

# Colonial American Troops 1610–1774 (1)



né Chartrand • Illustrated by David Rickman

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## Dedication

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To the memory of Albert W. Haarmann,  
dear friend, outstanding researcher, mentor.

## Author's Note

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**This first in a series of three volumes deals with royal troops in all the colonies, and a general assessment of the systems of militias and provincial troops. Each colony's militia and provincial troops are then examined in a loose chronological order. This title begins the review with the oldest colony, Virginia, followed by New Netherlands, and New Sweden, which it absorbed.**

**The forthcoming Volume 2 will continue with Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maryland, New York, and New Jersey.**

**Volume 3 will feature South Carolina, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Georgia, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Hudson's Bay. It will also have a section on Rangers, and another on colors and standards.**

## Abbreviations used in this text:

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*Colonies/states:* CT, Connecticut; DE, Delaware; GA, Georgia; NC, North Carolina; NFLD, Newfoundland; NJ, New Jersey; NH, New Hampshire; NS, Nova Scotia; NY, New York; MA, Massachusetts; MD, Maryland; ME, Maine; PA, Pennsylvania; RI, Rhode Island; SC, South Carolina; VA, Virginia.  
*Archives:* BL, British Library; NAC, National Archives of Canada; PRO, Public Records Office, Kew, UK; PRO/AO, Audit Office; PRO/CO, Colonial Office; PRO/T, Treasury; PRO/WO, War Office.  
*Published sources:* CSPC: *Calendar of State Papers Colonial*; DHSNY: *Documentary History of the State of New York*; DRCHSNY: *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York*; JSAHR: *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*; MC&H: *Military Collector & Historian: Journal of the Company of Military Historians*; PWJ: *Papers of Sir William Johnson*.

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## Artist's Note

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# COLONIAL AMERICAN TROOPS 1610-1774 (1)

## INTRODUCTION

**T**HE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT of the North American colonies subject to the British crown before 1774 were extremely varied. Some were not initially British; some were founded by different religious groups impelled for various reasons to escape the constraints which then applied in their homeland; while others primarily attracted men who sought land and riches. The evolution of their military institutions was therefore quite varied, reflecting the fact that some were under constant threat from American Indian, French or Spanish enemies while others were not. Few royal troops were posted to or raised in the colonies before the 18th century; consequently the colonists had to organize their own defense if they were to survive.

This series of three Men-at-Arms books begins with a review of the royal troops stationed or raised in all the colonies, followed by a general assessment of the systems of militia and provincial troops. Each colony's militia and provincial troops are then examined. This volume begins the review with the oldest colony, Virginia, followed by New Netherlands, and New Sweden, which it absorbed. The forthcoming second volume will continue with coverage of militia and provincial units in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maryland, New York, and New Jersey. The third volume will examine such troops in South Carolina, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Georgia, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Hudson's Bay; it will also include a section on Rangers, and another on colors and standards. In all volumes, special attention will be given to organisation, weapons and dress; and it is hoped that the three together will form the most complete reference to date on all these aspects.

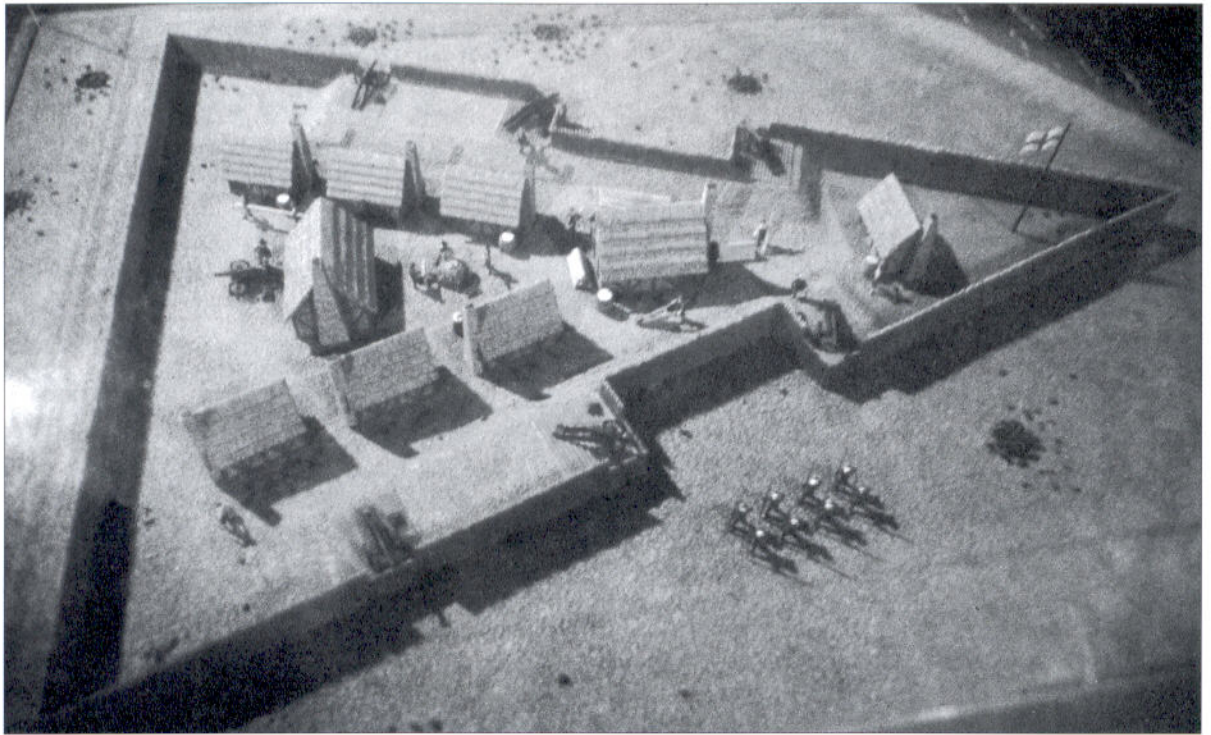
\* \* \*

The British North American colonies evolved from the first settlements in Virginia and Massachusetts in the early 17th century. The development and success of the various colonies set up along the North Atlantic coastline was truly extraordinary. Within a few decades after usually difficult beginnings, the population and wealth of the colonies grew rapidly. Some of the small coastal settlements grew into important port cities such as Boston, New York (originally founded by the Dutch), Baltimore, and Philadelphia. By the middle of the 18th century the colonial populations of European origin were reckoned to total over a million and a half souls.

Unlike those implanted by other European powers, the early settlers of these English colonies in North

The first contingent of Puritan settlers from England landed at 'Plymouth Rock' on 16 December 1620. They came to America well armed.

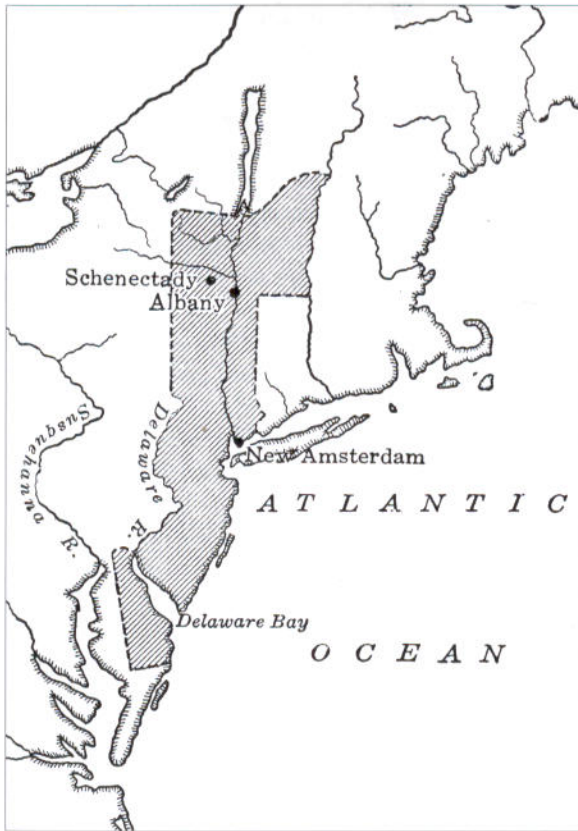




**Model of Fort Algernourne, Virginia. This fort, built in 1609 on the north side of the James River, mounted seven cannon. It was destroyed accidentally by fire in 1612. The triangular shape was typical of many early forts in North America. (The Casemate Museum, Fort Monroe, Virginia)**

America were often refugees from their own native land, usually for religious reasons. They were soon joined in the New World by individuals from all stations and walks of life who were seeking a better future than they could hope for in Europe. Thus, for example, the Puritans in Massachusetts and the Quakers in Pennsylvania were eventually outnumbered by later immigrants inspired by more material motives; but the special character of the first settlements was never quite lost, and continued to be influential in the social and political lives of these colonies. The settlers in Virginia and further to the south were not as rigid in their religious beliefs, being for the most part adventurers who wished to establish rich plantation domains; they were especially successful in Virginia and South Carolina.

The colonies were not established without many struggles – first against the Indians, who periodically resisted the arrival of the settlers by waging ferocious wars, and later against the Spanish, in Florida to the south and especially against the French to the north and west. The Spanish remained somewhat contained in Florida and, while worrisome to the British settlers in the Carolinas and Georgia, did not constitute a major or consistent menace. The French were another matter. Due to their extensive explorations in the interior of North America, they had established colonies and outposts which formed an arc from the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of the St Lawrence by the early 18th century. The French colonies were far smaller in population but were militarily very powerful, largely due to their many Indian alliances. They were governed by a largely autocratic and military authority; apart from regular garrisons they also had well-organized and well-led militias which became intimately familiar with long-range movement through the wilderness and with the tactics of woodlands warfare.



Map of the Dutch claims in North America, shown by the shaded area. The Delaware Bay region was settled by the Swedes from 1638 but taken over by the Dutch in 1655.

## CHRONOLOGY

**1513–1587** The Spanish explored Florida and parts of present-day Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, the Carolinas, and Virginia; they settled several towns, and built missions as far north as Ajacan (near Jamestown, VA – destroyed and missionaries killed by Indians in 1571). Santa Elena, first capital of Florida, was abandoned in 1587 as the Spanish regrouped at St Augustine.

**1584–1587** A small and short-lived English settlement was established at Roanoke Island in “Virginia” (present-day North Carolina).

**1607** June: English colonists founded Jamestown, the first permanent settlement in the colony of Virginia.

**1608** Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec. The French quickly reached and explored the Great Lakes in the following years, settled the St Lawrence River valley, and built many forts far into the interior, whose vast expanses became New France. The British colonies were eventually closed in by the French to the north and west.

**1613** Samuel Argall sailed from Virginia with 60 men and 14 cannon, destroying the French *habitations* of Saint-Sauveur and Port Royal in Acadia (now Nova Scotia, Canada) in July.

**1614** Following Henry Hudson’s 1609 exploration of the Hudson River, the Dutch built trade forts at Manhattes (now New York, NY) and Nassau (near Albany, NY).

**1620** Puritan settlers from England established Plymouth colony, which eventually amalgamated with Massachusetts in **1691**.

**1622–1632** War between Virginia colony and Indians.

**1623** The Dutch established their first permanent trading post on the Delaware River (near Camden, NJ). English colonists settled along the Piscataqua River, founding New Hampshire.

**1624** The Dutch went up the Hudson River and built Fort Orange (later Albany, NY).

**1626** The Dutch bought Manhattan Island from the Indians and founded the colony of New Amsterdam (New York, NY).

**1628** Puritan colonists settled in Massachusetts Bay.

**1630** The Dutch built Fort Swanendael (Delaware).

**1633** Maryland colony was founded under a charter granted to Lord Baltimore.

**1636** The Connecticut settlements became a distinct colony, confirmed by royal charter in **1662**. Roger Williams founded Rhode Island with religious refugees from Massachusetts, obtaining Parliament’s patent for the colony in **1662**. The Pequot Indians were at war with the English settlers; during August, John Endicott with 100 men from Boston raided Pequot settlements in Connecticut.

**1637** John Mason from Hartford (CT) led an expedition of 90 militiamen and over 400 allied Indians against the Pequots, who were defeated and



New Amsterdam, capital of New Netherlands colony, c.1660.

Map of the "New England" colonies, as the more north-eastern settlements became known by about 1700-50. Massachusetts was the most extensive and included Maine (which became a separate state only in 1820). Connecticut was the next most important, followed by Rhode Island and New Hampshire.



(MD) on 5 November.

1654 French Acadia was captured by Massachusetts troops under Major Robert Sedgwick.

1655-1657 The Dutch conquered New Sweden in September 1655; and for the next two years fought the "Peach War" against the Delaware Indians.

1659-1660, 1663-1664 War between the Esopus Indians and Dutch colonists.

1664 New Amsterdam surrendered to the British without a fight on 8 September, to be renamed New York. New Jersey and Delaware were established as distinct English colonies - these areas had been disputed by Dutch, Swedish, and English settlers.

1665 New Haven colony was absorbed into Connecticut.

1668 Acadia was returned to France by the Treaty of Breda, and re-occupied by the French in 1670.

1670 The English settled colonies in the Carolinas; foundation of the Hudson's Bay Company.

1673-1674 The Dutch recaptured New York on 20 August 1673; but the colony was ceded to Britain once more by the Treaty of Westminster on 6 March 1674, and re-occupied by the British in November. The New Netherlands became New York colony.

1675-1676 "King Philip's War": Massachusetts, Plymouth, Rhode Island, and Connecticut troops waged war against King Philip and



his Narraganset Indians allied with other nations. The Indians had many initial successes, raiding all over the provinces and causing much havoc. In November 1675 the colonies raised 1,000 men, who caught up with the main body of Narragansets in south-western Rhode Island; the Indians were defeated and King Philip killed on 19 December at the bloody Narraganset Swamp fight.

**1676–1677** Following what were felt to be inadequate measures to protect settlers against raids by the Susquehannock Indians, civil war erupted in Virginia. “Bacon’s Rebellion” drove out the royal governor in September 1676, and Jamestown was burned in October. Over 1,000 regular royal troops under Sir Herbert Jeffreys were sent to Virginia to restore order.

The Indians were also at war, but peace followed.

**1677** The “Covenant Chain” treaty was signed between the Iroquois nations and the English colonies.

**1680** New Hampshire – part of Massachusetts since the 1640s – was established as a royal colony. Southern Carolina was at war with the Westo Indians.

**1681** Pennsylvania was chartered as a proprietary colony for the Society of Friends (the Quakers).

**1686** December: Sir Edmund Andros arrived with royal troops in Boston as governor of the “Dominion of New England”, which united Massachusetts, Plymouth, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and later New York and New Jersey into one large colony. Several British trade forts in Hudson’s Bay were taken by the French and Canadians.

**1687** Colonial union proved unpopular; further discontent arose over a failed expedition against Indians in Maine led by Andros.

**1688** In England, the Dutch Protestant Prince William of Orange ousted the Roman Catholic King James II in the almost bloodless “Glorious Revolution” and was crowned William III. In Boston, the pro-King James Governor Andros and his soldiers were overwhelmed by Massachusetts militia on 18 April, and sent back to England. This was the end of the short-lived “Dominion”.

**1689** In Europe the War of the League of Augsburg – called “King



Map of the “Middle” colonies in about 1700–50. New Sweden and New Netherlands had been absorbed into New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland.



The 13 colonies in the middle years of the 18th century. Virginia had been joined by the Carolinas and Georgia, forming the "Southern" colonies. Virginia's claims to the west were extensive, going past the Ohio River valley and thus inevitably confronting the competing claims of New France.

**William's War**" in America – was declared between France and Britain. Iroquois Indians, encouraged by New York, attacked and razed the town of Lachine near Montreal on 4 August; the French in Canada were outraged and vowed revenge.

**1690** French and Indian raids on Schenectady (NY), Salmon Fall (MA), and Casco (ME). Albany (NY) militiamen and Iroquois Indians raided Laprairie near Montreal on 13 August. Pentagouet and Port Royal, Acadia, were taken by 446 Massachusetts troops under Sir William Phips in May. In October, Phips besieged Quebec city with a 2,300-man Massachusetts force, but was defeated by the French and Canadians under Comte Frontenac.

**1691** A raid by 300 New York militiamen and Iroquois Indians was repulsed at Laprairie (QC) on 1 August. Plymouth colony amalgamated with Massachusetts.

**1696** Fort Pemaquid (William Henry, ME) was taken by the French on 15 August. Some 400 Massachusetts men and 50 Indians were repulsed by the French and Indians at Fort Naxouat (Fredericton, New Brunswick) in October.

**1697** Haverhill (MA) was attacked by Indians on 15 March. The war was ended by the Treaty of Ryswyck.

**1701** The "Great Peace of Montreal" was signed between the French, the Iroquois, and the French-allied and western Indians. This was a major diplomatic success for New France, largely neutralizing the Indian nations allied to the British.

**1702** In Europe the War of the Spanish Succession – called "**Queen Anne's War**" in America – was declared against France and Spain by England

and a coalition of allies. A force of 1,200 South Carolina militiamen and allied Indians unsuccessfully besieged the Spanish garrison of St Augustine (FLA) from 10 November to 29 December.

**1704** Some 50 Canadians and 200 French-allied Indians destroyed Deerfield (MA) in February. Militias from the Carolinas campaigned against the Apalachee Indians.

**1706** Spanish and French ships approached Charleston (SC) but were repulsed by South Carolina militia and ships in September.

**1707** On two occasions in June and August, expeditions from New England attacked the French at Port Royal without success.

**1708** Some 200 Canadians and Indians destroyed the village of Haverhill (MA) on 29 August.

**1709** St John's (NFLD) was captured by the French in January.

**1710** South Carolina and North Carolina became separate colonies. The French at Port Royal capitulated on 13 October to 3,600 American colonial troops and 600 British regulars.

**1711** A large force of British regular troops was sent to Boston for an attempt to take Quebec; but part of Admiral Walker's fleet was lost on Egg Island in the St Lawrence on 22–23 August, and the expedition turned back.

**1711–1713** In North Carolina, the Tuscarora War opened with many Indian attacks on frontier settlements on 22 September. It continued into early 1713, when North Carolina troops assisted by a contingent from South Carolina overcame the Tuscaroras at their Fort Nohucke in March.

**1713** The Treaty of Utrecht on 11 April ended the War of the Spanish Succession between Britain and France. Acadia (Nova Scotia, except for Cape Breton Island), Newfoundland, and Hudson's Bay were ceded by France to Great Britain.

**1715–1728** The Yamasee and Creek Indians attacked settlements encroaching on their lands in 1715. The following year South Carolina militiamen and allied Cherokee Indians drove the hostiles into Spanish Florida, though a quasi-war of raids continued for many years.

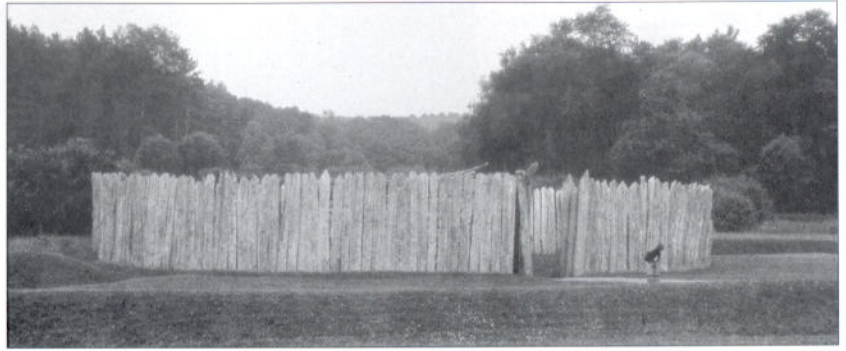
**1718–1721** War between Britain and Spain.

**1722–1727** War between the Abenaki Indians and English settlers. Indians surrounded Annapolis Royal (NS) during summer 1722, but failed to dislodge the British garrison. After years of Indian raids on the Maine settlements, Capt. Lovewell with 40 men attacked and defeated the Indians at their camp on the upper Saco River on 8 May 1725. The war ended in 1727.

**1727–1728** The short war between Britain and Spain between February 1727 and March 1728 provided a pretext for an expedition to march into Spanish Florida and destroy the Yamasee settlement on 6 March 1728.

**1733** The colony of Georgia was founded.

**1740** Outbreak of the "War of Jenkins' Ear" between Britain and Spain, called in America "**King George's War**". General James Oglethorpe with 2,000 men from Georgia and South Carolina unsuccessfully besieged the Spanish at St Augustine during June and July.



**Fort Necessity** – a reconstruction made on the original site by the US National Parks Service. The original was built by Washington and his men in June 1754 "out of necessity," as the strong force of French and Indians led by Capt. de Villiers, Jummonville's half-brother, caught up with them. It was a small and very simple round stockade with trenches outside. (Author's photo)



Artist's impression of the Virginians resisting the French inside Fort Necessity in early July 1754. In this miniature and not very glorious campaign the young George Washington, essentially a surveyor, got his first taste of leadership in wilderness fighting. A much harsher lesson would follow a year later, when he survived the Braddock massacre. (Print after H.A.Ogden)

**1741** Approximately 3,200 Americans took part in the British expedition against the Spanish at Cartagena de Indias (now in Colombia) in March and April. The siege failed, and tropical fevers subsequently decimated the expedition.

**1742** A Spanish attack on Georgia was repulsed by Gen. Oglethorpe's troops at Bloody Marsh on 5–7 July.

**1743** Oglethorpe raided the Spanish at Fort San Marcos in March.

**1744** War was declared between France and Britain – the War of the Austrian Succession. A French expedition from Louisbourg destroyed Canso (NS) in May. Annapolis Royal was then blockaded until August by 50 French soldiers from Louisbourg and about 200 Indians.

**1745** Fortress Louisbourg was attacked by a force of over 4,000 New England militiamen assisted by the Royal Navy, and surrendered on 17 June after a siege of 47 days. On 29 November, 400 Canadians and 200 Indians destroyed Saratoga (NY), capturing 100 men.

**1746** A force of New Englanders was defeated in July near Port La Joie, Isle Saint-Jean (Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island), by its French garrison of about 15 soldiers and 100 Micmac Indians. Some 400 Canadians and 300 Indians captured Fort Massachusetts (Adams, MA).

**1747** On 12 February, 236 Canadians and 50 Micmacs attacked and took Grand Pré (NS). In March the Canadians and Indians burned five forts and 100 houses abandoned by their inhabitants near Haverhill (MA). In April a French raid on Fort No.4 (Charlestown, NH) was repulsed. In June about 200 French and Indians attacked Fort Clinton (near Easton, NY); on 20 June, about 100 American volunteers were defeated near Lake George (NY).

**1748** On 5 July, Lunenburg (now Ashby, MA) was stormed by a Canadian expedition. On 18 July about 70 New York militiamen were attacked near Schenectady (NY) and withdrew after losing about 30 men. The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, signed on 18 July, ended the War of the Austrian Succession. Fortress Louisbourg was returned to France.

**1749** Halifax, founded in Nova Scotia, quickly became an important military and naval town.

**1754** The "Jumonville incident" – a force of Virginia provincial troops ambushed a French party near Fort Duquesne on 27 May. Fort Necessity (PA) was captured by French and Indians on 3 July.

**1755** A *de facto* state of war existed between France and Britain in North America; this theater of the global Seven Years' War is known as the "French-Indian War". The French frontier forts at Beauséjour and Gaspereau were captured by Anglo-American troops on 3–16 June. On



**The death of Wolfe at Quebec on 13 September 1759: painting by Joseph Penney, c.1763, of a scene also famously depicted by Benjamin West. It had the irresistible attraction of the young hero's romanticized death at the moment of victory; with historical hindsight it can also be seen to have marked the moment when New France was doomed, and North America's future as a predominantly Anglo-Saxon culture was secured. (Fort Ligonier Museum, Ligonier, Pennsylvania)**

**OPPOSITE** Indians playing a game of lacrosse at Fort Michilimackinac on 2 June 1763, moments before their surprise attack at the time of "Pontia's Rebellion". At a pre-arranged point in the game, the ball fell near the gates of the fort and the players rushed to retrieve it. The Indian women nearby had weapons hidden under their blankets; within minutes, the unsuspecting men of the 60th Foot were slain and the fort was taken. (Print after R.Thom, Michigan Bell Telephone Company)



**North America after the Treaty of Paris in 1763.** New France has been eliminated, Canada ceded to Britain, and "Louisiana" west of the Mississippi ceded to Spain.

9 July, Gen. Braddock's British and American army was defeated at the Monongahela (near present-day Pittsburgh, PA) by French and Indians. On 8 September a French army under Gen. Dieskau was repulsed by an army of New Englanders under Sir William Johnson at Lake George (NY). French Acadians in Nova Scotia were deported in the summer and fall, resulting in increased raiding warfare on the borders.

**1756** The French captured Fort Bull (NY) on 27 March. War was officially declared between France and Britain on 18 May. The forts at Oswego (NY) were besieged and captured by the French under Gen. Montcalm between 10 and 14 August.

**1757** The French under Montcalm besieged and captured Fort William Henry (NY) on 3–6 August; the withdrawing garrison was ambushed and massacred by French-allied Indians.

**1758** The second siege of Louisbourg, by Gen. Amherst's mostly British troops, lasted from 2 June until the fortress's surrender on 26 July. On 8 July at Ticonderoga (NY), Gen. Abercromby's attacking Anglo-American army was defeated by Montcalm's French troops. The French repulsed a British attack near Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh, PA) on 14 September, and raided Fort Ligonier in October and November.

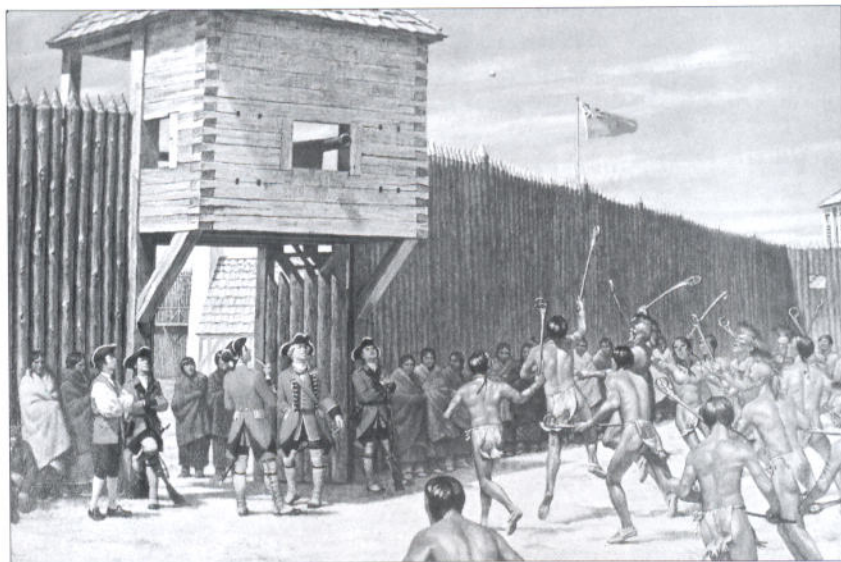
**1759** On 26 July the French blew up their Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga, NY), and in August Fort Saint-Frédéric (Crown Point, NY), withdrawing before Gen. Amherst's superior Anglo-American army. On 13 September, in the battle of the Plains of Abraham outside Quebec city, the French army was defeated and both Gens. Montcalm and Wolfe were killed. The city surrendered to the British on 17 September.

**1760** General Lévis laid siege to the British in Quebec, and at Sainte-Foy on 28 April beat Gen. James Murray, who fled back into the city.

The siege was raised when British ships arrived with reinforcements on 15 May. Fort Loudoun (Tennessee) was surrendered to Cherokee Indians in August. At Montreal on 8 September, Gen. Lévis surrendered his French army to Gen. Amherst's British and American army.

**1761** Colonel Grant led an expedition against the Cherokees in South Carolina from May to October, following which the Indians made peace.

**1762** Martinique was taken on 12 February. St John's



Soldiers and officer, Duke of York's Maritime Regiment, 1660s–70s. It is uncertain if the three "Duke of York's Companies" in New York from September 1664 wore the duke's livery of tawny-yellow lined with red, but it is plausible. The duke's regiment was raised from 28 October 1664 wearing these colours, and it is possible that clothing sent to New York in 1666 was identical. This consisted of a buff-yellow coat with red lining, cuffs, breeches and stockings, like the central figure here. A few officers of the regiment were detached to serve with Jeffery's Regiment sent to Virginia in 1676, and may have looked something like the figure at right; his lace is gold. The figure at left wearing a red cap with brown fur trim is a grenadier, but none are known to have served in America. (Print after V.Huen)



(NFLD) was taken by a French force on 24 June, but retaken by an Anglo-American force on 13 September. Havana (Cuba) was besieged by Lord Albermarle's 15,000 troops (including 2,500 Americans) from 6 June to its surrender on 14 August.

**1763** On 10 February, the Treaty of Paris between France and Britain ended the Seven Years' War, and ceded Canada to Britain. In May, Indians under Chief Pontiac rose against the British, and besieged Detroit from May to October. Pontiac's Indians were defeated at Bushy Run (PA) on 6 August by Col. Henry Bouquet's Anglo-American army.

**1764** British, American, and Canadian troops marched against the Indians, who sued for peace that summer.

**1768** British regular regiments landed in Boston during October were much resented by American colonists; tensions led to the "Boston massacre" two years later, and the "Boston Tea Party" in 1773.

**1775** Outbreak of the American Revolution at Lexington and Concord on 25 April; Massachusetts militiamen fired on British troops, who retreated to Boston.

## ROYAL TROOPS IN NORTH AMERICA

The settlement patterns and politics of the American colonies did not favor much involvement from the royal government in Britain. Puritans and others who had fled religious intolerance in England were not anxious to see royal soldiers; indeed, it was many years before royal governors were even appointed. There were more royal troops in garrison following the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht, but Philip's 40th and Oglethorpe's 42nd Regiments of Foot were largely posted on the northern and southern frontiers – in Nova Scotia and Georgia – to watch the French and the Spanish.

During 1740–41 a new element appeared: thousands of American colonists were recruited locally to form Gooch's 61st Regiment, a large unit on the British regular establishment which was sent to serve against the Spanish in the West Indies. Only one man in ten came back – with tales of horror – from its disastrous campaigns, and this was to have a profoundly negative effect on the future enlistment of Americans in the British Army.

In 1745, following the capture of Louisbourg, Shirley's 65th and Pepperell's 66th regiments were raised from New Englanders to garrison the fortress. There were disputes over the men's treatment and the number of commissions granted to Americans. The colonists felt that they were badly treated and led, and thus preferred serving in their own provincial colonial units, which assumed a more permanent character from the late 1740s. Nevertheless, the British authorities tried to attract recruits once again

during the Seven Years' War of 1755–63, with mixed results (see below, "Royal Regiments Raised or Organized in America").

### **New York**

The first garrison of royal troops at New York was established in September 1664 following the colony's surrender by the Dutch. It consisted of three companies from the "Duke of York's companies" – who were still there, 100 strong in all, when the Dutch recaptured the town in 1673. Following the retrocession to Britain an independent company of 100 men remained in garrison; this was split into two companies of 50 men each in 1686, and disbanded in 1689–90. Two new companies each of 68 men and three officers were raised in 1690, augmented to four companies in 1694–95. The companies were reduced to 50 men each in 1699, but increased to 100 each in 1701, and this establishment was not altered thereafter (the actual numbers could be much lower, and hovered at about 50 per company). After 1712 the men were recruited in America only. From about 1700 two companies were posted in New York City and two in Albany, until a detachment of 60 men (later reduced to 20) was transferred to Fort Oswego in the spring of 1727.

In 1755 Clarke's and Rutherford's Companies were sent to Virginia and joined Gen. Braddock's army. Until that time the New York independent companies had never been in action; but on 9 July these two companies were badly mauled in the course of Braddock's disastrous defeat on the Monongahela (see below). Three companies were posted in Pennsylvania in 1756 and early 1757, then being returned to New York. The company at Oswego moved out in late May 1756, thus luckily escaping capture by the French. In August 1757 the ill-fated garrison of Fort William Henry (NY) included 100 men from the independent companies under Capt. Charles Cruikshank, of which 38 were wounded or missing following the surrender (7 August) and the subsequent massacre (10 August) by the Indians. In 1758–60 all four companies were in the Albany area except for one company at Fort No.4 during 1759–60. In summer 1760 the four companies were part of the Anglo-American army moving into Canada by the Richelieu River.

With North America secure, Gen. Amherst ordered the four New York companies to reinforce Lord Albermarle's British forces in the West Indies; they arrived at Havana in time to witness the last days of the siege in early August 1762. With the onset of the fevers which ravaged the force their strength fell from nearly 300 men to only 101 fit for duty by October. Albermarle incorporated the remaining enlisted men into his own depleted regiments, and sent the surviving officers and NCOs back to New York to recruit anew; but with the war now ending they found this an impossible task. All that remained was to disband the four companies, and the order was given on 18 May 1763.



**Royal Artillery, 1742.** At left, an officer in a blue coat (including lapels) with scarlet cuffs, turnbacks, waistcoat, and breeches, gold lace edging the waistcoat and hat, gold buttons, crimson sash, whitened buff leather waistbelt, and cartridge box with a brass crown on the flap, armed with a brass-hilted sword and a fusil (without a bayonet). At right, a gunner in a blue coat with red collar, cuffs, half-lapels, and turnbacks, blue waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons and yellow hat lace. The officers changed to scarlet lapels and added gold lace a few years later. The enlisted men's lapels became longer and yellow lace was added in 1750. (Print after R.J.Macdonald)



LEFT Officer, Royal Artillery, 1760. Blue coat, scarlet collar, lapels, cuffs, turnbacks, waistcoat, and breeches, gold buttons and lace, crimson sash. (Print after R.J.Macdonald)



RIGHT Officer, Royal Artillery, 1764. Blue coat, scarlet collar, lapels, cuffs, and turnbacks, but here with buff waistcoat and breeches, gold buttons and lace, crimson sash. (Print after R.J.Macdonald)

*Uniform* The early clothing of the companies in the 1660s–70s may have been that of the Duke of York's Maritime Regiment (see page 12). These units were much neglected at times, but were seen in red coats from the 1680s and 1690s. See Plates D, E, and G.

Besides the independent companies a small artillery train was organized for the intended 1709 expedition against Canada. This force had four small field guns and a Coehorn mortar, served by a bombardier "brought from the Tower" to New York and joined there by 12 matrosses raised locally, the whole commanded by Col. Rednap, the engineer at New York (PRO/CO 42/13).

## Virginia

To restore order at the time of Nathaniel Bacon's rebellion, the royal government ordered in October 1676 the organisation of a regiment to be sent to Virginia. It was made up of detachments from other regiments and from new recruits, the whole under the command of Col. Herbert Jeffery. The regiment had five companies each of 200 men, each company led by a captain, a lieutenant, a second-lieutenant, and an ensign. The regiment had a small artillery detachment armed with a 3-pounder gun. Jeffery's Regiment was intended to be a temporary unit which would be disbanded and its men returned to their original units when no longer needed in Virginia. The organisation went briskly, and the regiment landed in Virginia on 29 January 1677; but by this time "Bacon's Rebellion" had already been crushed by loyal militias. Jeffery and his troops remained quietly in Virginia for a year until ordered home. The first detachments sailed back to England in January 1678 with other parties following during the summer. The regiment was dissolved and its men returned to their parent units.

*Uniform* See Plate C.

While Jeffery's force would return to England, it was decided to keep a royal garrison in Virginia consisting of an independent company of three officers and 100 men drawn from the departing regiment. A second company recruited in England reached Virginia in May 1680. These companies were badly neglected by the Crown, and their soldiers became unruly and mutinous after suffering long arrears of payment. When both companies were disbanded on 7 June 1682, with orders to store their "arms, partisans, halberds and drums", they were owed



23 months' unpaid wages. Their uniforms and arms would probably have been the same as those of Jeffery's Regiment.

By early 1755, following the confrontation of the previous year between Virginia troops and the French (see "Virginia Provincials" below), two regular regiments from Britain under command of Gen. Edward Braddock arrived in Virginia. The bulk of Braddock's force which marched into the wilderness consisted of the 44th and 48th Foot, each 700 strong, with a 60-man Royal Artillery company, a detachment of 30 Royal Navy sailors and a number of staff officers – in all about 1,500 British regulars from Europe.

On 9 July 1755 the forward elements of the force, about 1,300 strong, came to the Monongahela River "with Colours flying, Drums beating, and Fifes playing the Grenadier's March," recalled one of the seamen. There some 850 concealed French, Canadians, and Indians opened a deadly fire. There was spirited resistance from some of the redcoats, but, taken by surprise in close country which hampered their traditional tactical maneuvers, scores fell within minutes to the effective fire of a largely invisible enemy, and panic swept the rest. General Braddock was slain after having four horses shot from under him. Colonel Washington managed to bring off about 600 men, but some 500, mostly regulars, were lost; the Virginia provincial companies were decimated.

*Uniform* The dress of the 44th and 48th Foot in America is illustrated and described in detail in MAA 48 (revised edition, 1997), *Wolfe's Army*, Plate B.

**Massachusetts** Two independent companies landed in Boston in December 1686 under Sir Edmund Andros, who bore the newly created commission of "Captain-General and Governor of New England" from King James II. Andros was cordially received by the colonists, but relations soon turned sour. Following a somewhat abortive expedition against Indians in Maine, Andros and his troops were back in Boston by April 1688 when news of King James's flight and the succession of William of Orange reached Massachusetts. On 18 April the Boston militia, headed by colonial notables and followed by a great crowd, convinced Andros and his "redcoats" to sail back to Britain.

In 1709 three bombardiers were sent from the Tower of London to Boston, "where they daily exercise the Country troops in the use of Great Guns"; they were joined by about 68 matrosses raised in New England for the intended expedition against Canada (PRO/CO 42/13).

*Uniform* See Plate D.

On 1 October 1768, British warships landed two line infantry regiments – the 64th and 65th – and an artillery detachment in Boston. This new garrison was clearly sent for political purposes rather than for protection. This was widely resented in the American colonies as forceful and autocratic pressure, which eventually led to armed conflict at



This detail from a print showing the city of Halifax (Nova Scotia) includes a rare rear view of a British infantry drummer. His coat has the regulation false sleeves hanging from his shoulders and he wears the pointed mitre cap, smaller for drummers than for grenadiers. (National Archives of Canada, C54)



Since the early 18th century British officers often wore a simplified all-scarlet campaign dress as shown in this c.1755 portrait of Sir Robert Monkton. His coat is trimmed with gold buttons and a gold aiguillette, his waistcoat with gold buttons and lace, and he wears a crimson sash, gilt gorget, and gold-laced hat. Many American colonial officers adopted this dress. Its origins can be traced to an order of 23 October 1711 by the Duke of Marlborough which stated in part: "That ye Officers be all Cloath'd in Redd Plain and uniforms, w[h]ich is expected they shall wear on all marches, & other Dutys as well as days of review." (National Archives of Canada, C19118)

Concord and Lexington in 1775. The British evacuated Boston the following year.

*Uniform* See MAA 39 (revised edition), *British Forces in N.America 1775-83*, Plate A.

**Nova Scotia and Newfoundland** Following repeated French raids, Col. John Gibson's (or Gibbon's) infantry regiment together with a detachment of artillerymen, about 760 men in all, arrived at St John's (NFLD) in June 1697. The hostilities with the French were drawing to a close and most of the British force sailed back to England in September, but left behind a strong garrison: 11 officers and 252 NCOs and enlisted men from Gibson's Regiment, and 30 officers and men from the Ordnance, in all nearly 300 officers and men.

*Uniform* That worn by Gibson's Regiment in 1697-98 is unknown from contemporary documents perused, but Daniell's regimental history mentions red lined with yellow. They were probably armed with "doglock" muskets with plug bayonets and swords.

In March 1698 it was decided to pare down the garrison in Newfoundland considerably, only

single company now being considered "necessary to be kept there"; this consisted of three sergeants, three corporals, two drummers and 43 private soldiers under the command of a lieutenant and an ensign. In 1701 the independent company's establishment was raised to a captain, two lieutenants, eight NCOs, and 88 private soldiers; there was also an Ordnance detachment consisting of a master gunner and six gunners. War against France was renewed in 1702, and the company resisted an attack on St John's in December 1704, but were overwhelmed by another French attack in January 1709.

In September 1710 the troops that captured Port Royal, capital of French Acadia, included a battalion of marines numbering 600 regular soldiers formed of detachments from the regiments of Cols. Holt, Will, Baskin, Shannon, and Churchill. By the Treaty of Utrecht, signed in 1713, Louis XIV gave up his claims on Placentia and Acadia. Thus Newfoundland became a completely British island and Acadia was henceforth the British colony of Nova Scotia. To guard the new colonies, four independent companies of infantry for each colony, with artillery detachments from the Board of Ordnance, were sent from Britain. Each independent company was to have three officers and 88 NCOs, drummers, and private soldiers; the Ordnance detachments, one officer, one master gunner, 20 gunners, and four artificers. From August 1717 the independent companies were formed into a regular regiment commanded by Col. Richard Philips, numbered the 40th of Foot (see below, "Royal Regiment Raised or Organized in America"). Ordnance gunners at Annapolis and Placentia were taken into the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1724 and 1726 respectively.

*Uniform* See Plate D.



Sir Robert Monkton in the full dress of his regiment, the 17th Foot, c.1760. This print after Thomas Hudson shows the typical officer's uniform prevalent in the British infantry in the middle of the 18th century. The 17th Foot had scarlet coats faced with pale grey and silver buttons and lace for the officers. While the colors of the uniforms might be different, the cut and style of those worn by colonial American officers were largely the same. (National Archives of Canada, C11220)

**South Carolina** The war with Spain in 1718–21 raised concerns over the safety of the colony. The Spanish had regular troops in Florida, while South Carolina had only militias. In May 1721 an independent company of 100 British regulars arrived. These were “invalid” veteran soldiers taken from Col. Fielding’s Invalid (later 41st) Regiment – men considered physically unequal to field campaigning but capable of performing garrison duty. They were posted to Fort King George near the southern border until 1727, and then to Port Royal and Charleston. In 1736 the company was ordered to Georgia, where it eventually formed the nucleus of Oglethorpe’s Regiment in 1738. A 40-man detachment from Laforey’s 6th Marine Regiment was stationed at Charleston from February 1744 to 1747.

Three more independent companies landed at Charleston in December 1745, and detachments garrisoned frontier forts to the south in Georgia and west near the Cherokee and Creek territories. In 1754 men were drafted from the three companies to form a temporary company to send as reinforcements to Virginia. This company joined George Washington’s Virginia troops,

following the Jummonville incident, at Fort Necessity, which surrendered to the French; and in July 1755 the company was present at Braddock’s Monongahela disaster. In November its remaining men were drafted into Shirley’s 50th while the NCOs and officers went back to South Carolina to recruit anew. From May 1756 a company was posted in western South Carolina and at the newly built Fort Loudoun in 1757. By 1759 all three companies garrisoned a string of frontier forts except for 50 men at Charleston. In August 1760 about 100 men were lost to the Cherokees when Fort Loudoun fell; about 80 took part in Col. Grant’s expedition against the Cherokees from May to October 1761. The three under-strength companies took up garrison duties in various forts until replaced by the 60th Foot in January 1764, when they were disbanded.

*Uniform* See Plates F and G.

## ROYAL REGIMENTS RAISED OR ORGANIZED IN AMERICA

**Philips’ 40th Regiment of Foot, 1717–** The regiment was formed from 25 August 1717, from four independent companies at Annapolis Royal (NS) and four independent companies at Placentia (NFLD), under the command of Col. Richard Philips. It had ten companies including one of grenadiers. In the mid-1720s only one company was left at Placentia, five being posted at Annapolis and four at Canso – these last were captured by the French from Louisbourg in May 1744. The regiment continued to garrison Annapolis, Chebuctou and Fort Minor (NS) and St John’s (NFLD).

**Private, Philips' 40th Regiment of Foot, 1742.** The 40th was formed in 1717 from independent companies and was stationed in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland until the early 1760s. In 1721, clothing was sent for the 360 men in the regiment which included 39 grenadiers' caps at 6s.6d. each, 2 grenadier sergeants' caps at a costly £3 each, and an extra £15 for "lacing & extraordinary" on the grenadiers' clothing (PRO/AO 17/33). The regimental uniform in 1742 was red with buff facings and white lace with yellow and sky blue wavy lines.



In 1755 the regiment formed part of the expedition which captured Fort Beauséjour on 25 June. In 1757 it was at Halifax except for two companies in Newfoundland; and the 40th took part in the siege of Louisbourg in 1758. Left there in garrison, its grenadier company was part of Gen. Wolfe's "Louisbourg Grenadiers", a three-company temporary unit which served with distinction in the 1759 Quebec campaign. The regiment was sent from Louisbourg to Canada in 1760; was at the capitulation of Montreal in September; and remained as part of that city's garrison until the summer of 1761, when it went to New York. In December the 40th arrived in Barbados, and took part in the capture of Martinique and Havana during 1762. The company left at St John's (NFLD) was captured in the French raid of June 1762. The regiment came back to New York from garrison duty at Havana in July 1763, and went north to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland before finally being transferred to Ireland at the end of 1764. Until then the 40th had been in effect a regular colonial garrison unit, as it had never served in Britain or Europe. The 40th continued to serve in the British line, its later territorial designations including 2nd Somersetshire and, from 1881, South Lancashire; its lineage has passed today to the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

**Oglethorpe's 42nd Regiment of Foot, 1737–48** The regiment was authorized as a six-company regular unit listed on the British establishment from 25 August 1737; each company had 100 men. Its colonel was Gen. James Oglethorpe, who had founded the colony of Georgia a few years earlier, largely as a buffer against the Spanish in Florida. The regiment was formed in Savannah during 1738 from a draft of Roth's 25th Foot, which arrived in May from Gibraltar, followed by recruits from Britain in September; a grenadier company of 100 men was added in June 1740. The regiment participated in the unsuccessful attack on the Spanish at St Augustine in the summer of 1740, and about half took part in the victory over the attacking Spanish near Frederica (GA) in July 1742. Following the end of the War of the Austrian Succession in 1748 the regiment was ordered disbanded from 24 November that year, although three new independent companies were formed on 29 May 1749 from its best men for service in South Carolina. Oglethorpe's had no lineal connection with the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment, the Black Watch, which took that number in 1751.  
*Uniform* See illustration opposite.

**Gooch's 61st (American) Regiment of Foot, 1740–46** The regiment was approved to be raised in December 1739 under Maj.Gen. William Spotswood, who died and was soon replaced by Col. William Gooch, both successively governors of Virginia. It was an unusually large unit, with four battalions to be raised in North America to serve against the Spanish in the West Indies. As approved by Parliament on 25 April 1740, Gooch's had 13 field officers, 30 captains, 60 lieutenants, 30 ensigns, 120 sergeants, 120 corporals and 3,000 privates for a total establishment of 3,373. It had 36 companies (no grenadiers), and was numbered 61st in precedence. Recruiting was successful; Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey even exceeded their quotas, no doubt largely due to the lure of loot on the Spanish Main. It seems that the 1st Battalion was made up of men from



**LEFT Private, Oglethorpe's 42nd Regiment of Foot, 1742; the regiment had been raised at Savannah four years earlier and fought the Spanish in Georgia during the 1740s. According to the "Cloathing Book", the regimental uniform was a red coat with green lapels, cuffs and turnbacks. The shade of green in the book is shown as somewhat pale. The lace was plain white edging the lapels, cuffs, and pockets. The buttons were of white metal with white thread buttonholes. The waistcoat and breeches were red and the tricorne edged with white lace.**

**RIGHT Private, Gooch's 61st Regiment of Foot, 1742. Raised in the American colonies with a very large establishment, this ill-fated unit would be reduced during less than two years' campaigning against the Spanish in fever-haunted Central America from 3,255 all ranks to just 347 fit men and 268 surviving sick. The regimental uniform was red with green lapels and cuffs; there was no regimental lace. The coat lining of units serving in the West Indies was of brownish linen.**

New England, the 2nd of men from New York and New Jersey, the 3rd from Pennsylvania and Delaware and the 4th from Virginia and Maryland; each battalion also had a company from North Carolina.

By January 1741 some 3,255 officers and men of Gooch's were on board ship in the harbor of Kingston, Jamaica; and in March they were before the mighty Spanish fortress of Cartagena de Indias (now in Colombia). The 6,000-man Spanish garrison was valiantly led and beat off the British assaults in late April, while tropical disease stalked the camps of the 20,000 besiegers. Gooch's was short by 632 men on 25 April, and by 1,032 five weeks later when it got back to Jamaica. In August 1741 the regiment was in the area of Santiago in Cuba, but this expedition also proved a failure. By November, still in a camp in Cuba, Gooch's was some 1,568 men short of establishment, and 1,785 short by the time it returned to Jamaica in early December. Sent to participate in another abortive attack on Porto Bello (Panama), it lacked 2,130 men in March 1742 – i.e. it was down to some 39 percent of establishment. A shadow of its former self, the regiment was finally ordered disbanded.

On 24 October 1742 the survivors mustered only 17 officers and 130 enlisted men, who returned unscathed to North America accompanied by 268 sick soldiers; another 200 had been drafted to serve in Adm. Vernon's fleet, mostly to replace dead sailors. Following the disbandment of Gooch's regiment, four "American" companies amounting to barely 200 men remained in service on Rattan Island off the coast of Honduras; they were incorporated into Trelawney's



Private, 60th (Royal Americans) Regiment of Foot, 1758. The regimental uniform was a red coat with blue cuffs, lapels, and turnbacks, red waistcoat, blue breeches, white metal buttons and white hat lace. The soldiers' coats of the 60th were "from its first raising... permitted to be without lace" (PRO/WO 7/26). However, the drummers' clothing had lace, which would have been royal lace. The coats of the privates and corporals of this regiment were not trimmed with lace until 1768. White gaiters were for full dress; brown "marching" gaiters were usually worn by British infantry. The 1/60th also had green Indian leggings with red garters in 1759. (Print after P.W.Reynolds)

Regiment of Foot in 1746.<sup>1</sup> Gooch's had no lineal connection with the later 61st, raised 1758 and subsequently designated the South Gloucestershire Regt (1782) and 2nd Bn, Gloucestershire Regt (1881). *Uniform* See Plate E.

### Shirley's and Pepperell's Regiments of Foot, 1745-49 & 1755-57

Following the capture of Louisbourg by the New Englanders in 1745, the problem of keeping a strong garrison in the fortress became acute. The French would almost certainly attempt to recapture the fortress; regular troops from Britain were in short supply, and New England volunteers would not tolerate remote, long-term garrison duty. In September 1745 the government in London commissioned two American heroes of the hour, William Shirley and William Pepperell, each to raise a regiment of 1,000 men in North America for the British regular establishment, to be numbered 65th and 66th in precedence. The regiments were to be raised by recruiting parties in New England and also by enlisting the remnants of the American volunteers who had been left in Louisbourg.

Recruiting from neither source proved as brisk as had been hoped; by May 1746 Shirley's had 770 men (including 150 in Louisbourg) and Pepperell's 420 (300 in Louisbourg). Another difficulty was that because many commissions had been reserved to gentlemen from Britain, discontented New Englanders snubbed the units. Following the Jacobite insurrection of 1745-46 in the Scottish Highlands, some 400 "rebel prisoners" were to be sent to fill the ranks of Shirley's and Pepperell's at Louisbourg, but neither regiment ever reached its authorized establishment.

Louisbourg proved to be as bleak and dreary a station as could be imagined. On 26 June 1747 the whole garrison (including the regulars of the 29th, 30th and 45th Foot from Britain as well as Shirley's and Pepperell's) mutinied when they learned of a reduction in pay, laying down their arms and going on hunger strike. The order was cancelled and extra rum was distributed. On 20 February 1748 the companies of both regiments were reduced to 78 NCOs and men on paper, which was still well above the actual strength. Both regiments were disbanded in Louisbourg in about May 1749.

*Uniform* The uniform of both regiments was reported as red faced with green in Millan's list of 1749.

In the fall of 1754, Shirley and Pepperell were each again appointed by the Crown to raise an infantry regiment on the regular British establishment, with effect from 24 December 1754 and numbered 50th and 51st respectively. The strength of each regiment was to be 1,145 men and, in spite of some discontent due to the low number of officers' commissions granted to American gentlemen, as well as various financial difficulties, both regiments mustered enough recruits to be formed by the early summer of 1755, though neither had more than half of their establishment strength. The 50th was in Boston and the 51st in New York, both being ordered to garrison the forts at Oswego on Lake Ontario. Both

<sup>1</sup> Trelawney's 63rd (renumbered 49th in 1748) was formed in Jamaica from independent companies from March 1745. It only achieved about half its establishment of 1,000 men, so the 200 Americans from Gooch's represented a sizeable contribution. It seems that they formed two companies, remaining on Rattan Island until 1749. An American detachment from Gooch's/Trelawney's under Lt., later Capt. Hodgson, in co-operation with local Indians, conducted a sort of guerrilla campaign against the Spanish in Honduras from 1742 until as late as 1753. (PRO/CO 5/42; F.L.Petre, *The Royal Berkshire Regiment*, (Reading, 1925) vol.I)

regiments remained stationed there until August 1756, when Gen. Montcalm led a French army to besiege Oswego. After a short if brave resistance, the garrison of Oswego surrendered. Some 618 of the 50th (including 34 women and 32 servants) and 500 of the 51st (including 35 women and 23 servants) were taken as prisoners to Canada, and eventually to France for exchange. Only two companies of the 51st posted at Oneida Carrying Place (NY) escaped the disaster. In practice both units had ceased to exist and, on 25 January 1757, London ordered the remnants in Europe and America to be incorporated into other units. Both regiments were finally formally disbanded on 7 March 1757. None of these four formations had any lineal connection with the regiments that later took their numbers in the British line (65th, York & Lancaster Regt, 1881; 66th, Berkshire Regt, 1782; 50th, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt, 1881; 51st, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, 1887).

*Uniform* See Plate G.

**60th (Royal Americans) Regiment of Foot, 1755–** Following Braddock's disaster, a proposal for a four-battalion regiment to be raised in North America and trained by a cadre of Germans and Swiss was contemplated; the Earl of Loudoun was commissioned colonel-in-chief on 25 December 1755, although final approval only came in March 1756. Each battalion was to have 1,000 men, and the regiment was numbered 62nd Foot until renumbered 60th in 1757. Recruiting in North America was slow, and Americans eventually made up only about a quarter of the regiment. Another quarter were British recruits, and the remaining 50 percent were mostly Germans and Swiss together with some Poles and assorted central Europeans. The officers of the "Royal Americans" were largely Swiss and German. Colonel Henri Bouquet's 1st Battalion was something of a light infantry unit, but the other three were more like standard line infantry.

From 1757 the battalions of the 60th participated with distinction in many operations. The 1st Bn served in the campaign against Fort Duquesne in 1758, on the Great Lakes in 1760 and against Pontiac in 1763, at Quebec and New York, and on to Jamaica in 1766. The 2nd Bn was at Louisbourg in 1758, at Quebec in 1759–60 and Montreal in September 1760, and served in western outposts until 1772, moving to the Caribbean in 1775. The 3rd Bn had a detachment at Fort William Henry in 1757, was at Louisbourg in 1758, at Quebec in 1759–60 and Montreal in September 1760, on Martinique and at Havana in 1762, and was disbanded in 1764. The 4th Bn was at Ticonderoga in July 1758, had a detachment at Frontenac in August 1758, was at Niagara in 1759 and Montreal in 1760, and was disbanded in 1764. The lineal connection of the 60th Royal Americans has been unbroken, through the King's Royal Rifle Corps (1881) to the 2nd Bn, Royal Green Jackets (1966).

A detachment of 14 men of the 2/60th with some gentlemen were attached to help Capt. Samuel Holland from 1766 to about 1773 during his survey of the north-eastern coast of North America. Instead of regimentals, they wore "a green uniform, with leather caps, which are much more convenient, & less troublesome than hats in our excursions thro' the woods, & by water." The front of the caps had "Embossed the emblem and motto of [the Board of] Trade and Plantations" (PRO/CO 5/167 and /CO 323/24).

*Uniform* See accompanying illustrations.



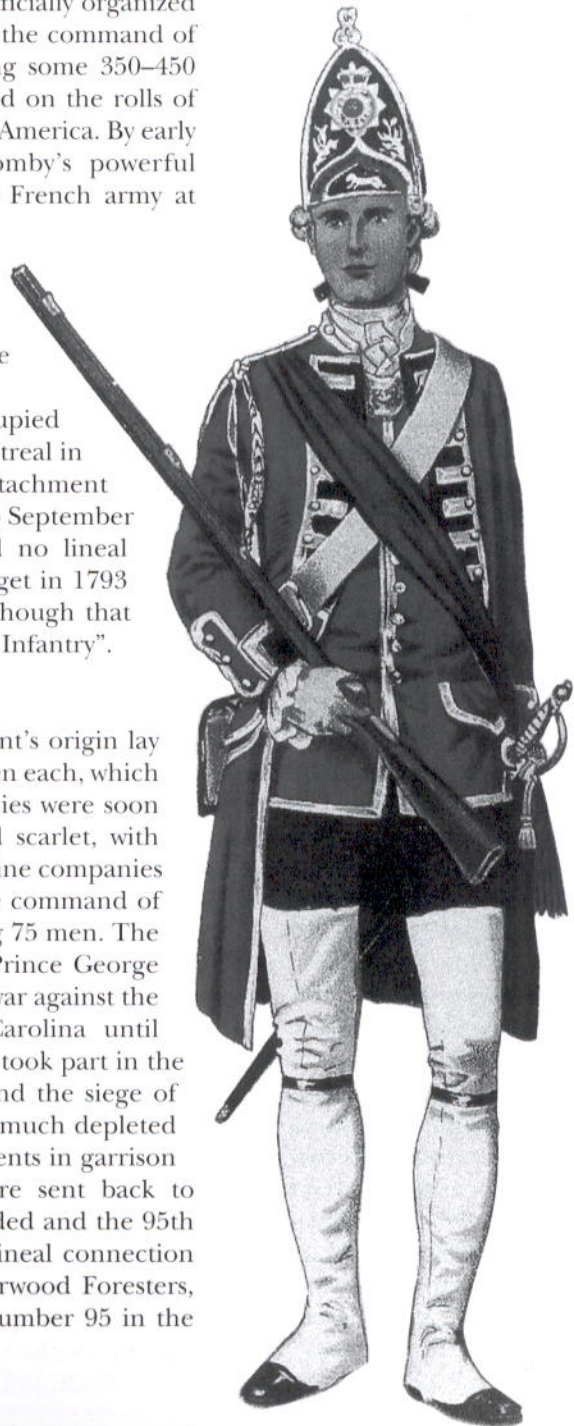
**Grenadier, 60th (Royal Americans) Regiment, 1768.** The dress of the British infantry became more fitted following the royal warrant of 1768, as seen in this plate. Grenadiers officially adopted bearskin caps instead of the mitre-shaped cloth caps. The colonial American militias soon followed the new fashion. (Print after P.W.Reynolds)

**Gage's 80th (Light Armed) Regiment of Foot, 1758–63** The 80th Regiment of Light Armed Foot was officially approved to be raised on 5 May 1758 and Beating Orders were issued on 17 June at Kensington Palace. It was obvious that the regular army in North America needed a large light infantry unit, as well as the locally raised Ranger companies, to cope with the Canadians and their allied Indians. The unit had been mooted by Lord Loudoun since late 1757 and was unofficially organized in North America during the early part of 1758 under the command of Col. Thomas Gage; it had only five companies totalling some 350–450 all ranks by that July. Officers appointed to it remained on the rolls of their former units until official approval was received in America. By early summer 1758 it was part of Gen. James Abercromby's powerful Anglo-American army moving up toward Montcalm's French army at Ticonderoga. Its first battle was at Bernetz Brook on 6 July, a confused fight in the woods where Lord Howe, the army's popular and energetic second-in-command, was killed. Two days later the 80th was repulsed by Montcalm's force with the rest of the assaulting Anglo-American troops at Ticonderoga.<sup>2</sup>

The 80th was with Gen. Amherst's army which occupied Ticonderoga and Crown Point in 1759, and was at Montreal in September 1760. Major Gladwin and a strong detachment defended Detroit against Pontiac's Indians from May to September 1763. The 80th was disbanded in late 1763. It had no lineal connection with the 80th Regiment raised by Lord Paget in 1793 and later designated the South Staffordshire Regt, although that unit did at one time boast the nickname "Gage's Light Infantry".  
*Uniform* See Plate H.

**Burton's 95th Regiment of Foot, 1761–63** The regiment's origin lay in some newly raised independent companies of 100 men each, which arrived at New York in November 1760. Eight companies were soon ordered to South Carolina; these wore "scarlet lined scarlet, with white buttons, and without lace." On 31 January 1761 nine companies were ordered to be formed into a regiment under the command of Col. Ralph Burton, Burton's ten companies each having 75 men. The regiment seems to have been in the field near Fort Prince George (SC) by May 1761. Following the successful end of the war against the Cherokee Indians, the 95th remained in South Carolina until November when it was sent to Barbados. From there it took part in the capture of Martinique, the occupation of Grenada, and the siege of Havana during 1762. By October 1762 the ranks were much depleted and its privates were ordered drafted into other regiments in garrison at Havana. The officers, NCOs, and drummers were sent back to England to recruit the regiment anew, but the war ended and the 95th was ordered disbanded on 7 March 1763. It had no lineal connection with the later-raised Derbyshire Regt or 2nd Bn, Sherwood Foresters, nor with the Rifle Brigade, both of which bore the number 95 in the British line at various later dates.

*Uniform* See Plate H.





## COLONIAL MILITIAS

In nearly all the American colonies, males between the ages of 16 and 60, whether freemen or servants, were compelled to be listed into their local militia company and to attend the company musters and regimental training days. Such occasions in colonial America during the 17th and much of the 18th centuries were considered serious events, and generally bore little resemblance to the carnival-like atmosphere which characterizes many descriptions of 19th-century militia musters. In early colonial times the survival of a community and the lives of its members could well depend upon the proficiency of the militia. The frequency of training varied. In the early 17th century it could be as frequent as once a week in Massachusetts and Virginia, but this decreased as time went on, to a few days throughout the year. The regimental muster of a unit took place at least once a year and was usually well attended. John Winthrop noted that some 1,200 men attended the training of the Boston militia in 1641.

Officers had various military and administrative obligations besides bearing arms, and senior officers – generally the community's wealthiest men – were usually obligated by law to furnish drums and colors. No one was paid, but the prestige then associated with being a militia officer was substantial and such service was considered an honor. The appointments of senior officers were made by the legislature while captains and subalterns were chosen locally, often by election. The men who became officers were called by their military rank for the rest of their lives as a mark of respect.

There were some exemptions from enlistment in the militia, such as magistrates, public notaries, deputies to a legislature, ministers of the church, schoolmasters, students, physicians, masters of ships, fishermen, herdsman, and invalids. There were few Jewish families in the early colonies, and prejudice against non-Christians was such that they were not welcome in the militias.

### Black enlistment

The enlistment of blacks, be they slaves or free, was generally forbidden by law. Since the great majority of blacks were slaves, it was considered that their duty to their master superseded any obligation to the colony and that, in any event, their owners would have to be compensated for a loss of property rights. It was also widely believed that arming and giving military training to blacks was simply asking for trouble. In 1652 both Massachusetts and Connecticut allowed blacks to serve, but both colonies reversed this decision in 1656 and 1660 respectively due to apprehensions of possible revolt. Thus, legislation in nearly every colony forbade the arming of blacks. In Virginia they were nevertheless allowed to be enlisted as drummers or trumpeters from 1723. They might be drafted as pioneers. From 1707 it was specified that blacks in Massachusetts would "do service equivalent to trainings" by providing "so many days' work yearly" for community labor. Rhode Island had initially allowed free blacks in the militia in 1667, but they were limited to being unarmed musicians or laborers from 1708. Such limitations were general because of the fear of slave uprisings in the south and just "trouble" in the north. There was a notable exception in South Carolina between

OPPOSITE **Officer of Grenadiers, 60th (Royal Americans) Regiment, 1755, armed with a fusil.**

**The officers of the regiment had silver buttons and silver-laced uniforms. And many other items: the 1762 inventory of the belongings of Capt. T.Parker, 4/60th, included "1 red surtout coat; 4 cloth waistcoats; 6 pair breeches; 2 pair gloves; 1 pair leggins; 1 pair mackisins; 2 plain hats; 1 blue surtout; 1 muff; 1 pair silver shoe buckles; 3 doz. white buttons; 1 sword-belt; 1 pair leather gloves; 1 sash; 1 gorget; 1 silver mounted sword."**  
(Print after P.W.Reynolds)

1715 and 1740, when blacks were allowed in the militia. Naturally, in actual practice, a few blacks might nevertheless be found in some units.<sup>3</sup>

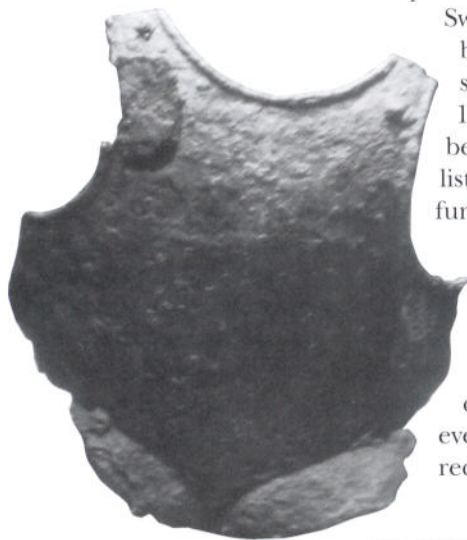
### Equipment

The early colonial militia units were organized in imitation of the English "Trained Bands", with proportions of musketeers and pikemen. Indeed, they were commonly called "Trainbands" right up to the early 18th century, particularly in New England. A Trainband would usually be a company-sized unit of about 50 men drawn from a village or a town ward, which would form part of a county regiment. Early artillery gunners were individual specialists but might be grouped, the first such unit being raised in Boston in 1638. Troops of mounted militiamen appeared in the 1640s.

All militiamen were obliged by law to possess arms. Many obligations were specified in the colonial militia laws and the men would be fined if they did not meet the requirements, the money usually being used to purchase the unit's drums and colors. Early Trainbands in New England included pikemen, but very few remained by the middle of the 17th century. The armament of early musketeers generally consisted of heavy matchlock muskets with rests, but the lighter flintlock "snaphance" muskets became plentiful from the 1630s and predominant by the next decade. The snaphance muskets referred to by the early American colonists were in fact conventional flintlocks, as there were actually few true snaphance arms in the settlements (the distinction lay in the design of the lock, a snaphance having the frizzen or striker plate for the flint mounted on a separate pivoted bar rather than integrally as the cover of the priming pan).

Swords and edged weapons were varied as they were largely owned by individuals, but cutlasses – relatively short, heavy, broad-bladed single-edged weapons – were especially popular. By the end of the 17th century many militiamen had given up carrying the cumbersome swords, and militia laws eventually omitted them from the list of required arms. Bayonets appear to have been scarce unless furnished with government muskets. Halberds were common for sergeants but half-pikes for officers much scarcer, especially in rural communities. Armor and protective clothing was favored by the early settlers but went out of use by foot troops from the 1640s. However, cavalymen in Massachusetts wore buff coats, helmets, and breast-and-back plates to the end of the 17th century. Officers' gorgets were rarely seen. In general, until the eve of the Seven Years' War in the mid-18th century, there are few recorded instances of American colonial militias wearing uniforms.

Short-waisted breastplate excavated at Jamestown, Virginia. This type of breastplate was popular from c.1600 to c.1640. (Jamestown National Historic Park, Virginia)



## PROVINCIAL TROOPS

From the late 17th century, the North American colonies raised a variety of troops to serve for limited periods of time against the Indians and

*(continued on page 33)*

<sup>3</sup> Benjamin Quarles, "The Colonial Militia and Negro Manpower", *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, March 1959.

VIRGINIA MILITIA, c.1610-20

- 1: Officer
- 2: Musketeer
- 3: Targeteer



NEW SWEDEN & NEW NETHERLANDS

1: Musketeer, New Sweden, 1640s-1655

2: Musketeer, New Netherlands, 1640s

3: Sergeant, Dutch Corps of Marines,  
New Netherlands, 1673-74



1

3

2



VIRGINIA, 1670s  
1: Infantryman, Virginia Militia, 1675-76  
2: Trooper, Virginia Militia Horse, 1675-76  
3: Musketeer, Jeffery's Regiment, 1676-78

QUEEN ANNE'S WAR

- 1: Independent Companies & New England troops, c.1705-15
- 2: Gunner, Board of Ordnance detachment, c.1705-15
- 3: Colonial officer, c.1710





KING GEORGE'S WAR

- 1: Private, Gooch's 61st (American) Regt, 1740s
- 2: Officer, Gooch's 61st (American) Regt, 1740s
- 3: Private, Independent Companies, 1742

VIRGINIA REGIMENT, 1754-62

1: Private, 1754

2: Private, 1755-62

3: Officer, 1755-62





AMERICAN-RAISED REGULAR UNITS, 1755-60

1: Private, Shirley's 50th or Pepperell's 51st Regt, 1755-56

2: Sergeant, Pepperell's 51st Regt, 1755-56

3: Private, Independent Cos.; New York, 1756-60



1

2

3



AMERICAN-RAISED REGULAR  
UNITS, 1758-63

- 1: Light Infantry Officer, 40th Regt, 1758
- 2: Private, Gage's 80th (Light Armed)  
Regt, 1758-60
- 3: Grenadier, Burton's 95th Regt, 1761-63



Cabasset helmet found at Jamestown, Virginia, early 17th century. (Jamestown National Historic Park, Virginia)

later against the French. The legislature of the province would vote laws enabling these units to be raised. These usually consisted of infantry regiments, together with a few companies of Rangers. They were recruited from volunteers lured by bounties and wages. The length of the service was usually reckoned to be for the time required by the expedition.

During the 1690s and Queen Anne's War, Massachusetts raised many such battalions, and these were eventually joined by units from other colonies. In 1709 three battalions of New England men were raised for a projected invasion of Canada which was cancelled when sickness broke out in the army north of Albany. In September 1710 two battalions from Massachusetts, one from Connecticut and one made up of men from Rhode Island and New Hampshire

boarded a fleet which attacked and captured Port Royal alongside British regular troops. In August 1711 two colonial regiments were with the eight regular regiments on Adm. Walker's fleet bound for Quebec when some transports were wrecked and the fleet turned back.

During the War of the Austrian Succession the New England colonies led by Massachusetts managed to raise a sizeable army of over 4,000 men, which captured the French fortress of Louisbourg in 1745. Participating in the siege were an artillery corps, seven infantry regiments from Massachusetts, one each from Connecticut and New Hampshire, and three companies from Rhode Island. The expedition was led by a New Englander, William Pepperell. The Americans relied on their knowledge of classical European siege warfare, and conducted the attack skillfully and with great determination. The success of this operation surprised Europeans, while New Englanders burst with pride. The British parliament reimbursed the New Englanders for the £185,000 spent on the expedition, and the king raised Pepperell to the nobility; he thus became the first American to be made a baron. The most important effect of the capture of Louisbourg was the revelation, to both the metropolitan British and the colonial Americans, of the military might Americans could muster when the various colonies acted in unison to raise and maintain troops.

Following their success at Louisbourg, nine American colonies decided to plan an invasion of Canada in 1746–47 and agreed to raise over 9,100 men for the purpose. For the first time, the colonies committed troops for long-term service rather than for a single expedition of a few weeks or months. Each colony agreed to provide troops as follows, organized in 100-man companies:

Massachusetts	two regiments (27 companies)
Connecticut	one regiment (ten companies)
New Hampshire	one regiment (nine companies)
Rhode Island	three companies
New York	31 companies
New Jersey	five companies
Maryland	three companies
Pennsylvania	four companies
Virginia	one company



Dutch soldier, early 17th century, armed with a caliver, the light version (about 3.8kg, 8.5lbs) of the matchlock musket; this had a caliber of 20mm (0.75in) and a maximum range of about 200 yards, though it was not accurate at a quarter that distance. Note the cabasset helmet – several have been found at early colonial sites in North America. (Print after De Gheyn)

All these troops were paid, armed, clothed, and accoutered from June 1746 to the end of October 1747. Most were marshaled north of Albany in late 1746 with a view to attacking the French fort at Crown Point, but the project collapsed. Clearly, while the union of forces from many colonies had produced a spectacular success at Louisbourg it would take much greater efforts to provide adequate defenses on the frontiers and, ultimately, to conquer Canada.

The coming of age of American provincial units as quasi-regular troops came during the "French-Indian War" of 1755–63. They were usually authorized in May of each year and were kept in pay for service until November, when the men would be discharged. In some colonies a few companies were maintained to guard the frontiers during the winter. The great majority of these units had uniforms. Some wore red but, perhaps to differentiate themselves from the British regulars, they were generally dressed in blue or green. Officers were appointed by the provincial governor and thus received "provincial" commissions. Many officers would be the same individuals from one year to the next. A sizeable proportion of the men, too, often appear to have re-enlisted. Thus, by 1759–60, these units had a good proportion of officers and soldiers who were veterans of several campaigns. Recruiting was, however, consistently below the establishments

authorized by the colonial legislatures. In 1759 provincial legislators voted for 20,680 men but 16,835 were actually raised. In 1760, 21,180 were voted for but only 15,942 enlisted. Nevertheless, these were substantial numbers of troops which, when added to the British regulars, proved sufficient to overcome Canada. In the process, many American officers gained military experience that would prove invaluable in their struggle for independence during the 1770s.

## MILITIAS & PROVINCIAL TROOPS OF INDIVIDUAL COLONIES: VIRGINIA

### Militias

The first permanent English settlement in the present United States of America was begun at Jamestown, Virginia, during May 1607. The first structure finished on 15 June was a triangular fort with three "Bulwarkes, at every corner, [shaped] like a halfe Moone" with four or five cannon mounted in them, according to George Percy's account. The houses of the settlers were within. From the start, the small colony encountered many difficulties and, as early as August, several men were killed by the

Indians and others died from sickness. It was probably the strong-willed Captain John Smith's governorship of 1608–09 that kept the settlement from failing. His Jamestown settlement was well armed: he reported 24 cannon, 300 "muskets snaphances and fire lockes" with ammunition, as well as cuirasses, pikes, swords, and more "moryons" (helmets) than there were men in the fall of 1609.

The settlement had a military structure with captains, sergeants and corporals noted but, in 1609, it was felt that only a rigid code of military discipline might make Virginia prosper. The new charter of 1609 gave sweeping powers to the new governor, Lord De la Warr (1577–1618), who arrived in June 1610, and this led to the drafting of the unique Virginia *Lawes Divine, Morall and Martiall, etc.* Inspired by English military codes, the Virginia laws organized the small population of settlers militarily. They were notable for their harshness, but it can be argued that severe measures were necessary if the young colony was to survive. The laws spelt out the duties of all ranks and also mentioned some of their arms and equipment provided by the Virginia Company (see commentary to Plate A). The settlers were organized into six companies (or "bands") of 50 men each under a captain. There was also a small "Guard of Holberdiers in his Lordships livery" with red cloaks, escorting the "Lord Governour and Captain General" De la Warr as early as 1610 in Jamestown.<sup>4</sup>

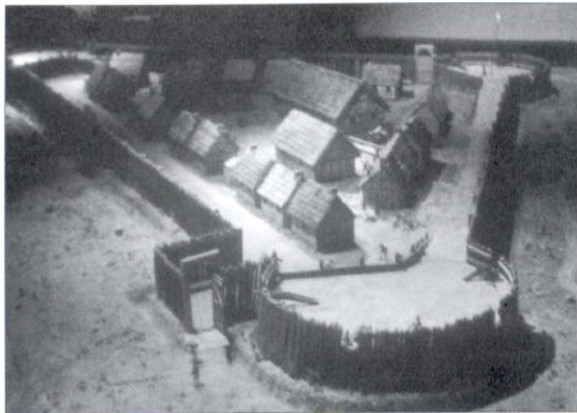
This semi-military government failed to turn a profit and, in 1618, a more liberal regime featuring the first legislative assembly in the colonies was introduced. This drew many more settlers and also brought the first black slaves to Virginia, sold by Dutch traders. The large plantation estates and bound servitude brought financial rewards to the owners and became hallmarks of the economy of the southern colonies.

### **Indian wars of the 1620s–40s**

Relations between the settlers and the Indians had been strained at first but had become relatively harmonious after a few years, or so the English thought. On 22 March 1622 the Indians delivered a stunning surprise attack on the Virginia settlers, killing some 400 of them – a quarter of the entire population – in a bid to drive out the Europeans. The colony survived, settlers and Indians meeting in countless skirmishes until a peace was convened in 1632. Although the Indians had been beaten in battle by 1625, it was the subsequent raids that destroyed their crops which crippled their resistance.

The arms and accoutrements used in this war were much the same as prescribed in the old laws. Some 2,000 "skulls of iron", 400 shirts of mail, 40 suits of half-armor, 100 brigandines, 700 calivers, 300 "short pistols with fire locks", 300 arquebuses (heavy matchlocks), 400 bows, and 1,000 "brown bills" were sent from England, revealing that protective clothing against arrows and spears was much sought-after by Virginia militiamen. Plantation records of the 1620s reveal the use of armor, coats of mail, "steel coats" and "corslett", as well as a selection of firearms and ammunition.

4 William Strachey compiled the *Lawes Divine, Morall and Martiall, etc.* (London, 1612, republished 1969) and his "A True Reportory..." is quoted in *The Old Dominion* (Charlottesville, 1964). The first captains were Argall, Brewster, Holcroft, Lawson, Percy and Yeardeley. The De la Warr coat of arms was "Gules, crusilly, and a lion rampant argent" which indicate a red and white livery as per A.C.Fox-Davies, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry* (London, 1925), p.89. It is assumed here that the livery was separate from the red cloak but it may also have been intended as part of it.



**Model of Jamestown in Virginia.** The first settlement, built from May 1607, had its houses surrounded by walls set in an elongated triangle, with large corner bastions for artillery. (Jamestown National Historic Park, Virginia)

The peace lasted ten years and the settlers relaxed. Then, on 18 April 1644, about 1,000 Indian warriors attacked the frontier settlements, killing nearly 500 men, women and children that morning. The hard-pressed authorities struggled to restore order and prepare the militia for defense. The log palisade built in 1632 across the peninsula between the James and York rivers still protected most of Virginia's 8,000 settlers and, in June, offensive operations against the Indians began. A force of 300 men under "General and Chief Commander" William Clairborne was raised. Each man was to bring powder and ball and have "one good fixed Gunne and some

defensive Coat or Armour and head piece with a sword or Cutlace and three weeks provision of Victualls." The expedition was successful in burning Indian villages and crops, driving the natives outward before the force disbanded in August.

Having seized the initiative, smaller parties of Virginians continued the destruction of crops during the next months. In 1645, forts were built and garrisoned further west, while more parties were sent out. Mounted patrols or "rangers" were also embodied. In 1646, a 60-man force "well provided with fixed guns, shott bags and swords" and helped by a "party of Horse" from Jamestown pursued and killed Chief Opechancano, the Indian leader. The Indians were now practically eliminated and starving. The war ended shortly thereafter in October 1646.

The number of militia companies increased as the colony grew and counties were created to organize the settlements. From 1651 the companies were gathered into county regiments. In 1664 there were apprehensions of a raid by the Dutch fleet of Adm. de Ruyter. With some 1,500 cavalrymen and 2,500 infantrymen who could be ready "on the first alarm", the coasts were considered secure. At that time the "military government" was "divided into four Provinces, one being under the Governor, and the other three under Major-Generals" of militia. Each county within a province had a regiment of foot and a troop of horse, and there were then 19 counties in Virginia. The governor clearly had a small guard, as he commissioned a "captain of the guard" (CSPC, 1664-66).

### **Bacon's Rebellion & the first "Rangers"**

A major crisis broke out in September 1676 when Nathaniel Bacon, a popular leader, rose against the autocratic Governor Sir William Berkeley, supported by part of the militia. Civil strife ensued; in October Berkeley was defeated and Jamestown burned by Bacon's militiamen. In the midst of his victory Bacon suddenly fell ill and died, and the rebellion collapsed. Governor Berkeley reported the insurrection to London and King James II ordered regular troops to Virginia (see Plate C). With the arrival of Jeffery's Regiment in January 1677 and the subsequent formation of independent companies in the colony (see above), many of the garrison duties were taken up by these regular royal troops, but this situation lasted for only a few years.

Following the disbandment of the two independent companies of regulars in May 1682, militiamen were kept "ranging" at the four small western forts to keep an eye on the Indians, while the Assembly asked for royal troops to be stationed there. By 1684 it was proving difficult to recruit the 30 men needed per fort on a purely militia basis, and on 17 June the council granted that "Each Ranger is annually to have pay for himself and horse 1,200 lbs. of Tobacco" (CSPC, 1702). These horsemen were a mounted patrol keeping watch along the line of forts rather than cavalry in the European tactical sense. Nor were they the woods-running Rangers that we now associate with that term. Rather, they were something of a mixture of light cavalry and dragoons. As they were paid in tobacco, they were precursors of the "provincial" troops, although they provided their own arms, clothing, equipment, saddlery and horses.

The Virginia militia kept its county organisation for many decades to come, and since it was a wealthy colony some of these units appear to have been well appointed. On 12 December 1687 the Middlesex county troop of cavalry ordered "Trumpetts with silver mouth pieces to be hanged with black and w[i]th [or possibly meaning white] silke" banners. The troop also had "One horse Collours with Staffe [and] two Bootes" for the staff. Two "handsome bells [of arms] and one Ffoot Collours" were ordered for its infantry.<sup>5</sup>

### **Virginia militia in the French-Indian War**

There was to be no further direct military assistance for Virginia from Britain until royal troops were sent in 1754. Aid of sorts was given in 1702 when arms for 1,000 infantry and 400 horsemen were sent, but these were to be paid for by the colony if issued from the colony's royal store at Williamsburg.

At the outbreak of the American phase of the Seven Years' War the Virginia militia was divided into four districts having adjutants to "teach the officers their duty and train the private men to the use of arms" (PRO/WO 34/101). It mustered about 30,000 men who were, according to Lieutenant-Governor Dinwiddie, in "want of a martial spirit," being a "lazy, indolent set of people." Less than half of this unpromising force had arms, and what arms there were, were of differing calibers. The province's arms store had no small arms left in it but did contain 28 halberds, 12 drums, and some powder and shot. The governor was proved somewhat pessimistic, as arms were eventually found, and records show that the militiamen on the frontier did mobilize and gave good service.

Following Braddock's disaster on the Monongahela in July 1755, men in frontier communities grouped themselves into "associations" to form volunteer companies. In August, a troop of light horse of 50 men led by Capt. Nathaniel Terry already patrolled the area about Lunenburg; another 50 men under Capt. Samuel Overton was to "range" at Hanover. In the fall

**Three-quarter armor, c.1590-1630. Some senior officers of early colonial militias were equipped with such armors. (Harold L. Peterson Collection, Jamestown National Historic Park, Virginia)**



<sup>5</sup> Quoted in C.W. Robinson, *The Life of Sir John Beverley Robinson* (Edinburgh, 1904), p.437.

**Dutch soldier, early 17th century – his equipment is typical of European musketeers of the period, and probably of the first generation of colonial militias. He is armed with the heavy matchlock musket (about 6.5kg, 14.3lbs), which had a caliber of 18.6mm (0.7in) and a maximum range of about 300 yards – though again, such weapons were inaccurate when aimed at a man-sized target at much over 30 yards. Musketeers armed with this type of matchlock required a forked firing rest. (Print after De Gheyn)**



some 220 militiamen in several companies were reported on guard in Hampshire County, keeping the frontier lands “safe from the Incursions of the Indian ennemy.” The largest was Capt. William Baylis’ company of 80 men, all “single Persons, who strickly do their duty, in scouring the wood, and endeavouring to fall in with the Indians.” The other “active and effective” men belonged to the companies of Capts. Stothley, Brown, Ashley, and Cocks. Such duty could be risky, as Capt. Mercer’s company found in April 1756, when it was ambushed by the Indians while “ranging” and lost two officers and 17 men killed near Edward’s Fort.

Nor were units raised only on the frontier. A cavalry association of about 200 gentlemen “volunteers at their own expense” – apparently lawyers – was raised by Col. Peyton Randolph, the attorney-general of Virginia, from 7 May 1756. When they gathered at Fredericksburg on 20 May for service on the frontier they wore “short plain blue Frocks, with cross Pockets, short white Nankeen, or brown Holland Waistcoats, and Breeches of the same, and plain Hats; armed each with a Firelock, a Brace of Pistols, and a cutting Sword” (*Pennsylvania Gazette*, 20 May & 3 June 1756). The “associators” marched towards Winchester but, the alarm on the frontier having subsided, they were not retained for further service.

In conclusion, American history’s most famous uniform had its origin in Virginia. On 21 September 1774 a group of gentlemen of Fairfax County formed an independent company of militia not to exceed 100 men. The chairman of this committee of gentlemen was Col. George

Washington. The uniform adopted was a blue coat with buff facings, gold buttons, buff waistcoat and breeches, and white stockings. Each militiaman of the company was to be armed with a musket and bayonet, a cartridge box with sling, and a tomahawk. The sergeants had halberds and sashes; officers had gold epaulettes, a gilt gorget engraved with the arms of colonial Virginia and a sword. Washington was soon propelled to become the military leader of the American “rebels”, and wore his blue and buff Fairfax County company uniform when Congress offered him command of the Continental army on 15 June 1775. He continued to wear this uniform, which now became the dress of American generals and staff officers and later became celebrated by Americans as the “blue and buff of the Revolution.”

### **Virginia Provincials**

Virginia was little affected by “King George’s War” but, in July 1746, its assembly voted £4,000 to raise, arm, clothe, equip, and transport 100 provincial soldiers for service in an expedition against Canada. A company commanded by Capt. Beverly Robinson was raised in August and sent to New York City. It went no further, remaining quartered in its fort until April 1747 when it was sent back to Virginia and disbanded.



The effect of the French from Canada establishing forts in the Ohio Valley was much more serious for Virginians. At the end of 1753, Virginia Lieutenant-Governor Dinwiddie appointed George Washington, a 21-year-old surveyor of western lands and a major in the militia, to deliver a summons to the French at Fort Le Boeuf telling them they were on British soil. The French politely countered that their claims went back to 17th-century explorers and that the Anglo-Americans had no business on the Ohio River and its tributaries.

Faced with this, Virginia resolved to raise two provincial companies of 100 men each in January 1754 to garrison the western frontier. They were to be drawn from volunteers, one company from Augusta County under Maj. Washington and the other, mostly "traders" and woodsmen, under Capt. William Trent. These troops marched as soon as possible to the frontier, while six more provincial companies were raised from March 1754 as reinforcements. The same month Joshua Fry was appointed colonel of the "Virginia Regiment" with instructions to build a fort at the forks of the Monongahela and Ohio rivers (now the site of the city of Pittsburgh, PA).

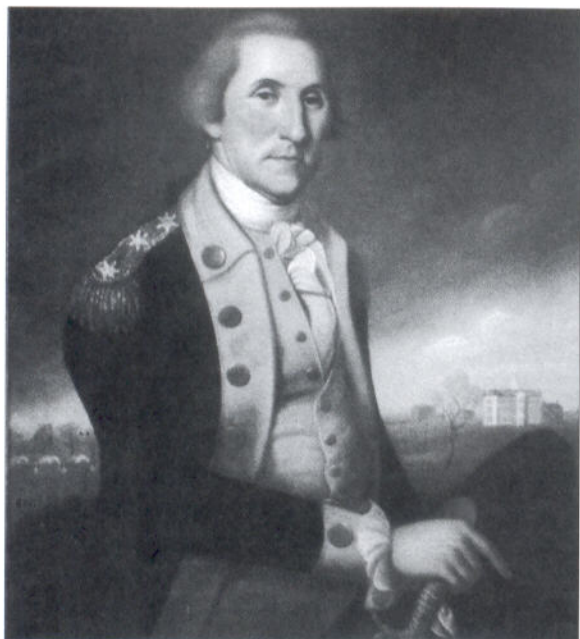
Captain Trent's men had started building the fort when a strong force of French regular colonial troops, Canadian militiamen, and their Indian allies arrived on 16 April. The 40 or so Virginian soldiers were in no position to resist and withdrew. The French then proceeded to build a strong work there which they named Fort Duquesne. On 27 May, Washington with about 60 provincials ambushed a French parliamentary party of 34 men under Ensign de Jummonville. A month later, Capt. de Villier, Jummonville's half-brother, leading some 600 French and Canadians and 100 Indians, caught up with Washington and his 400 troops at Fort Necessity (Great Meadows, PA), which surrendered on 3 July. The Virginia Regiment had suffered serious casualties but still had some 300 men in July and 480 in September. It was finally broken up in the fall of 1754. A company of 50 men was kept in service at Wills Creek.

By early 1755, two regular regiments from Britain under the command of Gen. Edward Braddock (the 44th & 48th Foot) had arrived in Virginia. By March, men raised in Virginia were organized by Braddock into six companies of Rangers, two companies of carpenters and Capt. Robert Stewart's Company of Light Horse. The emphasis was now on the royal troops, which the few provincial companies accompanied toward Fort Duquesne. On 9 July, Braddock's column suffered its stunning defeat in an ambush on the Monongahela, the British general being killed with hundreds of his regulars, and his army dispersed. The Virginian provincial companies with Braddock were badly mauled; Col. Washington's personal escape from this disaster would have incalculable historical consequences.

Lieutenant-Governor Dinwiddie ordered out the militia, found them to be cowardly and "seized with panick", and so quickly raised three



**Ensign Edward Fell (1736–66), Virginia Regiment, 1757 – his service as an officer with the regiment lasted only from 11 July to 5 October that year, so his portrait by John Hesselius shows him in the regimental uniform of that date: blue coat and breeches, scarlet cuffs, lapels, lining and waistcoat, with silver buttons and lace – cf Plate F3. (Private collection)**



**George Washington in his American general's uniform, blue faced with buff, gold buttons and epaulettes, 1788. This was originally the uniform of the Fairfax County Militia. Portrait by C.W.Peale. (Indianapolis Museum of Art)**

**Jummonville Glenn, Pennsylvania, site of the "Jummonville incident". This is the spot in the forest where Washington and his Virginia provincials were looking down on Jummonville and his party on 27 May 1754. The ensuing action in which Jummonville and many of his men were killed was the effective start of the Seven Years' War in North America. (Author's photo)**



companies of Rangers (also called "independent companies"). Fort Cumberland (Cumberland, MD) was to be immediately garrisoned with another 50 men from Virginia, as this fort suddenly became the first line of defence.

Other measures were in store. On 14 August 1755, George Washington was commissioned colonel of a new Virginia Regiment to have 1,000 men, and was appointed commander-in-chief of all Virginia forces. The regiment already had some 800 men in September. Unlike most provincials in more secure areas, the Virginia Regiment was kept on service, with some 500 men on duty during the winter of 1755–56. In March 1756 authorisation was passed for 1,500 men in provincial service including 1,000 for the Virginia Regiment. In April 1757 the regiment was augmented to 12 companies, making 1,270 men led by a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel, a major, nine captains, 24 lieutenants, and 12 ensigns, as well as a paymaster, three surgeons, one surgeon's

mate, an adjutant and a quartermaster. Two of the companies were sent to bolster the forces in South Carolina.

On 30 March 1758 the colony increased its forces to 2,000 men in two regiments of 1,000 each. The 1st Virginia Regt was the old regiment and continued under Washington's command; the 2nd Virginia Regt was under Col. William Byrd. Both regiments served with the army of Gen. Forbes which marched on Fort Duquesne. On 19 September Col. Grant's advance party was badly mauled by the French, the 1st Virginia's detachment losing 57 killed and wounded. Forbes' column nevertheless greatly outnumbered the French, who destroyed their fort before withdrawing in late November. With this major threat to Virginia eliminated, the 2nd Virginia Regt was disbanded on 1 December 1758. The 1st (reverting to the title of the Virginia Regt) remained on guard along the frontier "in small parties or detachments, and employed as rangers," with part of the regiment serving in Pittsburgh during 1759. Another 500 men divided into five companies but not attached to the regiment were enlisted from 22 February to serve on the frontier until 1 December 1759;

however, some 200 of these were soon attached as artificers to the Virginia Regiment. The regiment was reduced by three companies on 1 February 1760 but, within a few weeks, the Cherokee Indians had risen in South Carolina and the regiment was increased again to 1,000 men in May.

This establishment was continued until 1762. By then, the Cherokees had been vanquished; and the Virginia Regt was disbanded at Fort Lewis in Augusta County by 1 May that year. Since 1760, Washington had left the regiment and William Byrd was colonel until its disbandment in 1762.

*Uniforms* See Plate F.



Colonel George Washington in the uniform of the Virginia Regiment. Washington, who commanded the unit from 1755 to early 1760, sat for this portrait by C.W.Peale in 1772 wearing his old regimentals. The hat is unlaced but has a silver button and a silver cockade loop. The coat is blue with scarlet lapels, cuffs and lining, worn over a scarlet waistcoat. The buttons, lace, and gorget are silver; the sash over the shoulder is crimson silk. Instead of the regulation blue breeches, Washington sported scarlet ones. Old reproductions often show the silver items such as buttons and lace as colored gold, but a recent restoration and cleaning of the painting revealed that this was because of a coat of varnish added during the 19th century. The portrait hangs in the chapel of the University of Washington and Lee in Virginia.

Following Braddock's defeat in 1755 the company of provincial Virginia Light Horse under the command of Capt. Robert Stewart was re-raised, and later served with Gen. Forbes' army marching on Fort Duquesne in 1758. According to the notes of the historical illustrator H.A.Ogden, Stewart's Light Horse had a red coat without collar or lapels, with buff cuffs, turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches, yellow metal buttons, and yellow hat lace, black boots, and red saddle cloths edged with buff. In late May 1758, 80 men of the company were detached by Forbes to Bouquet's command "with saddles and bridles."

From 1756 until 1760, there were also companies of Rangers in provincial service, but these will be covered in the forthcoming third volume of this study.

## NEW NETHERLANDS

Following the explorations of Henry Hudson, the Dutch West India Company sponsored the establishment of a colony along the Hudson River. The small Fort Manhattes and Fort Nassau were built in 1614, followed by Fort Amsterdam on Manhattan Island in 1624; but it was only in 1633 that the West

India Company finally sent about 50 regular soldiers to garrison the colony. The number of regulars varied over the years, from only 28 in 1650 to 170 nine years later, and 250 by 1660; this was considered too expensive, however, and the garrison was reduced to 130 men from 1662.

From 9 May 1640 a militia law required that all inhabitants of New Amsterdam be armed and formed into a Burgher Guard. It was organized by trade guilds and its officers were the guilds' leaders. Except for night watch duties, the militiamen were not mobilized until 1650, when two companies of 40 men each were formed, one provided with a blue and the other with an orange color. They were sent to protect Long Island from feared attacks by privateers, which did not in fact materialize.<sup>6</sup> In 1655, they participated alongside Dutch regulars in the conquest of New Sweden.

Three years later the Burgher Guard was reorganized into three companies, each having its color, and equipped with partisans for officers, halberds for sergeants, and a drum. In October 1659 "many soldiers who were volunteers, a company of Citizens with the Orange banner" and a company of "English wellwishers" went to fight the Indians to the north (DHSNY, I). Amongst their gear were ten "light muskets" and ten cartridge boxes.

*Uniforms* See Plate B.

<sup>6</sup> In her *Historic Dress in America* (Philadelphia, 1904), Elisabeth McClellan mentions the "rattle watch dressed in a costume of blue cloth with facings of orange, and armed with lanterns, rattles and long staffs." This appears to be an interpretation of the New Amsterdam Burghers Guard night watch, with the company colors being confused for a uniform. No contemporary document has been found confirming such a uniform for these militiamen.



**Peter Stuyvesant (1592–1672),** governor of New Netherlands 1647–65. Stuyvesant had a wide experience of colonial administration, having served in the Dutch East Indies and as governor of Curaçao before coming to New Amsterdam. He was a stern and autocratic administrator as well as a tough old soldier; he walked with a peg-leg, having lost a limb in battle. In this c.1650 portrait, possibly painted in New Amsterdam, a light orange fringed sash is worn over armor; Stuyvesant is shown with a black skull cap and brown hair. (Print after Henri Couturier)

In 1609, Henry Hudson explored what became the Hudson River for the Dutch West India Company on board the *Half-Moon*, correctly shown flying the Dutch colors in this old print. Hudson's explorations formed the basis of the Dutch territorial claims in North America.

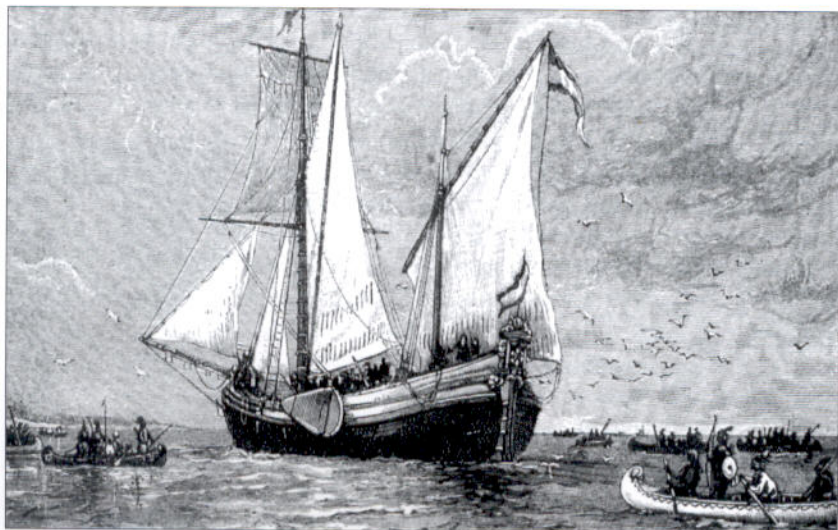
While the garrison of New Amsterdam surrendered to the British without a fight in 1664, the small Dutch garrison on the Delaware put up some resistance when a company of British troops arrived in October. The latter stormed the "inconsiderable fort", inflicting 13 casualties on the Dutch while suffering none (CSPC 1664). New York was recaptured from the British in August 1673 when Adm. Cornelis Eversten's Dutch fleet arrived and landed some 600 marines (see Plate B). A strong detachment remained in garrison until November 1674, when the colony was ceded to Britain.

## NEW SWEDEN

Swedish settlers led by Peter Minuit arrived in Delaware Bay on 31 December 1637 on board two ships of the New Sweden Company. The initial party included 24 soldiers. In the following months and years, forts Christina (1638–55; Wilmington, DE), Elfsborg (1643–53; Salem, NJ), New Korsholm (1647–53; PA) and Trinity (Newcastle, DE) rose along the Delaware River. The Swedes purchased territory from the Indians, with whom they maintained remarkably good relations. A number of the settlers were Finns, who built the first log cabins, a technique which soon spread to all the colonies. In April 1648 the Dutch built Fort Beversrede (Philadelphia, PA) opposite Fort New Korsholm; it was destroyed by the Swedes in May, rebuilt by the Dutch and razed again by the Swedes in November.

Trade flourished, but the Swedish colony's population was barely 200 souls in 1653. Two years later a Dutch expedition of some 300 men from New Amsterdam reached Fort Christina, the main Swedish post, which surrendered without resistance on 15 September. New Sweden was henceforth absorbed into New Netherlands.

*Uniforms* See Plate B.



## THE PLATES

### A: VIRGINIA MILITIA, c.1610-20

#### A1: Officer

According to the *Lawes Divine, Morall and Martiall* which Sir Thomas Dale revised and re-issued in 1611, officers should be armed like a "targeteer" – see also A3 – in light armor, "bases" (quilted, skirted protective clothing), and headpiece (helmet), and should carry a "firelocke, or Snaphause" and a target. Since two of Dale's captains at Nansmond were wounded, one in the thigh and the other in the arm, it is probable that despite regulations they chose to leave off some of their armor. A 1605 portrait of Lord North in Wroxten Abbey, England, shows him armed for battle, wearing only breast and back plates. Burgonets were popular headpieces in Virginia, for those who could afford them, judging by the number of parts found by archeologists. Pistol parts are also commonly found. The crimson sash was probably worn over the shoulder. Captains were distinguished by gorgets. Ensigns carried colors said to be "the banner of Jesus Christ," which possibly meant England's white flag with the red cross of St George.

#### A2: Musketeer

A soldier armed with a musket was issued a "quilted coate of Canvas, a headpeece, and a sword or else with a light Armor and Bases quilted." Sergeants used halberds in garrison and "Snaphanse and Target" in the field. Though the word "quilted" is often taken to mean stitching in an overall diamond pattern, there is no clear evidence for this. Earlier gambesons and arming doublets were commonly quilted in long, parallel rows. This man's firearm is a heavy matchlock requiring the use of a rest; measured powder charges are carried in a bandolier of wooden "cartridges" (much later nicknamed the "12 Apostles", although examples with varying numbers are known), priming powder in a separate flask, and balls in an attached bag.

#### A3: Targeteer

A "targeteer" was a soldier equipped with a small round shield or "target", who also had quilted "Bases to the small of his legge, and his headpeece, sword and pistoll, or Scuppet [a short firearm, often with a folding stock] provided for that end," according to the Virginia laws. Archeological finds at Jamestown and several other early sites have confirmed that armor was commonly worn in early Virginia as protection against Indian arrows. The quilting pattern shown here was suggested by the bases worn by Sir James Scudamore in his c.1590 portrait, though parallel rows of stitching, similar to the musketeer's coat, are also likely. (All after D.A.Tinsdale, *Soldiers of the Virginia Colony 1607-1699. A Study of Virginia's Military, Its Origins, Tactics, Equipment and Development*, Dietz, 2000)

### B: NEW SWEDEN & NEW NETHERLANDS

#### B1: Musketeer, New Sweden, 1640s-1655

The soldiers of New Sweden were armed and equipped as other European troops of the time. They still had matchlock muskets in 1654, though they intended to convert them to flintlock the following year. They dressed in the typical jacket, breeches and hat worn by Swedes at that period, which are shown in small figures of Swedish colonists in a print after Peter Lindstrom. A Swedish pikeman's helmet has also been excavated at an Indian burial site in Pennsylvania,

which seems to indicate that such armor was found of little use apart from a few pieces kept for ceremonial wear, the rest possibly being traded or given to a chief. (After Erik Bellander, *Dräct och Uniform*, Stockholm, 1973)

#### B2: Musketeer, New Netherlands, 1640s

The soldiers and militiamen were armed with matchlock or flintlock muskets, bandoliers, swords or hangers. During the early years buff coats and helmets were worn in New Netherlands as elsewhere, but this was seemingly not enough for protection against Indian arrows and armor was required. Mail shirts were worn during the 1640s; in 1641 a request was made for 200 "malj rocken" (coats of mail) to be sent to New Amsterdam 'for the soldiers as well as for the freemen who will pay for their own share of them'. Three years later, the directors of the Dutch West India Company asked that, for fighting Indians, 150 soldiers armed with muskets and equipped with coats of mail should be sent to New Netherlands.

Following the capture of New Sweden in 1655 the Dutch were at war with the Delaware Indians. In November 1656 "munitions of war for 150 men" were to be sent from Amsterdam to "the South River of New Netherlands" (the Delaware River). The list is interesting in that it reveals changes in armament and equipment. For 75 men, there were "muskets" – assumed to be heavy matchlocks with forked rests – bandoliers, swords, and sword belts. Another 75 men were armed with "firelocks or snaphance" muskets – flintlocks – with cartridge boxes, sabers and saber belts (DRCHSNY, III). Gone were the mail shirts, although buff leather coats may have been worn.

#### B3: Sergeant, Dutch Corps of Marines, New Netherlands, 1673-74

The Corps of Marines was raised in 1665 and wore a uniform from 1672; this consisted of a blue coat with yellow cuffs and lining and pewter buttons. The breeches could be brown, grey or red, the stockings blue or grey, and the hats brown without plumes or ribbons. The marines were armed with snaphance muskets, plug bayonets and swords. There was a shoulder belt for the sword and another for a pouch (for bullets and other items), and a powder flask. This was the



A cabasset in good condition, such as would have been used in Virginia and other early settlements; cf Plate A2, A3. (Harold L. Peterson Collection, Jamestown National Historic Park, Virginia)

most modern infantry equipment, replacing the old "12 Apostles". Sergeants in the corps had similar uniforms and weapons to their men, but were distinguished by an orange sash; officers had orange silk sashes and silvered gorgets and were armed with swords. The bunch of white ribbons at the right shoulder cannot be assumed to be a rank device at this date – such features were common on both civilian and military dress of the day. (After F.T.Chapman & F.C. Nyland, "Netherlands Corps of Marines in New York, 1673", *Military Collector & Historian*, XXIII, Summer 1971)

## C: VIRGINIA, 1670s

### C1: Infantryman, Virginia Militia, 1675–76

The "Act Providing for the Supply of Armes and Ammunition" issued at Jamestown in 1673 ordered that the county courts of Virginia be empowered to raise levies on the citizens to provide arms and ammunition for their militias. The act authorized only muskets and swords for the infantry. By this time, armor seems to have been discarded by foot troops.

### C2: Trooper, Virginia Militia Horse, 1675–76

The same act of 1673 authorized "pistolls, swords and

carbines for horse." However, as late as November 1687 the Military Census of Middlesex County listed citizens whose personal wealth was thought to be sufficient to provide "a Man, horse & Armer" for service in the militia. It is therefore possible that armor continued in use by some militia cavalry into the last quarter of the 17th century. (Both Virginia Militia figures after D.A.Tinsdale, *Soldiers of the Virginia Colony...*)

### C3: Musketeer, Jeffery's Regiment, 1676–78

This English regular regiment was organized in the then-usual proportions of about two-thirds musketeers and one-third pikemen. The men's uniform was a red coat lined with blue baize (the colors of the royal livery), a hat, a red cap, a shirt, a coarse calico cravat, breeches, stockings and shoes. All had a sword, and a musket (either matchlock or flintlock) or a pike. The officers were drawn from various regiments (the 1st and 2nd Foot Guards, the Maritime Regiment and the Holland Regiment) and thus probably wore the uniforms of their respective units, to which they would return. (After H.C.McBarron, J.Eltig & B.Nihart, "Jeffery's Regiment of Foot 1676–1682", *MC&H*, XIV, spring 1962; & *PRO/WO* 26/3)

## D: QUEEN ANNE'S WAR

### D1: Independent Companies & New England troops, c.1705–15

From the early 18th century the uniform of the independent companies on the British regular establishment appears to have been the royal livery of red coats lined with blue, red breeches, and hats trimmed with white lace. Indeed, clothing to be furnished in 1711 to both the New England units raised for the abortive Quebec expedition and the regular independent companies was all to be "in her Majesty's livery." Each sergeant, corporal, drummer and private was to have a coat, a pair of breeches, a laced hat, a pair of shoes with buckles, a pair of stockings, two shirts, two neck cloths and a pair of gloves. Infantry soldiers were to have their waistcoats made from their old coats. The quality was sometimes less than perfect. In 1713, the clothing received was "very bad", being "only a sort of frock without any lining and no waistcoats." Even the uniform colors appear to have been wrong for some soldiers, as "the Coats and Breeches for the N.C.O.s and gunners differed from those of the Centinels [infantry privates], in nothing but colour being blew instead of Red." It had been reported that "Red Sergeants Coates" with sergeants' silver-laced hats had been furnished but, obviously, some things had changed in transit. (*PRO/CO* 42/13 and *CO* 5/9; *BL*, Add. Mss. 22,616 & Stowe 464 )



British officer's gorget, mid-18th century; cf Plates D3, F3. Gorgets were gilded or silvered depending on the color of the lace of the unit. While an obligatory item for regular officers to wear on duty, the gorget appears to have been rarer amongst American militia officers. (Parks Canada)

British ventral cartridge box – "belly box" – mid-18th century. Black leather flap with "GR 2" stamped in front and wood block painted black. (Parks Canada)



**D2: Gunner, Board of Ordnance detachment, c.1705-15**

The artillery detachments in North America wore the same uniform as was then provided by the Board of Ordnance to trains in Europe. As early as 1705 the detachment in St John's, Newfoundland, was sent coats of red cloth with waistcoats and breeches of blue kersey. They very probably had yellow buttons, buttonholes and hat lace. A more detailed bill of 1715 confirms that the coats of the matrosses were cuffed and lined with blue and laced with yellow, as were the hats; that the corporals and bombardiers had the same, but the hat laced with narrow gold lace; and that sergeants and artificers had wide gold lace on their coats and hats. (Royal Artillery Institute, Royal Warrants... 1689-1739, MD 966, Warrant of 3 July 1705; PRO/WO 51/94)

**D3: Colonial officer, c.1710**

Officers in North America were also provided for; in March 1710 a contract called for 266 officers each to have a fine scarlet or blue cloth coat, waistcoat and breeches, a hat laced with silver, a pair of scarlet and a pair of blue fine stockings, two silk neckcloths, a fusil with a cloth sling, a gilt bayonet, a fine tomahawk, a cloth belt with frogs and cartouch box. All this would have been intended for the officers of the American colonial regiments raised for the expeditions against Canada and Acadia, and possibly also for officers of the independent companies. The style of clothing appears to have been plain if elegant. The arms and equipment furnished indicate that these officers were armed with light muskets rather than half-pikes; while tomahawks are mentioned but swords are not, it is assumed these would have been already in possession of the officers. Cloth or cloth-covered accoutrements for officers at that time were usually decorated or edged with lace. (PRO/T 1/132 & 64/126)

**E: KING GEORGE'S WAR**

**E1: Private, Gooch's 61st (American) Regiment of Foot, 1740s**

The campaign dress of this regiment was much simpler and more practical than the uniform shown in the 1742 "Cloathing Book" (see illustration on page 19). According to Boyse, it consisted of "Red Camblet coats, brown linnen waistcoats and 2 pairs of canvas trousers," no doubt worn with the issue hats, shoes and buff accoutrements. This sort of clothing was probably worn from about 1741, and by the detachments later posted at Rattan Island and on the coast of Honduras. The regiment was issued with 3,000 muskets, bayonets, and cartridge boxes, 120 halberds, 120 partisans (apparently for corporals), and 60 drums as well as swords. (After S.Boyse, *An Historical Review*, London, 1747; W.Y.Baldry & A.S.White, "Gooch's American Regiment of Foot, 1739-1742," *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, XVI, 1937)

**E2: Officer, Gooch's 61st (American) Regiment of Foot, 1740s**

The officers of this regiment appear to have favored a simple if elegant style of dress for everyday wear. The uniform shown is based on the portrait of Capt. Lawrence Washington (George Washington's elder half-brother) shown in the typical all-scarlet single-breasted coat with gold buttons, and a green waistcoat laced with gold. He would have worn a crimson sash, a gold-laced tricorne and a gilt

**Soldier's bayonet scabbard and frog, c.1758, found at Fort Ligonier, Pennsylvania. (Fort Ligonier Museum)**



gorget on duty. (After H.C.McBarron, W.A.Foote & J.Eltling, "The American Regiment 1740-1746," *MC&H*, XXI, Fall 1969)

**E3: Private, Independent Companies, 1742**

On 30 May 1730 the independent companies were instructed to have their clothing "to be faced and lined with popinger green instead of blue, after this year." Our figure is based on the 1742 "Cloathing Book" which shows a number of unidentified plates of soldiers wearing red uniforms faced with green lapels and cuffs, some with green and others with brownish turnbacks. This agrees with Millan's Army List of 1749 which stated that the independent companies in North America wore red faced with green, those in the West Indies having coats with brown linen lining. The buttons are of white metal and the hat lace is white, but there is no lace on the coats or waistcoats. The two New York companies sent to Virginia and Maryland in 1755 had this uniform, as a deserter from Fort Cumberland (MD) is described as wearing "his regimentals, red turn'd up with green, brass mounted cutlash." Although British infantry regimentals were ordered to be laced in 1747 it remains uncertain if this applied to the independent companies. While they had a good supply of arms, their accoutrements were reportedly worn out by the late 1730s and none had been supplied for the next 20 years, as a 1756 report stated. (PRO/WO 71/6; *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 10 April 1755)

**F: VIRGINIA REGIMENT, 1754-62**

**F1: Private, 1754**

Initially the men of the regiment were expected to wear their civilian clothing; but in early March 1754, George Washington found many recruits to be "quite destitute" and reported that they were willing to be clothed at their own expense by deductions from pay. Governor Dinwiddie agreed, and approved a "coat and breeches of red cloth" for the men. By April some deserters were already wearing red coats and leather breeches. Officers, too, procured some regimentals,

as Maj. Adam Stephens wore a "flaming suit of laced regimentals," which most likely indicates a scarlet uniform.

#### **F2: Private, 1755-62**

By the end of 1754 the color of the uniform to be worn by Virginia troops had changed from red to blue. In a November letter to Capt. Stewart concerning the few independent companies at the frontier, Governor Dinwiddie mentioned that some "cheap blue Clothing" with shoes and stocks should be purchased. In February 1755, Dinwiddie felt that "Blue turned up with red" made "very proper Uniforms" for his troops, and it would seem that this was the dress of the companies of Virginia Rangers, carpenters and troopers serving at that time. The Virginia Regiment raised from August 1755 always had this uniform until 1762, when it was disbanded; in that year a deserter was reported in "a Blue Coat turned up with red." The yearly issue consisted of a coat, a waistcoat, a pair of breeches, a hat with cockade, three white shirts, a pair of shoes, two stocks, and white yarn stockings. The waistcoat appears to have been blue, as deserters were often described as having "jackets" of that color, and many also had buckskin breeches. Generally, the regiment was one of the better equipped provincial units in the American colonies.

#### **F3: Officer, 1755-62**

On 17 September 1755, the same day that George Washington was appointed colonel to raise the regiment once again, every officer was ordered to "provide himself as soon as he can conveniently with a suit of Regimentals of good blue Cloath; the Coat to be faced and cuffed with Scarlet, and trimmed with silver; a Scarlet waistcoat with Silver Lace; blue Breeches, and a Silver-laced Hat, if to be had, for Camp and Garrison duty. Besides this, each officer is to provide himself with a common soldiers Dress, for Detachments and Duty in the Woods." The sash was crimson and the sword knots blue and silver. (All figures after F.T.Chapman & T.Parker, "The Virginia Regiment 1754-1762", *MC&H*, X, Winter 1958; R.A.Brock, ed., *The Official Records of Robert Dinwiddie*, Richmond, 1883-1884)

### **G: AMERICAN-RAISED REGULAR UNITS, 1755-60**

#### **G1: Private, Shirley's 50th or Pepperell's 51st Regiment of Foot, 1755-56**

The uniforms of both these locally raised regiments were to be "a plain cloathing" for reasons of economy. They were to have identical dress, which was described as red faced with red, trimmed with "white [metal] button and L" - the latter surely meaning lace, as British army uniforms had been ordered to be laped and fully looped. The men were not armed with good muskets "of the King's pattern", but with 1,000 having "single Bridle Locks, Nose bands & wooden ram[rod]s," and a thousand "Dutch with Noseband & Wood rammers." Many of them were found to be defective (but over 1,000 were nevertheless taken by Indians and Canadian militiamen following the surrender of Oswego). The privates had hangers with steel hilts while the grenadiers and sergeants had brass hilts. The accoutrements were defective, the cartridge boxes having wood blocks of only 12 holes that were so small that the cartridges could not be put in, nor was there "substance in the Wood to widden them sufficiently." Finally, the leather was reported

"scanty and bad likewise." These types of accoutrements were also issued to the 44th and 48th Foot with Braddock's army and the New Jersey Provincial Regt in 1755, also causing complaints. (PRO/CO 5/46; NAC, MG18, N14; Service Historique de l'Armée de Terre [Vincennes], Guerre, A1, Vol. 3417; *A System of Camp Discipline*, 1757; *The Correspondence of William Shirley*, New York, 1912, Vol.II)

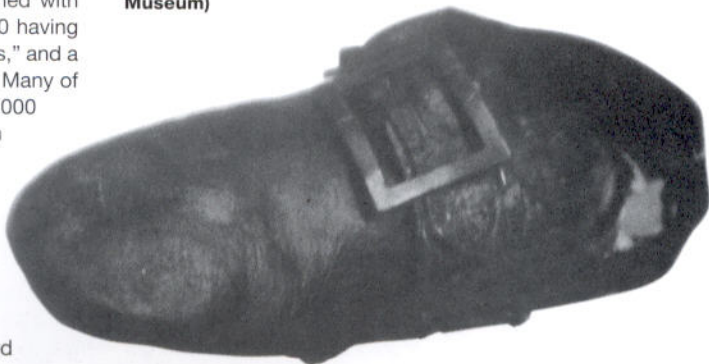
#### **G2: Sergeant, Pepperell's 51st Regiment of Foot, 1755-66**

Although the arms and equipment of these regiments were often defective, the clothing appears to have been of decent quality, according to Sgt. James Grey of the 51st. In July 1755 he wrote that he had received "two Holland shirts... two pairs of shoes and two pairs of worsted stockings; a good silver laced hat (the lace I could sell for four dollars); and my clothes is as fine scarlet broadcloth as you ever did see." (Quoted in F.Parkman, *Montcalm and Wolfe*, 1884)

#### **G3: Private, Independent Companies; New York, 1756-60**

From 1756, Capt. Charles Cruikshank's company in New York colony took to wearing locally made green jackets, leather buckskin breeches and green "Indian stockings" (*mitasses*), as its regular clothing had not arrived. This outfit proved most popular and the company wore it on duty for years to come. By February 1760 the fashion had spread; "all the Men of the four Companys here were to be Uniform in their Waistcoats which are Green and Double Breasted and the Old Coats to be saved for Working." The regular uniform of the independent companies continued to be red coats with green lapels and cuffs, red waistcoat and breeches, white metal buttons, and tricorne hat laced with white. Officers had silver buttons and lace; however, a sketch of a dinner party showing several officers of the South Carolina independent companies depicts them with unlaced coats, so it may be that independent companies in North America did not have lace on their uniforms. On 25 February 1760 the officers of the New York companies adopted an unofficial undress uniform consisting of a "Frock with a slash cuff, lapel and silver shoulder knot, plain red waistcoat and breeches, and silver laced hat." (After P.F.Copeland & J.R.Elting, "Independent Companies, New York, 1756-1760", *MC&H*, XLII, Spring 1990; R.S.Stephenson, "British Officers' Dress in the Seven Year War", *Issued to the Troops Symposium*, Winterthur Museum, Wilmington, DE, 1996)

**Soldier's shoe, c.1758. This example with a white metal buckle was one of several excavated at Fort Ligonier, Pennsylvania. (Fort Ligonier Museum)**

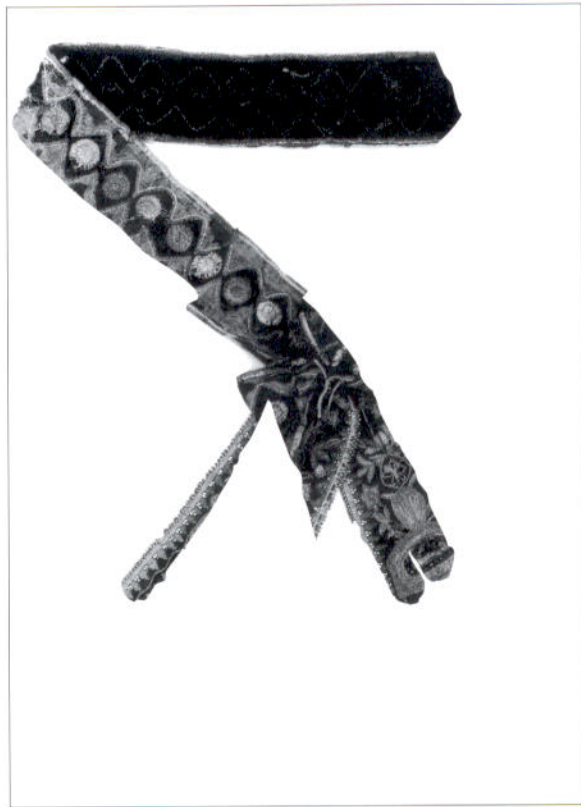




## H: AMERICAN-RAISED REGULAR UNITS, 1758-63

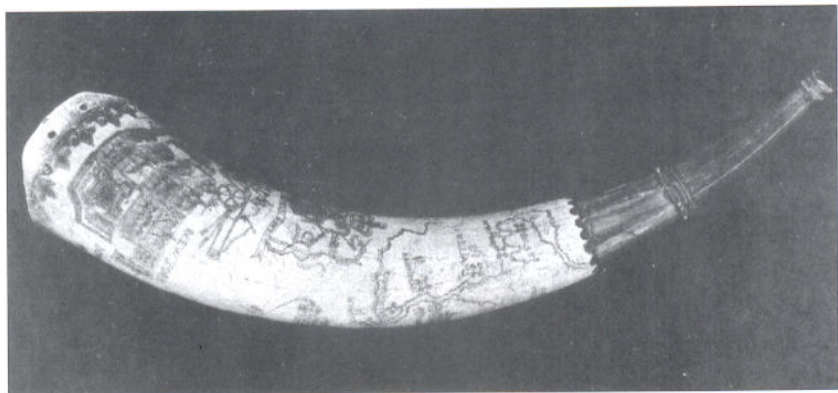
### H1: Light Infantry Officer, 40th Regiment of Foot, 1758

This figure is based on the portrait of Maj. George Scott, seemingly a native of New England, who became an outstanding light infantry officer during the Seven Years' War in North America. It shows the many adaptations that could be made to regimental dress for such duty. The hat has become a peaked skull cap with the large peak turned up. The coat remains in the regimental colors, scarlet faced with buff, but all gold lace is removed and the tails are cut short. The waistcoat and breeches are in the regiment's buff color, but Indian-style *mitasses* and moccasins would most likely have been worn in the forest while traveling by canoe.



Sash to carry the powder horn belonging to one Donald Monro of the 42nd Foot (Black Watch), c.1760. This was probably for light infantry use. The sash is embroidered with geometric and floral patterns in blue, yellow, green, and black on dark red ground. (Parks Canada)

Powder horn of Donald Monro, 42nd Foot (Black Watch), c.1760. The engravings on this "map horn" depict the Hudson River valley. (Parks Canada)



### H2: Private, Gage's 80th (Light Armed) Regiment of Foot, 1758-60

From the time it was raised the 80th was assigned brown uniforms with leather caps, and it seems to have worn such dress during the summer of 1758. In November 1758 the authorities in Britain confirmed the "dark brown short coats" with "dark brown [facings and] lining, black buttons, no lace," with the drummers being also assigned "brown" coats. "Gages Light Infantry, who wanted so many men, are compleat. The Yankees love dearly a brown coat," wrote Amherst in January 1759. That year, as the clothing did not come from England, a thin frock was issued. By 1761 or perhaps 1762, the 80th's uniform was becoming more colorful. Hugh Gaine's North American Army List published in New York reported its uniform as "Light Brown Jackets, faced White, flat Yellow Buttons." Millan's list of 1761, published in London, mentioned "plum color or yellow" facings, which had become "orange-brown" two years later. Apparently, the 80th was now in red coats as a 1764 portrait of Maj. Gladwin shows scarlet faced orange-brown with gold buttons and lace. In May 1759, Amherst had ordered "carbine arms, without bayonets, for the use of the regiment," which were issued in August. (PRO/WO 7/26; WO 34/46 & 70; B.Dunnigan & E.Manders, "80th Regiment of Foot 1757-1764", *MC&H*, XXXIX, Winter 1987; *Orderly Book and Journal of Major John Hawk*, New York, 1911)

### H3: Grenadier, Burton's 95th Regiment of Foot, 1761-63

On 3 February 1761 the uniform ordered for the regiment was red "faced with a light grey and laced with a mixed lace of white and green." Although the regiment was formed in South Carolina, it was not assigned the linen lining, waistcoat, and breeches as given in the same order to two regiments intended for the East Indies, that area being termed as a "Hot Climate". Thus the 95th's lining would have been light grey and the waistcoat and breeches red in South Carolina. Once in Barbados, the 95th - along with the rest of the British force there - was given new orders on 26 December 1761: "the linings to be ript out of the men's coats, the lapels taken off, and the skirts cut shorter. The General recommends to them, providing their men with something that is thin, to make sleeves to their waistcoats, as the troops may be ordered to land in them." (PRO/WO 7/26; NAC, MG23, K34, Frederick Mackenzie Papers, Order Book, 1761-1762).

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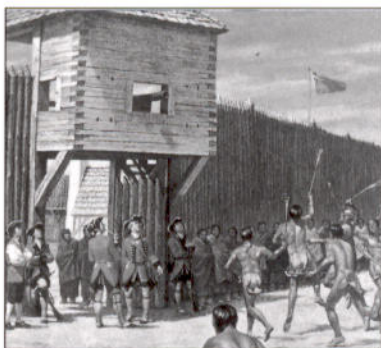
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