

For its coverage of this year's global soccer tournament, the BBC has chosen to use a piece of music that celebrates the Duke of Cumberland, responsible for a notorious military massacre in Scotland

## Theme of Culloden's butcher to mark World Cup

The BBC has chosen to mark the World Cup this summer with a piece of music that celebrates the man responsible for perhaps the most infamous military massacre in Scottish history — the Battle of Culloden.

*See the Conquering Hero Comes* by Handel will accompany the English broadcaster's coverage of the soccer tournament in Germany.

Handel composed the score as a tribute to the Duke of Cumberland, who led government forces to victory over the heavily outnumbered Jacobites at Culloden.

About 1,000 of the 5,000 troops loyal to Charles Edward Stuart, Bonnie Prince Charlie, were slaughtered in just 40 minutes by the 9,000-strong troops of William Augustus, the Duke of Cumberland, at Culloden on April 16, 1746.

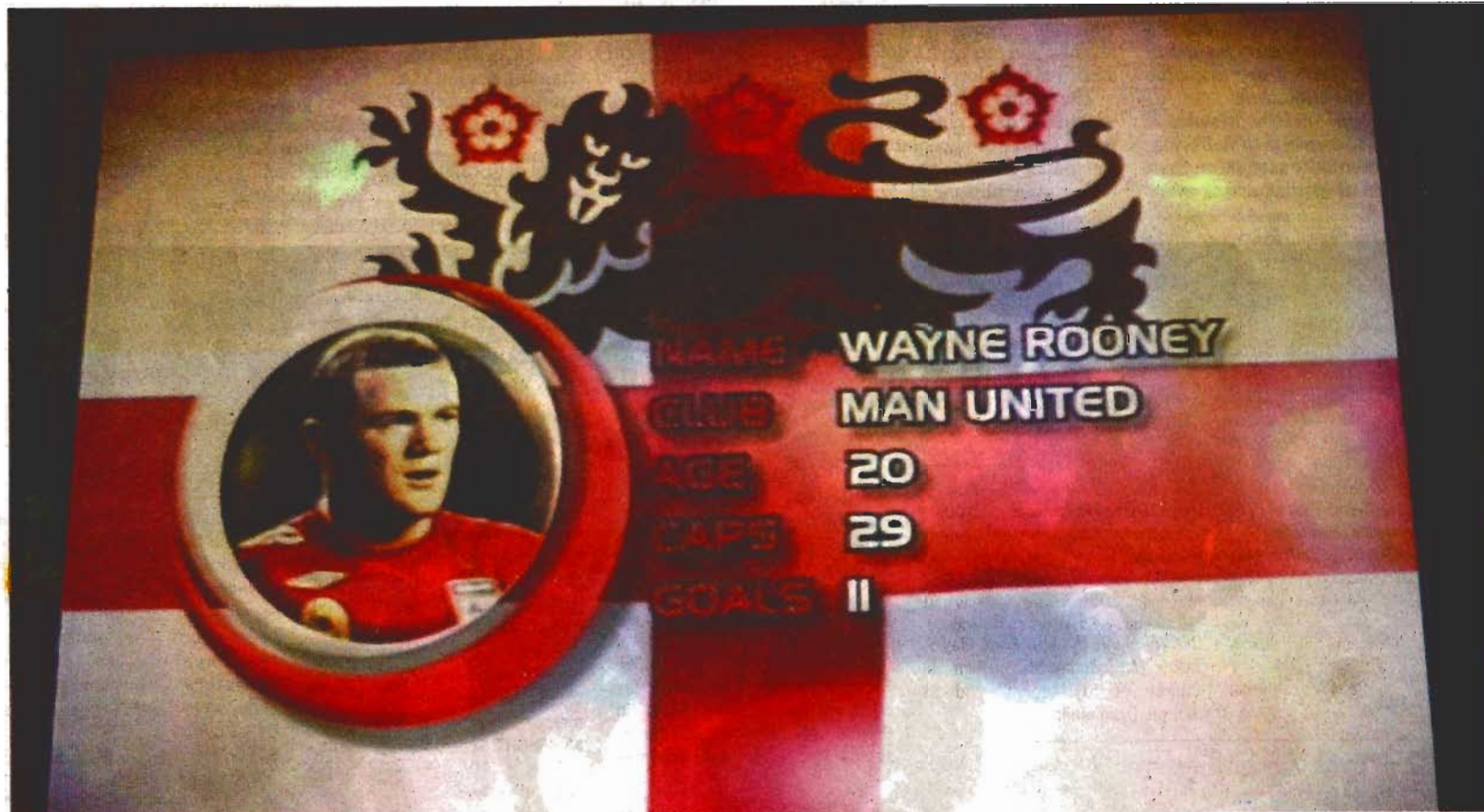
On Drumossie Moor near Culloden House, regimented lines of bayonets murdered Gaelic Scotland forever.

The people of the Scottish Gaidhealtachd accurately remember the picketed field where their wounded men bled to death over days, with distraught relatives held back by the same bayonets.

This was done on the strict instructions of Cumberland.

For the few natives who remain in the Highlands today, he will forever simply be "the Butcher".

The battle ended the threat to



**INGERLUND:** Wayne Rooney's place in England's World Cup squad is confirmed during a press conference at London's Café Royal yesterday.

England. Their descendants remained on the throne until 1901, when they were replaced by the current German Saxe-Coburg-Gotha clan.

With the clans defeated, ethnic cleansing on an industrial scale was soon to follow.

An entire society was de-



home early, much to the relief of the German police), the good folk of Scotland will have to endure the theme tune of Culloden's butcher.

While Culloden is still regarded as an infamous event by many in contemporary Scotland, it was celebrated extensively at the

I thought: "This is the 'national' stadium you get when you're owned by someone else!"

I considered Croke Park and what it means to Gaels who know that they are Gaels.

There is no Hogan Stand in Hampden.

Scotland's heroes of resistance

the tenure of the House of Hanover on the throne of

PHOTO: DAVID DAVIES/PA

stroyed forever, and the lands that raised the clansmen who followed Prince Charlie are still largely empty of people.

Today there remains a sadness over the region that, in the 20th century, produced Sorley MacLean's haunting poetry of loss and abandonment.

When the award-winning poet was 75, the BBC in Scotland allowed him a few late-night slots to read his work.

They went out live. It did not go to plan. One evening, he read from his poem *National Museum of Ireland*, in which he stated that seeing James Connolly's bloodstained shirt had been a spiritual experience for him.

He said that the glass case containing the garment should be a "holy place for every Gael who knows that they are a Gael".

I watched the broadcast in amazement. I knew that there would be a reaction from the establishment, especially given that this was in the mid-1980s when Cumberland's successors were having serious trouble dealing with the Gaels in south Armagh.

Not surprisingly, the senior management of

## PHIL MAC GIOLLA BHÁIN

columnists@dailyireland.com

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the BBC in London was soon asking questions about what the Jocks in Glasgow were up to.

A good friend of mine who was a producer with Radio nan Gaidheal in Glasgow at the time said that BBC executives had sent up their lads from London to check out what the problem was. It was clear who was in ultimate control.

Now, as Ingerlund go out to conquer all before them on the soccer field (actually they will be

time, by both the English and some Lowland Protestant Scots happy at the defeat of the mainly Catholic Jacobites. Many Protestant Lowlanders happily christened their sons "Cumberland William" after the battle to give thanks for the destruction of the rebels.

The London government encouraged those celebrations, and Handel — a German who lived most of his life in England — composed *See the Conquering Hero Comes* as his contribution.

It is at times like this that Scots who can think logically about such matters realise that they are culturally, as in every other way, still part of greater England.

That this is continuing to happen despite a meagre amount of home rule shows that the strings attached to the levers of state power are still yanked in London.

In fairness, not all Scots see being absorbed completely and totally into England as such a problem. The wearing of England soccer shirts has become rather de rigueur at Ibrox Park to further show one's Britishness. This is a political statement that has been imported from the fashion houses of Belfast's Shankill Road.

I recently took my son to Hampden Park for the first time.

The old Hampden could squeeze in 120,000. The new one is hardly imposing.

The money given from the public purse to rebuild Hampden in the late 1990s wouldn't fit out the toilets in the new Wembley.

are from the 13th century not the 20th, yet Scotland had the world's first bill of rights in the Declaration of Arbroath of 1320 and established the nearest thing that the Middle Ages had to a citizen army.

Now Scots who watch the World Cup — whether they support England or support the police — will have to listen to music composed to celebrate their defeat and the confirmation that they were owned by England and would remain so.

Handel's anthem has been adapted by Andrew Davis. The modern rendition, performed by the BBC Concert Orchestra and BBC Singers, has been entitled *Sports Prepare*.

Now the Scots will have to prepare to listen to an 18th-century German's musical eulogy to a mass murderer while Ingerlund fans taunt decent Germans about World War II while giving them Nazi salutes.

Any breaches of public order will, of course, shame the reputation of "British" soccer fans.

They think it's all over. Actually, it's been over for centuries.

Westminster owns Scotland. No need for extra time or penalties on that one — which should come as something of a relief to Ingerlund.

*Phil Mac Giolla Bháin was the Scottish secretary of the Celtic League cultural organisation in the 1980s. He was a constituency organiser for the Scottish National Party in his native Glasgow during the 1987 election.*

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