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KING GEORGE'S ARMY 1740-93: (1) INFANTRY

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KING GEORGE'S ARMY 1740–93

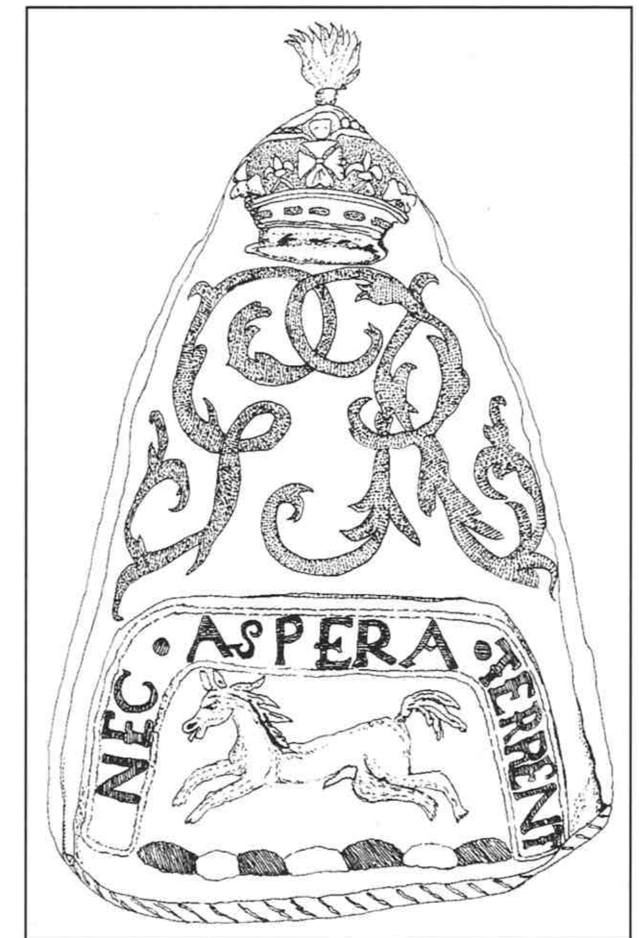
INTRODUCTION

The 18th-century British soldier might easily have been excused for suspecting that he had very few friends. To most contemporary politicians the Army was no more than an unwelcome necessity in wartime and an unjustifiable extravagance in peacetime. Nevertheless, the overall impression which is to be gained from a close study of the Army's own records, and from the surviving letters, diaries and memoirs left behind by its officers (and occasionally by its men), is that by and large the British Army of the 18th century was very little different in character or in spirit from today's British Army. It was, above all, an army which was led, not driven, into battle.

Curiously enough there was, in a very real sense, not one British Army but two: a British or English Establishment, and an Irish Establishment. The former was of course the senior of the two, but constitutionally rather precarious, and always liable to swingeing cuts whenever a case could be made for declaring units surplus to requirements. However, by an Act of 1699 Ireland was allocated a separate military establishment of 12,000 officers and men (raised to 15,325 in 1769), paid and administered from Dublin Castle. Obviously Ireland could occasionally be stripped of men in times of crisis – sometimes embarrassingly so, as at the time of Thurot's raid on Carrickfergus in 1760 – and in response to a European war the establishment might temporarily be increased; but the important point was that in peacetime it was not to be reduced below 12,000 men.

The Irish Army – made up of units raised in Scotland or England – was primarily intended for the defence and internal security of that country. Nevertheless, apart from the Viceroy's ceremonial Battle-axe Guards (dressed similarly to the English Yeomen of the Guard), no regular units were permanently assigned to the Irish Establishment – though the four regiments of 'Irish' Horse might have been forgiven for thinking otherwise; and on being ordered overseas or on service a battalion automatically reverted to the English Establishment.

However, because the strength of the Irish Establishment was fixed and therefore not susceptible to Treasury interference, the Duke of Cumberland and his successors at the Army's administrative headquarters, Horse Guards, came to regard it as a safe haven for regiments which might otherwise be



A typical soldier's grenadier cap of the type worn by those units which had no distinctive badge. The rather battered and shapeless appearance is probably rather more typical than the neat caps depicted by David Morier. (Author's Collection)

disbanded in Treasury-led defence cuts. Unfortunately, attractive though it might have appeared, the concept of using the Irish Establishment as an Imperial reserve was greatly hampered by two factors.

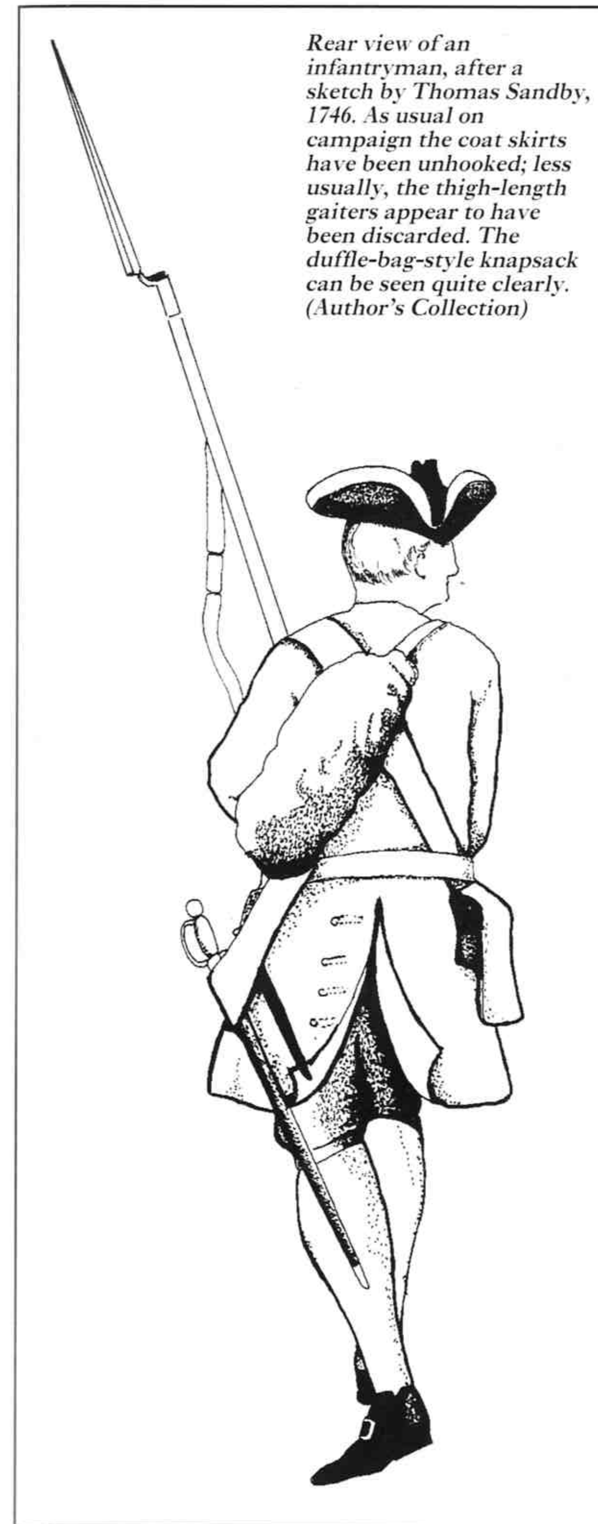
In the first place the constitutional independence of the Irish Establishment, which was so vital in protecting it from interference by the English government, also worked to restrict the control which could be exercised over it by Horse Guards. Instead it was run by a quite independent staff in Dublin Castle. This lack of any real control, and Dublin's understandable preoccupation with employing the army as a rural constabulary, led to its becoming a byword for inefficiency. (In 1752 officers in Limerick had to be rather sharply reminded to wear their swords, and not to slouch about in slippers and nightcaps . . .)

Secondly, in order to cram as many regiments as possible on to the 12,000-man establishment, it was necessary to reduce them to little more than cadres, which needed to be hastily filled out with drafted men and new recruits whenever a battalion was ordered on service. This particular problem was compounded by the fact that for security reasons units carried on the Irish Establishment were traditionally forbidden to do any recruiting in Ireland – except in wartime, when they could be expected to be shipped overseas without undue delay.

For instance, when the badly understrength 44th and 48th Foot were ordered abroad in 1755 they had to wait until they reached North America before beating up for the recruits which they desperately needed to fill out their depleted ranks. (Nevertheless, it was apparently not unknown for some of the more enterprising units to enlist Ulster Protestants, ship them across to Stranraer in south-west Scotland, and there clap Scots blue bonnets on their heads before ostentatiously bringing them back on the next ferry.)

Scotland, or North Britain as it was sometimes called, also had its own Commander-in-Chief based in Edinburgh Castle; but unlike his Irish counterpart he reported directly to Horse Guards, and his troops for all practical purposes belonged to the English Establishment.

Private, 1st (or Royal) Regiment, as depicted in the 1742 Cloathing Book. This is one of the most famous images of the 18th-century British soldier, yet the rather old-fashioned order of dress depicted here would be superseded within a year or two; none of Morier's paintings show belts being worn over the coat when the lapels are displayed. (Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland)



Rear view of an infantryman, after a sketch by Thomas Sandby, 1746. As usual on campaign the coat skirts have been unhooked; less usually, the thigh-length gaiters appear to have been discarded. The duffle-bag-style knapsack can be seen quite clearly. (Author's Collection)

ORGANISATION

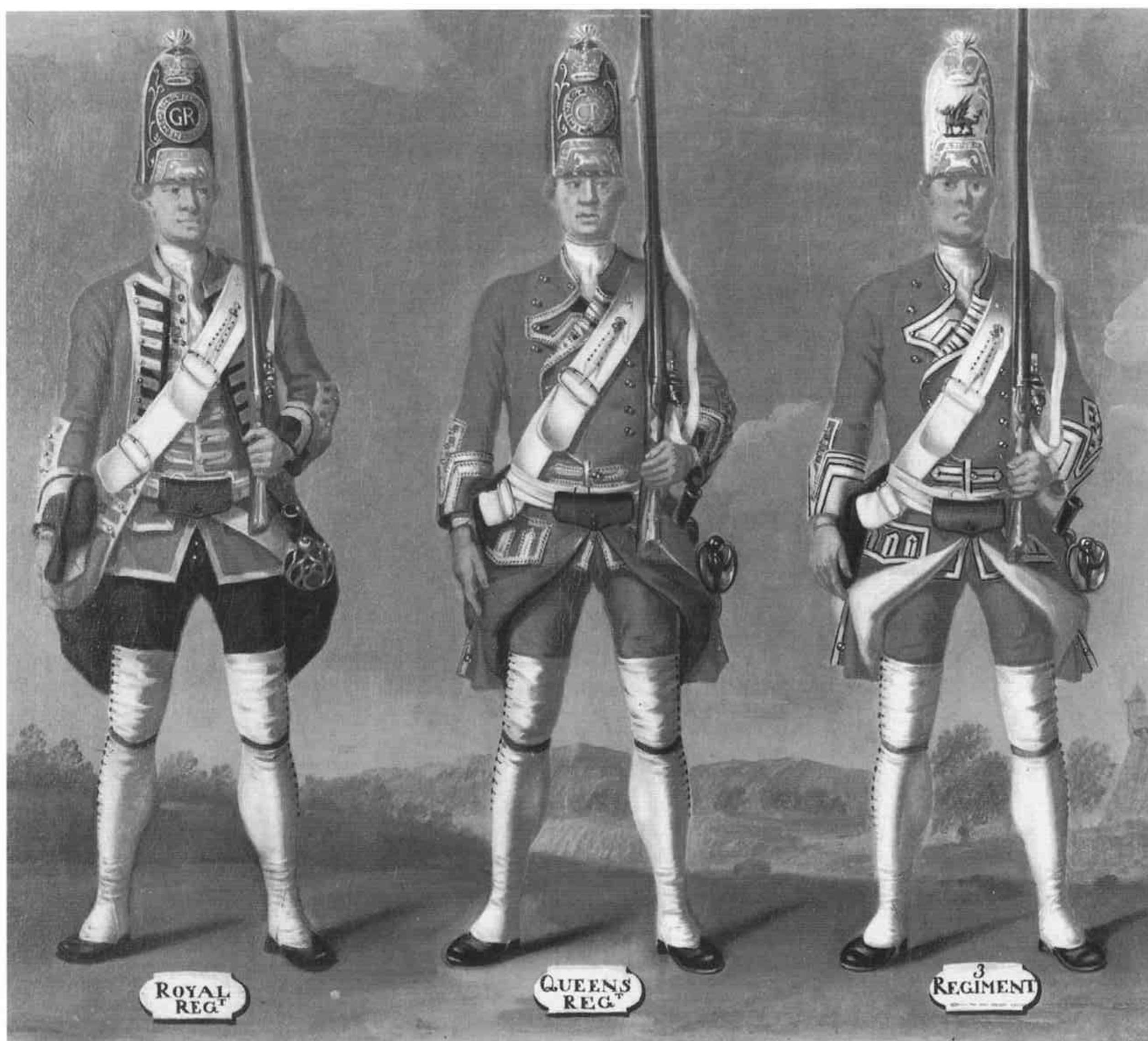
Regimental strength and organisation varied throughout the 18th century according to military necessity and short-term financial policy. At the outset regiments were known only by the name of their colonel, but in 1742 regimental numbers were fixed in place of the informal order of seniority which had hitherto existed.

During the War of the Austrian Succession (1743–48) no fewer than 79 numbered regiments of foot were carried on the Army List, but the 67th–79th Regiments were temporary corps hastily raised during the Jacobite emergency and just as hastily disbanded once it was over in the summer of 1746. Two years later, at the end of the war, a further 17 infantry battalions (including ten battalions of Marines ranking as the 44th to 53rd Foot) were disbanded as surplus to requirements.

Normally seniority counted for everything in deciding which units would survive and which would not. However, although he failed to have Bragg's 28th broken for their notorious inefficiency, the Duke of Cumberland did succeed in retaining the 43rd Highlanders, and 54th to 59th Foot, on the grounds that they were good regiments. Consequently their numbers changed to become the 42nd to 48th Foot respectively; and Trelawney's 63rd, by virtue of forming the Jamaica garrison, also survived to become the 49th.

Cumberland's abrupt dismissal after the disastrous Hanoverian campaign of 1757 saw a reversal of this attempt to retain regiments on the grounds of merit rather than mere seniority; at the close of the Seven Years' War in 1763 the inevitable reduction in the Army's strength was achieved simply by disbanding all regiments junior to the 70th (Glasgow Greys), the only exceptions on this occasion being five Invalid Regiments, temporarily renumbered the 71st to 75th Foot before they too were disbanded as an economy measure in 1769.

Infantry regiments normally mustered only a single battalion, although the 1st Foot or Royal Regiment (later the Royal Scots) had two battalions, and the 60th Royal Americans normally had four. From time to time other units did muster second battalions, but generally speaking these were either



Grenadiers of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Foot. The well-known paintings by the Swiss artist David Morier are commonly dated to 1751, but a close analysis suggests that they may actually have been painted in 1748, at the end of the War of the Austrian Succession. Stylistically the grenadier paintings can conveniently be divided into three groups, and this is representative of group A, which comprises six rather stiff paintings depicting the 1st to 15th Foot and the 28th, 29th and 30th Foot. An early date is suggested for this group by the fact that only three out of the 18 grenadiers in the group have wings on their shoulders, as against slightly less than half in groups B and C. It would also appear that this group was painted in winter – probably 1747/48 – since 13 out of the 18 have their lapels buttoned over for warmth. Out of the 26 soldiers in the other groups (discounting four lacking lapels), only two have their lapels buttoned over. (The Royal Collection © Her Majesty the Queen)

disbanded within a short time or else taken into the line as independent units. In 1755 and 1756, for example, a number of regiments were authorised to raise second battalions, but in 1758 these battalions were detached from their parent units to become the 61st to 75th Foot. To all intents and purposes the two battalions of the Royals were also regarded as separate units; it would appear that the only occasion during the 18th century on which they were brigaded together was at Coxheath Camp in 1778.

Other units were more fortunate. During the Seven Years' War both battalions of the 42nd Highlanders served together in North America, as did both battalions of Fraser's 71st Highlanders during the American War. In the latter conflict, however, the second battalion of the 42nd served in India and subsequently became the 73rd; while the two battalions of the original 73rd were similarly separated, 1/73rd in India and 2/73rd at Gibraltar.

In peacetime infantry battalions could sometimes muster as few as eight companies, but on service generally mustered ten, on paper at least. In wartime a number of regiments also had 'Additional Companies' which were not intended to go on active service but instead functioned as recruit depots. This at least was the theory, but in 1745 the Jacobite emergency saw the 'Additional Companies' of the Royals, 21st, 25th and 43rd, then stationed in Scotland, pitchforked into action against the rebels, while the companies in England were hurriedly formed into three Provisional Battalions commanded by unemployed Marine officers.

Three of the battalion companies were notionally

Grenadiers of 31st, 32nd and 33rd Foot.
Group B of the Morier series comprises five paintings depicting the three Regiments of Footguards, the 16th to 24th Foot, and the 31st, 32nd and 33rd Foot. In marked contrast to group A these paintings are full of vitality, and the grenadiers are depicted against a backdrop of camp scenes apparently painted from life. Morier evidently had a well-developed sense of humour: note the soldier disappearing over the fence with a chicken under his arm. It is significant that all but three of the regiments comprising this group were serving in Flanders in 1748. They appear contemporary with a large canvas, also by Morier, depicting officers and men of the Royal Artillery at Roermond in April 1748. The 'odd three out' – 16th, 17th and 18th Foot – all appear on one very well known canvas, which oddly enough has for its centrepiece an Austrian soldier contentedly puffing on his pipe as he watches the artist at work. Upon closer examination, however, it is apparent that the three grenadiers do not fit very comfortably on to the canvas, and must have been added at a later date. (The Royal Collection © Her Majesty the Queen)

Grenadiers of 46th, 47th and 48th Foot.
This useful study of soldiers in full marching order belongs to Group C. This comprises seven paintings depicting the 25th, 26th, 27th and 34th through to 49th Regiments of Foot. Although rather less stiff than group A they are depicted against a studio backdrop; and the numbering of certain units (e.g. the 42nd Highlanders) indicates that at least some of the regiments were painted or reworked after the reductions which followed the Peace of Aix-la-Chappelle in 1748.
It is often remarked that Morier could not actually have used a man from each regiment as his models since some units were serving overseas at the time; but in fact, given the presence of the rudimentary depots maintained by each regiment in Britain or Ireland, there is no reason why he should not have been able to obtain a man from each regiment. (The Royal Collection © Her Majesty the Queen)

commanded by field officers. The senior of these was the colonel himself. In the 1740s some officers, such as Peregrine Lascelles, might still occasionally be found commanding their regiments in the field (he did so at Prestonpans in 1745), but increasingly they were general officers and consequently rarely to be seen. By the end of the century they had simply become 'colonel proprietors'. Throughout the period most regiments were in fact commanded on a day-to-day basis by their lieutenant colonel, or even, in his absence, by the third field officer – the major. The latter, assisted by the adjutant, was also particularly responsible for training and discipline.

Since the colonel, even when he was present, usually had rather more pressing matters to attend to, his company was actually commanded for all practical purposes by a captain-lieutenant. This officer ranked as the regiment's senior lieutenant, but by courtesy was addressed (though not paid) as captain. However, should he subsequently be promoted to captain his seniority was accounted according to his captain-lieutenant's commission rather than to the date of his promotion.

The remaining companies were commanded by captains, each assisted, like the field officers, by a lieutenant and an ensign, except in the case of the elite 'flank' companies – the grenadiers and later the light infantry – who had second lieutenants in place of ensigns.

Apart from the company officers each battalion also mustered four commissioned staff officers; the adjutant, quartermaster, surgeon and chaplain.

The first was normally an additional (and purchasable) appointment held by one of the keener subalterns, but there are occasional cases of individuals holding the post without the benefit of a lieutenant's or ensign's commission – these were probably meritorious NCOs promoted to the job without purchase.

The quartermaster's commission could, in the early days, be purchased just like any other, but it was an important appointment demanding a considerable degree of experience and acumen; consequently, by the end of the century it could only be given to capable quartermaster sergeants. However, although an officer could not therefore acquire a quartermaster's commission the reverse was not true, and there was nothing to prevent a quartermaster from subsequently bettering himself by purchasing an ensign's commission.

The surgeon, by the nature of his office, was of course a specialist, and often a very good one at that. When Surgeon John Wright of 1/Royals was appointed by General Williamson to be Purveyor of the Hospitals on San Domingo in 1794 he was described as 'an excellent character & has great Professional merit'.

Unfortunately the same could not be said of the chaplain, who was normally an absentee. Neither the

The grenadier company was organised into two platoons, one of which was usually posted on each flank of the battalion when drawn up in line. Alternatively the grenadier companies of several units might be brigaded together in provisional battalions. This particular recreated platoon are at the 'Make Ready' position, holding their firelocks upright as they cock them. (Author's Collection)

Reverend Miles Beevor, nor his brother George, who were appointed to the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Royals in 1786 and 1790 respectively, are ever recorded as having turned up at battalion headquarters: monthly returns invariably record the pair of them as absent (by the leave of the Commanding Officer) since the day of their appointment.

Each company normally mustered three sergeants, three corporals and two drummers, although the colonel's company had five sergeants, including the sergeant major and the quartermaster sergeant. The grenadier company also boasted two fifers – normally replaced by pipers in Highland regiments. The senior of the three sergeants in each company also held the appointment of pay-sergeant.

Otherwise the theoretical strength of each company varied considerably according to whether an individual unit was on the English or Irish Establishment at the time. In peacetime a company on the former establishment was supposed to muster 70 rank and file (always assuming that sufficient recruits could be found in the first place), but only 30 men were allowed for each company in battalions on the Irish Establishment.

On active service battalion companies were invariably understrength, and there was generally little attempt made to ensure that they were maintained at a uniform size. Nevertheless, the élite flank companies were normally kept up to strength at the expense of the battalion companies. When 1/Royals were sent from Jamaica to San Domingo early in 1794 the two flank companies accounted between them for a quarter of the battalion's strength. This imbalance was further exacerbated by the fact that both companies were actually detached from the regiment and assigned to a provisional Flank Battalion at the time.

THE OFFICERS

The British Army's officers came from a wide variety of backgrounds and were characterised by a surprising degree of upward social mobility; but by and large it was only the aristocrats and landed gentry who made it to the very top. The gentry had the money with which to purchase promotion and, much more importantly, could also command the necessary 'interest': that is, they could rely upon patronage and the influence of friends and relations in high and sometimes not so high places to facilitate their upward progress.

A representative group of 'hatmen' – contemporary Army slang for men belonging to the ordinary or battalion companies. These men wear the blue facings and plain white lace of the Royals. The white gaiters seen here were normally replaced by black, brown or grey on campaign. (Author's Collection)

By far the greater number of ordinary regimental officers, however, were simply 'private gentlemen' (invariably a rather elastic term in the 18th century): generally of good family, but seldom possessed of very much in the way of either money or prospects. Captain Robert Bannatyne, one of three soldier brothers, doubtless spoke for many when he wrote shortly before his death at Conjeveram in 1759: 'My Father had no great Estate and dying whilst his Children were young you May guess whether five of us did not find use for small inheritance.' Bannatyne's father was the minister of Dores in Inverness-shire, but doctors and other professionals, and indeed even a fair sprinkling of tradesmen contributed their sons as well, while a fair proportion were, quite naturally, themselves the sons of soldiers.

Amongst the latter were the sons of a rather neglected, but nevertheless quite significant, class of officer: the promoted ranker. Contrary to popular belief, merit was recognised and often rewarded in the 18th-century British Army. Able NCOs were perhaps most frequently promoted into newly raised corps where their experience was obviously at a premium. Naturally some of them were getting on a bit by comparison with their fellow subalterns, but younger individuals could also win what were in effect battlefield promotions. Many of the commissioned NCOs served as adjutants. This was an important post with considerable responsibility for training as well as administration, and it was clearly much better filled by an able veteran soldier – such as Sergeant Major George Edington of 1/Royals, promoted in 1794 – than by an inexperienced subaltern.

A quite disproportionate number of officers were Irish or Scots. It has been estimated that in the 1760s something between 20 and 30 per cent of officers were Scots, and this proportion was constantly rising. There was in fact a decided feeling in some quarters that by the latter part of the century the British Army was in the grip of something akin to a Scottish mafia. While such an ungenerous view was undoubtedly coloured by the influence enjoyed by officers such as David Dundas, it is also borne out by an analysis of the infantry regiments in the Army List for 1794.

Officer's grenadier cap of an unbadged regiment – in this case the 43rd Highlanders prior to their adopting furred caps. Apart from the obviously superior quality of workmanship and materials, the design is far more elaborate than that used for common soldiers' caps, and the stiff front is separate from the softer bag or 'stocking' behind. (Author's Collection)

In all at least 845 out of 2,470 officers serving in 82 battalions of the line can be identified as Scots – a proportion of 34.2 per cent, although the true figure may have been as high as 40 per cent. Moreover, only 204 of the officers concerned – just 8.2 per cent of the total – were serving in Highland regiments, and a further 79 in other recognised Scottish units such as the Royals (later the Royal Scots) and the Cameronians. These accounted for 11.5 per cent all told, leaving the remaining 22.7 per cent – nearly a quarter of all the officers then serving in the line – scattered amongst 'English' regiments.

Only a single battalion (the 8th Foot) appears not to have had a single Scots officer among the 30 on its rolls in 1794. On the other hand the 19th Foot (The Green Howards) had at least 19 – an astonishing 68 per cent of its officers; while the 9th and 57th were

Privates of 119th (Prince's Own) Regiment of Foot, 1762–3, as painted by David Morier. See Plate D3 for details of colouring. Apart from the crested helmets the resemblance to contemporary Croat or Pandour uniforms is quite striking. Note particularly the Hungarian breeches and ankle boots. The helmet plates bear the G.R. cypher. The man on the left has fixed his unusual sword bayonet on a staff to form a pike, while the man on the right still carries his in its scabbard. Blankets (or more probably cloaks, since the Croat model is being followed) are carried because light infantry units were expected to move with the minimum of regimental baggage. (The Royal Collection © Her Majesty the Queen)

not very far behind, with sixteen and seventeen Scots officers respectively. Nineteen battalions had five Scots officers or fewer; 34 had between six and ten; and 15 battalions boasted between 11 and 15 Scots. The remaining 13 battalions, including of course the Highland regiments, numbered considerably more, although the 42nd (Black Watch) appears to be the only battalion with an all-Scottish officer list.

Formidable though these figures are, they still do not tell the whole story. Thirty-one regimental colonels, amounting to 40 per cent of the total, were Scots – and all of them were general officers with considerable powers of patronage. With few exceptions they appear to have wielded this patronage almost exclusively to the benefit of their fellow countrymen. The fact that General David Graeme had commanded the 19th Foot for upwards of 25 years doubtless accounted for the large number of Scots officers in that battalion, but others bid fair to achieve similar results in less time. James Grant's 11th Foot, for example, had eight Scots officers besides the colonel in 1794, all of them gazetted to the battalion since Grant's appointment in November 1791; and by 1798 that number had doubled, so that Scots accounted for 40 per cent of the 11th's officers. Similarly the 8th Foot, which in 1794 had not a single Scots officer, boasted at least nine by 1798: 21 per cent of the total, and all gazetted since Ralph Dundas took over the regiment in July 1794.

It has been estimated that in peacetime up to two-thirds of all commissions were purchased, though it is hard to say what the true cost of the transaction actually was to the individual. Although there was an officially regulated scale the cost sometimes varied from regiment to regiment, and no doubt according to its geographical proximity at the time to London. Regulations specifically forbade officers to pay additional sums 'on top', but there is no doubt that it happened in the more fashionable regiments. Sometimes the prohibition was evaded by paying the additional sum to a 'friend' of the officer concerned. However, apart from such *douceurs*, the actual sums which changed hands tended in practice to be less than a superficial perusal of the official scales might suggest. Samuel Bagshawe explained it thus in a memorandum written sometime in 1742:

'... When a Capt. has to leave to quitt the Service & dispose of his Commission 'tis generally done in this manner, the Lieutenant recommended either gives him his (own) Commission and the difference between the Commissions of a Capt. & Lt. or a certain sum of money in which last case the Lt. has the disposing of his own Commission which if sold to an Ensign, that Ensign acts in the same way that is, gives the Lieutenant his Ensign's Commission and the difference or else a certain Sume & sells the Colours himself, So that the price of a Captain's Commission is either a certain Sume, or is compos'd of the difference between a Capt. and a Lieutenant's Commission, the difference between a Lieutenancy and a pair of Colours & the Colours. Now suppose a Company is dispos'd of in this last way & sold for eleven hundred pounds the Case stands thus

The Difference between the Captains & the Lt's Commission	£600
The Diff. between ye Lieutenancy & ye Colours	£100
The Colours	£400
	£1100'

Once the initial investment had been made in an Ensign's commission (and of course in the additional cost of his not inconsiderable kit) it was therefore fairly easy to find the £100 necessary to purchase the next step to lieutenant, though the jump to captain might sometimes be a little more difficult. However, if an officer died in harness, or was dismissed from the service by the sentence of a court-martial, his successor – normally the most senior officer in the rank below – stepped into his boots gratis, and everyone else gratefully shuffled up behind.

In theory officers were supposed to spend a minimum period in each rank before obtaining further promotion, and generally speaking it normally took about ten years to make captain. Nevertheless there were of course some spectacularly quick promotions, and in times of crisis the inevitable expansion of the Army (and the equally inevitable casualties) provided considerable opportunities for ambitious officers and would-be officers.

Not only could aspiring officers more easily find non-purchase vacancies at subaltern level; but more senior commissions could also be offered to gentlemen who had the right connections, and fair prospects of raising the requisite number of recruits for a company or even a regiment. Under an able Secretary at War, such as Viscount Barrington, the inevitable abuses of the system were kept within reasonably acceptable bounds; but in the breakneck race to expand the Army in 1793 the aged and quite ineffectual Lord Amherst presided over a scandalous

Infantryman c. 1760, after Paul Sandby. This useful sketch provides a better picture of the British soldier at the time of the Seven Years' War than do Morier's paintings of c. 1748. Note particularly the new, shorter gaiters with leather tops, linen breeches, and what appears to be an early version of the goatskin knapsack, worn square on the back. (Author's Collection)

Highland officer, c. 1760: a reconstruction largely based on entries in the orderly book of Captain Stewart's company, 42nd Highlanders. On active service a plain 'frock' was worn in place of the expensively laced full-dress 'regimentals'. Note also the very popular, but at this stage unauthorised, white waistcoat. (Author's Collection)

state of affairs. A key figure in the process, if a sometimes shadowy one, was the regimental agent. The agent was a civilian who was appointed by the regimental colonel to act for him as a business manager-cum-banker. His various functions were admirably described by the then Deputy Secretary at War in 1798:

'To apply for, receive, disburse and account for public money advanced to him under general regulations or by particular orders. He is the ordinary channel of communication between the Regiment and the Public Departments and is resorted to not only for providing and forwarding of arms, clothing and other regimental supplies, but also in the business, public or private, of the individual officers.'

Most agents acted for a number of different units, though London-based agents could not act for regiments on the Irish Establishment or vice versa. Therefore, if an officer desirous of advancement found that no vacancy was available in his own corps, it was a relatively easy matter for the agent to arrange his exchange into another one on his books. In 1795, for example, the recently promoted Captain John Urquhart (late of 1/Royals) arrived in Cork to find his new regiment, the 106th Foot, about to be disbanded and its personnel drafted into other units. Nothing daunted, he contacted the 106th's agent Humphrey Donaldson and promptly obtained a company in one of the latter's other regiments, the 85th Foot. Only a couple of months later he exchanged with Captain Hugh Campbell on to the Half Pay of the disbanded Royal Glasgow Regiment, managed by a Mr. Lawrie, who had taken over much the ailing Donaldson's business.

This sort of transaction was harmless enough, and most exchanges were carried out between officers of equal rank or involved only a single step; but if the money answered and the agent, like Donaldson, was unscrupulous enough, the process could be carried on almost indefinitely. This was exemplified by an Anglo-Irish baronet named Vere Hunt who appears to have been commissioned ensign in the 2nd (Queen's) Foot on 12 April 1793. Just over a year later, on 3 July 1794, he was appointed colonel commandant of his own (and happily short-lived) 135th Loyal Irish Volunteers.

It was little wonder, therefore, that the acerbic Major General James Craig was to write from Holland in November 1794: 'Out of fifteen regiments of cavalry and twenty-six of infantry, which we have here, twenty-one are literally commanded by boys or idiots – I had the curiosity to count them over.'

Craig might grumble about boys, but although the minimum age limit of 16 was frequently flouted in the granting of commissions, under-age officers were generally expected to stay at school until they were ready to join their regiments. The real problem was not one of adolescent subalterns, but rather that

Grenadier, 25th (Edinburgh) Regiment, c. 1771. One of a series depicting units in the Minorca garrison, this painting contains a number of interesting features, not the least of them being the non-regulation fur cap. The traditional grenadier's matchcase attached to the cartouche box belt shows up quite clearly, but the waistbelt has been replaced by what can only be described as a strap over the right shoulder. (NMS)

by the time they did condescend to turn up at regimental headquarters they had gained sufficient notional seniority to quality for such immediate promotion as they, or perhaps a doting relative, could afford to purchase. Nevertheless, although naturally seized upon by the Army's many critics, such examples were actually quite rare.

Very few of the higher-numbered regiments ever saw active service; instead, their recruits were almost invariably drafted to bring veteran units up to strength. This was naturally resented by the more ambitious officers since it meant that they had to begin recruiting afresh, and compensation for the drafted men could often be a long time in coming. Some units, such as Bagshawe's short-lived 93rd Foot and Johnstone's 101st Highlanders, were repeatedly milked of men in this way in the 1760s, and to all intents and purposes were treated simply as recruiting depots for better established units.

In 1795 the process was carried a stage further when the hitherto unprecedented step was taken of drafting entire battalions (such as the Royal Glasgow) and after a decent interval placing their remaining officers on the Half Pay list. This might have seemed harsh at the time, but it was obviously preferable to fielding untried regiments commanded by inexperienced officers.

At the end of his service an officer was normally expected to provide for his retirement by selling his commission. This step, however, was obviously not open to those officers who had not purchased their commissions in the first place. Nevertheless such officers, who had often earned their rank by hard work and ability, were still provided for. By way of a reward they could be appointed to the Half Pay establishment of a disbanded regiment, leaving behind a free vacancy in their original corps. In 1765 Lieutenant William Bannatyne of the 13th Foot retired in this way by transferring on to the Half Pay of Monson's 96th Foot, disbanded two years previously. The vacancy left by his departure from the 13th was then filled internally.

It was also possible for the system to work in reverse. An ambitious officer left unemployed by the disbandment of his regiment could easily return to the active list by exchanging with a 'purchase' officer who wanted to retire but also to retain his links with the Army and draw Half Pay. Ordinarily an officer who sold his commission was expected to provide for himself out of the proceeds and could not subsequently purchase another commission. However, if he exchanged with a Half Pay officer – as in the case of Captains Urquhart and Campbell – he was entitled to receive the difference in value between his existing commission and the less valuable Half Pay equivalent, as well as drawing his pension. Moreover, should he then choose to do so, there was nothing to prevent his returning to active duty at a later stage.

In fact, an officer who had retired on to the Half Pay at the end of one war and returned to active service at the beginning of another could usually expect to be offered a free step in rank if he was willing to recruit himself a company or battalion.

Far from being aristocratic dilettantes, most British officers were highly competent professionals – a fact amply testified by the plethora of drill manuals and other military works which appeared throughout the 18th century. Strategy seems to have been little studied, except by reference to the obligatory classics, but minor tactics clearly excited passionate interest. The results were plain for all to see; and as the Jacobite Adjutant General, John William O'Sullivan, remarked in 1746: 'there are no troops in the world but what they overcome in fireing, if yu don't go in Sword in hand, or the bayonett among them.'

Breastplate, 80th (Royal Edinburgh Volunteers), c. 1780 – brass with a very high copper content. Despite their 'Royal' title the 80th bore yellow facings, and were disbanded at the end of the American War. (NMS)

Lieutenant Robert Hamilton Buchannan, 21st Royal North British Fuziliers, 1776–9: an important portrait depicting a number of interesting features, the most notable being the absence of a sword. Judging by a number of paintings, orders and memoirs a surprising number of officers seem to have considered swords an unnecessary encumbrance. The grenadier cap bears the universal pattern plate without the distinctive badge authorised for this regiment in the 1768 Warrant, although the small breastplate has an indistinguishable circular feature on it which is most probably a thistle within the circle of St. Andrew. (NMS)

THE SOLDIERS

Not until 1782 were regiments formally associated with particular localities; in theory, apart from the restrictions imposed on regiments on the Irish Establishment, all regiments were permitted to find recruits anywhere within the British Isles and British North America.

The Industrial Revolution and the coincidental unemployment created by agrarian reform did not begin to swell the ranks of the urban poor to any notable degree until towards the end of the century, and consequently most of the Army's recruits were still countrymen or discontented tradesmen picked up at markets or hiring fairs. In 1740 the Duke of Argyll claimed, perhaps a little too harshly, that they were for the most part men who were 'too stupid or too infamous to learn or carry on a Trade'; but their recorded behaviour rarely bears out the frequently expressed contention that the army was the last refuge of the desperate and the criminal classes.

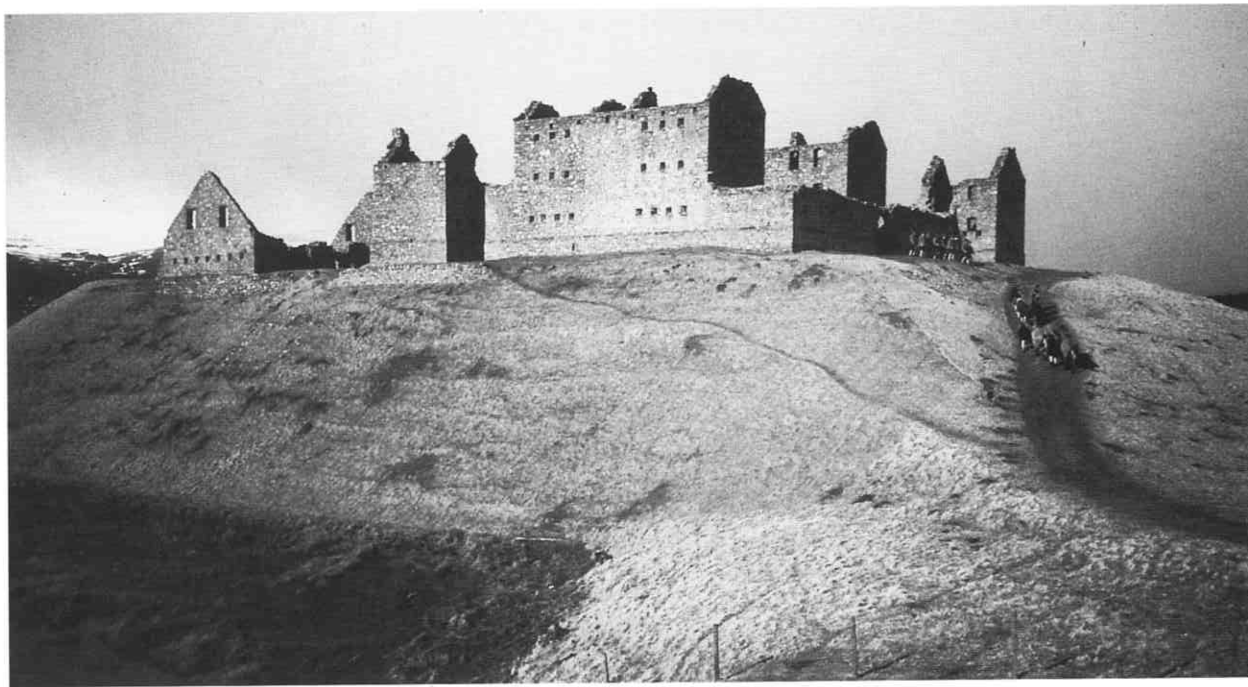
During the expedition to L'Orient in 1746, to quote just one example from amongst many, a party of grenadiers crept on their hands and knees behind a wall to rescue the badly wounded Major Samuel Bagshawe under heavy fire. Having done so they then carried him on their shoulders eleven miles through the night to safety.

The written instructions regularly issued to all recruiting parties solemnly warned them against enlisting Catholics (technically illegal, though often winked at), foreigners, boys, old men, idiots, the ruptured and the lame. There was also a certain understandable reluctance on the part of recruiting officers to entertain 'strollers, vagabonds, and tinkers', who were of course the very individuals whom magistrates were keenest to dump on the Army. Indeed, the instructions issued to recruiters for the 93rd Foot in early 1760 ruled that they should only take such men 'as were born in the Neighbourhood of the place they are Inlisted in, & of whom you can get and give a good Account'. It was not always possible or expedient to be so choosy, and in times of rapid expansion recruiters tended to be less discriminating – and never more so, perhaps, than in the period 1793–95. Nevertheless, these and similar injunctions clearly contradict the casual view of the 18th-century British Army as some kind of penal institution.

The majority of recruits also seem to have been comparatively young men when they enlisted – ser-

Furred caps of the 1768 pattern. Actually belonging to the 97th Highlanders c. 1795, the cap in the centre bears the 'universal' plate used by all unbadged regiments. The cap on the left is the variant used by drummers and bears trophies of colours, drums and drumsticks. The cap on the right is the version worn by pioneers. Unlike the other two the enamel 'ground' is red rather than black, and is predictably decorated with axes and saws, the traditional tools of a pioneer. (NMS)

The front and side views of a coat belonging to Lieutenant John Dalgleish, also of the 21st, provide a useful comparison with Buchannan's portrait. Note the elaborate design of the epaulettes. Company officers normally wore a single epaulette on the right shoulder, but fusiliers and grenadiers wore two. (NMS)



Ruthven Barracks, near Kingussie, Scotland. Built in 1721 as a patrol base for troops guarding General Wade's Highland roads, it was gallantly defended against the Jacobites by Sergeant Molloy and 12 men of the 55th Foot in 1745/46. Molloy was subsequently commissioned. (Author's Collection)

vice generally being at that time for life, or in other words until such time as a man was too 'crazy' or worn out to soldier any longer. Out of the 67 men who joined Captain Hamilton Maxwell's company of the 71st Highlanders during the winter of 1775–76 the oldest was aged 40, while two others, including a sergeant, were 38 and 39 respectively; but the overwhelming majority of his recruits were aged between 17 and 25 years – in other words, most of them were young men who had not yet settled down to a trade or calling, and were without family or other ties.

Not all soldiers were given the opportunity to volunteer. In 1745 the Jacobite emergency produced two hasty Acts encouraging magistrates to impress all 'able-bodied men who do not follow or exercise any lawful calling or employment' and 'all such able-bodied, idle and disorderly persons who cannot upon examination prove themselves to exercise and industriously follow some lawful trade or employment, or to have some substance sufficient for their support and maintenance'. These Acts were naturally greeted by the local authorities as a heaven-sent opportunity to dispose of all the rogues and vagabonds which recruiting parties normally declined to entertain. Since £3 per man was paid into the vestry account in order to provide for any dependants which these reluctant heroes might leave behind as a burden on the parish, they were generally referred to as 'Vestry Men'.

Quite unwanted by the Army and of decidedly dubious military value, they were undoubtedly responsible for some of the few verifiable atrocities which followed the suppression of the 'Forty-Five' rebellion; many of them were also relegated to the despised but undemanding job of prisoner-handling, before being discharged as swiftly as possible. Notwithstanding this rather unhappy experience, similar Acts appeared during the later crises of 1755–57 and 1778–79.

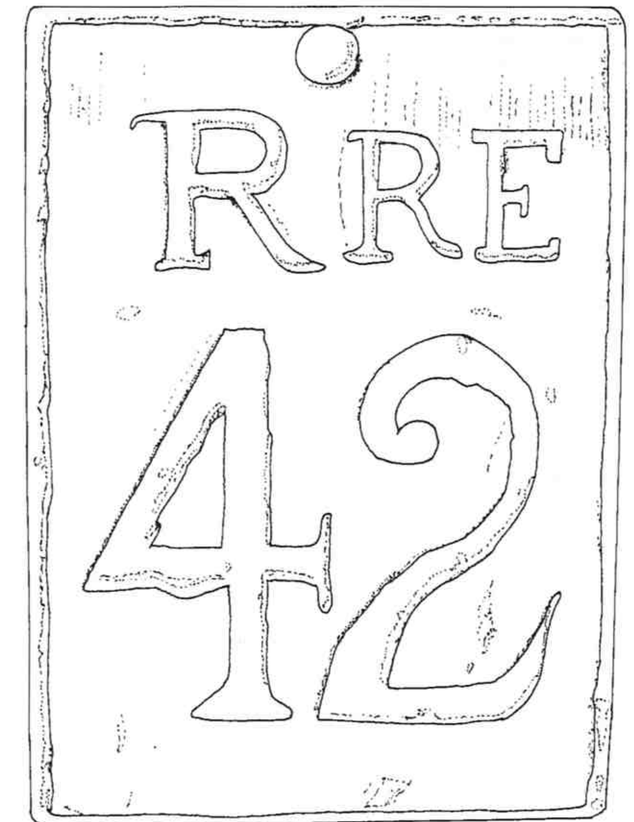
Occasionally prisoners of war might also be induced to enlist in the British service. Hundreds of captured Jacobites were given the opportunity to 'volunteer' for service in West Indian garrisons, or with Boscawen's Independent Companies, recruited for an expedition to Pondicherry in 1747. A good many of this particular batch of recruits 'volunteered' from amongst the prisoners belonging to the French Army's Irish Brigade. Most of those captured at Culloden were either summarily dealt with as deserters from the British Army, or, if considered to be French subjects, were repatriated as prisoners of war. However, those captured at sea en route to join the rebels were treated slightly differently. 'Frenchmen' were repatriated under the existing cartel or exchange agreement, but those found to have run from the British Army or otherwise considered to be British subjects were drafted into units serving in the West Indies, including Dalzell's unfortunate 38th Foot. Two of Boscawen's companies were specifically earmarked to be raised from Jacobite prisoners in Scotland; but prisoners held in England, including members of the ill-fated Manchester Regiment, were also drafted into the other companies.

These were not the only prisoners to find themselves donning red coats. Other examples were to be found in the American War, and an Edinburgh man named James Aytoun who enlisted into the 58th Foot in 1786 mentions a comrade named Belair, who was 'a native of France and had served in a Spanish regiment called Walloons. He was one of the men who was saved from the Spanish sunk ships at the siege of Gibraltar. A great many of these prisoners inlisted into British regiments'.

Apart from the enlistment of prisoners, whether voluntarily or otherwise, the British Army had very few foreigners serving in its ranks during the 18th century. Negro slaves were sometimes enlisted as drummers, and German musicians turn up from time to time, but few appear amongst the rank and file. The muster rolls of the Royal Artillery also reveal Dutchmen and Germans, but otherwise the great majority of foreign recruits appear to have been officers.

There was certainly no permanent equivalent of the Dutch Army's Scots Brigade, or of the large German, Swiss and Irish contingents in the French and Spanish armies. This was in part a reflection of the prevailing view in society that if soldiers were a bad thing, then foreign soldiers must consequently be worse. Prejudice aside, however, financial constraints were just as effective: it was difficult enough persuading Parliament to pay for British soldiers. (The 60th Royal Americans did, however, include substantial numbers of Swiss and German officers and men. Nevertheless, even from the outset Scots, English and Irish officers and soldiers also served in the unit, and it was not officially recognised as a foreign corps.)

In wartime the situation was sometimes slightly different. Hessian regiments were employed in Scotland in 1746, again in southern England during the invasion scare at the outset of the Seven Years' War, and most famously during the American War. However, although these contract units obviously came under the direct command of British officers, and were often supplied and paid by British commissaries, they remained very much a part of the Hessian, Brunswick, or whatever other army might have hired them out, and returned home again as soon as hostilities were concluded.



Soldier's breastplate, 42nd Highlanders, c. 1779. Originally Highland units carried both cartridge box and bayonet on a narrow belt around the waist, but the replacement of the belly-box some time during the American War with a larger cartridge box slung more conventionally on the right hip also necessitated the introduction of a new bayonet belt slung over the right shoulder. This rather crude copper breastplate appears to have been a locally produced item. (Author's Collection)

WEAPONS AND TACTICS

Linear tactics predominated throughout the 18th century, and centred around the application of firepower. The noted British superiority in this field, alluded to by O'Sullivan, can principally be attributed to three factors.

The first was the employment of the platoon firing system. Before 1764 the administrative organisation of the battalion into companies and the tactical organisation into platoons and grand divisions were quite separate – although the grenadiers were always left to their own devices. Immediately before a battalion went into action the major and his assistant the adjutant rode along the line telling the men off into platoons and grand divisions. The precise organisation varied according to the number of men present and fit for duty, and sometimes upon the major's interpretation of the drill book; but essentially the idea was to divide the battalion as evenly as possible into four grand divisions, each made up of about three, four or five platoons – about 30 men being reckoned to be the optimum for each platoon.

In 1764 the process was considerably simplified by formally dividing each company into two platoons and pairing off the eight battalion companies into four divisions, thus harmonising tactical and administrative organisation.

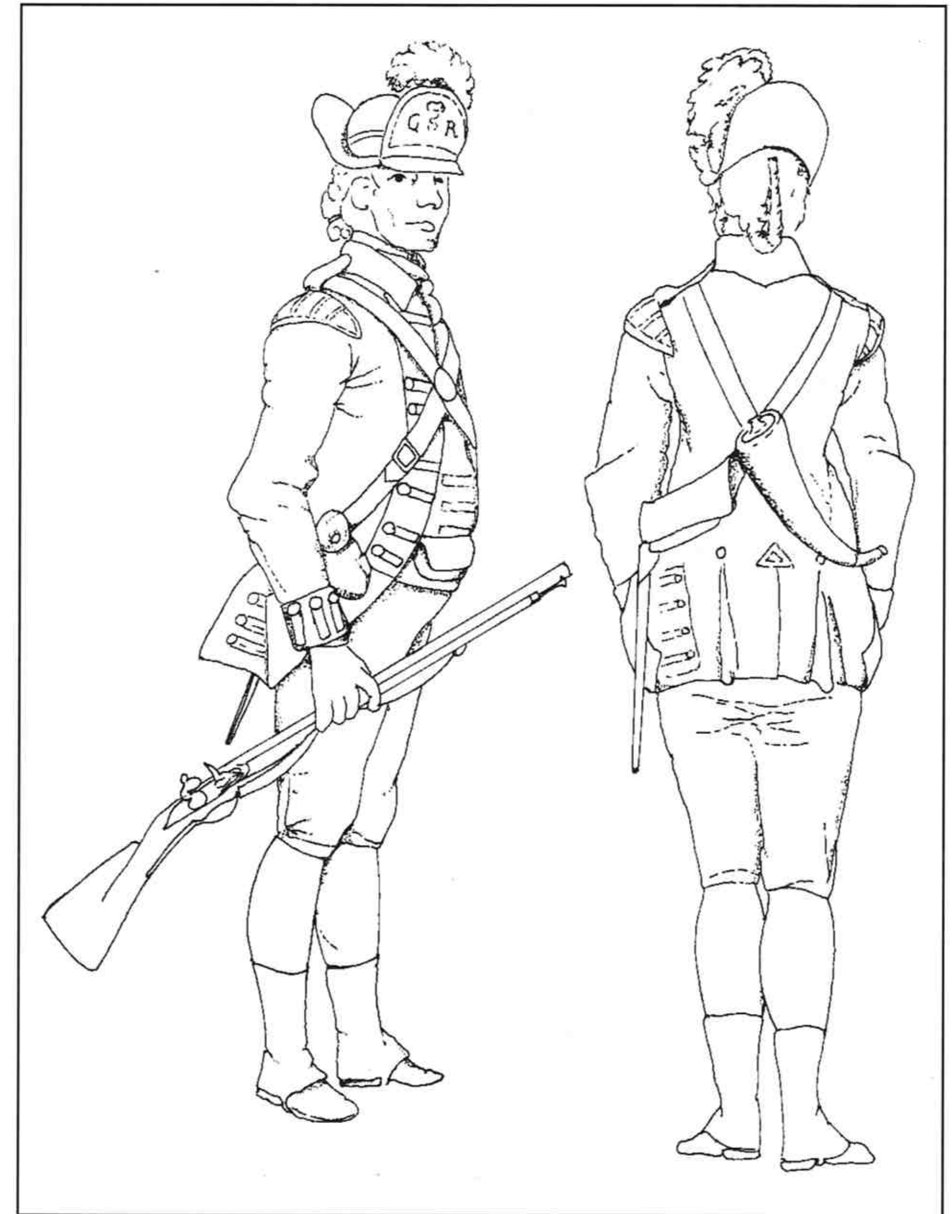
When the command was given to open fire only the first platoon in each of the grand divisions did so, being followed by the second, which in turn was followed by the third and so on. In theory, by the time the last platoon in the division had fired the first had reloaded and was ready to begin the cycle anew. In practice, what began as a well-conducted sequence soon degenerated into a free-for-all, with first each platoon and ultimately each individual loading and firing at will; but the effect was the same – a relentless meat-grinding barrage of fire.

The second factor was the general lack of proper training facilities for complete battalions and larger formations, which meant that such training as was carried out necessarily centred around the manual exercise (basic weapon handling) and platoon firing to a far greater degree than on the Continent.

Corporal, Warley Camp, 1778: after de Loutherberg. Identified as a soldier of the 25th, he lacks that regiment's bastion-shaped lace loops, although the foliage in his hat may recall its service at Minden – in the 18th-century laurel leaves or, failing that, any other available greenery seems to have been worn in preference to the 'Minden Roses' of more modern times. (Author's Collection)

Thirdly, and not to be despised, was the acknowledged superiority of the Land Pattern firelock and its derivatives, commonly known as the 'Brown Bess'. This flintlock musket had a calibre of 0.75 in. (12 bore) firing a 1¼-ounce soft lead ball. Initially it had a barrel length of 46 in., but this was officially superseded in 1768 by the 42 in.-barrelled Short Land Pattern. Although contemporary French firearms are generally held up as being of a superior quality, testimony from British officers is unanimous in stressing the real edge which they reckoned to have from the heavier weight of ball – though just as important, perhaps, was the equally superior quality of British gunpowder, which was made using saltpetre imported from Bengal towards the end of the century by the East India Company.

A preoccupation with the lethal application of firepower may also have encouraged the development of light infantry. This was probably in part a result of North American experience, but it also very largely reflected other European practices. Generally such troops were expected to serve as a lightly equipped striking force, capable of undertaking rapid marches and redeployments, rather than actually



Light infantrymen of the 69th Foot: after de Loutherberg, 1778. The rather odd-looking headgear has sometimes been interpreted as a cut-down hat, but this drawing fairly clearly shows it to be the ordinary stiff leather light infantry cap with the addition of a small peak at the front to shade the eyes, and a larger flap at the back capable of being turned down to protect the neck in bad weather. The bullet bag and large powder horn were found to be of little use during the American War and were officially discarded afterwards. The soldier on the right also appears to have a tomahawk case – another item discarded during the post-war reorganisations (Author's Collection)

serving as battlefield skirmishers. They were certainly encouraged to make use of cover when it was available, and good marksmanship was stressed, but there were few formal light infantry drills as such. If it came to a fight in the open they generally seem to have formed up shoulder to shoulder like everyone else.

The introduction of light companies in infantry battalions was, it is true, originally intended to provide some flexibility; but in practice the light companies were almost invariably creamed off, together with the grenadiers, to form provisional 'flank battalions'. If numbers permitted – as during the principal campaigns of the American War – separate battalions of light infantry and grenadiers might be formed, but otherwise the two categories would simply be brigaded together in mixed units. In practice this made little difference since their actual, as opposed to theoretical, roles were virtually identical.

Despite the existence of official drill books, prior to the adoption of Dundas's famous manual in 1792 there was little consistency in their interpretation, and most regiments had their own ways of doing things. Indeed, the satirical *Advice to Officers* published ten years earlier cheerfully recommended its readers: 'When promoted to the command of a regiment from some other corps, show them that they were all in the dark before, and overturning their whole routine of discipline, introduce another as different as possible.'

Inefficient though this might seem, it did not prevent British infantrymen from proving themselves to be the best in the world. Indeed, the very lack of rigid consistency highlights the fact that far from being a stiffly pipeclayed automaton, the British soldier of the 18th century was tough, resourceful and above all adaptable.

THE PLATES

A: Scotland

A1: Grenadier, 21st Foot; Culloden, 1746

The two 'Additional' companies were recruiting for this regiment in Scotland when the last Jacobite rising began, and it was also one of three regular Scottish battalions to fight at Culloden on 16 April 1746. Fusilier Edward Linn afterwards wrote a vivid account of the battle in a letter to his wife:

'They fired 2 pieces of Cannon first upon us; we Returned them 6, & so they came up very boldly & very fast all in a Cloud together, sword in hand; they fired their pieces & flung them away, but we gave them so Warm a Reception that we kept a Continuall Closs ffireing upon them with our Small Arms; besides 2 or 3 of our Cannon gave them such a Closs with grape shott which galled them very much & so in ane instant they Retreated. . . . I never Saw a Small field thicker of Dead.'

Coats were worn with lapels buttoned over and skirts unhooked at Culloden – Linn recalled how he and his comrades kept their firelocks dry with their coat skirts. White gaiters were reserved for peacetime parade grounds and on campaign grey, black or brown were worn instead – a Morier painting of Cumberland at Culloden very clearly depicts the 13th Foot wearing black. As a grenadier this man is distinguished from lesser mortals by the now ornamental matchcase on his cartridge box sling, and by his elaborately embroidered mitre cap. As fusiliers all ranks of this regiment should have worn them, but in practice the battalion companies may have worn cheaper tricornes on active service. Most regiments simply bore the royal cypher on the front of their caps, but as a Royal regiment the 21st were permitted a badge, in this case the thistle enclosed within a strap bearing the old Scottish motto NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT. The caps worn by the battalion company men, as depicted in the 1742 Cloathing Book, differed slightly from that shown in that the white horse of Hanover was replaced on the little flap by another thistle.

A2: Sergeant Terry Molloy, 55th Foot; Ruthven Barracks, 1745

In August 1745 General Sir John Cope left Ruthven Barracks, near Kingussie, in the charge of 'a very good Serjeant and twelve Men'. On the 29th Sergeant Molloy's little command was surrounded by a force of rebels which he estimated to be upwards of 300 strong; but upon being summoned to surrender he stoutly replied that 'I was too old a Soldier to surrender a Garrison of such Strength, without bloody noses'. At this point the rebels 'threatened hanging me and my Men for Refusal [but] I told them I would take my Chance'. He then proceeded to beat off the assault which followed; and Cope after-

Scotland 1745/6
1: Grenadier, 21st Foot; Culloden, 1746
2: Sergeant Molloy, 55th Foot; Ruthven Barracks, 1745
3: Private, 64th Highlanders; Culloden, 1746

North America and the Caribbean
1: Private, 2/Royals; Havana, 1762
2: Private, 44th Foot; Monongahela, 1755
3: Private, 60th Foot; Niagara, 1759

B

Europe
1: Corporal, Battalion Company, 5th Foot; Wilhelmstal, 1762
2: Corporal Todd, 12th Foot, 1761
3: Lieutenant William Bannatyne, 13th Foot; Gibraltar, 1762

C

Light Infantry
1: Private, 85th Royal Volunteers, 1760
2: Officer, 90th Light Infantry, 1762
3: Private, 119th Light Infantry, 1762

D

25th Foot, Minorca
1: Grenadier, 1770
2: Private, Summer Guard Order, 1771
3: Private, Highland Company, 1771

E

1768 Regulations
1: Lieutenant John Dalgleish, 21st Foot, 1782
2: Sergeant, Light Company, 5th Foot, 1780
3: Corporal, 26th Foot (Cameronians), 1780

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North America
1: Marksman, 21st Foot; Ticonderoga, 1777
2: Private, 40th Foot; Germantown, 1777
3: Private, 42nd Highlanders; Halifax, 1784

G

1/Royals, Caribbean, 1790's
1: Lieutenant John Urquhart, San Domingo, 1794
2: Grenadier, San Domingo, 1794
3: Sergeant Major George Edington, Jamaica, 1793

H

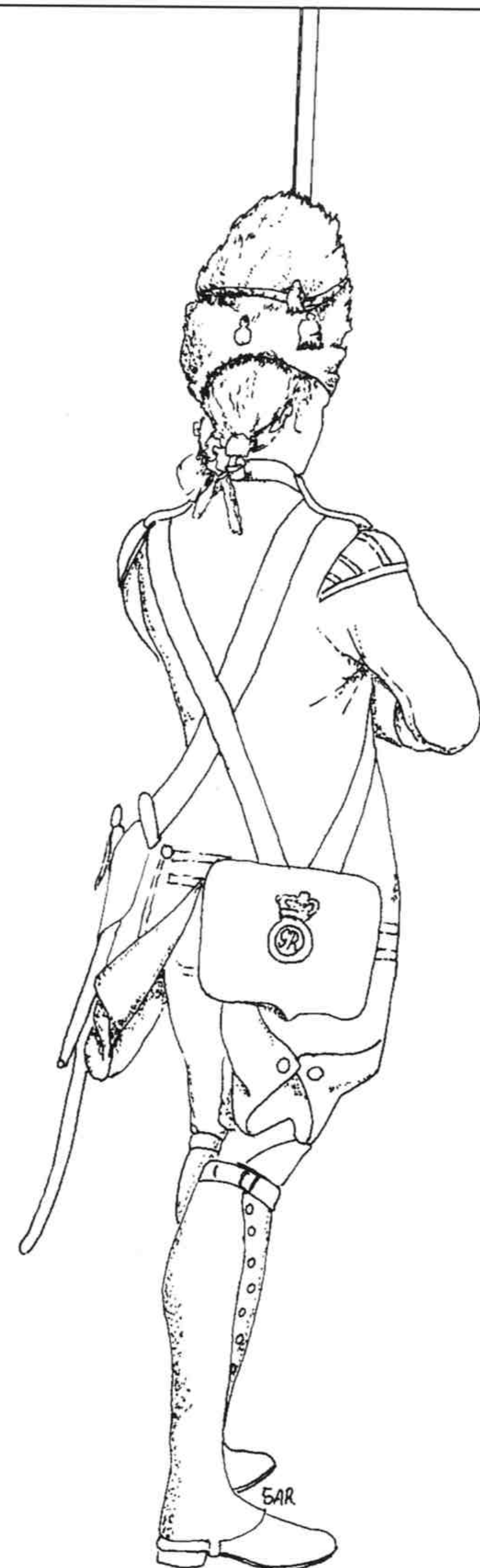
wards passed his report on to the Secretary of State for Scotland with a recommendation that Molloy 'be made an officer for his gallant behaviour'. It is pleasant to record that he is next heard of as Lieutenant Molloy, although by that time a second attack in February, this time with artillery support, had forced his surrender on very good terms.

Sergeant Molloy is depicted in his regimentals, with the gaiters left off – a common practice in barracks. As a Sergeant he would normally carry a halberd, though he was undoubtedly using a firelock on 29 August. Nevertheless, he is still distinguished by plain white lace on his uniform and a worsted sash around his waist. As it would obviously have been impossible for him to obtain an officer's regimentals while at the barracks his promotion was probably marked simply by shifting the sash from his waist to over his shoulder. He is depicted here wearing a hat, but as he was promoted to lieutenant rather than ensign it is possible that he and his men were grenadiers.

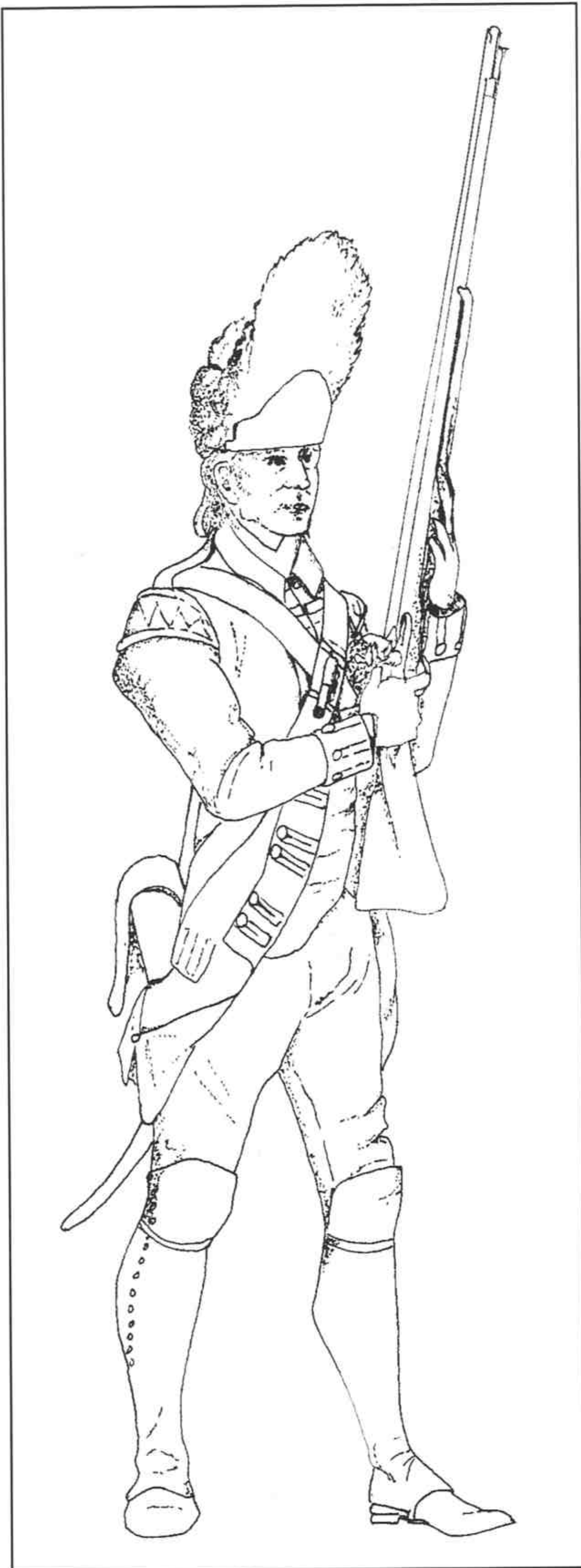
Originally raised in Scotland in 1741, Lee's 55th Foot became the 44th after the disbandment of Oglethorpe's 42nd and ten regiments of Marines in 1749.

A3: Private, 64th Highlanders; Culloden, 1746

Besides the three regular Scottish battalions, the British army at Culloden included a Highland unit – the Argyll Militia. Many of its company commanders were actually regular officers, and some further stiffening was found in the shape of three companies of Loudon's 64th Highlanders. One of these companies, led by Captain Colin Campbell of Ballimore, played an important part in the battle, although Ballimore himself and half a dozen of his men were killed in a rather one-sided firefight towards the end of the battle with the retreating 'French' regulars of the Royal Ecossois. After Culloden the 64th were



Good rear view of a grenadier of the 69th: after de Loutherberg, 1778. Note the small grenade badge on the rear of the bearskin cap, and the crowned cypher on the cartridge box flap. The cartridge box itself is also of interest in that no large buckles are visible on the sling, which is presumably directly attached instead to small buckles on the bottom of the box. The use of swords at this period is unusual and was probably confined to dress parades. (Author's Collection)



sent to Flanders, and served at Bergen op Zoom before being disbanded in 1748.

A surviving invoice from 1746 relates to the provision of a green sett with red and yellow overstripes – apparently very similar to 'Hunting MacLeod'. This reconstruction, however, is based on two surviving portraits of officers and what looks like a pair of red-tartaned Highlanders in the background of Morier's painting of the Royal Artillery at Roermond in early 1748. The red tartan appears to be the Stuart of Bute sett (see MAA 261), and particularly noteworthy is the simple red-checked waistcoat.

B: North America and the Caribbean

B1: Private, 2/Royals; Havana, 1762

The 2nd Battalion of the Royals spent most of the war in North America, but after the conquest of Canada they were redeployed to the Caribbean. This figure is taken from a painting by Domenic Serres, an artist who accompanied the expedition against Havana. The only concession to the climate appears to be the short ankle-length gaiters worn instead of the usual thigh-length variety, although 1/Royals were ordered in 1762 to wear white waistcoats, and presumably white breeches as well. Swords were still officially supposed to be worn by battalion companies, but in fact were increasingly left off as a useless encumbrance. By the 1750s the hair, which had previously been brushed up under the soldier's hat, was being tied back; but it was common in the American campaigns at least to have it cropped short, and standing orders for the 78th Highlanders specifically laid down that hair should be tied back only if it was long enough to do so.

B2: Private, 44th Foot; Monongahela, 1755

In September 1754 Halkett's 44th (formerly the 55th) were despatched to North America under General Braddock. At the time they were carried on the Irish Establishment and could only muster 350 rank and file, but a further 350 men were added through drafting from other battalions and by beating up for new recruits on their arrival in America. The drafted men were probably absorbed without too much difficulty – it was, after all, a common practice – but the large number of new recruits must have been more of a liability than an asset, and probably contributed to the regiment's poor performance at the Monongahela on 9 July 1755. After the battle the battalion was again brought up to strength by recruiting in the colonies, and consequently by the end of the war it was to all intents and purposes an American regiment.

A front view of another grenadier, again after a de Loutherberg sketch. Note the vandyke arrangement of the lace on the wings. Although as a grenadier he wears a sword, it was noted in 1784 that none had actually been carried in action during the American War and they were accordingly recommended to be dispensed with. (Author's Collection)

This figure is based upon General Braddock's entirely sensible instructions issued before beginning his fateful march. The usual red wool breeches and waistcoat were replaced by cooler linen ones, and most items of equipment – belts, pouches and swords, were left in store.

B3: Private, 60th Foot; Niagara, 1759

As an alternative to the expensive and inefficient process of deploying regiments from the English and Irish Establishments across the Atlantic, tentative attempts were made in the middle of the 18th century to create an American Establishment. General Oglethorpe raised the 42nd in England in 1738 for service in his colony of Georgia, and at the end of the following year Colonel Spotwood received letters of service for the 43rd, this time to be raised in America. In 1744 and 1745 two New England regiments were added, the 65th and 66th. The 43rd (better known as Gooch's) were disbanded as early as 1743, but the others survived until 1748. However, the two New England regiments were re-raised in 1754 as the 50th and 51st respectively. Neither, unfortunately, survived the capture of Fort Oswego in 1756, and they were formally disbanded on 25 December 1756. In the meantime letters of service for the four battalions of the 62nd, later 60th Royal American Regiment, were issued on 25 December 1755.

In May 1757 Colonel Prevost recommended that as their service would very largely be in the woods they should wear a ranger-style uniform with a short jacket, simple kilt, Indian leggings and a stiff leather cap – a 'bonnet l'Allemand' as he called it. This uniform can be seen worn by two soldiers in the background of a painting of Sir William Johnson, head of the Indian Department. Neither man wears a kilt, but their unlaced coats have been cropped short, *mitasses* or Indian leggings are worn in place of gaiters, and they have black leather caps bearing the Royal cypher.

C: Europe

C1: Corporal, Battalion Company, 5th Foot; Wilhelmstal, 1762

This figure, largely based on a watercolour sketch by Sandby, illustrates how the basic infantry uniform was evolving. He is distinguished as a corporal by the looped 'knot' of white worsted tape behind his right shoulder. Unlike the similar knots or aiguilettes worn by officers and some cavalrymen, the corporal's knot appears to have originated in the extra skein of slow match issued to corporals of musketeers during the 17th century.

The old duffle-bag-type knapsack, virtually unchanged since the days of the Great Civil War, has now been replaced by a rectangular one, worn square on the back. The gaiters are also quite different from those worn in the 1740s, being made of waterproofed black linen with stiff leather tops. Red breeches were still prescribed for non-Royal regiments, but increasingly white or off-white cloth or linen ones were being worn instead, since they were more comfortable and much easier to keep clean. This widespread practice would soon be sanctioned for all regiments by the Royal Warrant of 1768.

The bearskin cap being worn by this battalion company soldier was an unofficial distinction peculiar to the 5th Foot. At Wilhelmstal on 24 June 1762 they forced the crack Grenadiers de France and Grenadiers Royaux to surrender, and promptly celebrated the victory by appropriating their fur caps. They also took a colour which somehow failed to get handed in to the proper authorities, and was paraded ever after (despite official disapproval) as a third or 'Drummer's Colour' – a tradition still maintained by the regiment today, although the original trophy, sadly, perished in a fire long ago.

C2: Corporal Todd, 12th Foot, 1761

Each infantry battalion had a pioneer section comprising a corporal and eight men, made up of one man from each company except the grenadiers. In addition to their ordinary infantry equipment they carried axes and saws, and wore russet leather

aprons. In 1768 the cloth forage cap depicted here was ordered to be replaced by a leather cap trimmed with fur, probably not unlike those worn by the Highland Company of the 25th – see Plate E3; but by the 1790s they generally had grenadier caps with distinctive plates.

A notable pioneer was Corporal Todd of the 12th Foot, who left an interesting journal of his service with the army in Germany. On 18 November 1761 he and some of his men were taken prisoner by the French while cutting wood, and no fewer than seventeen pages of his journal are devoted to the nine days which he spent in captivity before being exchanged on the 27th. On the whole he and his men were treated reasonably well, but they had to contend with some determined attempts to entice them into joining the French army's Irish Brigade. Ten ducats a man and rapid promotion were offered, but Todd and his pioneers refused to budge, even after a heated exchange which ended when one of the Irish 'drew his sword and made a lunge at me and cut me over the eye in a shocking manner'.

Another coat worn by John Dalgleish, while serving in the 21st c. 1790. The embroidered button loops of the earlier coat have been replaced by gold braid, and the epaulette has altered quite markedly, though it still retains the regiment's thistle badge. (NMS)

Ivory-hilted dirk marked up to an officer of the 72nd Highlanders, post 1785. Such dirks were popular secondary or 'undress' weapons in many units, but it is interesting to find this particular style carried in a Highland regiment. (NMS)

C3: Lieutenant William Bannatyne, 13th Foot; Gibraltar, 1762

William Bannatyne was a typical example of that class of officer characterised by a contemporary as private gentlemen 'without the advantage of birth and friends'. Born at Dores near Inverness in 1738, he was the son of a Presbyterian minister. His elder brother Robert served in the East India Company's Madras Army with some distinction before his death at Conjeveram in 1759; and his stepbrother, Forbes MacBean (another minister's son) commanded a battery at Minden and died a general. One of his sisters married an Army officer, and he himself married the daughter of one.

Despite its strategic importance Gibraltar remained a backwater throughout the Seven Years' War, and Bannatyne therefore found no opportunity for rapid advancement. Entering Pulteney's 13th Foot as an ensign on 3 January 1756 at the age of 17½, he obtained his Lieutenancy on 1 August 1759, but was still a lieutenant when he transferred on to the Half-Pay of Monson's 96th Foot at the beginning of September 1765.

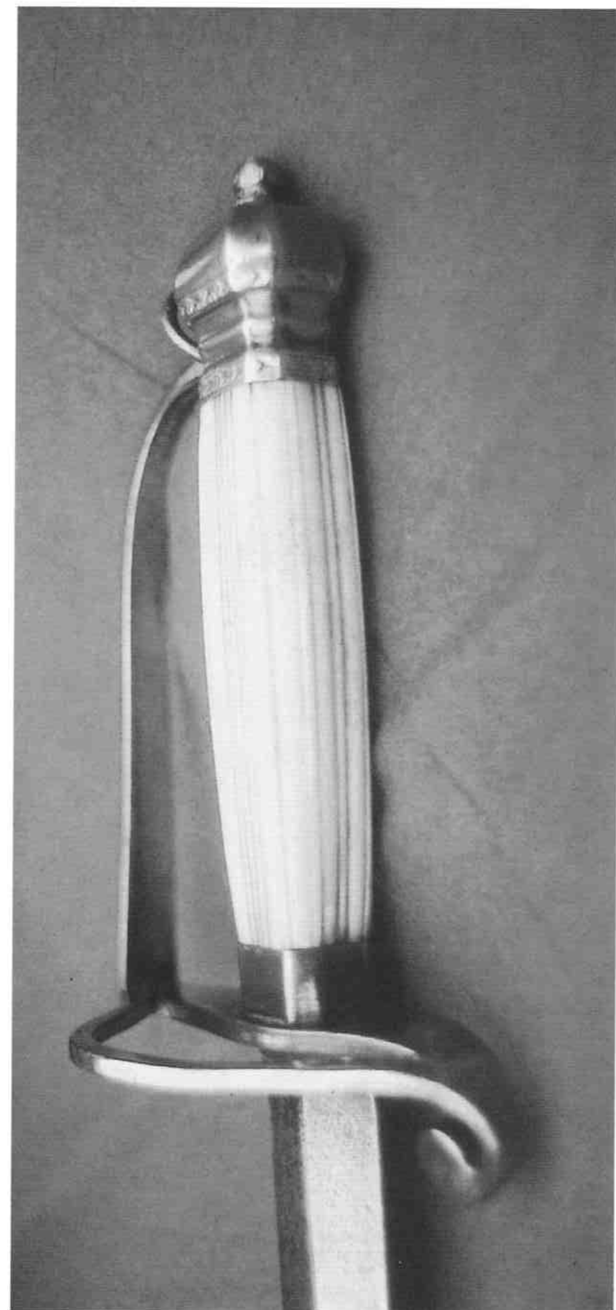
The Gibraltar garrison was normally renowned for its spit and polish, but some concessions must have been made to the climate, for a 1766 inspection (by which time they had returned home) revealed that the 13th were already wearing white waistcoats and breeches, and had white linings to their coats instead of the required philemot yellow facing colour. Gaiters were normally worn by infantry officers on parade, but as adjutant, a post which he held from 29 September 1760 until his retirement, Lieutenant Bannatyne was required to be mounted and therefore wore boots.

D: Light Infantry

D1: Private, 85th Royal Volunteers, 1760

Inspired by the exploits of the Croats and Pandours in the Imperial service and their opponents and imitators in France and Germany, Britain too raised a number of regiments of light infantry during the Seven Years' War. The 85th, which took part in the successful Belle Isle expedition, was one of the earliest, and this reconstruction is based on both a contemporary drawing and a report of an inspection carried out at Newcastle upon Tyne on 10 March 1760:

'The officers and men had swords, the officers armed with fuzees, and have cross buff belts. They wear their sashes round the waist. . . . Uniform a red coat without lapels, with blue cuffs and capes, silver



Gilt and ivory hilt of the elegant spadroon. This infantry officer's sword is often said to have been introduced in 1786, but portraits show it carried during the later stages of the American War. (Author's Collection)

loops lined white – double breasted short waistcoats of white cloth and breeches of the same – hats cocked in the manner of King Henry VIII with a plume of white feathers. The arms much lighter than those of the infantry. Officers and men have hangers – the men short but young – accoutrements new, pouch belt much narrower than what is used by the infantry, the waistbelt worn across the shoulder. The men have red coats without lapels, blue cuffs and capes with white loops lined white – double breasted short waistcoats of white cloath, breeches of the same – hats cocked in the manner of King Henry VIII with a narrow white lace, and plume of white feathers, no white or black gaiters but a black leather gaiter which comes half way up the leg.'

The firelock was presumably the 0.67 cal. Light Infantry Carbine first set up in 1758. Curiously the drawing shows what at first appears to be an elegant walking stick, but given the continental influences this is much more likely to be a *Jäger*-style aiming rest.

D2: Officer, 90th Light Infantry, 1762

Although the 85th sported rather rakish hats, most British light infantrymen wore caps or helmets of some description. This figure is based upon a portrait by Reynolds of Lieutenant Dan Holroyd, killed at Havana in 1762. This particular style of cap, with minor variations, was to be one of the most popular. Holroyd's coat is also interesting. Although conventional enough in having prominent lapels, albeit negligently fastened as seems to have been the fashion, the cuffs are much smaller than usual and cut in light dragoon style. Reynolds neglected to depict Holroyd's lower legs, but it is likely that the 90th's officers wore short ankle-length gaiters on Cuba.

The choice of a spontoon for a light infantry officer is at first sight surprising since it was much more usual to find them equipped with fusils or 'fuzees'; but there was actually a good case for insisting that an officer should devote all his attention to leading his men rather than becoming involved personally in the firefight.

D3: Private, 119th Light Infantry, 1762

While the uniform and equipment of the 85th was clearly based upon that worn by German *Jägers*, one of Morier's paintings shows that the short-lived 119th wore a curious uniform which, with the exception of the helmet, was very largely copied from the *Jägers'* opponents, the Croats in Imperial service. The classically styled helmet was the most distinctive feature, but perhaps rather more noteworthy are the white Hungarian breeches or pantaloons and ankle boots. The pike is another indicator that the commanding officer, Colonel Hon. Charles Fitzroy, was influenced by the practices of the Austrian *Grenztruppen*. The pike used by the latter had a small hook set in the side in order to serve as an aiming rest as well as a useful defence against cavalry. That carried by the 119th, however, was a simple staff on the end of which could be 'fixed' a fairly long sword-bayonet. The hilt of this sword was a simple tube which slotted on to the end of the staff, but it is not clear from Morier's painting whether it was also capable of being fixed on to the firelock.

Officer's breastplate, 1st or Royal Regiment. Gilt with silver beading and star, this masterpiece of the jeweller's art is unlikely to have been worn in action. The thistle badge was peculiar to officers of the regiment; rankers had St. Andrew in the centre of the collar and no crown. In 1799 the British Military Library noted: 'The ornaments on the breastplate being variously arranged to denote the Battalion.' This example is thought to be from the 1st Battalion. (NMS).

A set of drawings in the Royal Collection, dated to about 1770, shows a slightly different uniform for a light infantry unit – perhaps the projected light companies – with ordinary gaiters and no lapels on the coat, although the helmet appears very similar to this one. The light infantrymen in the drawings are armed with half-pikes or spontoons, but while Morier depicts ordinary firelocks – presumably the 0.67 cal. Light Infantry Carbine – those shown in the drawings seem to be armed with rifles or carbines with folding 'spear' bayonets, again perhaps fired using the pike as an aiming rest.

E: 25th Foot, Minorca

The 25th (Edinburgh) Regiment is particularly well documented in two series of paintings and sketches depicting officers and men serving on Minorca in about 1770. Although the 1768 Warrant should in theory have taken effect by that time, their uniforms display some quite marked divergences from it. Some are perhaps explicable by the men wearing out their old clothing, but others appear to be unauthorised regimental distinctions.

E1: Grenadier, 1770

The grenadiers are a case in point. In theory they should have been wearing the regulation pattern bearskin cap with a black metal plate in front bearing the King's crest and motto, NEC ASPERA TERRENT. In fact two variants are shown in the paintings, neither of which conforms to this pattern. Commonest is a plain black bearskin without a plate, although two men are shown wearing the very distinctive variety seen here. Bearskin caps had been noted in inspection reports as far back as 1766 and their 'plain fronts' were remarked upon in 1768. This white metal plate may therefore have been a short-lived regimental pattern introduced after that date. At any rate a portrait of a grenadier officer named Charles Watson shows that the regulation pattern had certainly been adopted by about 1780.

Dirk carried by Lieutenant John Urquhart, 1/Royals, on San Domingo. The grip is a replacement – the original was reeded black ebony – and the blade is 8 inches long. (Author's Collection)

The grey blanket appears to be a substitute for the hussar cloak recommended by Cuthbertson for sentries, while the white garters supporting the gaiters are a regimental distinction noted as early as 1768. The red waistcoat should of course have been replaced by a white one long since; and two years after the promulgation of the 1768 regulations this man is still wearing the old pattern of regimental lace.

E2: Private, Summer Guard Order, 1771

Although it is common to portray 18th-century British soldiers sweating in their heavy red woollen coats in the hottest of climates, more sensible measures were frequently employed in practice. At the very least coats could be lined with linen or even have no lining at all; but this unusual, if not unique, white linen uniform is depicted in one of the Minorca paintings.

76 First (or the Royal) Regt. of Foot (1st. Bat.)

Rank.	Name.	Rank in the Regiment.	Rank in the Army.
Colonel	Lord Adam Gordon	9 May 1782	Gen. 12 Oct. 93
Lieut. Colonel	Francis Dundas	31 Mar. 1787	Col. 12 Oct. 93
Major	Jeſſy Watſon Green	13 July 1791	
Captain	William Duncan	29 Sept. 1785	24 Dec. 75
	Francis Mannuch	25 June 89	
	Christopher Morſhead	30 Jan. 90	
	W. Ja. Cockburne, *Bt.*	9 Mar. 91	
	John Clayton Cowell	12 Sep.	24 Jan. 91
	Gordon Skelly	16 Oct. 92	
	Samuel Stone	7 Aug. 93	26 Mar. 93
Captain Lieut. and Captain	Wm. Hutchinſon	9 Nov. 1792	
Lieutenant	Robert Nicholſon	28 Feb. 1787	
	John Puſley	30 June	
	John Clunes	25 June 89	
	William Duncan	30 Sep.	4 Aug. 81
	James Blair	24 Mar. 91	9 Feb. 91
	Neil McKellar	30 Nov.	
	James Garth	24 Jan. 92	
	Henry Erſkine	26 July	
	John Urquhart	16 Oct.	
	Hutton Rowe Spencer	15 May 93	
	David Rattray	24 do.	
Enſign	Thomas Seaver	5 Sept 1791	
	James Campbell	30 Nov.	
	Alexander Daviſon	20 July 92	
	Hugo Robert Arnot	9 Oct.	
	Matthew Smith	16 do.	
	John Garſton	17 do.	18 Sep. 92
	J. Stewart Robertſon	15 May 93	
	—— Hall	24 do.	15 May 95
Chaplain	Miles Beevor	14 Feb. 1785	
Adjutant	Robert Nicholſon	16 Oct. 92	
Quarter-Maſter	Alexander Daviſon	28 May 82	
Surgeon	John Wright	13 Mar. 93	

Agent, Meſſrs. Meyrick, Parliament Street.

Officers of the 1st Battalion, Royal Regiment – better known as the Royal Scots – in the Army List for 1794. Published annually, the List was (and still is) an invaluable 'who's who', recording not only the names of all the officers serving in the Army but also their dates of seniority. (Author's Collection)

No bayonet belt is shown, so the soldier presumably fixed it before mounting guard and unfixed it again on returning to his quarters. The grenadiers wore a very similar jacket, distinguished only by small red square-cut wings (trimmed on the outside with regimental lace), and they still wore their fur caps – the plain variety – although they had no matchcases on the rather narrow slings of their cartridge boxes.

E3: Private, Highland Company, 1771

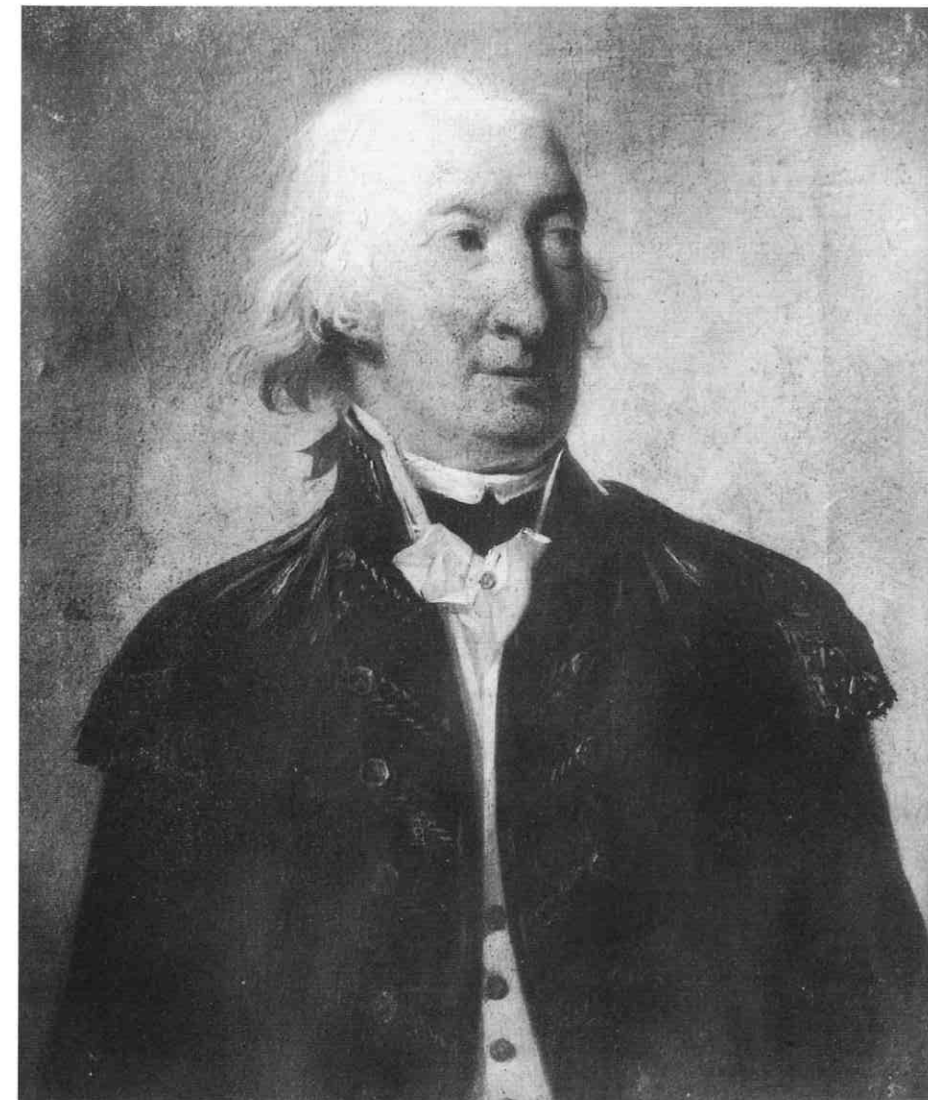
Anticipating the permanent creation of light companies, the 25th had a 'Highland Company'. The cap was of red lacquered leather trimmed with bearskin, but otherwise the uniform was very similar to that of the battalion companies, with both long and short gaiters being worn according to circumstances. There was in fact a feeling in many regiments that the short jackets prescribed for light infantrymen spoiled the symmetry of a battalion on parade. In this case the 'jacket' is simply an ordinary soldier's coat with cropped skirts – a recommended expedient – and the bastion-shaped lace loops prescribed for this regiment in 1768 have at last come into use.

Officers belonging to this company are shown in a large group painting wearing a very similar uniform, with short gaiters, and carrying basket-hilted broadswords suspended on white belts worn over the right shoulder. A regimental distinction which appears in a number of portraits and sketches of both officers and men of the 25th, at least until the 1790s, is the addition of white piping to the cuffs and lapels of the coat, and red piping to the waistcoat.

F: 1768 Regulations

F1: Lieutenant John Dalgleish, 21st Foot, 1782

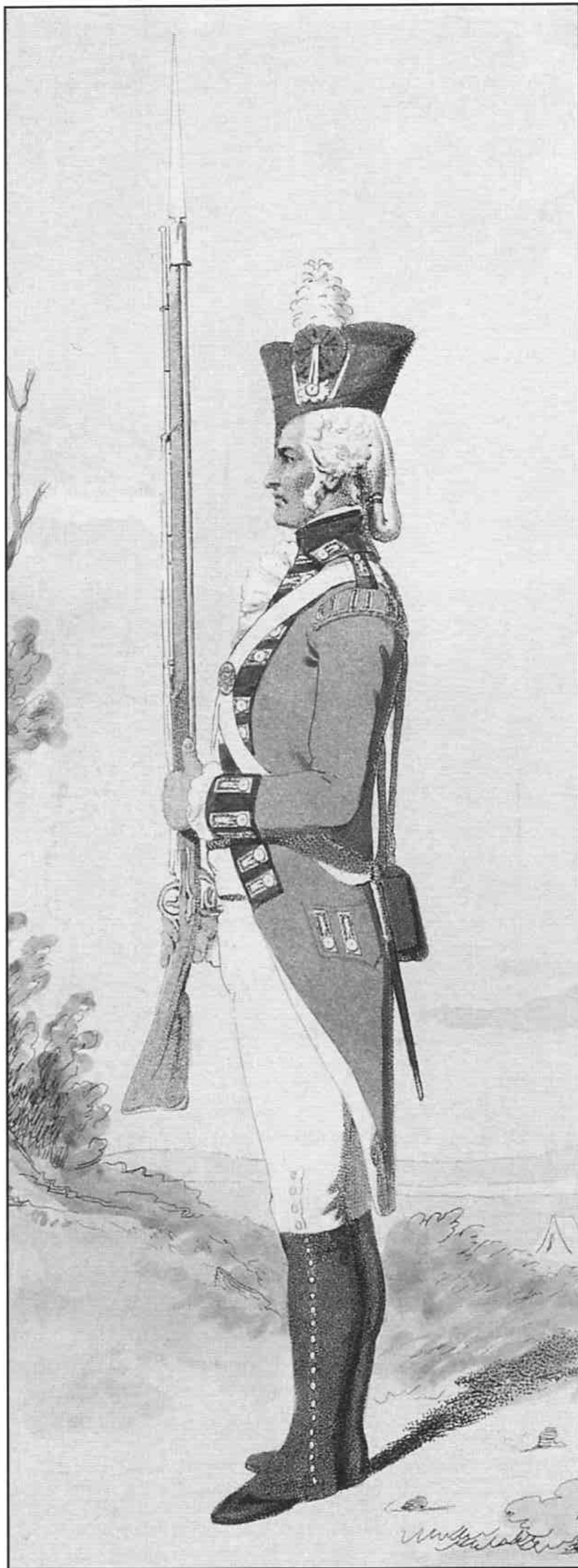
Like William Bannatyne of the 13th Foot, John Dalgleish was a professional soldier with neither money nor influence to recommend him. Born in Fife in 1755, he was unable to purchase a commission in the British Army, and so began his career by joining one of the regiments in the Dutch Army's



Lord Adam Gordon, 1726–1801, Commander-in-Chief Scotland 1782 to 1798, and Colonel of the Royals from 1782 until his death in 1801. (NMS)

Scots Brigade in 1774, before eventually obtaining a lieutenant's commission in the 21st Royal North British Fuziliers in 1776. Unfortunately, in the following year the 21st were amongst the regiments forced to surrender at Saratoga, and he remained a prisoner until 1780. Thereafter the rest of his career was spent in regimental duties at home and in the West Indies; he became a captain on 19 August 1789 and a major in September 1795, before retiring as lieutenant colonel in October 1797.

This figure has been reconstructed using one of two surviving coats belonging to Dalgleish and a portrait of another officer named Robert Hamilton Buchannan. As a fusilier officer he wears epaulettes on both shoulders, a distinction otherwise shared only with field officers, flank company officers and Highlanders. For the same reason he carries a fusil and, less commonly perhaps, has a bayonet for it but no sword. According to the 1768 regulations the 21st were to have the King's crest on the front plate of their bearskin caps and a thistle within the 'circle' of St. Andrew – their 'ancient badge'; but Buchannan's portrait simply shows the standard version, presumably because it proved too difficult to fit both badge and crest on to the same plate. In fact the bearskin cap was probably only worn by fusilier officers in full dress, and the ubiquitous Tarleton helmet became a popular substitute from the 1780s onwards. The 21st had leopardskin turbans on their helmets and a large silver thistle badge on the right side.



F2: Private, Light Company, 5th Foot, 1780
The 5th played an active part in the early campaigns of the American War. The flank companies fought at Lexington and Concord and the whole battalion was engaged at Bunker Hill; afterwards they formed part of the 2nd Brigade on Long Island and in the Pennsylvania campaign before being posted to the West Indies.

Despite a number of recommendations and regulations there appears, to have been no real consensus as to the best form of headgear to be worn by light infantrymen. At first a simple leather skullcap with a low front plate, like the 'bonnet l'Allemand' worn by the 60th in the 1750s, was advocated; but although examples are seen in use as late as 1790 this was generally rejected in favour of a variety of regimental patterns. This particular variant is also known to have been worn by the 9th Foot (with a Britannia badge on the front), and by a number of militia units seen at Warley Camp *c.* 1779–80. The brass crest provided protection against sword-cuts, and the peak to shade the eyes was a frequently demanded feature.

F3: Corporal, 26th Foot (Cameronians), 1780
The 26th, or Cameronians, were scattered in small detachments between Montreal, Trois Riviéres, Chambly, St. John's, Crown Point and Ticonderoga at the outbreak of the American War. It was Captain William Delaplace and 45 men of the 26th who formed the garrison of Ticonderoga when it was captured by Ethan Allen and his 'Green Mountain Boys' on 10 May 1776. The regiment did not subsequently play an important role in the war, and was eventually drafted in 1779, having spent nearly 14 years in North America.

This soldier, representing the archetypal infantryman of the American War, is dressed largely in accordance with the 1768 regulations, and armed with the 42 in. barrel Short Land Pattern firelock. His bayonet belt is now worn over the right shoulder, and in place of the knot formerly worn by corporals on that shoulder he wears a small white fringe on the end of a shoulder-strap as his mark of rank.

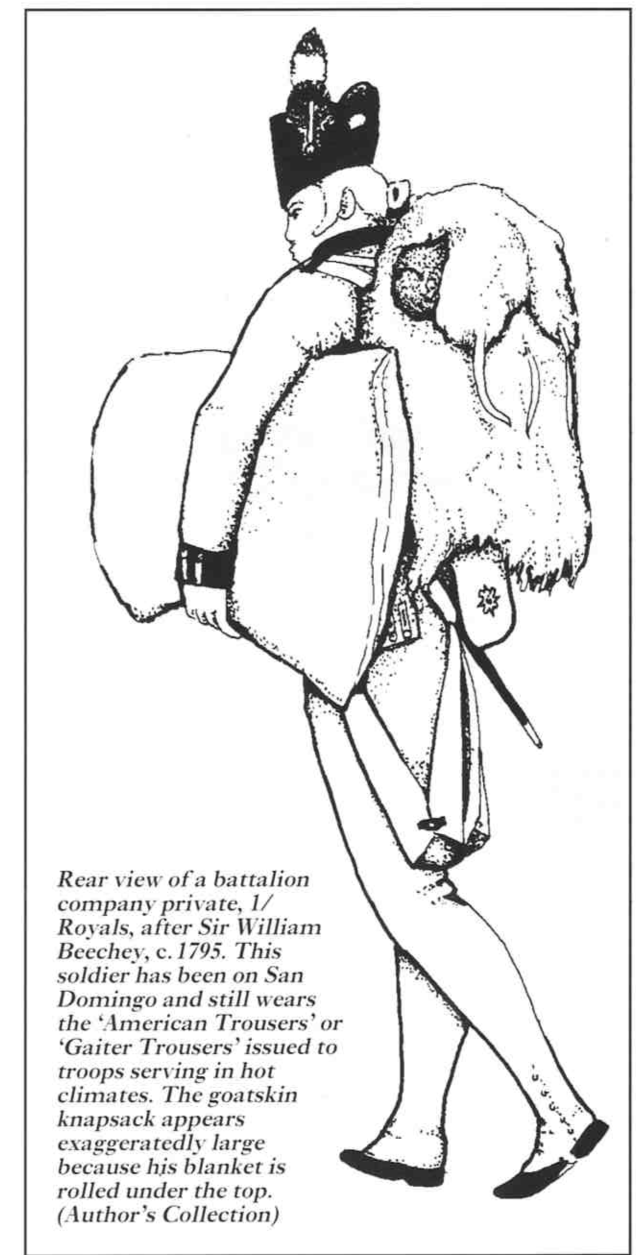
Grenadier, 1st or Royal Regiment, by Edward Dayes, c. 1790. This watercolour is particularly interesting in depicting a grenadier – identified by the wings on his shoulders – wearing a cocked hat instead of a furred cap. The old embroidered cloth grenadier cap seems to have been cheerfully worn in and out of season, but the bearskin cap which replaced it appears to have been much less popular and generally reserved for formal occasions. (NMS)

G: North America
G1: Marksman, 21st Foot; Ticonderoga, 1777
The brigading of flank companies into *ad hoc* battalions naturally deprived the parent units of their own skirmishers, and in order to cover this deficiency the practice arose of designating the best shots in each battalion company as 'marksmen' or 'flankers'. Ironically these unofficial skirmishers may sometimes have been better at their job than their counterparts in the regimental light companies, and were often creamed off in their turn. In 1776 General Burgoyne assembled a ranger unit of such marksmen under Captain Alexander Fraser of the 34th Foot, only to lose most of them at Bennington.

One man was demanded from each company for this unit. Each was to be selected for his strength, activity and marksmanship, and provided with a good firelock. It was further directed that they were to ascertain the best loads for their individual weapons and make up their own cartridges accordingly.

This figure is based upon a small group of figures in the foreground of a contemporary watercolour depicting Fort Ticonderoga. Like most light infantrymen they wear short jackets, but can be identified as marksmen by an absence of wings and the distinctive red waistcoats still worn by light company men. Also noteworthy is the fact that all the regimental lace has been stripped off their jackets. One man wearing yellow facings (perhaps of the 34th Foot) wears blue *mitasses* in place of the more usual gaiters, but the soldier in the blue facings of the 21st has buckskin leggings. All three wear peaked light infantry caps of slightly varying styles, and the marksman of the 21st has a small badge on the front of his; this is presumably his regiment's thistle within the star of St. Andrew, and probably came from the flap of his cartridge box. None of the caps bear a crest, but a well-known painting depicting the burial of General Fraser shows his nephew Captain Fraser with a cap surmounted by a luxuriant red mane.

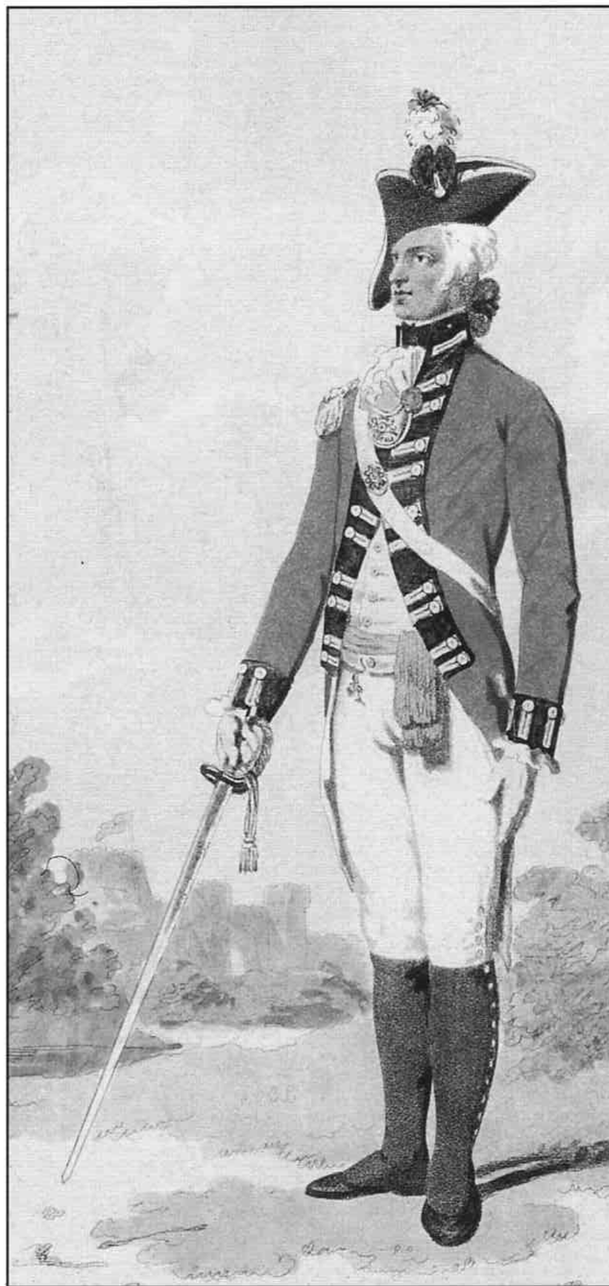
G2: Private, 40th Foot; Germantown, 1777
Two important paintings by Xavier della Gatta depict men of a light infantry unit and battalion companies of the 40th Foot during the Pennyslvania campaign of 1777. Both wear substantially similar uniforms, although the 40th are distinguished by the buff facings on their cuffs (the light infantry appear to have none) and buff rather than black equipment. En route to Pennsylvania General Howe had ordered the bayonet belt to be discarded and the scabbard attached to the cartridge box sling instead, but this seems to have met with some resistance, and Gatta shows the bayonet belt still worn over the right shoulder. This may have been due in part to a



Rear view of a battalion company private, 1/ Royals, after Sir William Beechey, c. 1795. This soldier has been on San Domingo and still wears the 'American Trousers' or 'Gaiter Trousers' issued to troops serving in hot climates. The goatskin knapsack appears exaggeratedly large because his blanket is rolled under the top. (Author's Collection)

reluctance to part with the regimental breastplates which were now replacing the old frame buckles on this belt.

While the light infantry wear white gaiter-trousers the men of the 40th wear the usual black ankle gaiters with white stockings and breeches. The latter should have been buff, like the regiment's facings, but those depicted are presumably linen or duck alternatives worn in warm weather. Also notable are the uncocked round hats worn by both units.



Officer, battalion company, 1st or Royal Regiment, by Edward Dayes, 1790. Dressed for 'duty' i.e. on guard or picquet, he has gaiters in place of boots. Note the black- or dark blue-tipped white hackle in his hat. (NMS)

G3: Private, 42nd Highlanders; Halifax, 1784

The rigours of campaigning naturally took their toll on Highland dress. As early as 1775 it was noted that broadswords were considered 'incumbrances' and had largely been abandoned in favour of bayonets (although some, perhaps just those belonging to the grenadier company, had been handed into store at Halifax as late as 8 December 1783). This figure is based upon the report of a later inspection carried out at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 9 June 1784:

'The 42nd could not appear in their full uniform for want of plaids, etc., which the C.O. thought proper annually to dispose of during the late War, to purchase a more commodious dress for the American service, with the approbation of the Commander in Chief [presumably Sir Guy Carleton]. The regiment appeared remarkably clean dressed . . . the men had on white strong ticken trousers with short black cloth gaiters.'

This soldier still wears the old 'belt order' comprising a belly-box and bayonet worn on a narrow waist belt, but by 1784 this had very largely been superseded by a more conventional set of black leather equipment comprising a large cartridge box on the right hip and the bayonet, suspended from a shoulder belt, on the left.

H: 1/Royals, Caribbean, 1790s

The 1st Battalion of the Royals, the senior infantry regiment in the British Army, were stationed in Ireland in the 1780s; but on 20 January 1790 they embarked 349 effectives at Cork on the *Chichester* (44) for Jamaica. With a further 21 rank and file left behind as a rudimentary depot, they were fully recruited up to the Irish establishment of 370 rank and file. On embarking they reverted to the English Establishment. In consequence the agency passed from Fraser and Reed of Dublin to Messrs. Meyrick of Parliament Street, London, and the depot was then allowed to beat up for recruits in Ireland.

They remained on Jamaica for the next four years, but at the beginning of 1794 were sent to San Domingo (Haiti) and served there until February 1797.

H1: Lieutenant John Urquhart, San Domingo, 1794

Most first commissions were obtained by purchase in peacetime but it was also possible for an aspiring officer to serve in the ranks until a non-purchase vacancy occurred. John Urquhart (1768–1848) originally enlisted as a private in 1/Royals in 1789 but obtained an Ensign's commission two years later and was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant on 16 October 1792. By the beginning of 1794 he was serving in the grenadier company and went with it to San Domingo. On 1 May he was captured after an abortive dawn attack on a fort at Bombarde, but released shortly afterwards. Subsequently he was attached to an émigré unit, Contade's Legion, before being promoted into the short-lived 106th Foot, and eventually becoming Assistant Military Secretary to the East India Company.

Besides their expensive 'regimentals' officers were advised to provide themselves with two 'frocks' or unlaced coats for everyday use, particularly on active service. Lieutenant Urquhart is depicted wearing a typical officer's campaign uniform comprising a round jacket, of the style popularised in the American War, without epaulettes or lace, and a round hat with a grenadier's white hackle. Although gaiters were supposed to be worn on parade or on duty, boots were *de rigueur* on service; the plain black boots shown are more likely to be the 'regimental' type referred to in orders than the rather soft pair worn by Captain Cowell.

Another officer of the Royals, Thomas St. Clair, describes a very similar uniform still being worn as late as 1806: 'Round hat, cockade, a small feather at the side, regimental jacket, Russia duck pantaloons, with sash and small dirk hanging by a waist belt to

Captain John Clayton Cowell, 1/Royals, after Sir William Beechey; Cowell appears to have been painted on his return from San Domingo in 1795. According to the battalion's monthly returns he was assigned to command one of the flank companies, but has only the single epaulette of a battalion company. Since he wears both his gorget and sash the soft boots may be the 'regimental' ones referred to in standing orders, but they are so clearly impractical that they are more than likely a personal affectation. Another unexplained personal foible is the tying of his sash cavalry-fashion on the right side, rather than on the left as was proper for infantry officers. (Author's Collection)

Scott sculp.

PACIFICATION *with the* MAROON NEGROES.

our sides.' The regimental pattern sword carried by officers in the Royals at that time had an uncommonly heavy blade – it was virtually a broadsword – so Urquhart's decision to carry a dirk for the bush-fighting on San Domingo is entirely understandable.

H2: Grenadier, San Domingo, 1794

On 8 July 1791 it was ordered that soldiers going to the West Indies should have a red jacket buttoning as a waistcoat – i.e. a single-breasted garment – distinguished by collar, cuffs and shoulder straps of the regimental facing colour, with gaiter trousers and a round hat. No mention was made of regimental lace; but the unusual use of a button loop on the shoulder strap is shown in a sketch by Dayes, and as a grenadier this man has wings on his shoulders. The wings were of course a traditional grenadier distinction, and both they and the fur crest on the round hat are shown in contemporary illustrations of troops in the West Indies. A painting of Captain John Clayton Cowell of 1/Royals *c.* 1795 shows that this particular battalion was equipped with white goatskin knapsacks.

The Royals' grenadier company, largely made up of long-service veterans, fared quite badly in the débâcle at Bombarde on 1 May 1794, with Corporal Thomas Hammond and five men killed, five more wounded, and 16 others besides Lieutenant Urquhart taken prisoner. Despite this they continued to serve creditably, most notably in storming a battery at Fort Bizeton in March 1795.

H3: Sergeant Major George Edington, Jamaica, 1793

Promotion of meritorious NCOs was surprisingly common in the 18th-century British Army, and an Irishman named George Edington was a fine example. First appearing as an 'acting ensign' in the monthly return for 20 May 1794, he was properly commissioned on 9 September, and became adjutant a month later. The latter appointment was not an uncommon one, since former NCOs generally knew the workings of a battalion inside out; but Edington later went on to become a lieutenant on 13 May 1795, and a captain on 6 December 1798, before retiring a year later.

Although short, single-breasted jackets were prescribed for all troops serving in the West Indies there is considerable evidence that some units, including the Royals, also took their full dress regimentals with them. Indeed the Royals were generally admitted to be the 'neatest, best-looking men in Port au Prince'. This figure is therefore closely based on a contemporary print by Bunbury. Apart from the white duck gaiter-trousers he is dressed pretty well as he would have been at home. As the battalion's senior NCO he wears what is effectively an officer's 'regimentals', being distinguished only by the substitution of silver lace for gold. The white hackle with the black or dark blue tip is a regimental variant which can be seen in both Dayes' sketches and a contemporary portrait.

Recommended Reading:

Alan J. Guy, *Oeconomy and Discipline* (Manchester, 1985)

J.A. Houlding, *Fit for Service: the Training of the British Army 1715–1795* (Oxford, 1980)

H. Strachan, *British Military Uniforms 1768–96* (London, 1975)

Left: Contemporary sketch 'from the life' by Bruyas, depicting British officers on Jamaica. All wear full regimentals. The curious animal badge on the grenadier's cap appears to be the antelope of the 6th Foot. (Author's Collection)

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Avec annotations en francais sur les planches en couleur.
Mit Aufzeichnungen auf Deutsch über den Farbtafeln

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