURN OUT TO BE THE MAN WHO COULD CARRY OUT HIS FATHER'S INJUNCTION. AT THE CLIMACTIC BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN IN 1314, ROBERT BRUCE WAS FACED WITH AN ENGLISH ARMY THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF HIS OWN. BRUCE CHOSE HIS GROUND CAREFULLY. THE ENGLISH CAVALRY WAS FORCED TO ADVANCE

ACROSS MARSHY GROUND LACED WITH STAKED PITS DUG BY THE SCOTTISH DEFENDERS. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THE ENGLISH INFANTRY, WITH THEIR DEADLY LONGBOWS, HAD NO ROOM TO DEPLOY. ABOVE ALL, THE SCOTTISH PIKEMEN STOOD THEIR GROUND AND CUT DOWN THE ENGLISH CAVALRY IN ONE OF THE MOST DISASTROUS DEFEATS THE ENGLISH HAD EVER SUFFERED.

I LIKE TO IMAGINE THE GHOST OF WALLACE OVER THE FIELD OF BANNOCKBURN--ECHOING WHAT HE SAID AT FALKIRK, "BRUCE AND I HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO THE RING, YOU HAVE DANCED WELL INDEED."

THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN LAID THE BASIS FOR SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE. WHAT WALLACE STOOD FOR IS PROBABLY BEST STATED IN THE HISTORICAL DECLARATION OF ARBROATH.

IN RESPONSE TO EDWARD II'S REQUEST TO THE POPE THAT BRUCE BE EXCOMMUNICATED, A MEETING WAS HELD IN ARBROATH, SCOTLAND IN APRIL 1320. NOBLES, CLERGY AND COMMONS OF SCOTLAND ADDRESSED TO THE POPE A DECLARATION IN WHICH THEY PROCLAIMED THEIR DEVOTION TO BRUCE AND TO LIBERTY.

"WE FIGHT," THEY WROTE, "NOT FOR GLORY, NOR RICHES, NOR HONOUR, BUT ONLY FOR THAT LIBERTY WHICH NO TRUE MAN RELINQUISHES BUT WITH HIS LIFE." AND OF BRUCE: "BY THE PROVIDENCES OF GOD, BY THE RIGHT OF SUCCESSION, AND BY THOSE LAWS AND CUSTOMS WHICH WE ARE RESOLVED TO DEFEND EVEN WITH OUR OWN LIVES, AND BY OUR OWN JUST CONSENT, HE IS OUR KING."

THE DECLARATION CONTINUES: "YET ROBERT HIMSELF SHOULD HE TURN ASIDE FROM THE TASK WHICH HE HAS BEGUN AND YIELD OF US TO THE ENGLISH KING OR HIS PEOPLE, WE SHOULD CAST OUT AS THE ENEMY OF US ALL, AND WE SHOULD CHOOSE ANOTHER KING TO DEFEND OUR

FREEDOM, FOR SO LONG AS AN HUNDRED REMAIN ALIVE WE ARE MINDED NEVER A WHIT TO BOW BENEATH THE YOKE OF ENGLISH DOMINION."

ONE OF THE PHRASES FROM THE ARBROATH DECLARATION WHICH REMAINS WITH ME IS:

"BY OUR OWN JUST CONSENT"

THE ECHO OF THIS IN OUR OWN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IS UNMISTAKABLE.

"GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG MEN,
DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT
OF THE GOVERNED."

IF WALLACE'S LIFE CAN BE SUMMARIZED IN A PHRASE, I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS IT.

THANK YOU.