

CHAPTER XXIII

NIGEL IVAN, 22ND LORD FORBES

BORN February 19, 1918. Succeeded November 26th, 1953.

NIGEL, the eldest son of Atholl Laurence Lord Forbes, was educated at Harrow and the Royal Military College.

In January 1938 he was commissioned in the Grenadier Guards, serving in the 3rd Battalion in Northwest Europe till wounded prior to Dunkirk on May 21st, 1940. On discharge from hospital in 1941, he became Adjutant of the Training Battalion, and later the Holding Battalion, Grenadier Guards. In April, 1942 he was appointed Adjutant of the 6th Battalion Grenadier Guards, which was sent to the Middle East to join the 8th Army, and served with that Battalion till the end of the North African Campaign, after which he was on the staff of Headquarters XXX Corps for the invasion and capture of Sicily.

In April, 1944 he joined the staff of Headquarters 5th Guards Armoured Brigade, taking part in the invasion of Northern France, later serving in the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards till the end of the war in Europe.

After the war, he attended the Staff College prior to going to Palestine as Military Assistant to the High Commissioner for Palestine.

In 1948 he resigned his commission so as to devote his time to the management of Forbes Estate, which his father had gifted to him the previous year.

In May 1942 he married Rosemary Katharine, daughter of the 9th Viscount Boyle of Burwarton, Shropshire, by whom he had two sons and one daughter:

1. Malcolm Nigel, born May 6, 1946; married Carole Whitehead and had one son, Neil Malcolm Ross, born March 10th, 1970, and one daughter, Joanne Carol, born April 23rd, 1972. Marriage dissolved 1982.

2. Jonathan Andrew, born August 20th, 1947; married Nichola Frances Hawke, and had two daughters, Camilla Rose, born February 4th, 1983, and Annabella Jane, born October 8th, 1985.

THE HOUSE OF FORBES

3. Gillian Rosemary, born April 3rd, 1949; married Alexander Neil Foster, and had one daughter, Lucia Katharine, born February 12th, 1970, and one son, Michael Alexander, born March 1st, 1973.

In 1950 he founded Harthill Farms and gradually developed it into a farm of 2,000 acres by taking in hand tenanted farms as they became vacant. He also continued to extend the afforestation which his father had initiated. In 1950 he and his wife carried out alterations to the farm house at Harthill, making it into their residence and naming it Balforbes.

In 1955 he was elected a Representative Peer for Scotland and remained a Representative Peer till the abolition of the Representative Peerage in 1963, when he continued to sit in Parliament as a United Kingdom Peer. He was a member of Parliamentary delegations to Denmark, Hungary, Canada, Ethiopia and Pakistan.

He held the post of Minister of State for Scotland in the MacMillan Government from October 1958 till October 1959, and was made a Knight of the British Empire in 1960.

After the death of his father in 1953, he demolished the porch and front door at Castle Forbes, and carried out some internal alterations at the Castle.

In 1964 he transferred the majority of the land of Forbes Estate, except for the castle and policies, into a Trust in favour of his children and grandchildren; then, in 1973, he gifted Castle Forbes and its policies to his eldest son, Malcolm.

Farming was his main interest. Other interests included: directorships of several companies and organisations, including Grampian Television, PLC; Blenheim travel Ltd.; Tennent Caledonian Breweries Ltd.; Scottish Committee, Nature Conservancy; Aberdeen & District Milk Marketing Board; and Chairman of Rolawn Ltd. (turf production); Chairman of the Scottish Branch, National Playing Fields Association; and President of the Scottish Scout Association. In 1959, as President of the Royal Highland Agricultural Society, he escorted Queen Elizabeth and the Princess Royal at the Royal Highland Agricultural Show held at Aberdeen.

As a wildlife enthusiast he and his wife led a number of wildlife safaris to Kenya, as well as visiting other East African countries in search of wildlife. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire, and Justice of the Peace.