

**Volume 10**

**Number 023**

**William Wallace, Scottish Patriot,**  
**Legend and Reality - II**

**Lead:** In 1297 Edward of England crushed the weak Scottish army and established himself as ruler of the Kingdom to the North. His attempts to pacify the resistant Scots were complicated by guerilla fighters such as William Wallace.

**Intro.:** *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

**Content:** In the years following the death of Scottish King Alexander III, King Edward I of England, had, with ill-disguised intensity, interfered in

**the affairs of his neighbor to the north. He tried to marry his son to Alexander's heir, Margaret, but when she died, he shamelessly played the Scottish nobility against one another in their internecine conflict to determine who would be the next King of Scotland. Edward's choice was John de Balliol whom he thought could be easily manipulated. When Balliol proved more resistant than expected, in 1297 Edward marched north and in five months had defeated the weak Scottish army, deposed and imprisoned John Balliol, and had himself made ruler of Scotland. To add insult to injury, he confiscated the legendary Scottish Coronation Stone of Scone and had it shipped south to Westminster.**

**Edward's troops and his Scottish allies then spread out into the countryside and attempted to control local affairs from a series of fortified castles throughout the country. One of the most important of these redoubts was Stirling Castle, 36 miles northwest of Edinburgh. Edward soon found that Scotland was a hard nut to swallow and by August 1297, most of the country not immediately adjacent to the strong places was back in native hands, largely due to guerilla warfare conducted by bands of brigands led by the likes of William Wallace. In September, Wallace brought a ragtag brigade of commoners and landowners and drew them up in positions across the River**

**Forth from Stirling Castle. Next time:  
miracle on the bridge and a failed  
guardian.**

**At the University of Richmond,  
this is Dan Roberts.**

## Resources

“Alba- The Sword of Sir William Wallace.”

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<http://www.highlanderweb.co.uk/wallace/truth3.htm> (16 January 2003)

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