

# THE REBELLION OF Donald Dubh MacDonald

## “Black Donald”

DECEMBER 1503

Ewen Cameron, XIII Captain and Chief of Clan Cameron, along with Macleod of Dunvegan and Maclean of Duart were the first Highland Chiefs to join Donald Dubh of the Isles in his attempt to gain the Island Lordship.

Two years earlier, in 1501, Donald Dubh escaped from prison, where he had been held since infancy. A strong confederacy was formed in his favor and about Christmas 1503 an irruption of the islanders and western clans, under Donald Dubh, was made into Badenoch, which was plundered and wasted with fire and sword. To put down the rebellion a grand army of the Lowlands was called out, with numerous Earls (including Argyll and Huntly, among others) in addition to Lord Lovat and his fellow barons, leading this force against the islanders and western clans. It was two years before the insurrection was finally quelled.

In 1504, for his part in the rebellion, Ewen was forfeited and declared rebel, but seems soon to have again achieved favor at Court afterwards. As for Donald Dubh, he was again made a prisoner a few year later, and was committed to the castle of Edinburgh, where he remained in captivity for nearly forty years.