



Winston Churchill led the 6th Royal Scots Fusiliers. Above, March 1916  
ALAMY

## Campaign to honour Churchill's connections north of the border

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Winston Churchill should be a “celebrated hero” in Scotland with his connections to the country more widely recognised, according to academics.

The International Churchill Society (ICS) is appealing for notes, diaries and photographs about the former prime minister and wartime leader’s life north of the border as part of a campaign to honour his memory in Scotland.

Although there are plaques and busts that commemorate his achievements, there are no statues. His main statue was unveiled in 1973 in Parliament Square in London.

Allen Packwood, director of the Churchill Archives, said:  
“Churchill is often thought of and referred to as a quintessentially English figure but this overlooks a multitude of Scottish connections. I am certain that there is new material awaiting discovery in attics and basements that will shed more light on his reception, connections and activities in Scotland.”

Churchill said the three most important things he received from Scotland were his wife, his constituency and his regiment. During the First World War he commanded the 6th Royal Scots Fusiliers on the Western Front.

Churchill was also the Liberal MP for Dundee between 1908 and 1922, marrying Clementine Hozier, a granddaughter of the tenth Earl of Airliie, at the start of his parliamentary career on Tayside.

In 1912 Churchill was among the first senior British politicians to call for Scottish home rule and UK federalism. Two plaques marking his time in Dundee were erected in 2008 and there is a portrait by Sir James Guthrie in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh. There are a small number of busts around the country and a miniature sculpture in Glasgow’s Kelvingrove museum.

The latest edition of the journal of the ICS, a group of academics and enthusiasts who preserve Churchill’s memory, is dedicated to his time in Scotland. David Freeman, editor of *Finest Hour*, said: “There’s a compelling case that England’s greatest Englishman should also be a celebrated hero in Scotland.”

Not everyone wants to celebrate the man who led Britain to victory in the Second World War, however. Last year, on the anniversary of the politician’s death aged 90 in 1965, Ross Greer, a Green MSP, labelled him a “white supremacist” and a “mass murderer” for his role in an Indian famine.

In June Churchill’s statue in London was temporarily boarded up after being vandalised during anti-racism protests.

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