

Flett Fae Flotta

The musical score for "Flett Fae Flotta" is presented in five staves. The first staff begins with a boxed letter 'A' above the first measure, followed by a repeat sign. The second staff features a boxed 'E7' above the first measure and a boxed 'A' above the fifth measure. The third staff has a boxed 'B' above the fifth measure and a boxed 'A' above the sixth measure. The fourth staff includes a boxed 'D' above the first measure, a boxed 'E7' above the second measure, and a boxed 'A' above the fifth measure. The fifth staff is marked with a boxed '1.' above the first measure and a boxed '2.' above the second measure, indicating first and second endings. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily eighth and sixteenth notes with some dotted rhythms.

"Flett fae Flotta" or "Flett from Flotta" is a Scottish march in 4/4 time and A Major. The parts are played AB.

It was composed by Pipe Major Donald MacLeod. Flotta is a small island in Orkney, Scotland, lying in Scapa Flow which was the United Kingdom's chief naval base during the First and Second World Wars.

The title refers to George (Dode) Flett (or William A. Flett), who was a Highland Piper in the Seaforth Highlanders, along with the tune's composer, Donald MacLeod. A couple of stories are attached to the tune. One has it that Flett had a peculiar walking gate, and MacLeod's tune is in imitation of it. Another story goes that MacLeod and another piper had guard duty on a train, protecting the regimental silver as it was being transported for some function in London. To pass the time, they brought out their chanters and began to play and MacLeod suggested they compose a tune together. They came up with this march and cast about for a title. MacLeod inquired of the other piper's name and applied it to the march. A photograph exists of Flett from Flotta marching troops in desert operations during WW2. Flett died in 1998 in New South Wales, to which he retired in 1967.

It was printed in Martin's *Ceol na Fìdhle*, vol. 3 (1988).

It was recorded by Abby Newton on *Castles, Kirks and Caves* (2001).