

KING GEORGE'S ARMY 1740-1793: (2)



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INTRODUCTION

The organisation and character of the 18th century British Army is discussed in the first part of this study; *King George's Army 1740-1793 (1)* [MAA 285]. The purpose of this volume is to look in rather more detail at infantry uniforms, and also to cover the various auxiliary infantry formations, such as Militia, Volunteers, Marines and the troops of the East India Company.

The 18th century was marked by a steady growth in central control of the British Army and a corresponding decrease in the influence enjoyed by individual commanding officers. The most obvious sign of this process was the increasing uniformity of the clothing issued each year to the soldiers. Nevertheless, as far as those who devised the Clothing Regulations were concerned, it was a constant, and invariably quite uphill struggle to enforce compliance.

The individual soldier's entitlement to clothing during this period was laid down in 1729 and only slightly amended by subsequent regulations. According to the 1729 Warrant each infantryman was supposed to receive:

'A good full-bodied Cloth Coat, well lined, which may serve for the Waistcoat the Second Year

A Waistcoat

A Pair of good Kersey Breeches

A Pair of good strong Stockings

A Pair of good strong Shoes

Two good Shirts and Two good Neckcloths

A good strong Hat, well laced.

For the SECOND YEAR:

A good Cloth Coat, well lined, as the First Year

A Waistcoat made of the former Year's Coat

A Pair of New Kersey Breeches

A Pair of good strong Stockings

A Pair of good strong Shoes



King's Colour, Barrell's 4th Foot. Carried at Culloden, this colour was briefly taken by the Jacobites, but recaptured by the end of the battle. Lieutenant Colonel Sir

Robert Rich and Ensign Brown were both badly wounded defending this colour and it bears obvious signs of damage. (Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland))

A good Shirt, and a Neckcloth

A good strong Hat, well laced

For the Fusilier Regiments, Caps once in Two Years

The new Waistcoat in the First year, is only to be given to Regiments new-raised, and to additional men, who are likewise to be furnished with Two Pair of Stockings and Two Shirts.'

Coat, waistcoat and breeches were all to be red, lined and turned up with the regimental facing colour. Royal regiments, by way of a distinction were permitted blue rather than red breeches though this privilege was not universally observed.

In 1768 the soldier's entitlement was varied slightly in that in the second and every succeeding year only a waistcoat front would be provided, the back part being made from the previous year's front (or to judge from surviving articles, any other handy



piece of material). This alteration was necessary because the 1768 Clothing Warrant had also required the replacement of the old red waistcoat and breeches with white 'small clothes'. At the same time regiments with buff facings were authorised to adopt buff small clothes. It was no longer possible therefore for old coats to be converted into waistcoats, or breeches for that matter. Such at least was the theory although mention of red breeches sometimes crops up during the subsequent American War and red waistcoats were also still being worn, perhaps unofficially for some years after 1768. Red waistcoats were also re-introduced, along with short jackets, for the newly-authorized light companies in 1771.

The 1768 Warrant also saw the official replacement of the cloth mitre cap worn by grenadiers with a black fur version. Previous to this date fur caps should only have been worn by the grenadiers of highland regiments. In actual fact the grenadiers of the 30th Foot also seem to have had them as early as 1755, while the 13th, 20th, 25th and 33rd were all reported to have been wearing them in 1766. An even more notable, or perhaps blatant case was the 5th Foot. For some time the battalion company men as well as the grenadiers defiantly wore the fur caps which they had captured from the French at Wilhelmstal in 1761.

Ironically, no sooner was the use of bearskin caps officially sanctioned than grenadiers began to become increasingly reluctant to wear caps at all except on formal parades, and even then only if they had to. All manner of excuses were advanced at inspections to explain the absence of caps. It would appear that

Private, 37th Foot, as depicted in the 1742 Clothing Book.

This regiment was wearing a rather old-fashioned style of uniform in 1742. Particularly noteworthy are the rather large plain cuffs and an absence of lace looping on the lapels. Although the lapels and turnbacks are yellow, the regimental facing colour, the cuffs are red. All lace is plain yellow. This uniform appears to have been modernised in 1743, when a number of regiments still wearing single

breasted coats were ordered to adopt lapels. By 1746, when they fought at Falkirk and Culloden, the 37th ought to have been wearing yellow cuffs of conventional style. The practice of wearing the belt on top of the coat with lapels displayed had also been abandoned by that time. Ordinarily the belt was worn under the coat in German fashion, except when the lapels were buttoned over and skirts unhooked in bad weather. (NMS)

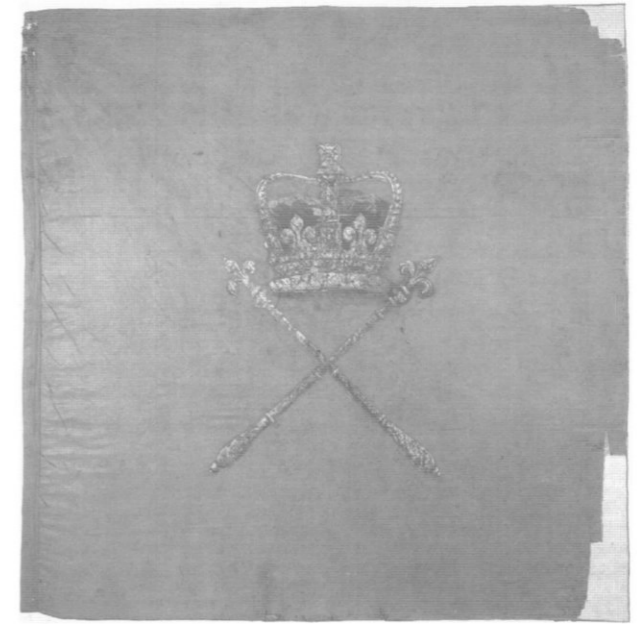
while the old cloth pattern was shabby and lacked style, it was also well nigh indestructible, was little affected by bad weather and could at the end of the day be jammed on any old how. The new bearskin variety in comparison was less comfortable and much less robust. In 1790 an inspecting officer casting his jaundiced eye over the 3/60th noted (no doubt with a straight face) that the hair had fallen off the pioneers' bearskin caps. Instead, grenadiers were increasingly seen wearing ordinary cocked hats distinguished only by a white hackle.

There appears to have been little or no uniformity in the style of cap worn by the Light Infantry Companies. The official pattern, a leather skull cap with an upright frontlet, was evidently unpopular and a considerable number of inspection reports on regiments note that the caps were 'not regulation'. By the end of the period the Tarleton style helmet may very largely have replaced the 'Chain Cap', as it was sometimes known, although a number of regiments had their own distinctive patterns.

Corporals were at first distinguished only by a white shoulder knot on the right, made either from cord or white worsted tape, but by the 1770s this was increasingly being replaced by an epaulette with a white worsted fringe.

Sergeants also wore substantially the same uniform as the rank and file although invariably of a superior quality – the coat being much nearer to scarlet than brick red. As a further distinction all sergeants had a red worsted sash tied around the waist with a central stripe in the regimental facing colour. Further distinctions were generally governed by regimental custom, but in the best regulated corps silver lace was substituted for the usual worsted variety and silver hilted swords were also common – the latter often being bought at the sergeants' own expense. Towards the end of the period the Sergeant Major could also aspire to a silver epaulette. Whether or not canes were carried by NCOs depended very much on regimental custom and practice.

It was the colonel's responsibility to contract, through his regimental agent, for most of this clothing at the best price which he could obtain. It was actually paid for, however, out of the 'Off-Reckonings' – that portion of the annual pay due to each soldier in the battalion, over and above his 'subsistence'. It was recognised that the colonel would



Regimental Colour, Barrell's 4th Foot. Also carried at Culloden, this blue colour appears to be rather unusual in having no Union in the canton. Like the King's colour it

bears a crown and sceptre in the centre, though oddly enough in this case without the lion passant on top of the crown seen on that colour. (NMS)

usually be able to make a profit or 'dividend' on the transaction and although there were occasional queries over the size of this dividend, it was generally accepted to be one of his legitimate perquisites.

A similar practice was followed by the East India Company, except that since there were no 'Colonel Proprietors' in that service the 'dividends' were split between all the field officers and captains.

In practice the colonel only provided what was called the 'Large Mounting'; that is the major items such as the coat, waistcoat and breeches. The shirt, neck-cloth or stock, pair of shoes and pair of stockings due to each soldier annually, was referred to as the 'Small Mounting' or 'Half Mounting' and could either be provided along with everything else by the colonel, or else the equivalent value might be paid or credited to the individual soldier. The various items might then be bought either by the company officers, or by the soldiers themselves.

Hard cash was also supposed to be paid, or at the very least credited to the soldier when the clothing supplied was deficient in any way.

From 1790 sergeants of regiments bound for the

West Indies were to receive compensation of four shillings and sixpence (22½p), being the difference in value between the short single-breasted jacket worn in the islands, and the fairly substantial coat normally



provided. Privates and Corporals did not fare quite so well, being allowed only one shilling and ninepence (9p) in compensation, though all also received money in lieu of breeches and stockings, which were to be replaced by trousers. This money was to be 'carried to the credit of each man's account, and laid out for him to the best advantage, under the direction of the Colonel of his Regiment'.

In most cases this money will have been used to offset the cost of what were referred to as 'Necessaries'. These were additional items of clothing and equipment, such as gaiters, knapsacks, brushes, boot-polish, extra shirts, stockings, spare pairs of breeches and so on. A rather notable omission from the mountings and necessaries, is any official mention of underwear and in particular drawers. Since they are known to have worn them the soldiers presumably had to make their own arrangements. The only official provision of drawers was made after 1791 when a pair of flannel ones was allowed to soldiers serving in the West Indies, to wear under their thin ticken trousers at night.

Otherwise, necessaries were normally paid for by deductions from the subsistence portion of the soldier's pay although a 1792 Warrant also allowed each soldier the cost of a second pair of breeches, a pair of gaiters, and some other small items including the cost of making up a forage cap from scrap material. In any case the charges made or deducted for necessaries were normally a paper transaction since most (the knapsack being an obvious case in point) were actually provided through the quartermaster. Otherwise the individual soldier was again sometimes given a cash allowance and permitted to acquire the items himself at the best price he could find.

Fusilier, 21st Foot (Royal Scots Fusiliers), as depicted in the 1742 Cloathing Book. The cap worn by this battalion company soldier differs somewhat from the version worn by a grenadier of the regiment, as depicted by David Morier in 1748. This one has a blue front (the regiment's facing colour), the star of St. Andrew is white with a yellow collar enclosing a red thistle on a green roundel. The little flap or frontlet is also blue and bears a thistle in its

natural colours. The title 'ROYAL FUZILIERS' is picked out in black on a white strip. The grenadiers, according to Morier, had a thistle encircled by a collar bearing the motto 'NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT', surmounted as usual by a crown. The frontlet is red, rather than blue, and has the usual running horse device and motto 'NEC ASPERA TERENT'. The tuft on the top was of mixed white and blue threads. (NMS)

Greatcoats were not provided, since the full skirted regimental coat was in effect a greatcoat. Bennet Cuthbertson, writing in 1768, recommended however that a 'proper number of Huzzar-cloaks' should be provided for sentries. These had large falling capes or hoods and he recommended that blue 'is the most lasting colour'. Company numbers were to be marked in red under the hood. Practice obviously varied from regiment to regiment. Cuthbertson was serving in the 5th who clearly had more than one watchcoat per company. The 37th on the other hand had only a single watchcoat per company, though it was at least of the 'hussar kind' and made of blue cloth turned up with red. Perhaps more typical was the 54th Foot. When the clothing of five companies was lost in Long Island Sound in 1781, it included 52 watch coats – 10 per company.

The clothing warrants proceeded on the assumption that coats, waistcoats and breeches would require to be replaced annually – given ordinary wear and tear. However most regiments very sensibly retained the old clothing as long as possible in order that the new clothing could be reserved for inspections and other formal parades.

It was also customary during the 18th century for

the new clothing to be issued in time to be properly fitted to the soldier and worn for the first time on the king's birthday parade in the summer – officially 4 June. Obviously this was not always possible during wartime and considerable delays were often experienced in providing new clothing to regiments in foreign parts.

Some regiments in the West Indies seem to have gone for years without a proper clothing issue. The most notorious case was the 38th Foot, exiled to the Caribbean for 59 years between 1706–65. In March 1745 the Governor of the Leeward Islands complained: '... from the distance between one clothing and another, which amounts at most to three clothings in four years, the men now, instead of being tolerably clothed are in rags, most of them bear [sic] headed, recruits in ragged sea frocks, trousers and not a cartouch box among the latter, as some of the others, not a sword in the whole regiment'.

The regimental colonel, Major General Robert Dalzell, was eventually called to account for this state of affairs, but it was by no means unique and James Aytoun of the 30th Foot, serving on Dominica in 1788–91, complained that the regiment had not received its clothing regularly for several years.

Advocate's Colour'; this relic of the Great Civil War of the 1640s and 1650s was apparently carried by the loyalist Edinburgh Volunteers at the battle of Falkirk in 1746. It is blue with a white saltire, five red roses in the centre (originally denoting the 5th Captain's company of an unidentified regiment) and gold lettering. (NMS)



The West Indies

Prior to the American War there was little concession made to the climate in which the soldier was expected to serve. Uniforms for warmer regions were normally lined with linen rather than wool and if at all possible linen small clothes were also substituted for wool. Beyond that, further modifications were left to the discretion of officers on the spot. Discarding the waistcoat was one option, wearing canvas smocks or sea-frocks as the 38th did was another. The 25th Foot wore a white linen uniform for a time when they were stationed on Minorca but that appears to be unique, although it is quite possible that other units in the Minorca garrison had similar clothing.

The lack of proper tropical clothing was not necessarily as short-sighted as might at first appear. There is evidence that the climate was generally colder in the 18th century although the tropics can still be very cold indeed at night.

Two well-known paintings by an artist named Gatta do show what appears to be a special uniform worn by troops in Pennsylvania in the summer of 1777. All wear single breasted red jackets, some with breeches and others with the increasingly popular gaiter-trousers, also known as American trousers or mosquito trousers. Whether this dress was an experiment or a widely used alternative to the regulation



John Calcraft (1726–72). Perhaps one of the most famous of all the 18th century regimental agents, Calcraft began his career as a deputy paymaster under the Duke of Cumberland in 1745 and eventually had no fewer than 63 regiments of the line, 16 independent companies, two fencible

uniform is unknown, but it was evidently successful, for in 1790 this clothing was officially adopted for all troops serving in the West or East Indies.

Nevertheless, it is clear both from the instructions regarding the clothing to be issued to recruits bound for the Indies and contemporary descriptions that many regiments serving overseas managed to take their full regimentals with them as well as the prescribed tropical clothing, in order to make a suitable impression on important occasions.

Recruit clothing

The policy on clothing recruits varied from regiment to regiment. Most units carried a certain amount of surplus clothing for this purpose – although too large a surplus might bite into the colonel's expected dividends. It was evidently the practice in at least some units to issue recruits with a very basic suit of 'frock' clothing which would serve until the next annual issue. This usually appears to have consisted of the Small Mounting, plus a pair of breeches, and a coat or jacket devoid of the expensive regimental lace. No doubt second hand and cast-off clothing was also used for this purpose.

The Standing Orders for the 70th Foot in September 1788 laid down that:

'All soldiers enlisted between 4th June, and the 4th of December, are to be entitled and receive their full complement of clothing. etc.

All inlisted between the 4th of December, and the 4th of March, are to be entitled to a coat, breeches and hat.

All between the 4th of March, and 4th of June are to be entitled to a jacket and hat only.

All recruits inlisted at any period of the year, are always, upon joining the Regiment, to be furnished with jackets'.

regiments and four militia regiments on his books at the close of the Seven Years War. The end of hostilities saw this number reduced by half and in 1765 the day-to-day running of the Agency passed to his sometime clerk James Meyrick. (Author's collection)



A view of the ditch and the main gate, Fort George Ardersier.

Since these jackets did not form part of the official mountings they were presumably supplied at regimental expense. It is not clear, however, whether these were new garments or cut down from old coats as the same Standing Orders laid down a set of standard prices for tailoring which included a charge for altering old coats into jackets.

Although a full-length coat remained the army's official uniform until 1797, there was an increasing tendency during and after the American War to replace this with some form of short jacket.

Recruits passing through the depot at Chatham, en route for battalions stationed abroad in the 1790s, were ordered to be issued with a single breasted jacket, distinguished by a collar, cuffs and shoulder straps in the regimental facing colour, a pair of gaiter trousers and a round hat, unless the appropriate colonel specifically ordered the man to be given his full clothing.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Accoutrements included a buff leather belt which until 1768 supported a sword and a bayonet. In theory this was worn around the waist and until about 1743 was invariably worn over the coat. After that date infantrymen seem to have picked up the continental practice of wearing it under the coat except in bad weather. By 1768, with the sword largely abandoned an unofficial practice had grown up of wearing the belt slung over the right shoulder and across the body instead. As usual this eventually received official sanction and as a result the old open frame buckle became replaced by a rectangular or oval 'breastplate' bearing the regimental number, badge or title according to taste.

Slung over the left shoulder was another belt supporting a 'cartouche' or cartridge box. Both items



Reconstruction; Highland Officer, c. 1760, demonstrating the drill position 'Charge Your Bayonets Breast High'. On the next command 'Push Your Bayonets' the soldier was to thrust the musket

forward with the heel of his right hand upon the butt. The marked resemblance to 17th century pike drill is quite obvious. (Author's collection)

of equipment were contracted for by the colonel and, although broadly similar throughout the army, there were usually some minor differences at a regimental level. This was most evident in the equipment issued to the light companies.

In 1768 all belts were ordered to be whitened – except in those regiments with buff facings who were permitted to retain buff accoutrements – but light companies were ordered to have blackened tan leather accoutrements and belly boxes rather than large cartouche boxes carried by a belt over the left shoulder. It is clear from inspection reports that a great many regiments disregarded this instruction – probably in order to keep the light company as uniform as possible with the rest of the battalion.

Personal kit was carried in a knapsack which in the early period was a cow-hide duffle-bag slung on a single strap over the right shoulder. By the 1760s this had generally been replaced by a variety of rectangular styles worn square on the back by means of a strap over each shoulder. Goatskin knapsacks were popular, but the price allowed by the government was based on the cost of the more practical canvas 'folding' style.

Other equipment, such as water canteens and haversacks was provided at government expense only on active service. On 22 February 1793 the 'Camp Necessaries' for a battalion of 10 companies were laid down to be:

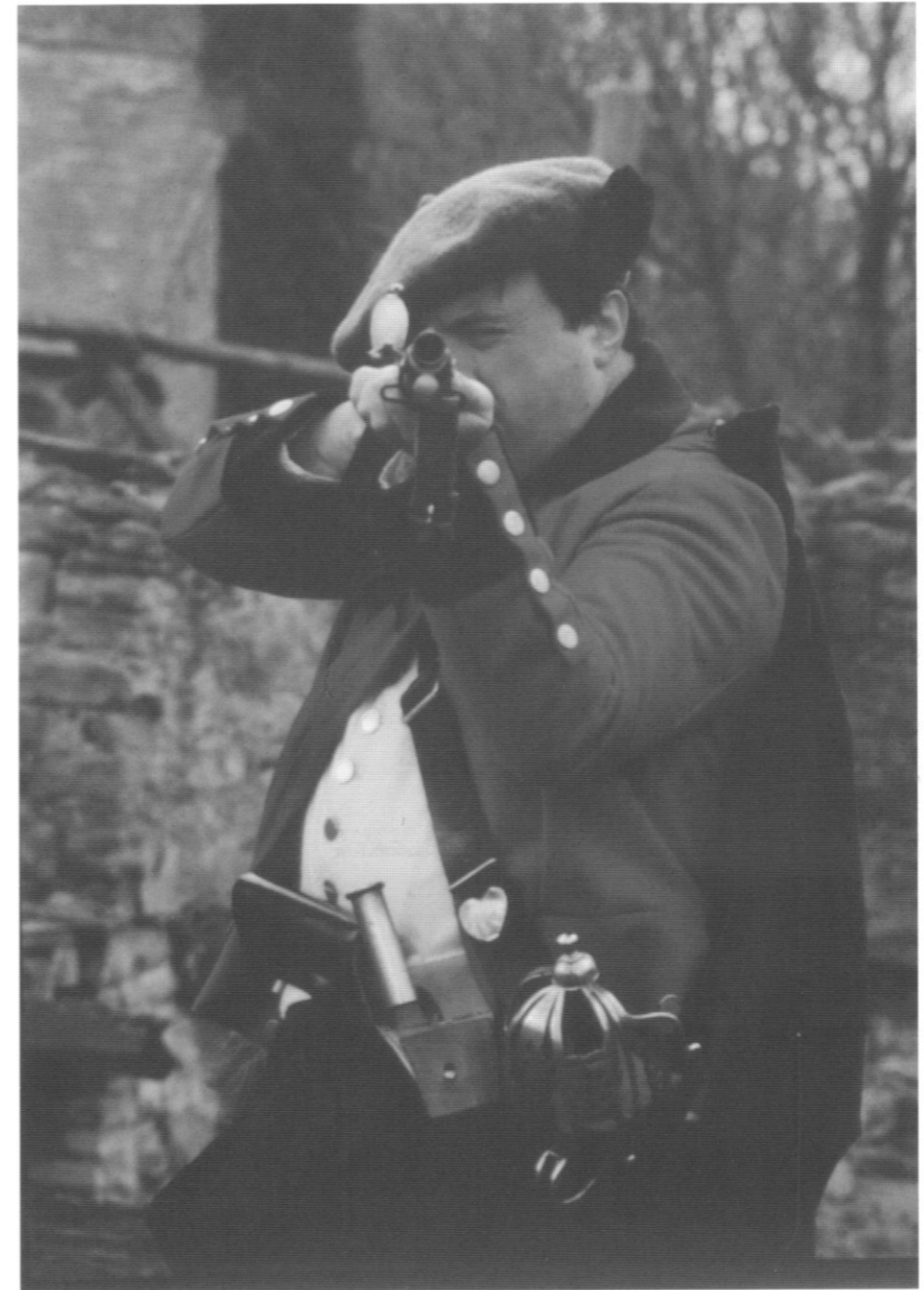
- 12 Bell Tents
- 12 Camp Colours
- 20 Drum Cases
- 10 Powder Bags [presumably for company reserve ammunition]
- 142 Hatchets
- 142 Tin Kettles
- 654 Wooden Canteens
- 654 Haversacks
- 142 Private tents will be issued from the Board of Ordnance and 284 blankets from Messrs. Trotter.'

Officers were expected to provide their own tents – one each for captains and one between two for subalterns – and the 12 Bell Tents, other wise known as *Bell of Arms* were for the storage of firelocks and bayonets. Each company would have had 14 'private tents' (wedge type?). The allocation of blankets seems rather meagre if they were intended as bedding, but at two per tent it is more likely that they were to be used as groundsheets, or at least laid over the straw usually provided.

Firelocks and bayonets were also provided at government expense. Originally colonels were responsible for actually buying the arms and then recharging the cost, but by the 1740s they were instead issued to regiments on demand. The effective life of a firelock was reckoned to be about twelve years, though neglect and rough handling could reduce this somewhat. Inspection reports were frequently critical in this respect.

Sergeants in line companies were supposed to have halberds, though these were generally allowed

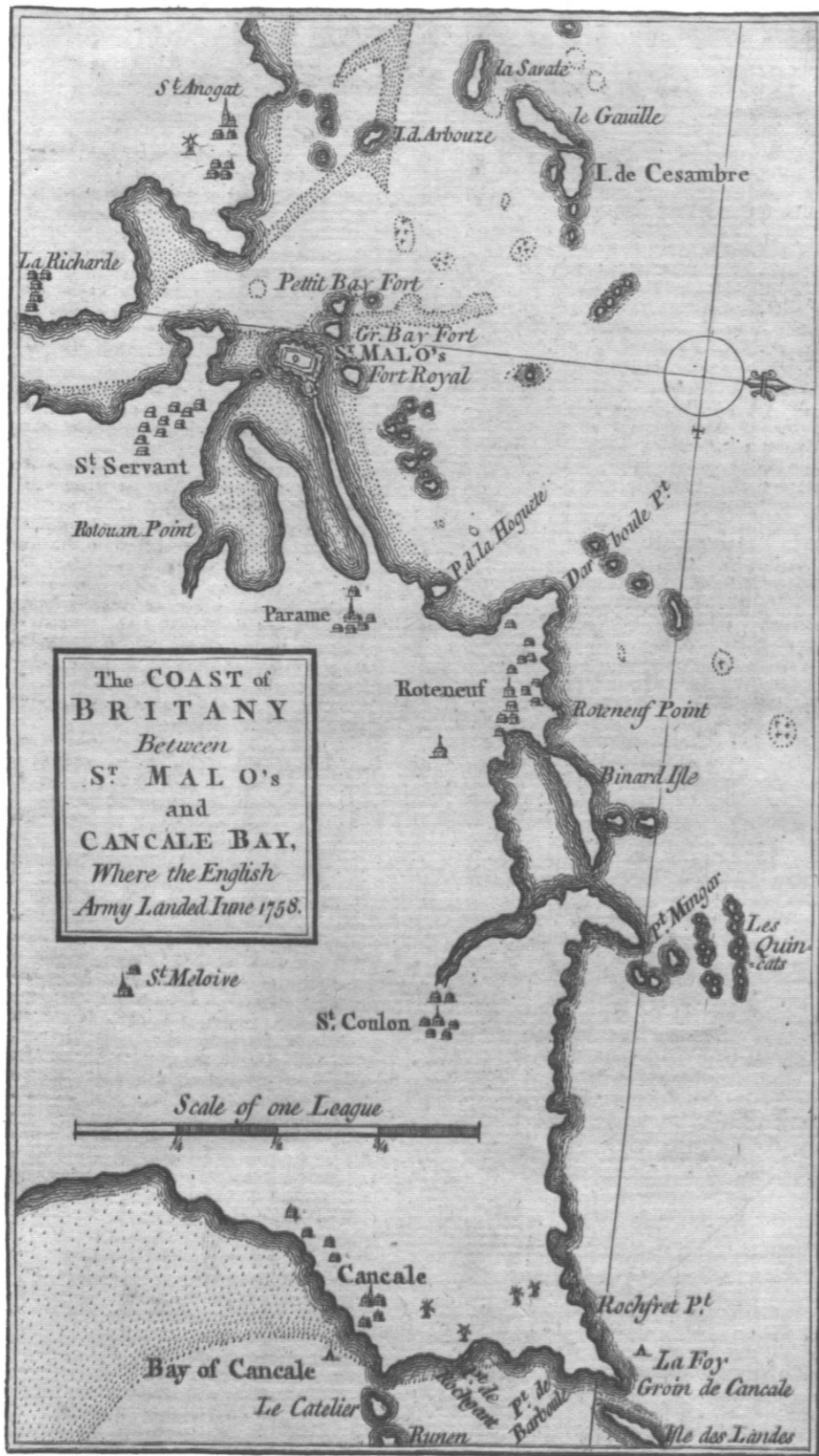
Reconstruction; Highland Officer, c. 1760, detail. This officer is wearing an unlaced frock jacket – commonly worn in everyday use in place of the expensive full dress uniform. According to regulations his waistcoat should still have been red, but white or pale buff waistcoats also seem to have been pretty universally worn by this period. The equipment of belly-box, bayonet, broadsword and musket is also typical. Highland officers were generally allowed to carry dirks in place of bayonets, but in practice only did so on parade, or else substituted them for the heavy broadsword. (Author's collection)



to be 'heavy and unwieldy' weapons and replaced by half-pikes or spontoons in 1792. Grenadier and light infantry sergeants carried fusils or light firelocks instead, although the grenadiers were ordered to take up the newly introduced pike in 1792 – whether they actually did so on active service is open to question. Battalion company sergeants are also known to have carried firelocks on campaign, particularly in North

America and in the Caribbean, though the practice was generally an unofficial one.

Swords were supplied by the regiment until officially abolished in 1768, and paid for by deductions from the individual soldier's subsistence – a factor which no doubt contributed to their unpopularity and effective abandonment during the Seven Years War.



Contemporary map, from the Gentleman's Magazine, depicting the area around St. Malo and Cancale bay. This was the scene of one of the less than glorious amphibious operations against the French coast in 1758. Although derided as 'breaking windows with guineas' these raids did successfully tie down large numbers of French troops who might otherwise have been deployed to Germany. While the initial adventures varied from disappointing fiascoes to outright disasters, the later raids and in particular the capture and occupation of Belle Isle, produced some very solid results. (Author's collection)

OFFICERS

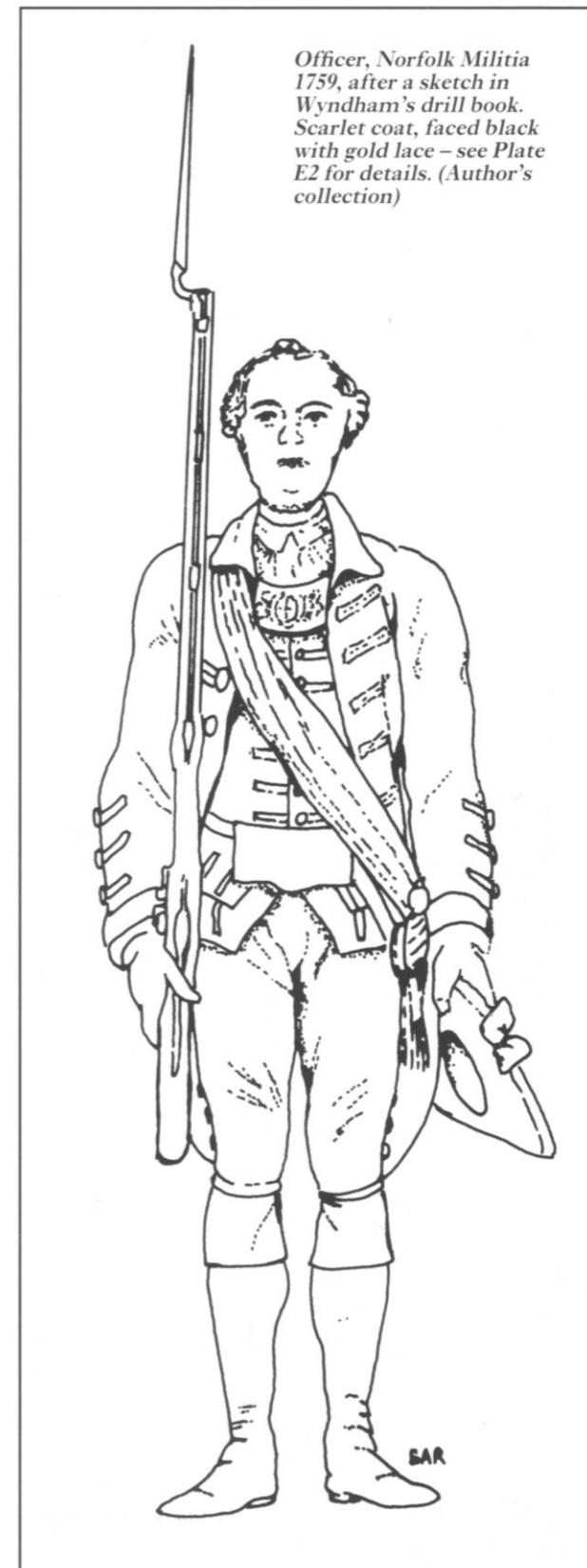
Officers were responsible for purchasing their own clothing and equipment. A young officer was expected to arrive at his battalion with a complete outfit, made to measure by his tailor. This would have included a regimental coat, conforming to the current clothing warrant and any regimental idiosyncrasies, and more importantly a couple of much simpler frock coats for everyday wear. These were almost invariably unlaced and frequently had plain red cuffs and lapels. The cut of these frock coats might also differ from that laid down in the warrants.

It must be stressed that, while considerable variations certainly existed, variations in dress were almost always 'regimental' (except on campaign when everyone got away with murder) and did not necessarily reflect the whim or the purse of the individual officer. Unfortunately, although there are numerous references in standing orders to certain items of clothing or equipment being 'regimental', there is little to indicate the precise form which these distinctions took. One identifiable example, however, is the practice in the 25th of adding red piping to waistcoat and sometimes white piping to the coat as well. This can be seen in a number of paintings but is not otherwise referred to. Doubtless there were many other similar distinctions which are now lost.

Officers also had greatcoats, usually blue in colour and often turned up with red irrespective of the regiment's facing colour, although the 106th in 1795 had their black velvet facings on the collar.

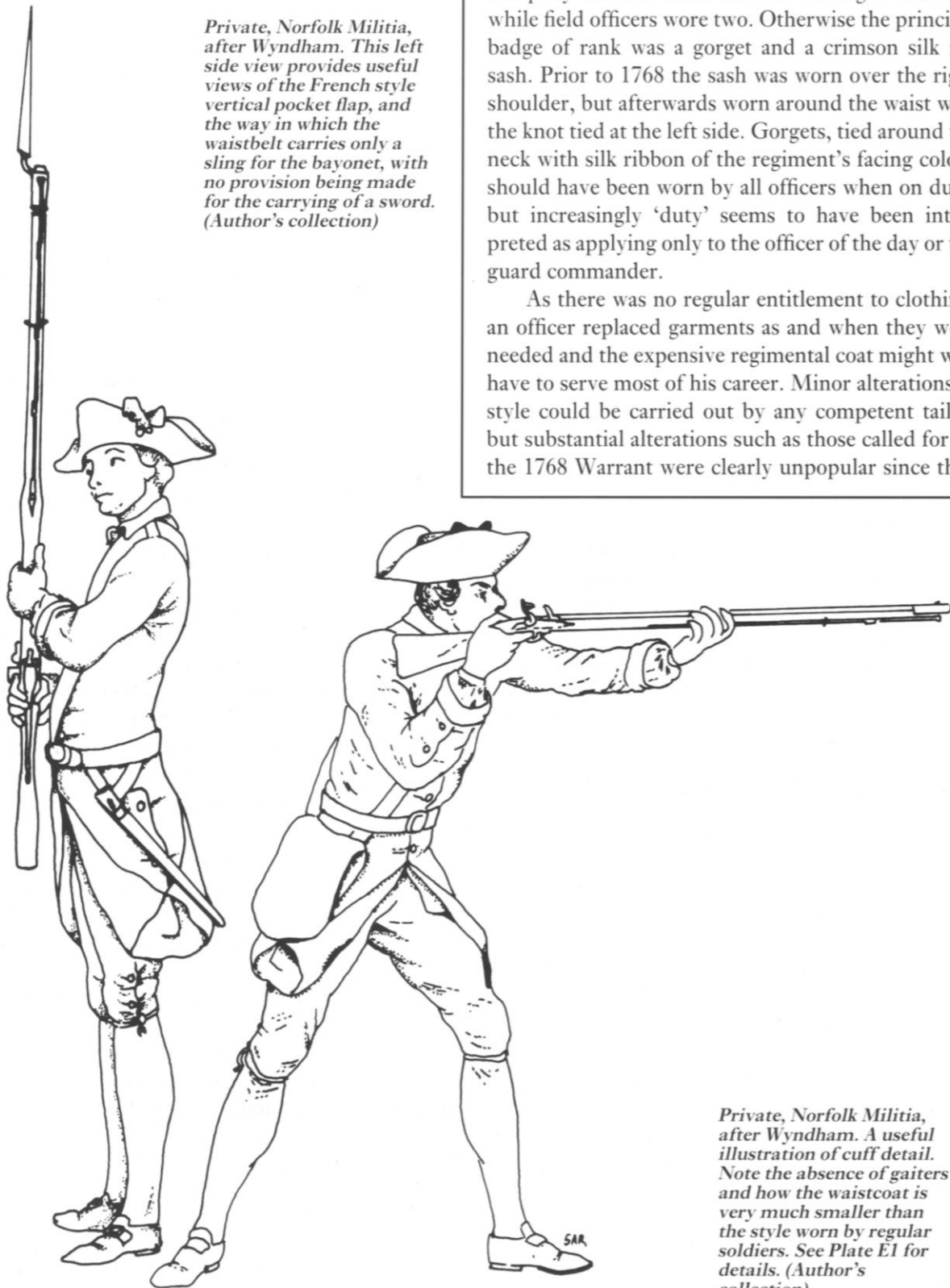
Apart from the superior quality of materials used, officers' regimental coats and hats were distinguished by the use of gold or silver lace. Prior to 1768 this was used to edge cuffs, lapels and some seams, as well as forming button loops in some regiments. After 1768 it was used only for button loops and in contrast to earlier practice these loops were invariably square, irrespective of whether the regiment's rank and file wore square or bastion shaped loops. Some regiments such as the Royals permitted those officers who could afford to do so to have their buttonholes embroidered instead of using loops of gold or silver lace.

Prior to 1768 aiguillettes or shoulder knots of the appropriate 'metal' were also used and after that date epaulettes. Except in fusilier and highland regiments,



Officer, Norfolk Militia 1759, after a sketch in Wyndham's drill book. Scarlet coat, faced black with gold lace - see Plate E2 for details. (Author's collection)

Private, Norfolk Militia, after Wyndham. This left side view provides useful views of the French style vertical pocket flap, and the way in which the waistbelt carries only a sling for the bayonet, with no provision being made for the carrying of a sword. (Author's collection)



Private, Norfolk Militia, after Wyndham. A useful illustration of cuff detail. Note the absence of gaiters and how the waistcoat is very much smaller than the style worn by regular soldiers. See Plate E1 for details. (Author's collection)

company officers wore one on the right shoulder while field officers wore two. Otherwise the principal badge of rank was a gorget and a crimson silk net sash. Prior to 1768 the sash was worn over the right shoulder, but afterwards worn around the waist with the knot tied at the left side. Gorgets, tied around the neck with silk ribbon of the regiment's facing colour should have been worn by all officers when on duty, but increasingly 'duty' seems to have been interpreted as applying only to the officer of the day or the guard commander.

As there was no regular entitlement to clothing, an officer replaced garments as and when they were needed and the expensive regimental coat might well have to serve most of his career. Minor alterations in style could be carried out by any competent tailor, but substantial alterations such as those called for by the 1768 Warrant were clearly unpopular since they

required all officers to obtain new regimentals or substantially alter their existing ones. Suits of new clothing generally appear to have been ordered through the usual offices of the Regimental Agent.

On the 9 April 1759 officers of the 42nd Highlanders were somewhat illiterately informed; 'Such officers as bespoake cloathes at Halifax may rece it from the Qr. Mr. upon paying him for the same & whatever remains uncauld for to be desposed off to the best advantage.' Similarly in 1774 supplies sent to the 49th Foot in Ireland included 10 embroidered regimental suits.

A fair amount of second hand clothing was also in circulation since the kit belonging to dead officers was normally auctioned off to their comrades, and those retiring or exchanging into other corps might also sell off any unwanted clothing.

Battalion company officers were supposed to be armed with swords and spontoons or half pikes, but the latter were very unpopular and it was noted in 1784 that they were not used in North America. Consequently they were officially abolished in 1786 and officers were told to make use of their swords alone.

Flank company and fusilier officers were supposed to carry fusils, and when they did bayonets were often carried in place of swords. In 1792 fusils, in Ireland at least, were ordered to be laid aside and swords carried instead. Less officially dirks seem to have been popular substitutes for swords, and pistols were also made use of on campaign.

REGIMENTS

In 1740 the British Army comprised 43 numbered regiments of infantry, besides the Foot Guards. By 1793 there were 77, although the intervening period had seen wild fluctuations, most notably during the Seven Years War when no fewer than 124 were carried on the Army List. Most of these were, of course, disbanded at the end of the war, but others were renumbered. Little is known about the uniforms of many of these short-lived units and the schedule below is restricted to the 70 regiments comprised in the Royal Warrant of 1768.

Prior to 1768 buttons were quite plain and usually domed in appearance, but from then they

were required to bear the regimental number. Units bearing the same facing colours were normally distinguished by the patterned loops of worsted lace on buttonholes – a system which appears to have been unique to the British Army. In the 1740s a number of units had plain white lace without any distinguishing features, but by 1768 plain lace was pretty well confined to the Foot Guards and to the sergeants of line regiments.

Unless otherwise noted, any regimental badges authorised for the grenadier caps were also borne on the drums and colours. Prior to 1768 these badges were embroidered in full colour on the cloth caps, after the adoption of the bearskin cap they should have appeared in white on the red patch at the rear of the cap, but some units, including the 1st (Royals) and the 6th incorporated them on the new cap plate.

Light infantry caps were evidently less well regulated and sometimes unauthorised badges appeared on them; such as the 9th's figure of Britannia. Otherwise, regiments without badges simply bore a crowned GR cypher.

All coats were of course red, except for drummers and fifers of non-royal regiments, who wore reversed colours. Only the facing colour as laid down in 1768, an indication as to whether officers wore gold or silver lace, and any regimental badges or other peculiarities are noted below. Additional information is generally drawn from inspection reports, identified by date in parenthesis.

1st Royals: Blue facings, gold lace

Buttons in pairs. Officers had steel-hilted swords for most of the period. Officers permitted embroidered button-holes if they chose; otherwise rectangular loops. Battalion coys had white hackles with blue tips c. 1790. 1st Bn. in West India dress 1790 onwards. Grenadiers; cypher within green collar of St. Andrew. Light Coy: Figure 1 on front of cap. Green hackle. (1782) White belts and non-regulation caps (1789). Portrait shows Tarleton type helmet c. 1795.

2nd Queens: Blue facings, silver lace

Prior to 1768 facings were sea green (sometimes shown as sky blue). Grenadiers: Queen's cypher CaRa on red within garter. Caps 'almost worn out' (1789). Light Coy: White belts (1779) – still not regulation in 1781 and 1789.

3rd Buffs: Buff facings, silver lace

Grenadiers: Green Dragon – still wearing cloth caps in 1770. Light Coy: buff belts (1774).

4th King's Own: Blue facings, silver lace

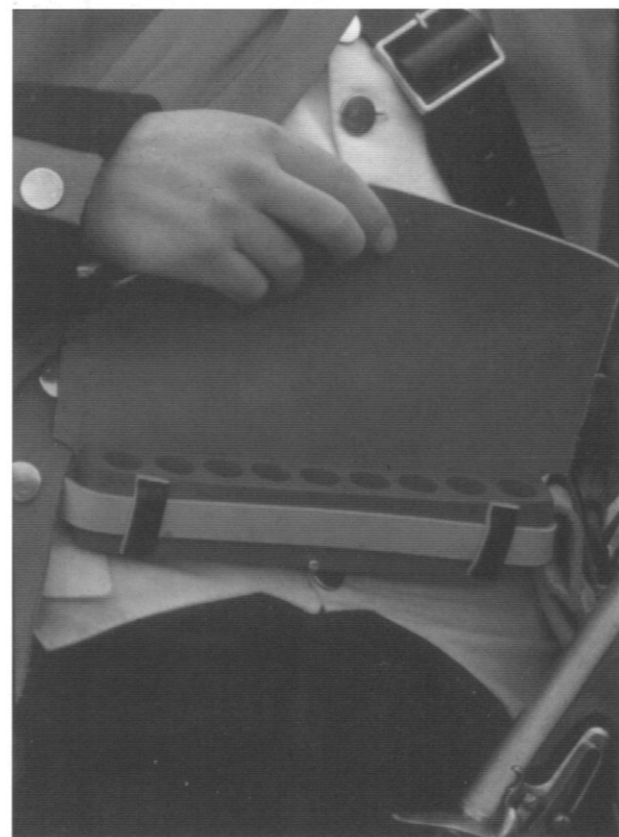
Officers with embroidered button holes (1769). Battalion Coys had scalloped lace on hats (1774). Grenadiers: Cypher within garter. Light Coy: Dragoon style helmet with red mane. Lion badge on frontlet. White belts (1774).

5th: Gosling green facings, silver lace

Officers' coats faced pale green with silver binding (1755). White small clothes (1766). Bastion shaped loops (1768). Grenadiers: St. George & Dragon. Caps edged with fur (1768). Light Coy: Dragoon style helmet with red mane. St. George & Dragon badge on frontlet.

6th: Yellow facings, silver lace

Grenadiers: White antelope. Fur caps not adopted until 1770. Light Coy: Regulation cap with cypher – no badge.



7th Royal Fus.: Blue facings, gold lace

Battalion coys in caps. Badge: Rose within crowned Garter – only worn by grenadiers. Fur caps not adopted until after 1770. Light Coy: Black leather cap with peak and rear flap as for the 69th. Transverse black fur crest – overlaid with white feather.

8th: Blue facings, gold lace

1742 Cloathing Book shows yellow facings. Grenadiers: White horse on red within crowned garter.

9th: Yellow facings, silver lace

Officers had embroidered button holes (1774). Battalion wearing trousers in Caribbean (1790). Light Coy: Dragoon style helmet with red mane. Britannia badge on frontlet.

10th: Yellow facings, silver lace

Hats not regulation (1785).

11th: Green facings, gold lace

Bastion loops authorised 1768. Officers had embroidered button holes (1775). Same inspection complained of soldiers' hats with white cords and tassels. Light Coy: Regulation style cap with black fur trim. White belts (1771).

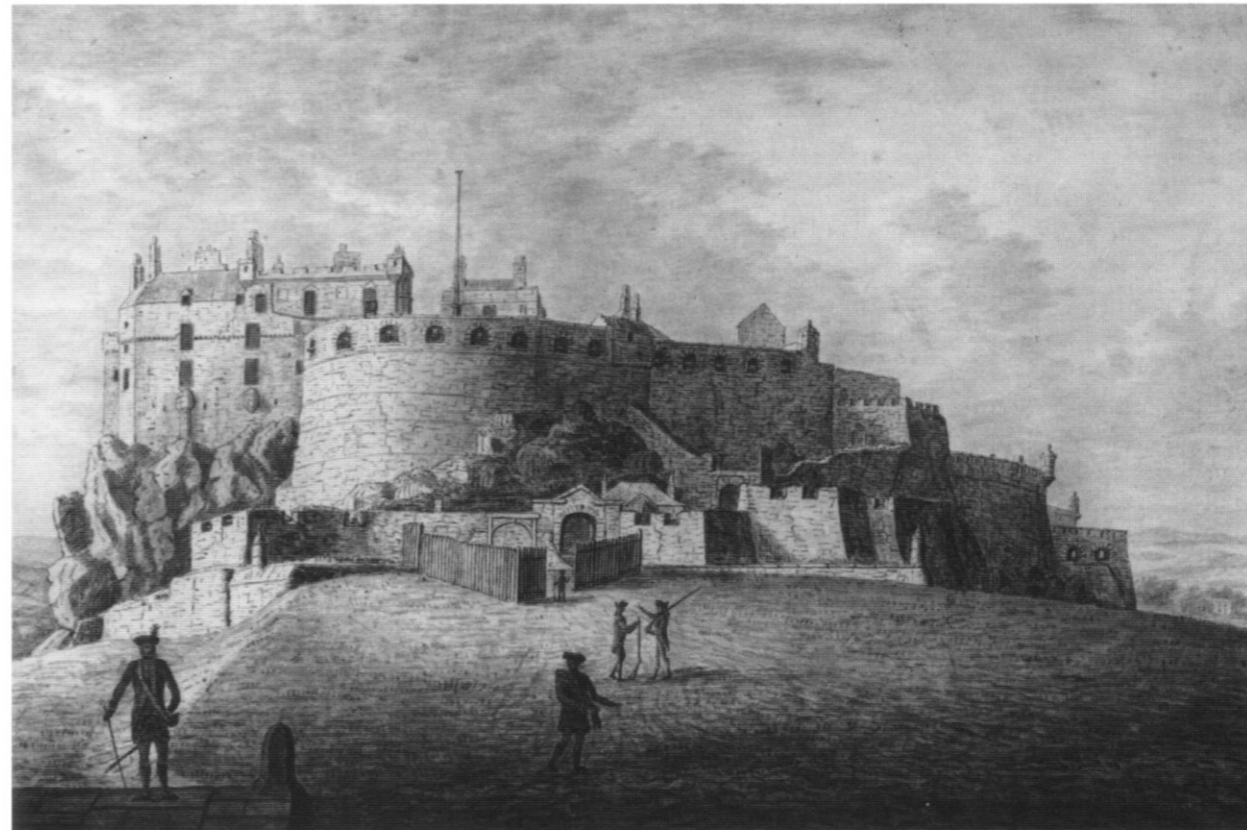
12th: Yellow facings, gold lace

Sergeants had gold laced hats (1758). White small clothes (1766). Bastion loops authorised 1768. Officers had embroidered button holes (1768). Grenadiers: Brass grenades on pouches (1755). Fur caps with yellow plated fronts (1768).

13th: Philemot yellow facings, silver lace

White small clothes (1766). Officers had embroidered button holes (1768). West Indies clothing (1790). Grenadiers: Fur caps with yellow plated fronts (1768). Light Coy: Cropped hat, white belts (1771).

Reconstruction: interior of belly-box as worn by officers of highlanders, light infantry and grenadiers. Comprising only a wooden block, painted red, with a simple leather flap, this particular example is drilled with holes for nine rounds. Those worn by private soldiers were sometimes larger. (Author's collection)



14th: Buff facings, silver lace

Reviewed in West Indies clothing 1791. Officers 'not dressed with much uniformity.' Grenadiers: Fur caps with red fronts, motto and horse in white metal (1765). No caps (1791).

15th: Yellow facings, silver lace

Officers' uniforms old but good (1768). Embroidered button holes (1774). West Indies clothing ordered 1790.

16th: Yellow facings, silver lace

Reviewed in jackets and round hats 1784.

17th: Greyish-white facings, silver lace

Greyish-white small clothes (1768). Grenadiers: Fur caps not adopted until late 1769. Plain hats 1791. Light Coy: Caps similar to 69th (1773). Plain hats in 1791.

18th Royal Irish: Blue facings, gold lace

No lapels until 1743. Grenadiers: Harp and Crown. Light Coy: White belts (1777).

Edinburgh Castle, c. 1775; home of the Commander in Chief in Scotland. If the date is correct the highlander in the foreground with light coloured facings may be a

member of Fraser's 71st Highlanders. Note the comparatively flat bonnet. Since he has a cane but no sash over his left shoulder he is probably a senior NCO. (NMS)

19th: Green facings, gold lace

Inspection reports consistently note officers' coats unlaced. Light Coy: Officers wearing white waistcoats (1775). Caps and accoutrements 'not regulation' (1777).

20th: Pale yellow facings, silver lace

No lapels until 1743. Grenadiers: fur caps allowed 1766. Light Coy: White belts (1774).

21st Scots Fus.: Blue facings, gold lace

Battalion coys in caps. Badge: Thistle on red with St. Andrew's cross – grenadiers only. Gold embroidered button holes for officers (1782). 'Clothed and armed as fusiliers' (1791) i.e. carrying fusils and bayonets instead of swords. Light Coy: Tarleton Helmet with leopardskin turban.

22nd: Buff facings, gold lace

Bastion loops authorised 1768. Officers had embroidered button holes (1768). White hackles worn by soldiers (1788).



23rd Welch Fus.: Blue facings, gold lace

Battalion coys in caps. Badge: Prince of Wales feathers – only worn by grenadiers. Portrait c. 1790 shows officer wearing cap with Prince of Wales badge but no plate. Cloth caps still worn 1770. Most inspection reports note officers wearing hats. Reports in 1784 and 1788 also note battalion coys wearing plain hats with three white feathers arranged as Prince of Wales Crest – referred to as ‘undress’.

24th: Willow green facings, silver lace

Light Coy: Accoutrements and caps not regulation (1775). Dragoon style helmet with red mane (1777).

25th: Yellow facings, gold lace

Bastion loops authorised 1768, previously square ones. White summer uniform worn on Minorca in early 1770s. Red edge on waistcoat and white edge on facings seen in various illustrations after 1768. Grenadiers: Fur caps (1766). No plates (1771) but note depiction of one with white metal plate c. 1771. Light Coy: Red leather cap with fur trim. Thistle on frontlet. Waistcoat and belts white. Officers armed with highland broadswords.

26th: Pale yellow facings, silver lace

Light Coy: Bunbury shows chain cap with star badge on frontlet.

27th Inniskilling: Buff facings, gold lace

White belts (1775) ‘to be changed’. Grenadiers: Castle on blue disc.

28th: Yellow facings, silver lace

Officers had embroidered button holes 1768 and 1775.

Private Soldier, c. 1760, after Sandby. Like most infantrymen he no longer carries a sword on his waistbelt but the fact that he is wearing white gaiters and unhooked coat skirts suggests that he is taking part in a formal guard mounting, and indeed is almost certainly a member of the Foot Guards. An intriguing detail is the lace pattern

clearly visible on the waistcoat skirts. This herringbone pattern was common on coat skirts, but what little evidence we do have suggests that it was usually stripped off when the coat was converted into a waistcoat. (Author's collection)

29th: Yellow facings, silver lace

‘Negro’ drummers from 1759. Bastion loops authorised 1768. Peaks fitted to grenadier and light infantry caps. Tufts in imitation of feathers worn in hats – officers had real ones (1791).

30th: Pale yellow facings, silver lace

Bastion loops authorised 1768. Hackles noted 1791 – reviewed in trousers on return from Dominica. Grenadiers: Fur caps (1755). Reviewed in hats on Dominica (1791). Light Coy: White belts (1777).

31st: Buff facings, silver lace

Knapsacks worn out 1779, men carrying provisions in their blankets.

32nd: White facings, gold lace

No lapels until 1743. Light Coy: Chain caps (1775). White belts (1777). Tarleton helmet in 1790s.

33rd: Red facings, silver lace

Bastion loops authorised 1768. Grenadiers: Fur caps authorised 1766 but fronts not regulation (1770).

34th: Yellow facings, silver lace

Officers noted to have hackles in 1790 and soldiers too in the following year. Light Coy: Caps too small and lacking flaps (1791).

35th: Orange facings, silver lace

Officers had embroidered button holes (1768). Officers reviewed in frock uniforms on return from West Indies (1786). Grenadier coy in hats at same inspection.

36th: Green facings, gold lace

Grenadiers: Home shows hats with white over

Soldier, 25th Foot, c. 1771. One of an important series of watercolour sketches depicting members of this and other regiments in the Minorca garrison. This one is particularly interesting in showing what appears to be a soldier in battle-order. He wears his previous year's coat, shabby and cropped short

for convenience, and stripped of its lace. His hat is worn in a manner which must have induced apoplexy in inspecting officers, and very unusually indeed a blanket roll is also depicted. The 18th century British soldier looked very different on active service from the rather stiff figure seen on the parade ground. (NMS)

red over black hackle 1791 – also moustaches! Light Coy: Home shows a crested helmet similar in style to Tarleton in 1791 with a brown crest and a green turban. Also white accoutrements.





37th: Yellow facings, silver lace

38th: Yellow facings, silver lace

No lapels until 1743. Bastion loops authorised 1768. Officers had embroidered button holes (1768). Hair dressed German style (1787). Grenadiers: Caps edged with fur (1768).

39th: Green facings, gold lace

40th: Buff facings, gold lace

Short jackets and round hats worn at Germantown during American war. Inspection reports note officers' coats unlaced. Hackles in officers' hats (1789). Grenadiers: Caps edged with white fur (1768). Light Coy: Felt caps in 1786 – regimental ones 'in store'.

41st: Blue facings, gold lace

Single breasted coats until 1768. No lace and blue small-clothes. Grenadiers: Rose and thistle on red ground within crowned garter. New **41st** raised 1788 with red facings.

42nd: Blue facings, gold lace

Highlanders – see MAA 261.

43rd: White facings, silver lace

Officers originally had gold lace. White belts (1764). Grenadiers: Fur caps (1767).

44th: Yellow facings, silver lace

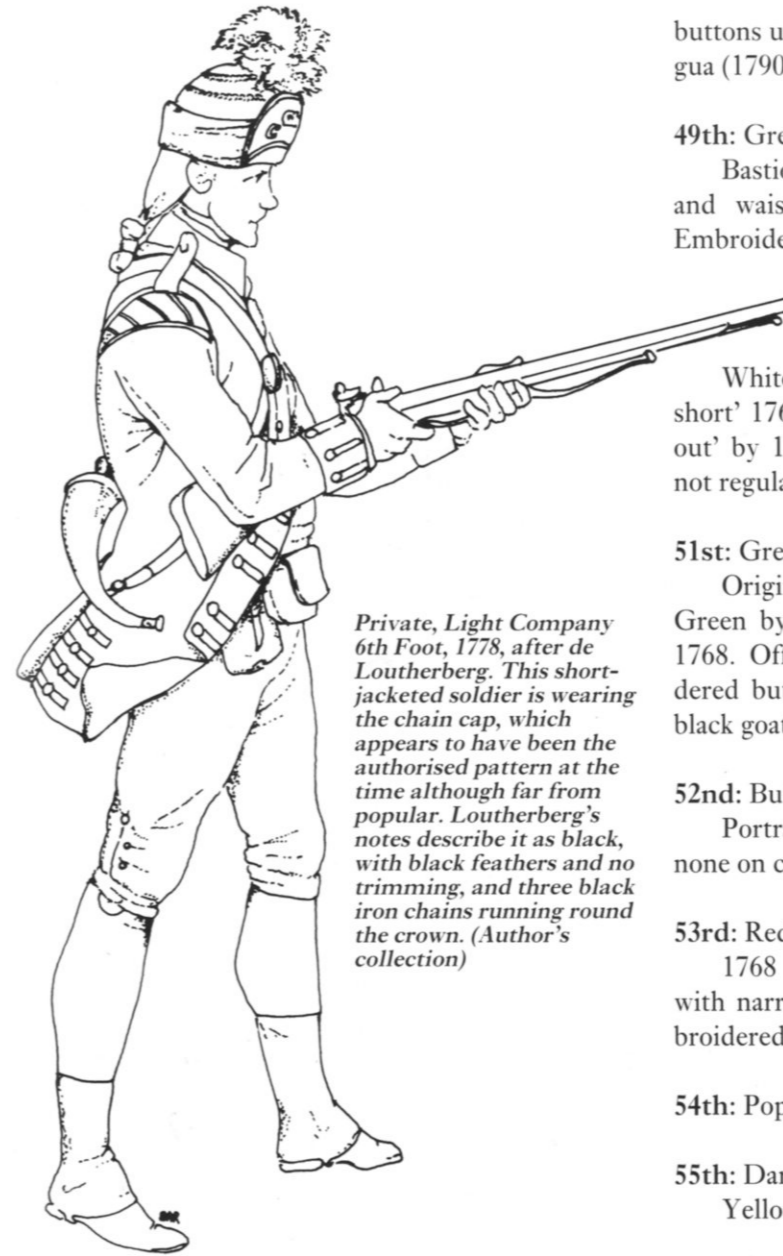
Officers had embroidered button holes (1768). Silver appliqué button-loops (1775).

45th: Green facings, silver lace

Bastion loops authorised 1768. Officers had embroidered button holes (1769). In 1780 the button-holes were noted to be evenly spaced, not paired like rank and file. Light Coy: Dragoon style helmet (1780).

Ensign Thomas Currie, South Fencibles, c. 1780. A typical battalion company officer on home service armed with sword and spontoon or half-pike – on active service most officers

carried muskets or simply relied on their swords, and wore boots in place of gaiters. He wears a scarlet coat with green facings and gilt buttons. (NMS)



Private, Light Company 6th Foot, 1778, after de Louthenberg. This short-jacketed soldier is wearing the chain cap, which appears to have been the authorised pattern at the time although far from popular. Louthenberg's notes describe it as black, with black feathers and no trimming, and three black iron chains running round the crown. (Author's collection)

46th: Yellow facings, silver lace

No lapels until 1743. Light Coy: Felt caps noted 1788 but leather caps in the following year.

47th: White facings, silver lace

Grenadiers: Officers had red leather sword-belts (1768).

48th: Buff facings, gold lace

Inspection reports consistently note plain coats for officers and plain hats as well in 1780s. Officers'

buttons unnumbered. Inspected in trousers on Antigua (1790), grenadier caps then described as 'bad'.

49th: Green facings, gold lace

Bastion loops authorised 1768. Officers' coats and waistcoats edged with green velvet (1768). Embroidered buttonholes. Battalion reviewed in trousers on Barbados 1790.

50th: Black facings, silver lace

White small-clothes 1758. Coats 'remarkably too short' 1769. Grenadiers: Caps issued in 1777 'worn out' by 1789. Light Coy: Accoutrements and caps not regulation (1789).

51st: Green facings, gold lace

Originally Sea Green but changed to Deep Green by 1768 Warrant. Bastion loops authorised 1768. Officers consistently noted to have embroidered buttonholes. Grenadiers: Caps covered with black goatskin (1777).

52nd: Buff facings, silver lace

Portrait of officer c. 1766 shows gold lace on hat, none on coat.

53rd: Red facings, gold lace

1768 inspection notes officers' uniforms edged with narrow gold lace and coats lined yellow. Embroidered buttonholes noted in following year.

54th: Popinjay green facings, silver lace

55th: Dark green facings, gold lace

Yellow lace on soldiers' coats and hats until 1768.

56th: Deep crimson/Purple (1764) facings, silver lace

White belts and breeches (1764). Officers had embroidered button holes (1768), vellum in 1777. Soldiers' coats too short (1771). Red feathers in hats (1787).

57th: Yellow facings, gold lace

Accoutrements 'bad' in 1769 – still wearing kit received in 1756. Inspection in 1791 also complained that accoutrements not regulation.

58th: Black facings, gold lace

Black facings, buff linings and yellow lace (1756). Excessively short coat skirts and hats too small – but adorned with red and white tuft (1767). Officers wearing buff small-clothes and buff coat lining. Black velvet edging to waistcoat (1768). White small-clothes and linings by 1771. Grenadiers: No caps 1784.

59th: Purple facings, silver lace

Facings originally light crimson but altered in 1768, and then again in 1776, to white. Light Coy: Tan belts whitened ‘which made them look very ill’.

60th R. American: Blue facings, silver lace

Unlaced until 1768. Caps, short jackets and blue or green mitasses worn in early days. Complaint by officer inspecting 3rd Bn: ‘The hair’s come off the Pioneers’ caps’ (1790). 1st Bn. Flank Coy officers carrying sabres 1792. Grenadiers: King’s cypher within crowned garter.

61st: Buff facings, silver lace

Grenadiers: Caps covered in goatskin (1777).

62nd: Yellowish buff facings, silver lace

Coats described as too short – ‘jackets’ in 1771, 1773, 1775. Hats also too small. Officers had plain ones 1785. Light Coy: Dragoon style helmet with white mane 1777.

63rd: Deep green facings, silver lace

Buff (linen) lining until 1768. Officers had embroidered button holes in that year, but laced by 1771.

64th: Black facings, gold lace

Sergeants had yellow lace and officers none 1767. Officers’ coats and waistcoats edged with black vel-

Private of an unidentified unit, 1778, after de Louthenberg. This soldier is almost certainly a militiaman as evidenced by such oddities in his dress as the vertically placed pocket flaps. The presence of some kind of lace trimming on the coat turnbacks suggests that they display the

regimental facing colour rather than a plain white lining as worn by regulars, a feature sometimes also seen on the jackets of militiamen during the Napoleonic period. Oddly enough there does not appear to be any lace binding on the hat. Regulars invariably had plain white bindings but

vet, buttonholes embroidered on coat. Plain hats (1768).



Louthenberg’s notes refer to the binding on militiamen’s hats being the same as their facing colour. (Author’s collection)

65th: White facings, silver lace

Buff (linen) linings 1759. ‘Hats cocked in a foreign manner’ (1784).

66th: Yellowish green facings, gold lace

Buff small-clothes for officers until 1768. Lace changed to silver 1778. Battalion reviewed in trousers on St. Vincent 1790.

67th: Pale yellow facings, silver lace

Battalion reviewed in trousers on Grenada 1790. Light Coy: Chain cap. Black belts (1790).

68th: Deep green facings, silver lace

Light Coy: Brown leather cap with reinforced comb. Frontlet with Colonel Lambton’s crest cypher, and motto ‘FAITHFUL’ (c. 1772).

69th: Willow green facings, gold lace

Light Coy: Louthenberg shows caps with peak and rear flap in 1778. Caps not according to regulations 1788, reported as felt in 1789, but leather ones, conforming to regulations, in 1790.

70th: Black facings, gold lace

Grey facings when first raised 1756 – ‘Glasgow Greys’. Light Coy: Green hackle in cap (1786).

THE PLATES

A: Volunteer units 1745

A1: Scots Loyalist Volunteer

The Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 encountered widespread opposition in Scotland and a number of Loyalist Volunteer units were raised in various parts of the country. The most effective of these were the Argyll Militia and a brigade raised in the Lowlands by a Guards officer, Lord Home. The brigade comprised three battalions; one each from Edinburgh and Glasgow and a third, smaller battalion from Paisley raised by the Earl of Glencairn. This brigade did good service in helping to hold the line of the Forth in late 1745, preventing French regulars and other reinforcements led by Lord John Drummond from marching south to join the main rebel army. Afterwards the ‘Glasgow Enthusiasts’, Glencairn’s battal-

ion and at least one company from Edinburgh fought at Falkirk on 17 January 1746. Ridden down by fleeing dragoons and then overrun by Jacobite highlanders, the ‘Glasgow Enthusiasts’ lost 22 killed, 11 wounded and 14 prisoners. Other volunteer units were raised in Stirling and Aberdeen and loyalist partisans from the Forfar area assisted in the rescue of some captured British Army officers from Glamis Castle.

None of the Scots volunteers were issued with uniforms (though Lord Home presumably wore his Guards regimentals) and equipment, too, was often in short supply. The Aberdeen Volunteers complained on 14 April 1746: ‘There are already about three hundred Volunteers of and belonging to this town, including the men engaged in pay, and besides sixty of the old town Militia, we called for arms from Captain Crosby, who has delivered one hundred and thirty-seven firelocks with bayonets, so that you see we will need at least two hundred and fifty stand of arms more than we have got, otherwise our people cannot do duty, and it will be a great discouragement for any of them to want arms; besides there are no cartouche boxes to be got in this place, which you know are very necessary for the service, we wish these were likewise ordered.’

This volunteer wears his own clothing – short jackets being rather commoner than long coats in Scotland at this period – and is distinguished from his Jacobite counterpart only by the wearing of a black cockade rather than a rebel white one. Typically he carries a Land Pattern firelock and bayonet and has acquired an old cartridge box for his ammunition.

A2: Grenadier, Lord Harcourt’s 76th Foot

During the 1745 rebellion a number of so-called ‘provincial’ regiments were raised in England by the nobility. At first there was some resistance to the officers of these units being given regular commissions, but eventually the urgency of the situation saw the Horse Guards giving in and the 13 such regiments of foot ranked as the 67th to 79th. Two regiments of horse; Montagu’s 9th and Kingston’s 10th were also raised at the same time.

Most of these regiments served in various garrisons, but the Earl of Halifax’s 74th and Montagu’s 69th (also known as the Ordnance Regiment) took part in the siege of Carlisle under the Duke of



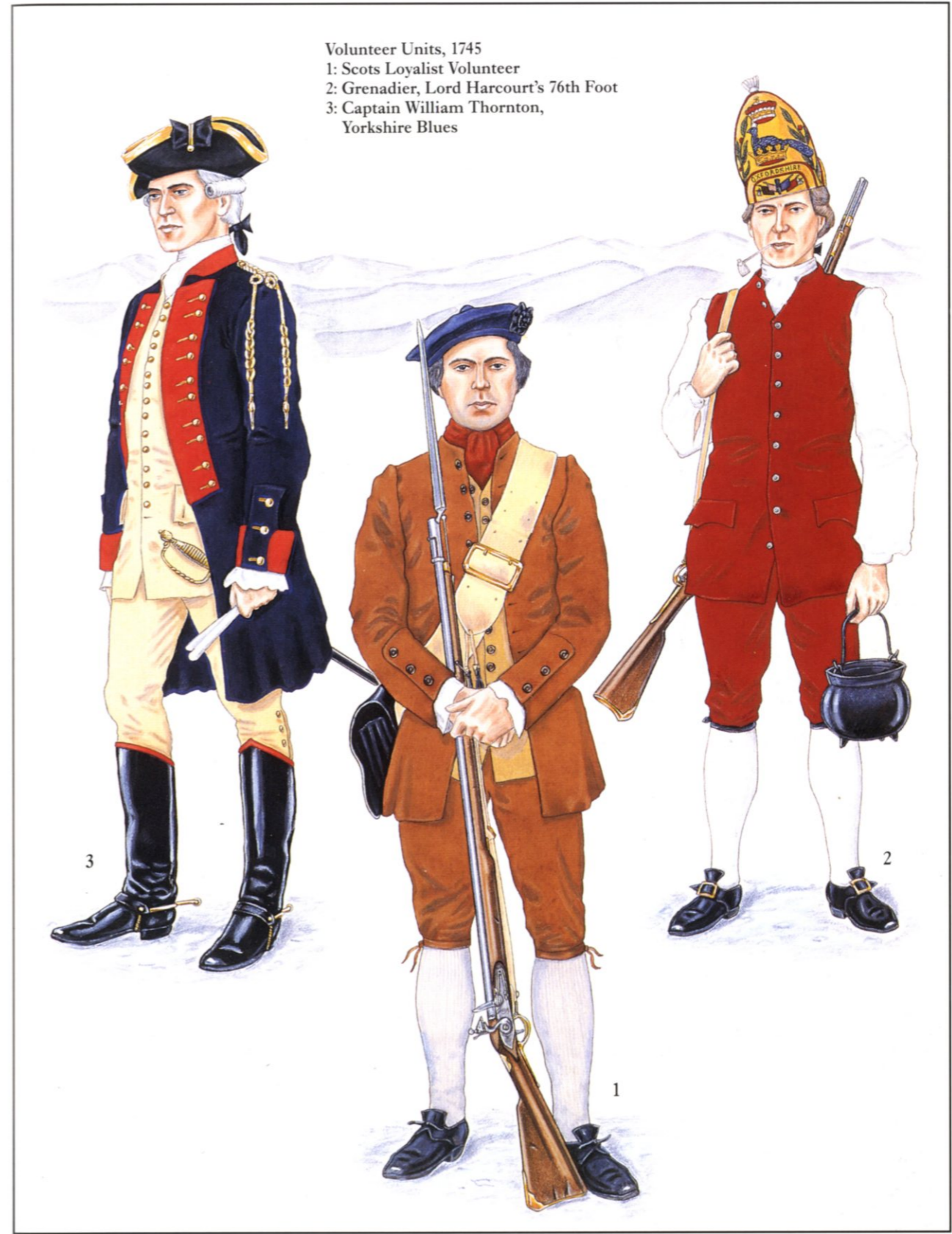
Coat worn by Captain John Hamilton, 73rd Foot. A typical example of an officer's coat as worn in the 1780s, this one is rather unusual in that it was worn by an officer of a highland regiment. Officers of the 73rd, then stationed in India and about to become the 71st, should have worn short jackets, but throughout

the 18th century highland officers were always curiously reluctant to wear the kilt and this coat may have been considered more appropriate wear to accompany breeches. A similar one is shown in a contemporary portrait of Lieutenant Colonel Norman McLeod of the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd - see MAA 261. (NMS)

Cumberland. Their services were soon dispensed with and on 10 June 1746 nine of them were ordered to be disbanded. The remaining four, Bedford's, Halifax's, Montagu's and Granby's were kept on a short time longer, guarding rebel prisoners. The men were each given a bounty of six days pay. This was admitted to be a meagre reward but it was considered that giving them more might deter them from re-enlisting in regular regiments, for which a bounty of

Volunteer Units, 1745

- 1: Scots Loyalist Volunteer
- 2: Grenadier, Lord Harcourt's 76th Foot
- 3: Captain William Thornton, Yorkshire Blues



Independent Companies

- 1: Independent Company, North America, 1740s
- 2: Independent Company, West Indies, 1740s
- 3: Officer, Independent Company, 1781



Invalids

- 1: Invalid, 1748
- 2: Invalid, c1780
- 3: Invalid Officer, Edinburgh Castle, 1773



Marines
1: Private 6th Marines, 1740s
2: Sergeant 5th Marines, 1740s
3: Grenadier Company, Marines 1775



English Militia
1: Private, Norfolk Militia, 1759
2: Officer, Norfolk Militia, 1759
3: Officer, Durham Militia, 1760s



Scottish Fencibles

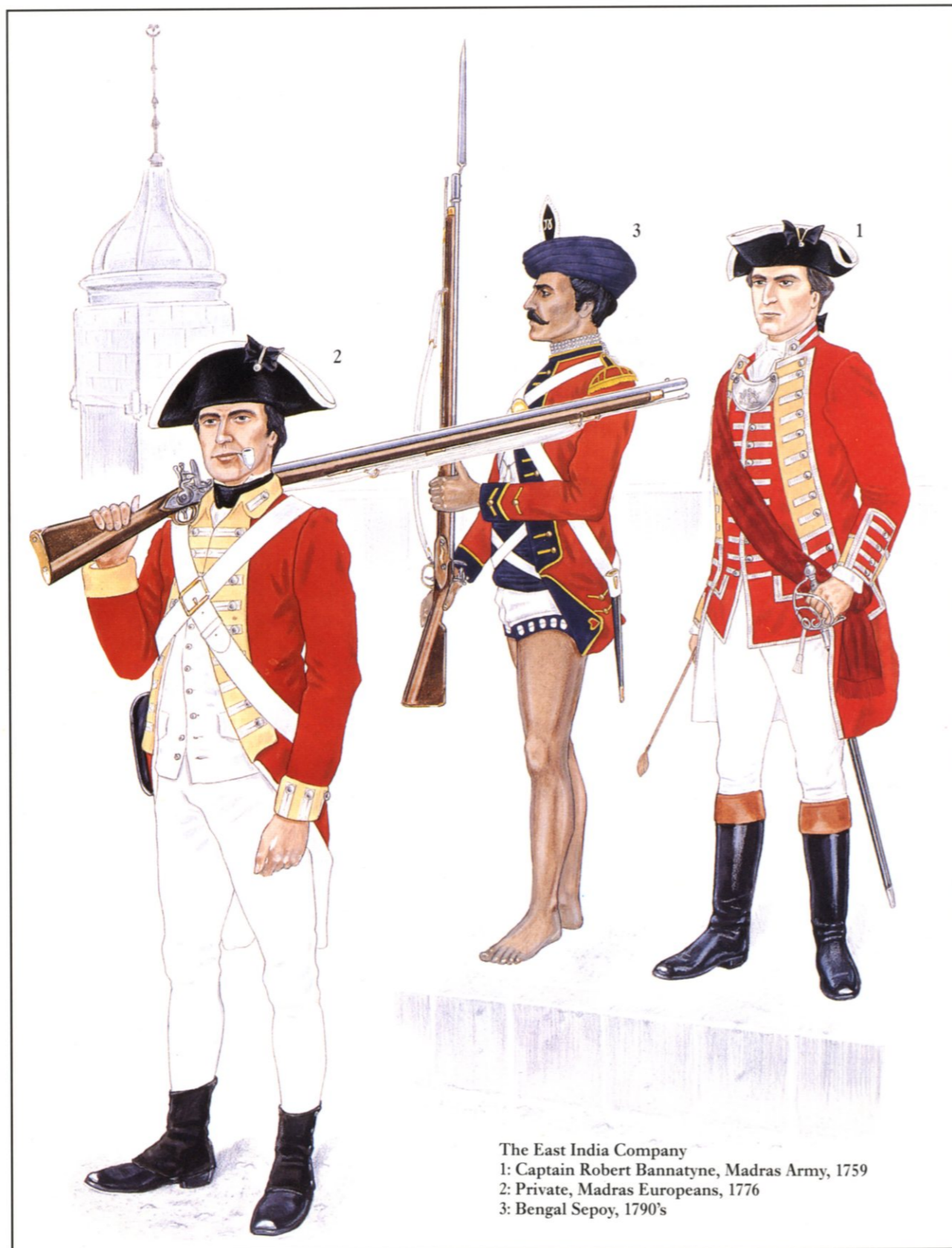
- 1: Officer, Sutherland Fencibles, 1759
- 2: Private, Light Infantry, South Fencibles, 1778
- 3: Subaltern, Hopetoun Fencibles, 1793



Edinburgh Units

- 1: Private, Edinburgh Defence Band, 1781
- 2 & 3: Edinburgh Town Guard





The East India Company
 1: Captain Robert Bannatyne, Madras Army, 1759
 2: Private, Madras Europeans, 1776
 3: Bengal Sepoy, 1790's

two guineas was offered. The officers fared better, having obtained regular commissions they were entitled to be placed on half-pay and two of them, Captain William Shirreff of Bedford's and Lieutenant John Gibson of Montagu's were still drawing it more than half a century later in 1798!

Little is known of the uniforms worn by these regiments, but as they were, however grudgingly, officially considered to be regulars rather than volunteers, they presumably wore red coats. Two grenadier caps survive. One belonged to the Marquis of Granby's 71st, who served in Newcastle Upon Tyne, and a very similar one to Lord Harcourt's 76th, who garrisoned Harwich and the Landguard Fort. On the evidence of these caps the two regiments appear to have had blue and yellow facings respectively.

A3: Captain William Thornton, Yorkshire Blues

Besides the provincial regiments a number of volunteer regiments were raised in England in 1745 and unlike their Scottish counterparts were generally fortunate enough to be provided with uniforms. These invariably appear to have been blue in colour in order to distinguish them from the regulars. The Volunteers raised in Devon were given blue coats lined and faced with red, hats edged with white worsted lace and a pair of white gaiters to each man. Other 'Blues' included a company of gentlemen volunteers in London called the 'Loyal Blue Fusiliers', and Colonel Graham's 'Liverpool Blues' who did good service in breaking down the Mersey bridges ahead of the advancing Jacobites before retiring to join Lord Cholmondley's 73rd garrisoning Chester.

The best known were perhaps the 'Yorkshire Blues'. Companies raised in the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1745 had double-breasted coats of blue

Light Company officer, Glamorgan Militia, 1778, after de Louthenberg. De Louthenberg's notes refer to a red coat turned up with black and ten white button-holes in pairs on the lapels. The rank and file had long black gaiters but for some unexplained reason this particular officer apparently wore white ones with black garters. The cap front

shown here is plain, but another sketch of a private soldier rather predictably shows the Prince of Wales' feathers with the motto 'ICH DIEN', and the accompanying notes, speak of a 'black helmet Cap trimmed with white, red worsted in the top of the helmet a black upright feather, the ornaments in front silver.' (Author's collection)



kersey faced with red kersey, baize lining and two dozen buttons to a coat. The clothing for the East Riding companies was described as being: 'exactly the same as the Swiss and Dutch troops are clothed, but with the linings considerably better'. (Both the Dutch and Swiss troops then serving under Field

was not very great and in the circumstances there was little incentive to ensure that the recruits were of a particularly high standard. Moreover, since those officers who had any ability or ambition exchanged into the line as quickly as possible, the military efficiency of these units was generally quite dismal.

This figure is reconstructed from a plate in the

Marshal Wade wore blue coats lined with red.)

Captain William Thornton from Knaresborough raised one of the West Riding companies at his own expense and joined Wade's army at Newcastle. There they were attached for a time to Pulteney's 13th Foot, which was then only about 300 strong, though whether they actually stood with them at Falkirk or were guarding the artillery that day is uncertain. At any rate about 20 of them, together with Lieutenant Crofts and Ensign Patrick Simson (who also happened to be the minister of Fala, near Dalkeith) were taken prisoner and Thornton escaped by hiding behind the wainscoting in his quarters.

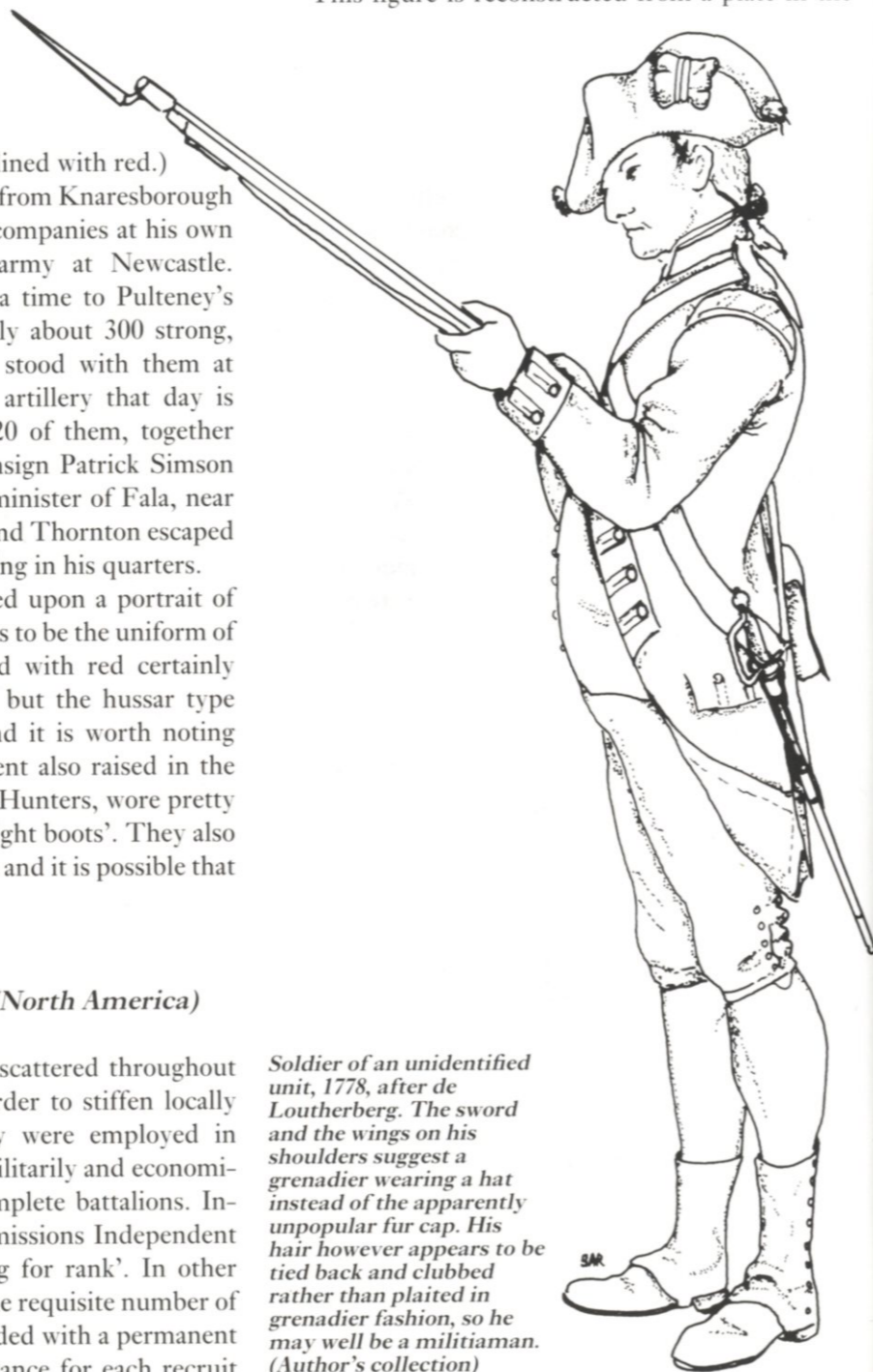
This reconstruction is based upon a portrait of Thornton, wearing what appears to be the uniform of his corps. The blue coat faced with red certainly agrees with other descriptions but the hussar type boots are rather remarkable and it is worth noting that a volunteer cavalry regiment also raised in the area at this time, the Yorkshire Hunters, wore pretty much the same uniform with 'light boots'. They also had green cockades in their hats and it is possible that the 'Blues' did likewise.

B: Independent Companies

B1: Independent Company (North America) 1740s

Independent Companies were scattered throughout the colonies in the 1740s in order to stiffen locally raised militias. Normally they were employed in areas where it would be both militarily and economically impractical to deploy complete battalions. Instead of purchasing their commissions Independent Company officers were 'raising for rank'. In other words, provided he recruited the requisite number of men, an officer would be rewarded with a permanent commission. The official allowance for each recruit

Soldier of an unidentified unit, 1778, after de Louterberg. The sword and the wings on his shoulders suggest a grenadier wearing a hat instead of the apparently unpopular fur cap. His hair however appears to be tied back and clubbed rather than plaited in grenadier fashion, so he may well be a militiaman. (Author's collection)



1742 Cloathing Book, depicting a soldier of an unidentified Independent Company. The dull green facing colour appears to have been common to all these units.

B2: Independent Company (West Indies) 1740s

Some of the Independent Companies depicted in the Cloathing Book have the usual green cuffs and lapels, but light brown turnbacks to their coat-skirts. These are presumably intended to represent the unbleached linen linings ordered for soldiers serving in the West Indies and other hot climates. In an effort to improve the efficiency of some of these companies the six serving on Jamaica and four others at Ruatan were ordered to be formed into a proper regiment; Trelawney's 63rd (later the 49th) on 2 February 1744. Nevertheless, in June 1747 when Admiral Boscawen was ordered to take a naval squadron to Madras, the land element of his expedition comprised 12 newly raised Independent Companies. Presumably the army was unwilling to risk a complete battalion on such a potentially hazardous expedition. Once again the quality of these companies left much to be desired and at least two of them were recruited from Jacobite prisoners who had been languishing in jail for upwards of a year.

B3: Officer, Independent Company 1781

By the time of the American War, Independent Companies were used simply as recruiting depots for regular corps and ambitious young officers could use them as a means of obtaining accelerated promotion:

'For a company – a lieutenant on full pay is to raise 50 men, including three corporals, to be allowed five guineas levy-money, and the pay of three serjeants and two drummers, during the levy, and to receive £150 from the successor to his lieutenantcy.

A lieutenant on half pay to raise the like number, but to be allowed eight guineas levy-money.

For a lieutenantcy – an ensign on full pay is to raise 20 men, including a corporal, and to be allowed five guineas levy money, with the pay of a serjeant and drummer during the levy.

An ensign on half pay to raise the like number,



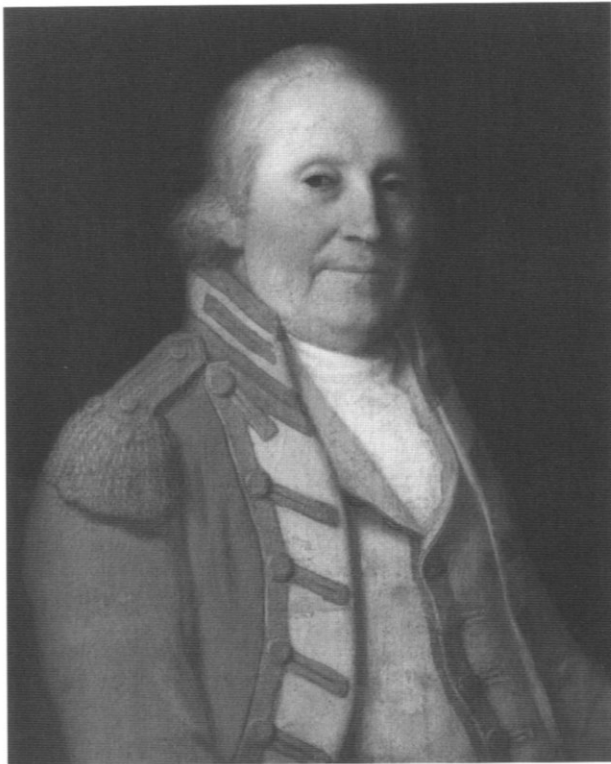
Reconstruction: goatskin knapsack with blanket roll secured under the flap, largely based on the excellent rear view of a soldier in the background of Beechey's portrait of Captain Cowell of the 1st Battalion, The Royals (1795). Bennett

Cuthbertson writing in 1768 considered goatskin knapsacks to be particularly smart, but recommended leather straps, 'well whitened' rather than buff ones, probably because buff is rather prone to stretching. (Author's collection)

but to be allowed seven guineas levy-money.

No officer on full pay to engage in the above service without the approbation of his colonel or commanding officer.'

Once it was completed the men of the company would then be drafted as a reinforcement for a needy battalion – not infrequently the one from which the new captain had lately come. The fate of the officers was rather more uncertain. Most went on to half pay, but some units such as the 25th seem to have operated a policy of giving young officers the opportunity to raise Independent Companies and allowing them



This portrait is traditionally identified as Major Hugh Fraser, an officer who had served with the 27th (Inniskillings) at Culloden in 1746. However, the Army List shows that he was only promoted to lieutenant on 4 September

1754 and still held that rank when he dropped out of sight at the end of the Seven Years War. Moreover, although his uniform bears the buff facings of the 27th, its style, and particularly the epaulettes, clearly belong to a later period. (NMS)

to exchange back into the regiment at the first opportunity. Lieutenant John Stewart for example, having raised his company, was gazetted captain on 24 January 1791 and immediately placed on the half pay list as his men were drafted. Two years later he exchanged back into the 25th in the place of Captain Richard Gardiner who retired on to the half pay list of the 1791 Independent Companies.

The quality of the recruits obtained in this way appears to have been depressingly bad and despite the fact that only three months were allowed in which to complete a company, in 1793 the standard letter to those officers authorised to do so sternly warned:

‘Least the latitude, which from the particular circumstances of the case, was admitted in passing the men raised for the Independent Companies in the

year 1790 should create an Expectation that the like will be allowed on the present occasion, I think it necessary to make you aware, that no Recruit will be approved who is not in every respect conformable to the terms prescribed.’

The uniform depicted here was described in instructions issued to all Captains of Independent Companies on 23 March 1781:

‘The Independent Company raised by you, and which you command, is to be furnished only for the present, with the firelock, bayonet and cartouche box, as delivered from the Tower. You are immediately to clothe them with a plain red coat lappelled and white waistcoat and breeches equal to the clothing of the Army, and plain white buttons, long gaiters and a well cocked laced hat.’

C: Invalids

C1: Invalid 1748

Then as now the Army looked after its own, and soldiers who were disabled or worn out in the service could be granted one of the limited number of places in Chelsea Hospital, or Kilmainham Hospital, for the English and Irish Establishments respectively. Those unable or unwilling to be accommodated there could still be admitted as ‘Out-Pensioners’, receiving a small allowance instead. This rather inadequate sum was intended to do no more than supplement whatever income the former soldier could earn in civilian life. As a third alternative, men who were unfit for active service but were otherwise in possession of their faculties could volunteer for service in one of the numerous Invalid units: sedentary battalions and Independent Companies of old soldiers employed in garrison duties.

This figure is based upon David Morier’s painting of a private of the ‘Invalid Regiment’, presumably Wardour’s 41st Foot, who had been formed in 1719 and spent most of the 18th century quartered in and around Portsmouth. On 25 December 1787 the regiment was reduced and a marching regiment with fresh officers and men raised in its place. The original officers were retained for a time on full pay, before eventually being retired on to the half pay list, while those rank and file still fit for duty were drafted into the Independent Companies of Invalids.

The rather old-fashioned uniform depicted by Morier was common to all the Invalid corps and,

indeed, with the rather obvious exception of the firelock and accoutrements, was also worn by the inmates of Chelsea Hospital. Morier shows the soldier wearing rather ill-fitting white gaiters, but as this particular battalion seldom if ever marched anywhere it is likely that they were only worn on formal parades. Oddly enough, out of all the regiments painted by Morier in 1748, this is the only one to be represented by a battalion company soldier – perhaps because it was easier to use a Chelsea In-Pensioner as a model than to fetch a grenadier of the 41st up from Portsmouth. According to the 1751 Warrant grenadiers wore the usual caps, bearing a rose and thistle on a red ground, within a crowned garter.

C2: Invalid c. 1780

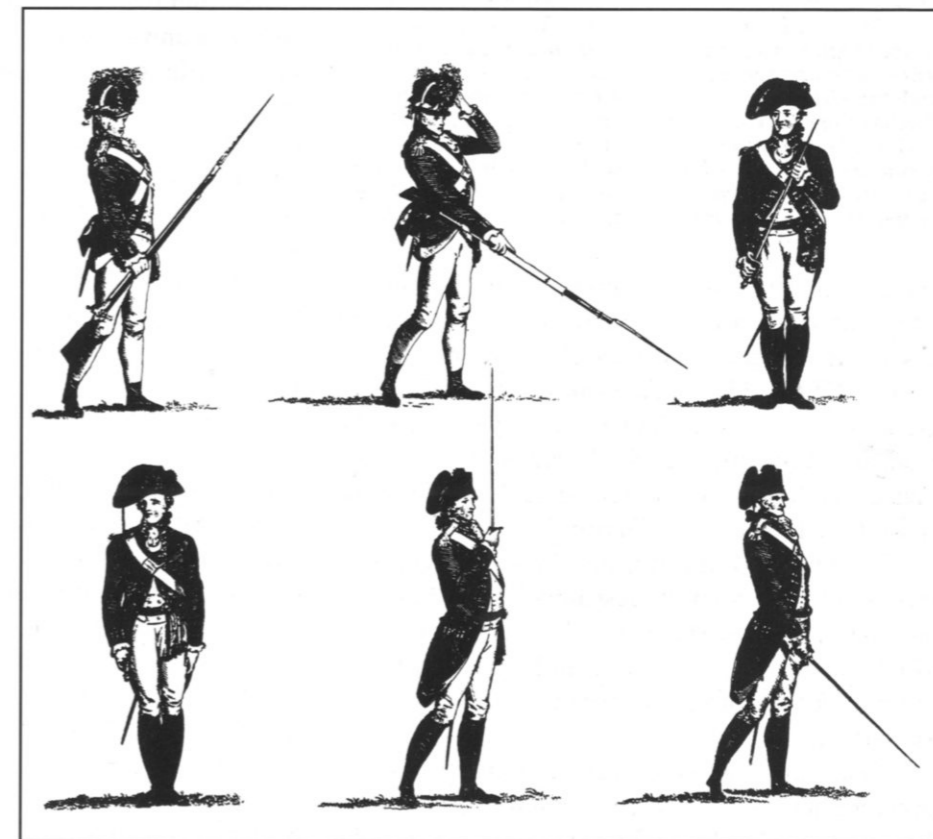
Besides the 41st and a number of other Invalid battalions raised during the Seven Years War, Independent Companies of Invalids were widely scattered around the country. In 1793, for example, there were no fewer than 50; ten on Jersey, eight on Guernsey, four on Alderney, one each on Scilly and at Pendennis, six at Plymouth and four at Portsmouth,

three at Berwick, two each at Sheerness, Hull and Chester, one company each at Dover Castle, Tilbury Fort, Landguard Fort, and four in Scotland. In addition, a battalion of Invalids was maintained on the Irish Establishment and there was also an Invalid battalion of artillerymen.

Although the style of the uniform kept pace with the rest of the Army, the Invalid companies were still distinguished by an absence of lace, buff coloured accoutrements, and most noticeably by the wearing of blue waistcoats and breeches. This uniform became even more distinctive when regiments of the line formally adopted white waistcoats and breeches in 1768 but it was not until 1794 that the Invalid companies were permitted to follow suit.

C3: Invalid Officer, Edinburgh Castle 1773

This rather puzzling figure is based on a report of an inspection carried out at Edinburgh Castle on 8 June 1773; ‘Officers’ uniforms very good, faced with green and laced with gold.’ Why this particular company apparently wore green instead of the usual blue facings is not explained, but it may perhaps have



Officers saluting according to the 1794 Manual, from Hall’s New Royal Encyclopaedia (2nd edn 1794). Note how the battalion company officers wear boots while the light company officers wear half-gaiters. (Author’s collection)



been a distinguishing feature of the four companies stationed in 'North Britain'. Both officers and men presumably wore white waistcoats and breeches.

The Scottish companies were rather widely scattered with one serving at Edinburgh, one at Stirling, a third at Fort George and the fourth at Dumbarton. Smaller detachments, presumably drawn from one or other of these companies, lay even further afield, occupying the various highland forts. In 1745 the permanent staff of Ruthven Barracks comprised three Invalids, and a locally recruited Barrackmaster who actually lived in the nearby village.

D: Marines

D1 & D2: Private 6th Marines and Sergeant 5th Marines 1740s

In November 1739 the King announced the formation of six Marine regiments and these were joined by four more in January 1741. The senior officers were found for the most part from the half pay list, though serving subalterns could usually gain a step in rank by volunteering. The remaining officers, as was usual for newly raised corps were either drawn from the half pay or more commonly were 'new entrants' into the military profession. Had these new and rather hastily raised units proceeded on service as complete battalions the experienced officers and NCOs would no doubt have knocked them into shape without too much difficulty. Unfortunately, they were not given the opportunity to do so.

In the first place, although raised as Marines, they were, for administrative purposes, part of the Army. This quite naturally irked the Lords of the Admiralty but it was not until February 1747 that the battle was won and control of the regiments passed a few doors along Whitehall from the Horse Guards to the Admiralty building. In the meantime confusion reigned.

Marines were required to serve in small detachments aboard just about every ship in the Royal

Short Land Pattern Firelock and India Pattern Firelock. The former, having a 42 inch (107 cm) barrel, was introduced in 1768 and was the standard infantry weapon during the American War and afterwards. The 39 inch (99 cm) barrelled India

Pattern was carried by European and native troops of the East India Company from the 1760s, and apparently also by British regulars serving in India for some years before its official adoption in 1794. (Author's collection)

Navy. There was no question therefore of keeping the battalions together, or even as it soon transpired, exerting any meaningful central control over them. Ships of 90 guns or more were supposed to embark a full company of three officers and 100 marines, but the smaller ones could have as few as 15. Keeping track of these men and settling their accounts literally became a nightmare and undoubtedly led to the Army's relinquishing control in 1747. Even so the pay warrants were not finally cleared until 1764, fifteen years after they were disbanded!

Another peculiarity of these regiments was that since no more than a single company was embarked, even on the largest warships, there was no requirement for officers above the rank of captain to go to sea. This made a field officer's post in one of these regiments a rather attractive proposition. It also meant that during the Jacobite emergency in 1745 the Government was able to draw at very short notice upon a pool of otherwise unemployed field officers to lead the provisional battalions formed from 'Additional Companies' (depot companies of regiments serving overseas).

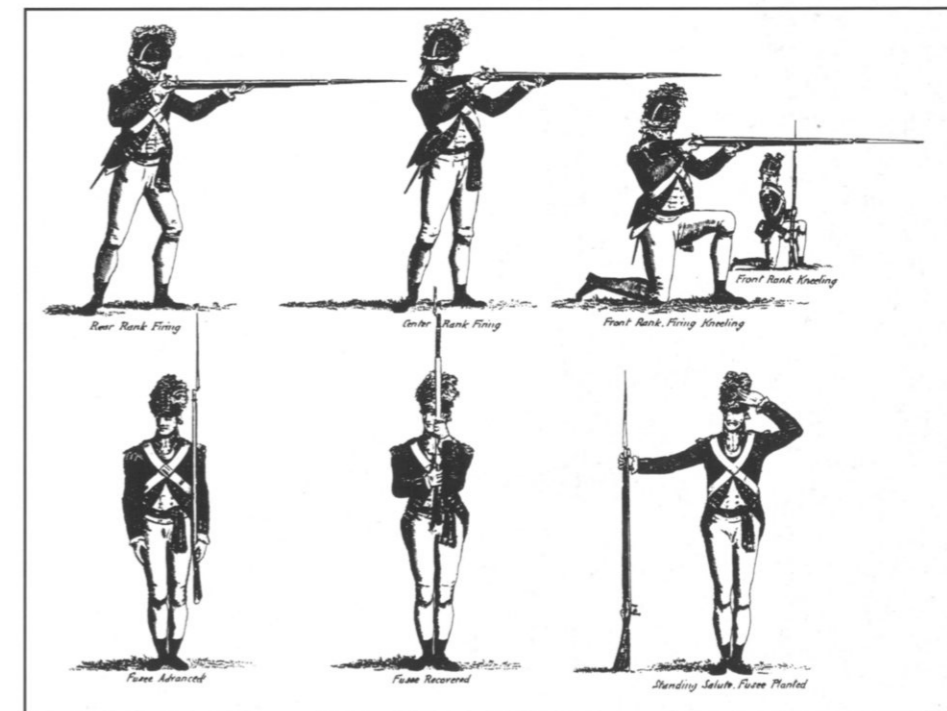
The uniforms depicted in the 1742 Cloathing Book appear rather old fashioned, though it may safely be assumed that, like their comrades in the

land forces, all ten regiments wore lapels after 1743. The fact that coat skirts are worn unhooked may be attributed to the fact that they were not expected to undertake much in the way of marching and the provision of a belly-box rather than the larger cartouche box worn on the hip also reflects their rather limited role.

The most distinctive feature of the uniform is the grenadier style cap, presumably worn by all companies. It is not clear from the Cloathing Book illustrations whether it simply lacked the usual tassel on the top, or whether, as is more likely, the cap was an old fashioned style with a separate front and hanging bag. At any rate this type of headgear was probably adopted as being much more practical on shipboard than a wide-brimmed cocked hat.

D3: Grenadier Company, Marines 1775

Marines were once again raised in 1755. This time they were very firmly under the control of the Admiralty, but their officers continued to be carried on the Army List. Their uniform, again following Army styles, was a red coat with white facings, though the extent to which this was actually worn is open to doubt. While on board ship they were expected to keep their uniforms in store and wear a sea kit of slop



Light infantry drill, 1794. The officers demonstrating the drill all wear Tarleton helmets, which appear to have been the most popular style of headgear for light infantry after the American War. None appear to have a sword and all wear half-gaiters. (Author's collection)



clothing similar to that issued to ordinary seamen. Practice doubtless varied from ship to ship and red coats may have been worn over loose trousers and checked shirts during sea actions, but generally speaking the uniform depicted was probably only worn on shore, as in the actions at Lexington and Concord at the start of the American war in 1775.

Officially headgear was the usual cocked hat but officers at Boston in 1775 were ordered to provide themselves with jackets and round hats. With two battalions present it was decided to form grenadier and light infantry companies – an otherwise unknown species of Marine. Grenadier caps with distinctive plates were sent out; the device being the inevitable anchor in the centre of an eight pointed star, surmounted by a crown and surrounded by a laurel wreath. The light infantry caps presumably bore a similar device.

E: English Militia

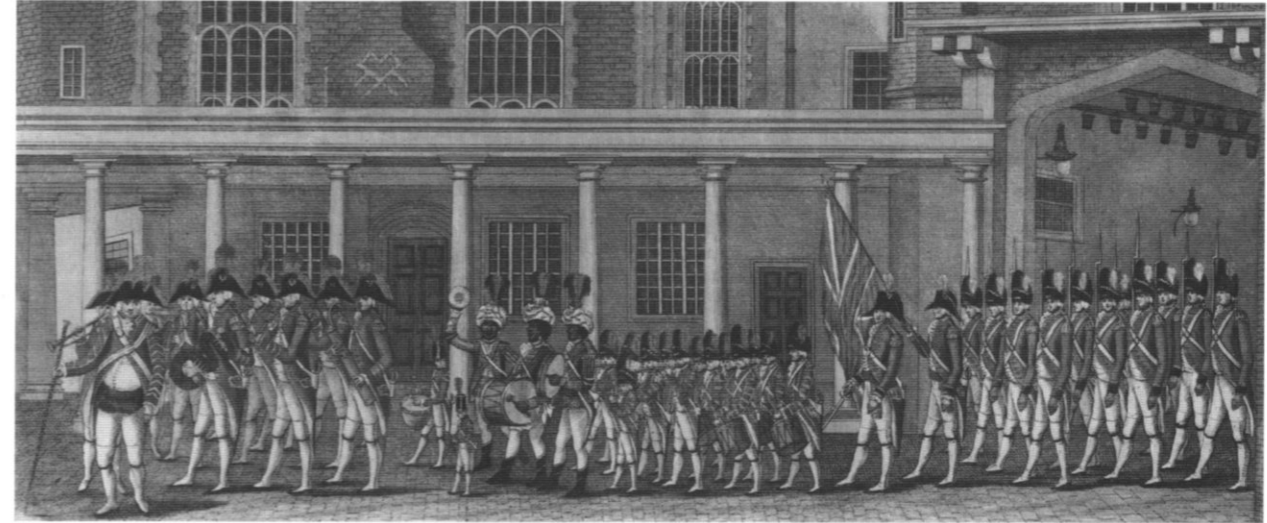
E1: Private, Norfolk Militia 1759

The existing county militias had proved to be utterly ineffective during the Jacobite emergency in 1745, therefore the 1756 invasion scare saw a new Militia Act. Apart from putting the militia on a more efficient footing, it permitted the Crown to embody it for permanent duty anywhere in England and Wales during wartime. Only arms (a rather basic 'Militia' pattern musket) and coats were provided at Government expense. Other clothing and equipment was the responsibility of the county in which the regiment was raised. Contemporary illustrations indicate that these coats were often quite different in style from those worn by the regular army, perhaps sometimes for reasons of economy.

The appearance of the Norfolk Militia is unusually well documented in a series of sketches illustrating a contemporary drill book, Wyndham's 'Plan of Discipline for the Use of the Militia of the County of Norfolk' (1759). The lack of marching gaiters reflects their largely sedentary role but the general cut of the uniform appears rather French in style. In 1759 it was noted that; 'The Drummers and fifers were all little boys with fur caps and looked very pretty.' Black facings

Scots Guardsman, by Edward Dayes, 1792. This soldier wears the uniform prescribed in 1768 in its

final form with a stand-up collar and calf-length gaiters. (NMS)



were still being worn by the two regiments of Norfolk Militia at the time of the American War and during the Napoleonic Wars, and this may explain why the short lived 106th Foot (Norwich Rangers) also adopted black facings when raised in 1794. At any rate, although few of the senior officers and captains of the 106th had any discernible connection with the county, a number of the newly gazetted ensigns and lieutenants are known to have previously served in the Norfolk Militia.

E2: Officer, Norfolk Militia 1759

This figure, again based on sketches in Wyndham's drill book, displays some interesting features, not least the single breasted coat. The sketches depict both junior officers and company commanders wearing boots and carrying fusils and bayonets in place of the regulation spontoon or half-pike. In so doing they were presumably aping regular army practice. Surviving orderly books and standing orders belonging to regular battalions invariably prescribe the wearing of boots on active service and muskets were obviously more practical than spontoons.

Generally speaking militia officers' uniforms appear to have been more elaborate and richly decorated than those worn by regulars. Unlike most regular army officers, whose origins more frequently lay amongst the middle classes, militia officers were almost invariably drawn from the county aristocracy and gentry. Their uniforms naturally reflected their superior wealth and social status, but the fact that they were not liable to be spoiled on active service may also have been a factor.

The band, grenadiers and some very diminutive drummers and fifers of a regiment of Foot Guards at St. James's Palace 1790. Although identified as the 3rd or Scots Guards, the

button loops are spaced evenly, which would suggest the 1st Regiment. The curious shako-like headdress worn by the fifers is interesting. (NMS)

E3: Officer, Durham Militia 1760s

This figure, based on a portrait of a grenadier company officer named Crozier Surtees, again displays some interesting variations in style from regular army uniform. Unlike the Norfolk Militia, the Durhams had lapels, but the cuffs and lacings are in light dragoon style. A surviving grenadier cap is black fur with an embroidered front and a green bag. The use of dark, slightly bluish green facings, is intriguing since the same facing colour was adopted in 1758 by Colonel John Lambton's 68th Foot. Although the 68th did not receive their 'Durham' title until after the American War, there is little doubt that it merely regularised an existing county affiliation established by Lambton, who belonged to a prominent Durham family.

F: Scottish Fencibles

F1: Officer, Sutherland Fencibles 1759

At the outbreak of the Seven Years War the Scottish militia was even more moribund than its English counterpart and with no existing structure to remodel, the Government opted instead in 1759 to raise two battalions of 'Fencibles'; one in Argyllshire and the other in Sutherland. Both were areas which

had been conspicuously reliable during the Jacobite emergency 14 years previously. A 'fencible' was an old Scots term for a militiaman or more precisely someone capable of carrying arms 'defencible' and, although in a manner of speaking regulars, both units were to be employed in home defence duties and could not be sent overseas. In this respect they were not unlike the ten provincial battalions raised in England during the Jacobite emergency. However, while the officers of those corps had succeeded in obtaining regular commissions and the certainty of half pay to follow, fencible officers did not enjoy equality with their regular counterparts and unless injured in the service were not entitled to half pay when their corps were disbanded.

Both battalions also wore very similar uniforms



with yellow facings and plaids of the ordinary Government sett. The same facings and tartans were consistently adopted by other regular and fencible battalions subsequently raised in these areas. It is not at all clear how the two regiments were distinguished, though the arrangement of the lace loopings probably differed. The wearing of regimental tartans by officers of highland regiments at this early period was by no means universal. While some did so, others like William Gordon of Fyvie, Lieutenant Colonel of the 105th Highlanders, evidently wore whatever took their fancy. [See MAA 261.]

F2: Private, Light Company, South Fencibles 1778

Fencible Regiments were again raised during the American War and although they were still predominantly 'Highland' corps, the South Fencibles were, as their title suggests, raised by the Duke of Buccleuch in southern Scotland in 1778. Their only recorded action took place on 20 April 1779 when a party of recruits for the 42nd and 71st Highlanders mutinied at Leith on being drafted into the 83rd (Glasgow Volunteers). Some 200 men of the South Fencibles suppressed the mutiny in a short, but vicious fight on the quayside. Captain James Mansfield, a sergeant, corporal and two grenadiers were killed and six wounded. Nine mutineers were killed and 22 wounded.

Based upon a contemporary painting, this light infantryman is dressed pretty much according to regulations with the rather unpopular black leather chain cap. Although intended to be a more practical alternative to the ordinary cocked hat, these caps were all too frequently made rather too small for the sake of neatness, predictably resulting in a distressing tendency to fall off. Another frequently expressed criticism was the lack of a peak to shade the eyes when firing and it is little wonder that substitutes were sought.

Sir James Grant of Grant, Colonel of the 1st or Strathspey Fencibles, raised 1793. This well-known print by John Kay illustrates a typical highland officer's uniform of the period – only the short jacket and

bonnet are distinctive features. Note how a light spadron is carried in place of the expected basket-hilted broadsword. (Author's collection)

F3: Subaltern, Hopetoun Fencibles 1793

War with France in 1793 once more saw the raising of a considerable number of fencible regiments in Scotland and eventually in England and Ireland as well. One of the first was the Earl of Hopetoun's regiment, raised in the Edinburgh area. Under their terms of service they could not be marched out of Scotland unless and until there was an actual French invasion. It was quickly realised, of course, that this stipulation was quite unworkable, but subsequent attempts to persuade the fencibles to serve south of the border at first met with some resistance and, in the case of the 1st (Strathspey) Fencibles, outright mutiny. The Hopetoun Fencibles, stationed for some reason at Banff in the north of Scotland, hardly a strategically important location, were slightly less vociferous; which did not prevent some of their more excitable officers dumping the regimental ammunition into the harbour as a precautionary measure. In the end, however, both they and the 6th (Gordon) Fencibles agreed to serve in England.

Drawing on this unhappy lesson, subsequent letters of service stipulated that fencible regiments could be employed anywhere within the British Isles. Eventually this was widened still further to take in service anywhere in Europe, although it was rather pushing things when one Irish unit ended up in Egypt.

The uniform of the Hopetoun Fencibles is usefully illustrated in a number of sketches by the celebrated Edinburgh caricaturist John Kay. The blue-grey facings are unusual but were also adopted by the MacKay or Reay Fencibles. The curved sabre fit for a hero also appears in a sketch of Hopetoun himself and may therefore be a regimental pattern carried in preference to the straight-bladed spadron.

G: Edinburgh units

G1: Private, Edinburgh Defence Band 1781

Although there was no centrally organised militia system in Scotland during the 18th century, the burghs were generally quick enough to raise forces for their own defence in times of crisis. The Jacobite emergency is an obvious case in point, but the Seven Years War also saw the raising of local volunteers. In August 1759 the Aberdeen Town Council resolved to 'borrow or buy from two to three hundred stand of

small arms for the use and defence of the inhabitants, with ammunition conform'. The arms were duly obtained from the government and a body of 500 part-time volunteers was formed. A rather more useful step by the council was to assist in the raising of recruits for a regular light infantry unit; Craufurd's 85th Royal Volunteers. [See MAA 285.] A subsequent offer to raise a battalion of volunteers in 1778 was politely declined by the government and defensive preparations were more or less limited to cleaning and oiling the muskets obtained in 1759.

In Edinburgh it was a very similar story, but in 1781 a part-time volunteer battalion was actually raised. Rather quaintly entitled the 'Edinburgh Defence Band', they adopted blue coats faced with orange. As in 1745 the choice of blue coats seems to have been deliberately intended to distinguish the middle-class volunteers from the regulars – a distinction which would be abandoned in the 1790s. This figure and the light blue coat is based on a contemporary print, but a description in the Scots Magazine for October 1781 refers to a *dark* blue coat with blue cuffs and lapels.

G2 & G3: Edinburgh Town Guard

The Edinburgh Town Guard was a paramilitary police force, originally established in 1607, and very largely made up of old soldiers. Like the notorious Edinburgh caddies or street porters, most of them were also highlanders and by all accounts a pretty tough bunch indeed. By the middle of the 18th century they generally comprised about 120 soldiers divided into three companies and, although regularly clothed and equipped, they lived at home and could work at what trade they pleased when off duty. Not surprisingly they were far from popular and according to Sir Walter Scott, who remembered them only too well, they 'were neither by birth, education, or former habits, trained to endure with much patience the insults of the rabble, or the provoking petulance of truant schoolboys, and idle debauchees of all descriptions, with whom their occupation brought them into contact . . . with their grim and valiant corporal, John Dhu, (the fiercest-looking fellow I ever saw), [they] were, in my boyhood, the alternative terror and derision of the petulant brood of the High-school.'

John Dhu had served with the grenadier com-

pany of the 42nd at Ticonderoga, but other veterans, including many of the officers, came from the Scots Brigade in Dutch service.

The uniform is usefully depicted in a number of sketches by John Kay and pretty well conforms to regular army style with the notable exception of the red waistcoat and breeches. Firelocks and bayonets were carried as required, but for ordinary policing duties lochaber axes were apparently preferred. Kay's sketches show the officers armed only with swords but it appears that they too paraded with fusils on occasion - the most celebrated being in 1736 when Captain John Porteous shot a member of a mob trying to free a condemned smuggler.

H: The East India Company

Strictly speaking the military forces maintained by the East India Company were not part of King George's Army at all, though it took a near mutiny in 1796 to preserve their independence. Nevertheless, no study of the 18th century British Army would be complete without some consideration of the Company forces.

The East India Company's army only began to take shape in the middle of the 18th century. The Company's charter had long given it the power to maintain armed forces in the East, but this provision was originally intended to do no more than allow it to recruit small bands of native mercenaries to serve as guards on the Company's premises. However, the rather haphazard expansion of the Company's spheres of influence, and growing conflict with the French, saw a dramatic expansion in the size of the Company's forces in the three Presidencies of Madras, Bombay and Bengal, and the development of a growing professionalism besides.

HI: Capt. R. Bannatyne, Madras Army 1759

Even as late as the 1750s the Company forces were rather loosely organised. The sepoy units were to all intents and purposes free companies, recruited and largely commanded by native officers. Prior to 1759 battalions formed from these companies were often temporary formations placed under the command of quite junior British officers.

Entrants into the Company's service were first appointed as cadets, through the patronage of the directors. Thereafter promotion was regulated



strictly by seniority, rather than by the rather haphazard combination of purchase, interest and merit to be found in the regular service. 'We are not,' said one officer, 'generally speaking, men of interest, else we should not have preferred a service in which seniority gives command.'

In the early days, promotion could be quite swift, offering considerable opportunities for ambitious young men. However, after the Seven Years War, promotion became much more difficult to obtain. Moreover, when the regular 39th Foot were sent out to India in 1754, Parliament passed a Mutiny Act For



Above left: Reconstruction: officer 1st Battalion, The Royals, San Domingo, 1794. A round hat and short, unlaced round jacket are worn in preference to the long coat and cocked hat worn in temperate areas. On active service boots were

invariably substituted for shoes and gaiters. Above: this reconstruction is based in part on contemporary descriptions and in part on a slightly later sketch of an officer of the 16th by William Loftie. (Author's collection)

India which stipulated, *inter alia*, that regular officers would always outrank Company officers in the same grade, irrespective of their actual seniority. A similar situation existed and was accepted *vis à vis* regular

and provincial officers in North America, but it caused considerable resentment. As Company officers never failed to point out, it was not simply a matter of seniority. It was bad enough, as one put it that officers grown grey in the Company's service should be 'superseded by young Gentlemen recent from the Academy, many of whom have not been so long in existence as the Dates of our Commissions'. What made matters worse was the very different nature of their duties; a captain in the Company's service was normally expected to command a battalion.

In 1788 this inequality was partially remedied when Company officers were granted brevet regular commissions, backdated to 1783, but there was no improvement in the slow rate of promotion or any other attempt made to put Company officers on an equal footing with their regular colleagues.

An early entrant into the Company's service was a Scot named Robert Bannatyne who was appointed to a cadetship in 1754 and within six months was commissioned an ensign of 'English Infantry', i.e. the Madras Europeans. Subsequently he received command of a sepoy battalion while still only a lieutenant and by 1758 was a captain and town major of Madras during the unsuccessful French siege. During the siege he distinguished himself in leading a sortie which routed the Franco-Irish Regiment de Lally. Unfortunately this promising career was cut short by his death at the storming of Conjeveram on 12 April 1759.

This figure is based in part on a portrait and a surviving coat belonging to a Swiss mercenary officer named Frischmann, and partly on an inventory of Captain Bannatyne's effects auctioned off after his untimely demise. His uniforms and copy of Bland's *Treatise of Military Discipline* were bought by an Ensign Dormand.

There is little or nothing to distinguish him from his regular army counterparts. At this early period all European soldiers in the Company's Madras army, including those serving with sepoy units, wore red coats with buff facings, probably because their first commander, Major Stringer Lawrence, had originally served in the regular 14th Foot.

H2: Private, Madras Europeans 1776

European recruits for the Company's armies were always a rather dubious lot, and the independent company which originally garrisoned Madras was



not known as the 'Gun Room Crew' for nothing. In 1787 an admittedly prejudiced Lord Cornwallis complained that recent drafts had included 'broken gentlemen', former army officers, half pay naval officers and even the odd clergyman, all united only by a pressing need to leave England as quickly as possible. Foreigners, too, were to be found in the ranks and in the early days there were even a couple of companies of Swiss mercenaries.

This reconstruction is largely based on orders issued by Major General James Stuart on 11 December 1776:

'The Acting Commander in Chief has thought proper to diminish the quantity of necessaries formerly to be provided by each soldier, which are now to be four shirts made full and long, three black neckcloths and one white ditto, to clasp, three waistcoats made to button low down, two pair of breeches made full, to come up well upon the belly, and to cover the knees, two pairs of pantaloons, two pair of stockings, regimental uniforms, one pair of black gaiters to button, two pair of shoes.

The Commander in Chief takes this occasion to say that in respect to the dress of the soldier he does not expect all the precision and exactness of a European parade, he knows the climate will not admit of it, but he expects a uniform soldierlike appearance in the whole army, answerable to the means afforded by the Honourable Company which are very ample; for the condition of a private soldier here in their service is to his knowledge better than in any other service in the known world.'

The means referred to was not the miserable pittance which came to a soldier as pay, but to the provision of *Batta*, an additional allowance originally paid only on active service, but soon institutionalised. The very least an officer or soldier could look for was 'Half Batta' – paid in peacetime in Madras – but in Bengal 'Double Batta' was the rule at all times and both officers and men were fiercely protective of this right – as Robert Clive discovered to his cost in the 'Batta Mutiny' of 1766.

H3: Bengal Sepoy 1790s

The best of the Company's officers were appointed

An attractive modern study, by Skeoch Cumming, of a drummer of the 100th (Gordon) Highlanders, 1794. (NMS)

to the locally recruited sepoy battalions.

In 1786 Cornwallis made the interesting observation that the sepoys were; 'fine men and would not in size disgrace the Prussian ranks.' He went on to praise their courage but got distinctly snuffy about their drill. Most of the officers in these units were actually themselves Indians and in 1794 it was reckoned that the ratio between (British) officers and other ranks in Bengal was 1:48. Largely in order to speed up their promotion prospects British officers were appointed in ever greater numbers to Sepoy units from the early 1800s onwards, effectively reducing the native officers' status to that of senior NCOs – a source of considerable grievance in years to come.

At first the Sepoys appear to have been ununiformed, but in September 1759 the Madras units were put into a simple uniform combining short red jackets with native clothing. The other presidencies followed suit and by the 1790s their uniforms were as strictly regulated as their European counterparts.

This figure is based on some watercolour sketches by an unknown artist. Madras and Bombay sepoys wore broadly similar uniforms. The blue facings and yellow lace suggest he could be a member of the 1/20th Bengal Native Infantry, originally raised as a Marine battalion.

Captain John Rose of Holme; another print by Kay, this time depicting a company officer of the Strathspey Fencibles wearing breeches and a fur-crowned round hat. Surviving Orderly books reveal that this uniform was very common in

highland regiments in the 1790s. Indeed an order that officers of the Reay Fencibles should parade in highland dress was greeted with consternation since none of them apparently possessed any! (Author's collection)



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