

BRITISH INFANTRY UNIFORMS

From Marlborough to Wellington

Liliane and Fred Funcken



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British Infantry Uniforms

In England soldiers' dress did not become a real uniform on a large scale until the Civil War, when the 'New Model Army' was organized in 1645 by Cromwell, and later fought the armies of Charles I at Naseby.¹

Red had generally been the traditional colour during this dramatic period of change. The reason for this choice was the fact that red cloth was so very cheap.

It was not until the Restoration and Charles II's accession to the throne that Britain created a regular standing army. Between 1660 and 1685 its size increased from five to nine regiments.

Corporal John

Queen Anne was the first English monarch to issue a proper statute for her army, which became the British army when England and Scotland were united to become Great Britain in 1707.

The number of British regiments at this time was considerably smaller than the French for obvious reasons. First, Great Britain had the advantage of a geographical position which protected the country against a surprise invasion. There was, therefore, no need to maintain a large army. Secondly, with a population of about five million, which was only a quarter of that of France, her old enemy, she would have found it difficult to raise an army on an equal scale.

Recruitment was not easy as the army was unpopular with many people at all levels of

INFANTRY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 18th CENTURY

1. Sergeant of a royal regiment in 1712 — 2. Soldier of a regiment of the line in 1712. At this time scarlet and crimson were used simultaneously. In some regiments the officers and sergeants reserved scarlet clothes for themselves and left the crimson ones for the troops — 3. Officer of the 1st Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Foot, in 1739. This was the oldest of the Scottish regiments called to serve in England in 1662 and considered by some to be the oldest one in Britain — 4. Grenadier of the 3rd Foot (The Buffs) in 1726. The demi-griffon, wearing a crown and collar and armed with a hatchet, is always represented in black. It is nevertheless certain that the arms of the Wills family were a blue demi-griffon standing on a blue and silver wreath. In fact the decoration on the cap reproduced exactly the traditional embellishment of the tournament helmets: the knight's coat of arms in three dimensions resting on a sort of garland, a baron's coronet which was used for securing this high piece on the polished iron skull of the helmet — 5. Grenadier of the Queen's Regiment in 1727, previously called Princess of Wales Regiment in 1715. The arms of the Prince of Wales apply here to the Princess of Wales, whose title the regiment bore until she became Queen in 1727. It was the only regiment to carry the emblem of the lamb and not that of the white horse of the House of Hanover. It was also the only one to display the motto *Pristinae virtutis memor* (Who remembers his old value) reserved for the Queen — 6. Officer of an infantry regiment in 1710 — 7. Soldier of an infantry regiment in 1715 — 8. Grenadier of Fox's Marines in 1709, disbanded in 1713. The marine regiments were chiefly used as landing troops.

¹ Decisive battle fought 14 June 1645 at 100 km north-north-east of London.



society. Many recruits were enlisted from the poorer classes and a certain number were criminals who enlisted as an alternative to prison.

Parliament, mindful of the tragic events of the previous century, and regarding a standing army to be a constant threat to its freedom, was extremely cautious and authoritative in controlling the forces which fought on the Continent. Furthermore, in spite of the fact that on paper the army was 40,000 strong, only 18,000 British soldiers fought in the Grand Alliance against France.

The army was led by a soldier of genius, John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough. We need not mention his ambivalent attitude towards James II and his successor William III, nor the devious stratagems which made him one of the most powerful men of the realm under Queen Anne.¹ We are only concerned here with the military career of the great Marlborough, a career which began in France, where Charles II sent him to fight the Dutch on the side of the French. The young Churchill, barely twenty-two years old, served boldly under Turenne. His bearing and excellent manners earned him the name of 'Bel Anglais', and to his soldiers he was known affectionately as Corporal John.

Colonel at twenty-eight, Brigadier-General at thirty-five, at thirty-nine he was Commander-in-Chief of the troops sent in aid of the Dutch,

¹ These monarchs reigned respectively from 1685 to 1689, from 1689 to 1702 and from 1702 to 1714.

INFANTRY 1742 I (according to the famous *Clothing Book*)

A, B, C. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Regiments of Foot Guards forming the infantry of Household Troops or troops of the King's House. The 1st Regiment did not take the name of Grenadier Guards until after Waterloo, the 2nd was already known by the name of Coldstream Guards and the 3rd did not receive its official title of Scots Guards until 1877.

1. 1st or Royal Regiment of Foot — 2. 2nd or The Queen's Own Regiment of Foot — 3. 3rd Regiment later called The Buffs — 4. 4th or King's Own Regiment of Foot — 5. 5th Foot — 6. 6th Foot — 7. 7th or Royal Fusiliers — 8. 8th or The King's Regiment — 9. 9th Foot — 10. 10th Foot — 11. 11th Foot — 12. 12th Foot — 13. 13th Foot — 14. 14th Foot — 15. 15th Foot — 16. 16th Foot — 17. 17th Foot — 18. 18th or The Royal Irish Regiment — 19. 19th Foot — 20. 20th Foot — 21. 21st or Royal North British Fusiliers — 22. 22nd Foot — 23. 23rd or The Royal Welsh Fusiliers — 24. 24th Foot — 25. 25th or Edinburgh Regiment of Foot.

In the second volume of his impressive work *A History of the Uniforms of the British Army* the late Cecil C. P. Lawson gives the 8th Regiment the characteristics of our 9th, while his 9th shows those of our 8th. In his elaborate study of the same subject our deceased collaborator and friend, Viscount Charles de Partz de Courtrai, shared this view. However, basing our knowledge on the fact that the 8th Royal Regiment had blue trousers, and relying on the descriptive list provided by William Y. Carman in his excellent *British Military Uniforms from Contemporary Pictures*, we have reversed the pictures of the two regiments.

The latter author gives, moreover, a whole series of interpretations relating to the braid: 2nd Foot — *black* and yellow stripes; 7th or Royal Fusiliers — a red *zigzag*; 9th Foot — red *zigzag plus a yellow line*; 19th Foot — a *green chain*; 21st or North British Fusiliers — a *wavy blue line* and not a *zigzag*; 25th Foot — *wavy red and green lines*.



who were threatened by the French. In 1702, when the accession of Queen Anne coincided with the War of the Spanish Succession, Marlborough achieved his ultimate ambition, and was appointed General at the head of the English army and Grand-Master of the artillery. He was soon put in command of the troops of the European allies as Captain-General of the combined armies of Great Britain, the United Dutch Provinces, Austria, Baden and several other minor German states. On the other side were France and Spain, who were joined in 1703 by Bavaria. This was a formidable opponent that was established in excellent strategic positions. And yet, for ten consecutive years Marlborough accumulated victories: Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet, obtaining for Britain some of her most glorious triumphs.¹

The happy strategist was showered with favours. Parliament presented him with the magnificent estate of Woodstock and the German Emperor bestowed on him the dignity of Prince of the Empire. Marlborough had become the 'God of the Alliance'.

By one of those strange caprices of fortune luck suddenly abandoned the illustrious soldier and gave way to an avalanche of attacks from the ministers of the new cabinet. Marlborough was forced to end the campaign he had led so brilliantly until then, under the humiliating control of a swarm of inspectors whose purpose was to expose his wrong doings. Recalled to London in 1712, he was accused of embezzlement, while the pamphlets of Prior, Saint-John and the celebrated Swift destroyed this former hero's popularity.²

Although opinions differ, we must mention that expressed by one of the most distinguished soldiers of our time, Lord Montgomery of Alamein, who, in his book *A History of Warfare*, declared that all the accusations against Marlborough were entirely false and that in fact the

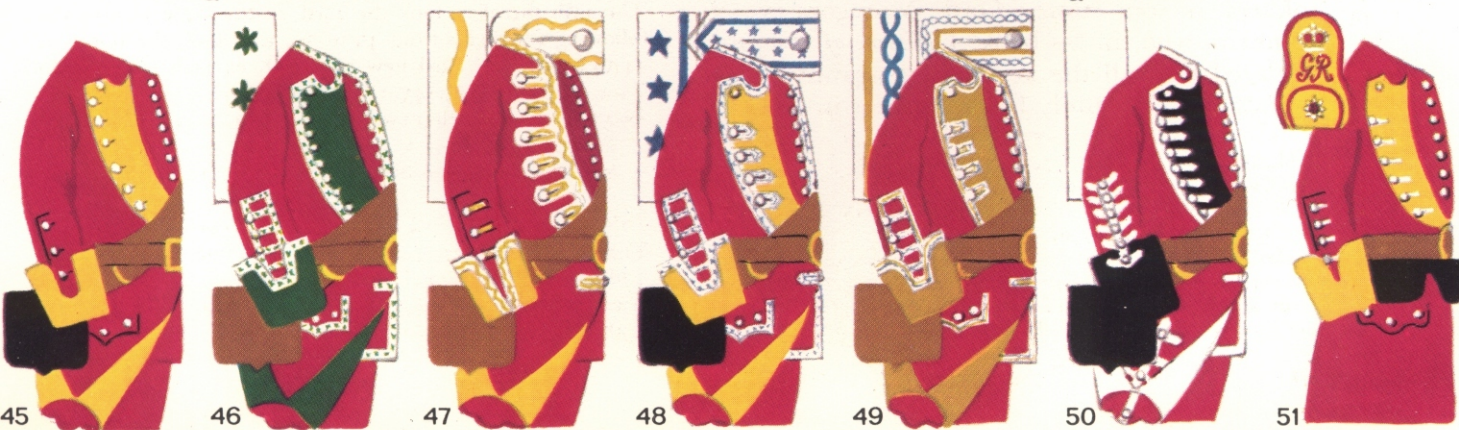
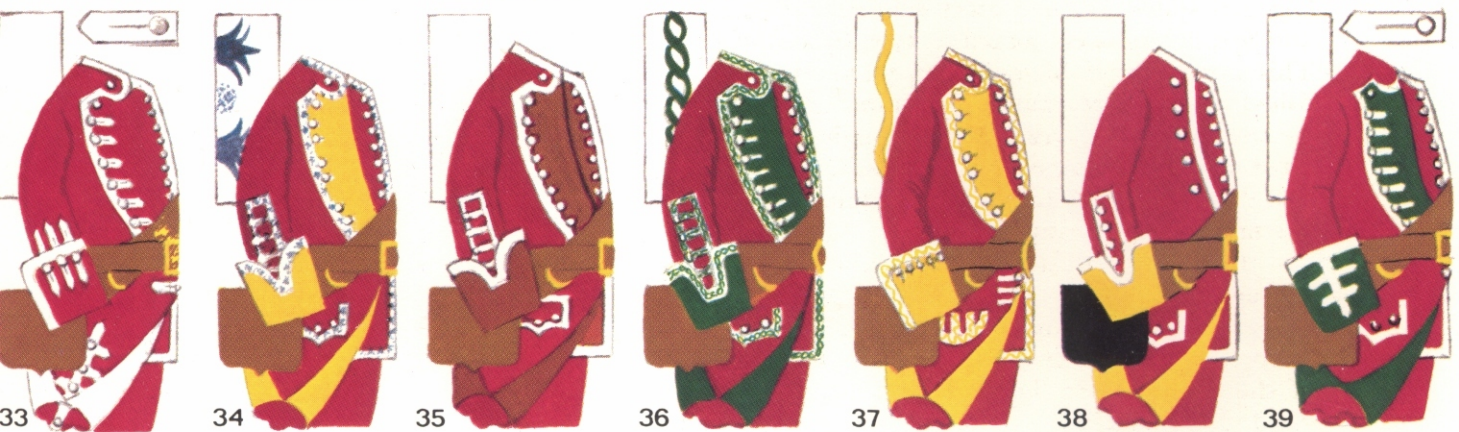
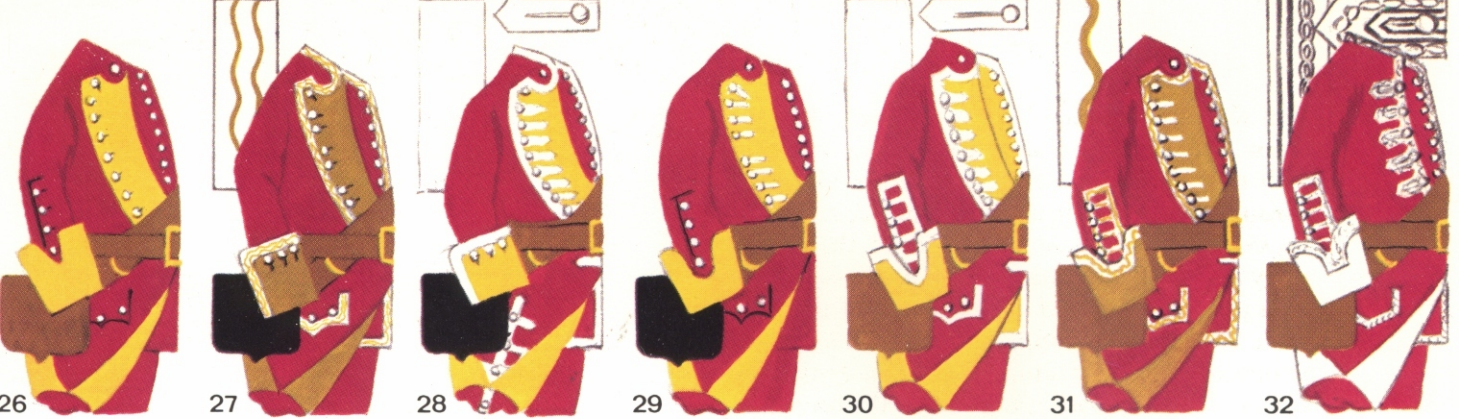
1 Blenheim or Höchstädt (1704); on the Danube, between Ulm and Donauwörth. Ramillies (1706); in Belgium, at 20 km north of Namur. Oudenarde (1708), also in Belgium. Malplaquet (1709), near Bavay, parish of Taisnières-sur-Hon.

2 Marlborough died at the age of seventy-two without ever having completely regained the respect of his fellow-countrymen. It was at his funeral that the practice of carrying muskets reversed in the air was inaugurated for the funerals of high-ranking officers.

INFANTRY 1742 II

26. 26th Foot — 27. 27th or Inniskilling Regiment — 28. 28th Foot — 29. 29th Foot — 30. 30th Foot — 31. 31st Foot — 32. 32nd Foot — 33. 33rd Foot — 34. 34th Foot — 35. 35th Foot — 36. 36th Foot — 37. 37th Foot — 38. 38th Foot — 39. 39th Foot — 40. 40th Foot — 40a. Invalids — 41. 41st Foot — 42. 42nd Foot (Scots) — 43. 43rd Foot or American Regiment, licensed in 1742. The place left vacant was allotted to the regiment that followed. The 44th therefore took the 43rd, in the same way as the following regiments from 45 to 50, who took the numbers 44 to 49 — 43a. 43rd new regiment, ex-44th — 44. 44th Foot ex-45th — 45. 45th Foot ex-46th — 46. 46th Foot ex-47th — 47. 47th new Foot ex-48th — 48. 48th Foot — 49. 49th Foot — 50. 50th Foot — 51. 1st Regiment of Marines. (For the others, see the following picture.)

Difference in the braid, after W. Y. Carman, op. cit.: 31st Foot — *yellow zigzag*; 32nd Foot — *green lines and red chain*; 37th Foot — *all yellow and absent on lapels*; 40th Foot — *wavy black line and no green*; 43rd new Foot — *black stars*; 49th Foot — *green chain and yellow line*.



great General did much to protect the army against the intrigues of profiteers.

The name of Marlborough was a familiar one on the Continent—more often than not as that of a mythical bully, a grotesque warrior . . . resulting in the famous song: *Malbrough s'en va-t-en guerre* (Marlborough goes to war). Curiously enough, this merry song, composed by a French soldier vexed by the insolent victories of this English devil, was not known in Paris before 1781 and it was at the court of Louis XVI that it became popular. More surprising still is the fact that the song had been copied from another, much older one, which was sung by the soldiers after the assassination of the Duke of Guise,¹ and which was itself a parody of a mournful romance of the Middle Ages sung by the Crusaders of Saint Louis!²

The soldier

During the first ten years of the eighteenth century there suddenly arose from oblivion an army, whose glories at Crécy and Agincourt³ had long been forgotten. The English soldier was proclaimed, as usual, 'the best soldier in the world' and he certainly did not owe this prestigious title to the skill of his Commander-in-Chief. He possessed all the necessary qualities: stamina, discipline and the skills of a crack shot. The fire of the British infantry was considered to be the most deadly in Europe.

There are few original documents relating to the uniform of the first decades of the eighteenth century. It is, nevertheless, possible to form some idea of the general appearance of the soldier, dressed as everywhere else in a uniform not unlike the civilian fashion but decorated with the traditional ornaments reserved for soldiers.

INFANTRY 1742 III

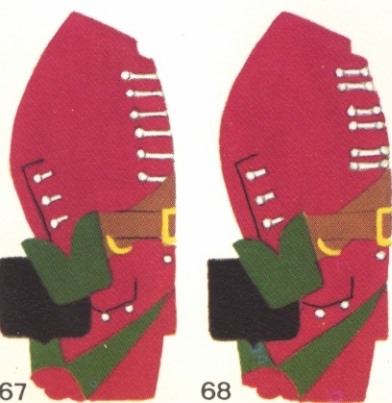
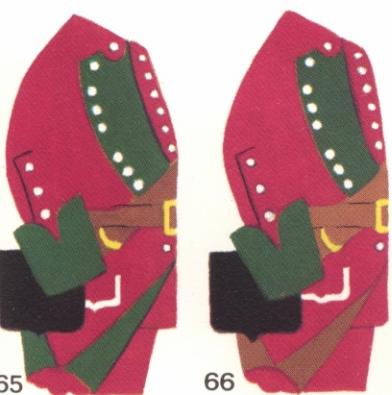
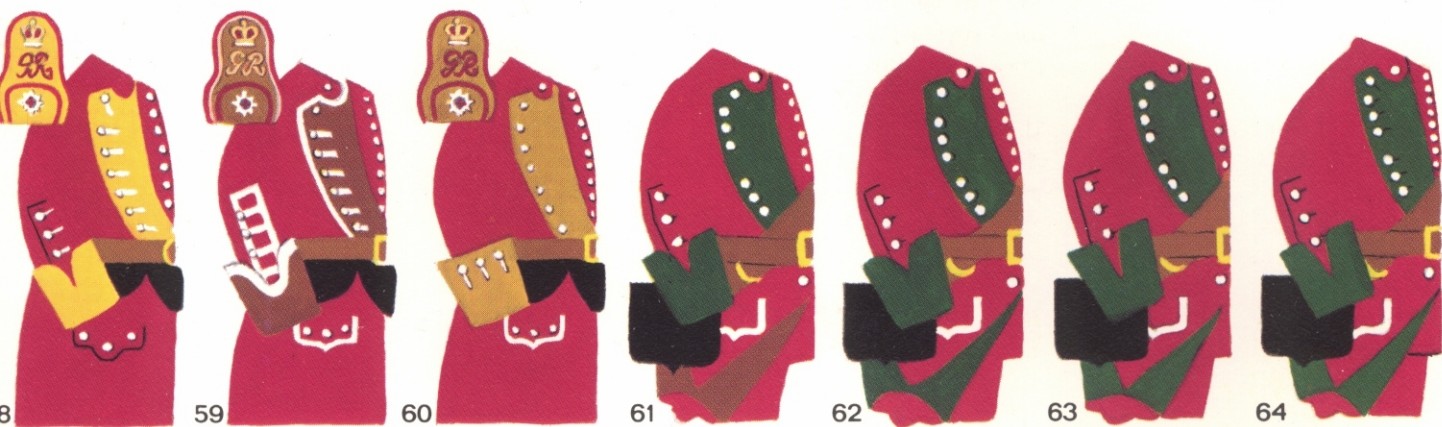
Marine regiments (cont.): 52. 2nd Regt — 53. 3rd Regt — 54. 4th Regt — 55. 5th Regt — 56. 6th Regt — 57. 7th Regt — 57a. *Idem*, according to Charles de Partz — 58. 8th Regt — 59. 9th Regt — 60. 10th Regt. All these regiments were disbanded in 1748.

Independent companies raised for service in the colonies: 61–68. 1st to 8th Company — 69. Soldier of the 2nd Foot Guards — 70. Soldier of the 13th Foot — 71. Officer of the 13th Foot.

¹ The convoy of the Duke of Guise.

² Known in Spain by the name 'Song of Mambu'.

³ Battles fought in 1346 and 1415 respectively.



These extras were not always found in the same profusion, and many a colonel dressed his soldiers in the most austere fashion, denying them even the smallest of ribbons on their hats and the emblems which adorned their heavy cartridge-boxes.

The practice of putting braid or lace on one side only of the uniform—namely, on that with the buttonholes—could be interpreted as an economy measure, but it applied also to the uniforms of regiments which were granted the title of 'Royal'. It seems that this asymmetry was favoured for a while.

The grenadiers

The grenadiers, who appeared around 1678, were from the beginning the elite of the regiment. Composed of the tallest and most courageous men, they were often used in much the same way as modern assault troops.

At this time the complicated movements necessary for the throwing of the grenade¹ made the adoption of a special headdress a necessary measure.

The grenadier had to carry his projectiles in his grenade-pouch, a big sling-bag with room for four to twelve grenades, depending on their size; he had to free the wick, which was protected by a small cardboard or wooden tube; take hold of the ignition wick in a special case fastened on his chest; blow on it to make it glow, and then apply it to the fuse of the grenade. Before the grenadier could throw his grenade, he had first to sling his musket across his shoulder, which meant that he could not wear the cumbersome three-cornered hat which was generally worn. A tall hat without any projecting brim was then chosen: from now on the cap and bearskin became the headdress of the elite troops. All these features, not forgetting the case with the ignition wick, which was useless after the grenade was thrown, made the grenadier one of the most picturesque figures of the eighteenth-century army. The front of the cap was at first decorated with

INFANTRY 1742 IV

1. Soldier of the 36th Regiment, also called 'hat man' of the centre companies (hat companies), as opposed to the company of grenadiers, who wore the cap — 2. Soldier of the 23rd Regiment or Royal Welsh Fusiliers wearing the blue breeches reserved for royal regiments — 3. Grenadier of the 49th Regiment — 4. Soldier of the 6th Marine Regiment. The 9th Regiment also wore blue striped gaiters, which fitted loosely around the knees and were one of the characteristic aspects of the drawings of those days. The small leather straps at the end of the wide shoulder belt, which was worn across the chest, carried a prickler used to clear the touchhole at the breech which contained the charge and the ball, as well as a small brush for cleaning the pan after firing. (A detailed explanation of the functioning of flintlocks can be found on page 34, no. 72.)

5. English musket, called the 'long land musket', from the beginning of the eighteenth century. The term 'land' indicated a weapon used by land troops, as opposed to weapons used by the Navy or by the infantry troops of the marines. This weapon was more commonly known as a Brown Bess, and Bess was, according to some, a diminutive of Elisabeth — a daring and romantic interpretation! The name was more likely derived from the word *Büchse* or from *Buss*, the names of muskets in Germany and in Holland, and imported by the Dutch troops in the service of King William III (1688–1702). This is the most plausible explanation, put forward by the British uniform expert W. Y. Carman in *A History of Firearms*. R. Held, in his *Age of Firearms*, assumes that brown owed its origin to the application of acid polish to the barrel, making it less shiny and more resistant to rust. This author nevertheless points out that such a practice was widespread and, besides, that the resulting brown colour did not last more than a few years of service and intensive polishing — 6. Detail of a Brown Bess dated 1727. The official stamp 'Tower' (Arsenal of the Tower of London) and also the crown and royal cipher GR (George Rex) relating to King George I can be seen quite clearly. The butt (a), which is very accentuated, is the most striking feature of the musket at that time — 7. Detail of the bayonet.

¹ The grenade was a ball of metal, usually made of cast iron and filled with gunpowder.



the arms of the Colonel of the regiment. This practice was abolished towards the middle of the century, when the arms were replaced by the royal cipher GR.

The fusiliers

The first regiment of fusiliers was created in 1685 from two independent companies which formed the garrison of the Tower of London. For this reason they were called The Tower Guards, then Our Royal Regiment of Fusiliers¹ or Our Ordnance Regiment under the command of the Master-General of Ordnance, who commanded all the artillery and its train and whose headquarters were in the Tower.

Composed of civilians recruited for the duration of the campaign, the artillery train had to have a military escort capable of defending her against the enemy and also of forcing, if necessary, the civilian drivers to confront the danger by resisting the temptation of running away at the first burst of fire.

The number of matchlock muskets in use was still considerable, even during the reign of William III (1689–1702). They made up half the firearms in use. The fusiliers were issued with a flintlock musket known as a fusil or fusee, light but costly. This weapon dispensed with the glowing match, thus reducing the dangers of accidental explosions among the stores of gunpowder.

Twelve companies strong at the start, plus one company of minors, the regiment ceased to be attached to the artillery about 1690, and at the same time lost its minors. It was renamed The 7th Regiment of Foot, Royal Fusiliers.

From 1695 the fusiliers wore the cap, according to a royal decree which forbade the wearing of this form of headdress by regiments which had adopted it without having the right to do so.

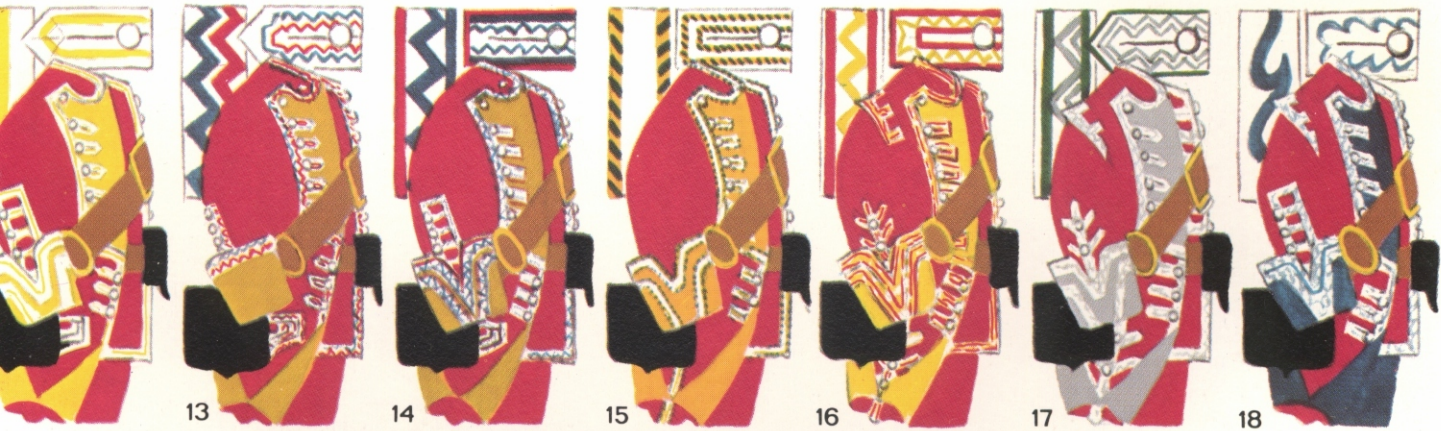
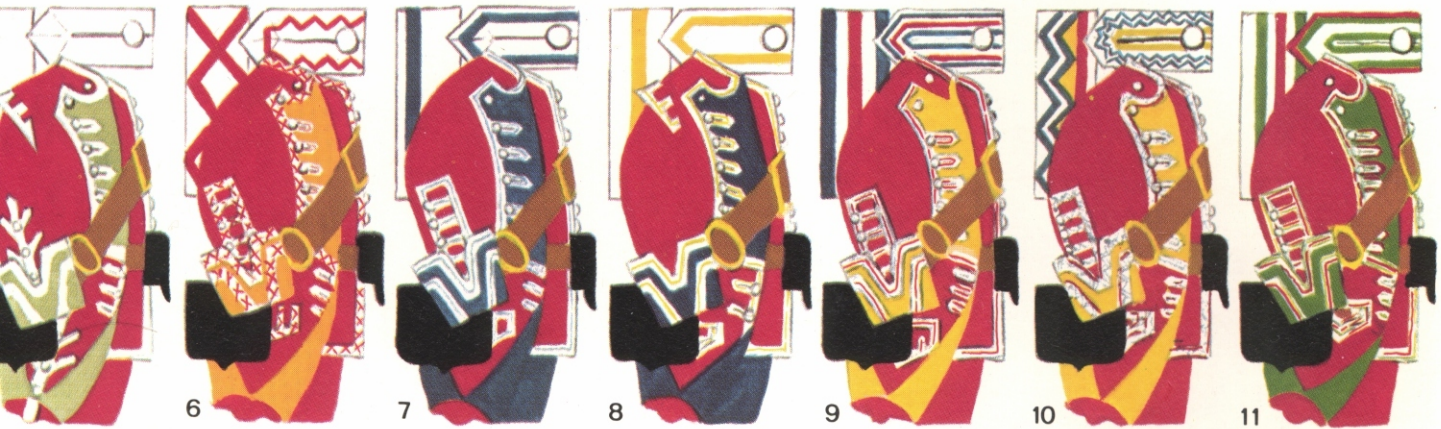
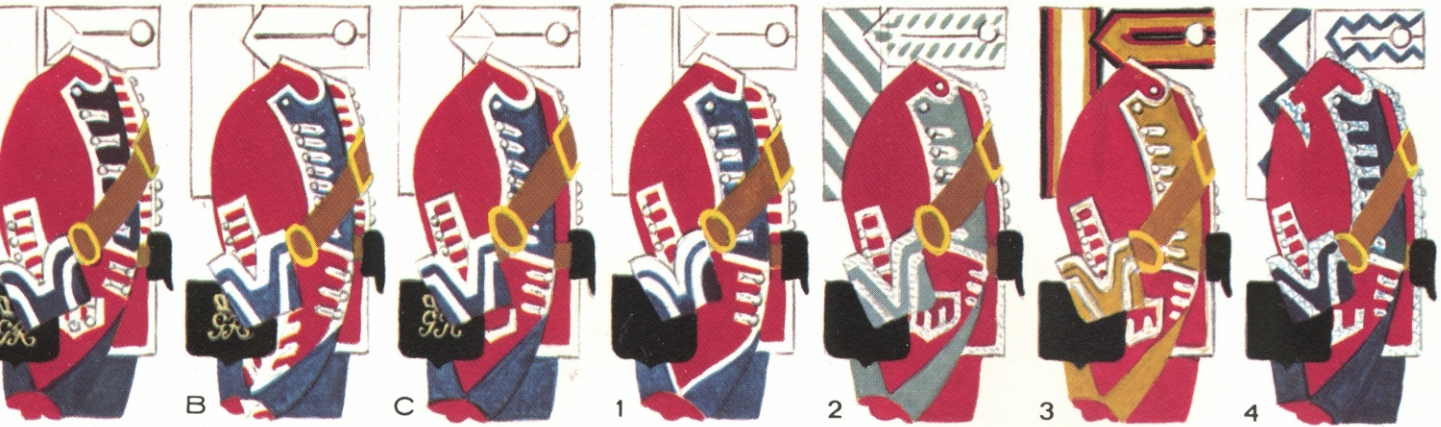
General issue of the flintlock to the whole infantry did not put an end to the title 'fusilier', which continued to be used by several units of

¹ The original name has continued to exist until this day and the actual Royal Regiment of Fusiliers has its own regimental museum in the Tower of London.

INFANTRY 1750–1811

A, B, C. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Foot Guards, making up the infantry of Household Troops — in other words the King's House.

1. 1st or Royal Regiment — 2. 2nd or Queen's Royal Regiment — 3. 3rd Regt or The Buffs. Formed in London in 1572 to help the Dutch in their struggle against Spain, this regiment was re-integrated in the English army in 1665, under the name of The Holland Regiment. Its distinctive colour, buff or camel, gave it its famous nickname — 4. 4th or King's Own Regiment — 5. 5th Regt — 6. 6th Regt — 7. 7th or Royal Fusiliers — 8. 8th or King's Regiment — 9. 9th Regt — 10. 10th Regt — 11. 11th Regt — 12. 12th Regt — 13. 13th Regt — 14. 14th Regt — 15. 15th Regt — 16. 16th Regt — 17. 17th Regt — 18. 18th Regt or Royal Irish — 19. 19th Regt — 20. 20th Regt — 21. 21st Regt or Royal North British Fusiliers — 22. 22nd Regt — 23. 23rd Regt or Royal Welsh Fusiliers — 24. 24th Regt — 25. 25th Regt.



the British infantry. Other regiments of fusiliers, created after the seventh one, enjoyed the same privilege.

In the middle of the eighteenth century the outline of the fusilier closely resembled that of the grenadier and, curiously enough, the grenadiers' ignition-wick case, which was identical to that of the old musketeers, was carried by the fusiliers.

The fusiliers were so much like the grenadiers that it was thought unnecessary for them to have a company of grenadiers, after the fashion of other regiments. Differentiation between these two classes of elite soldiers did not arise until 1768, when the fusiliers were given fur hats, which were not as tall as those of the grenadiers.

Headdress

The round felt hat of the previous century underwent a great change. The brims were turned up to make the three-cornered hat, called for some time a *ramillie* or *kevenhuller*, the latter name referring to a model of larger dimensions. It has often been suggested that the idea of turning up the brims of the hat was provoked by the difficulties that this imposing headdress caused while manipulating the musket, but it is far more likely that the hat, like the uniform, followed the steady change in civilian fashion. The poor esteem, not to say the contempt, held for the army at that time, did not in the least predispose the citizen, and even less the gentleman, to wear a hat like that of a soldier.

Later models, with the side corners becoming longer and longer, and with the front corner becoming decidedly less pronounced, gave rise to a two-cornered hat—a style known as the *bicorne*—which did not interfere with the movements involved in using the musket.¹ As always, fashion asserted itself. At the end of the century some troops wore a form of top hat. Early in the nineteenth century, however, the first purely military-style shako was introduced.

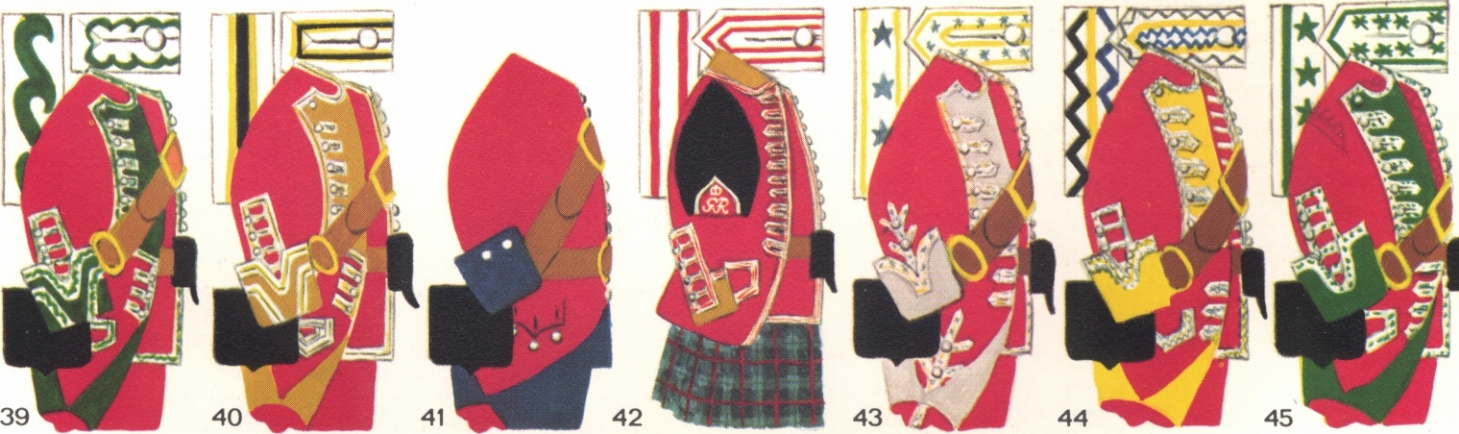
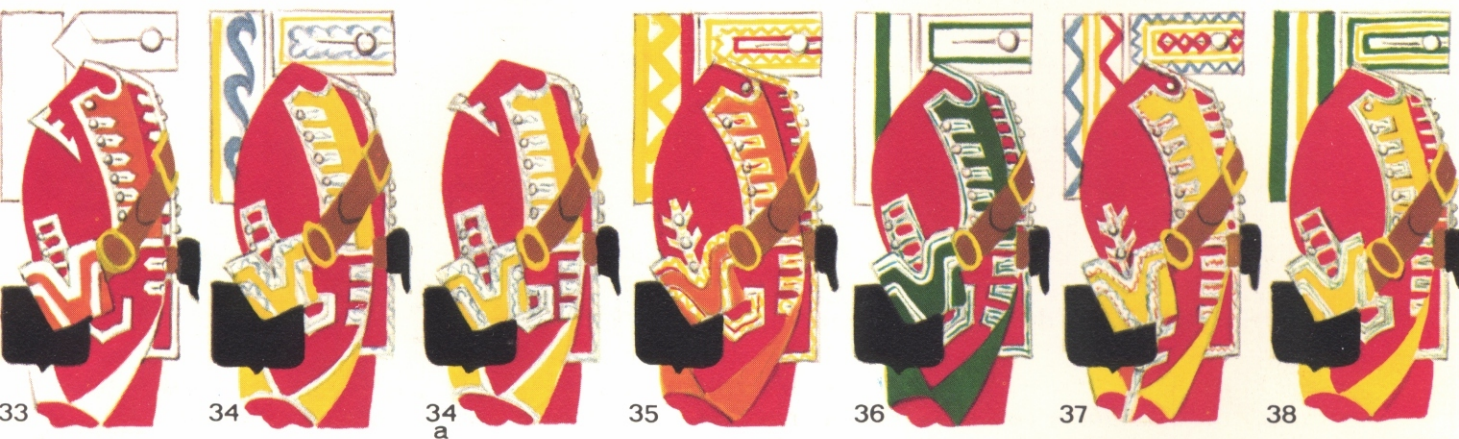
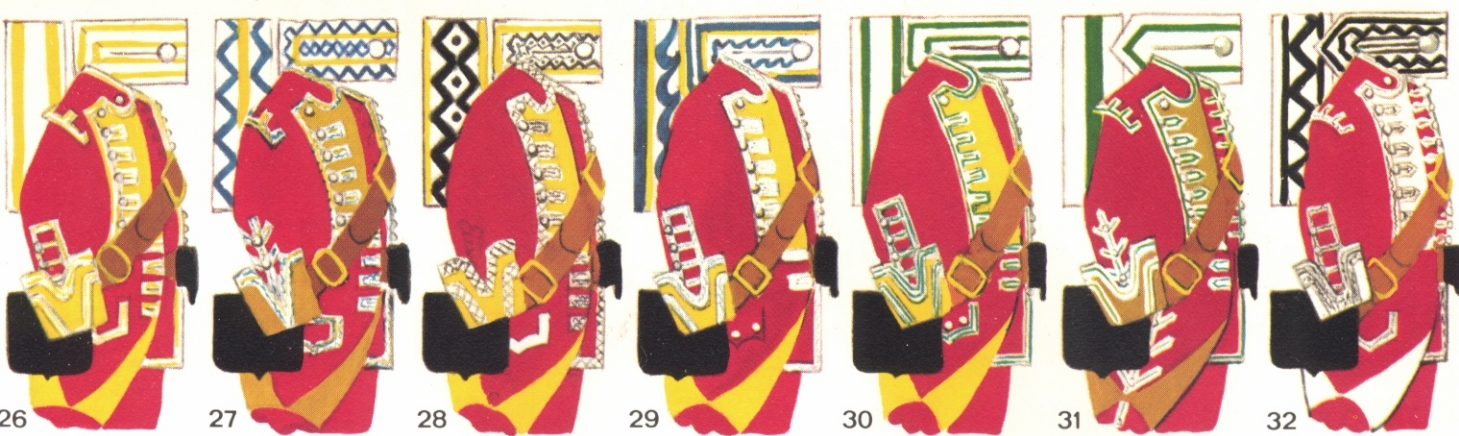
¹ This type of headdress was called *retapé* (fluffed out or straightened) in France. When this word was applied to a hat, it meant to turn up the brim and press it against the crown.

INFANTRY 1750-1811

26. 26th Regt — 27. 27th or Inniskilling Regiment — 28. 28th Regt — 29. 29th Regt — 30. 30th Regt — 31. 31st Regt — 32. 32nd Regt — 33. 33rd Regt — 34. 34th Regt — 34a. *Idem* with the wings in 1751 — 35. 35th Regt — 36. 36th Regt — 37. 37th Regt — 38. 38th Regt — 39. 39th Regt — 40. 40th Regt — 41. 41st Regt or Invalids — 42. 42nd Regt (Grenadier) — 43. 43rd Regt — 44. 44th Regt — 45. 45th Regt — 46. 46th Regt — 47. 47th Regt — 48. 48th Regt — 49. 49th Regt.

As can be observed, nineteen regiments wore wings on the shoulders. These embellishments had existed for a long time in some regiments, although their use had been forbidden during the year 1730. The non-conformists insisted on wearing them and their example became contagious. In 1752 an order was issued to fit wings to the coats of all the grenadiers in the British infantry. Whether it was given this ornament or not, the coat had a strap on the left shoulder, which was used to hold into position the belt, to which the cartridge-pouch was attached.

A. Tartan, or Government tartan, had to serve as a base for most of the Scottish regiments to come. Although much debated, this tartan is considered to be the one worn by the first regular Scottish troops in the service of the King. It is believed that the dark colours of the cloth gave rise to the name Black Watch given to the 42nd Regiment, a title which became official only in 1881. Since 1730, however, the first six independent companies raised by the Government five years earlier, and who in 1739 had to form the 43rd Regiment (later the 42nd), were also given the name of Black Watch. Certain Scottish authors think that this nickname could well have been, in the minds of the Scottish Jacobites, a mark of disapproval towards their fellow countrymen in the service of the English — B. Tartan of the 42nd Regiment, with the red line distinguishing the grenadiers, so it is thought.



The 1742 Clothing Book

It would be impossible to research, even briefly, into the history of British uniforms without referring to a book of great value known by several names: *1742 Book* (edited that year), *Clothing Book* or *Cumberland Book*—names far more suitable than the real title: *A Representation of the Clothing of His Majesty's Household and all the Forces upon the Establishments of Great Britain and Ireland*. It constitutes one of the earliest and almost complete sources relating to the uniforms of the infantry and cavalry regiments of that time. This extremely rare book has an extraordinary documentary value and is often considered in Continental Europe as a unique manuscript. It contains a number of copper-plate engravings. These appear to have been based on very good quality detailed drawings, although the engraver has lost some of their character leaving them a little lifeless. They are, nevertheless, of great charm and beauty. After first being printed in black, all the plates were coloured by hand. Two complete copies have survived and have been preserved with great care—one is in the British Museum, the other in the War Office Library. The royal collections of Windsor and the Prince Consort's Library seem to have only the plates relating to the cavalry. It has been said that a third complete set was presented to George Washington, but all trace of it has long since been lost.

In his delightful book *British Military Uniforms* James Laver mentions the existence of twenty-five reproductions of the original work, made by J.A.B. in 1893. Not all of them were coloured and they do not seem to have aroused much interest among the British specialists.

The best works on the subject are those by Cecil C. P. Lawson in the second volume of his *History of the Uniforms of the British Army*, (with diagrams by the great uniform expert William Y. Carman), and the recent study by Viscount Charles de Partz, published in the review of the

Belgian Society for the Study of Uniforms and Costumes, with a beautiful set of engravings executed with great precision by Jacques Dubois.

Our most recent interpretation has largely been based on earlier works, with a few minor modifications, and reflects an opinion which on no account attempts to belittle or discredit those of the authors previously mentioned.

Who then was the person who instigated the elaboration of such an important subject? The British historians opt for the third son of George II, William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, who was twenty years old in 1742. Colonel of the regiment of Coldstream Guards (2nd Foot Guards) at the age of nineteen, Major-General in 1742, he had fought bravely at Dettingen¹

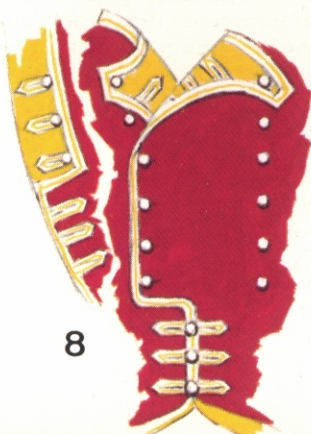
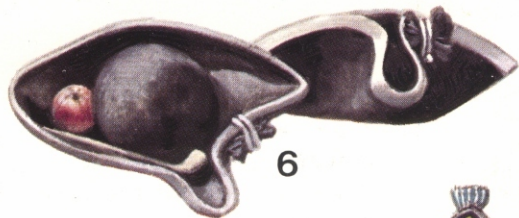
¹ In Germany on the Main, west of Aschaffenburg.

INFANTRY 1750–1811

1 and 2. Soldiers of the 6th and 2nd Regiments with complete equipment, or 'marching order' — 3. Soldier of the 7th Foot or Royal Fusiliers. In 1751 the decoration on the cap was modified by the discontinuance of the star and the enlargement of the garter and its central motif (the white rose and the red rose). Until about 1750 the braid was like that of the *Clothing Book* of 1742, and the pompon was white with a red base and a blue top — 4. Grenadier of 1st or Royal Regiment — 5. Grenadier of the 8th Foot, the King's Regiment. The wings became standard among the grenadiers from December 1752.

6. Detail of the tricorne. The front corner was distinctly worn over the left eye and was kept in place by a whalebone sewn on the brim of the hat — 7. Detail of the sword-frog. The sword was called a hanger. There was a great variety of swords in the Guards' collection. The swords had straight blades in the ordinary companies and curved blades in the grenadiers. These blades measured about 68 cm only in length — 8. Method of buttoning up the coat completely in winter. The ventral buttonholes disappeared almost completely underneath the belt (figs. 3, 4 and 5). The uniform shown belongs to the 12th Regiment — 9. Detail of the back with its false buttonholes without buttons and the braid peculiar to the 14th Regiment. 10. Detail and position of the vertical kind of pocket with a fishbone design — in this example with the braid of the 31st Regiment.

N.B. We are indebted to the great British uniform expert W. Y. Carman for the many details of these drawings, particularly with regard to the little known emblems on the caps of figs. 4 and 5.



(23 June 1743) under his father, the last British sovereign to command his troops in battle in person.

In 1745 the young William Augustus, Commander-in-Chief of the Anglo-Hanoverian and Dutch troops, did not succeed in living up to the standards of his illustrious father and was defeated at Fontenoy¹ by the Marshal Saxe. Barely a year after this bitter defeat, the Duke of Cumberland encountered the Scottish Jacobite rebels on the Culloden moors² with Charles Edward Stuart, known as the Young Pretender, at their head. The battle, of little importance when taking into consideration the total strength of the army—9,000 British against 5,000 rebels—

¹ In Belgium, 7 km to the south-east of Tournai. Victory for the Marshal Saxe leading the French, over the English and Dutch, during the War of the Austrian Succession.

² At 8 km east of Inverness. This encounter was also called the battle of Drummoissie.

HEADRESSES OF GRENADIERS AND FUSILIERS IN THE MID-18th CENTURY

A. Cap of the Foot Guards towards 1740 representing a heraldic anomaly: the horse of the House of Hanover is on a blue background, although a red one would have been correct — B and C. Caps of the 1st and 2nd Foot Guards in 1751. The three infantry regiments of the Royal House have, in principle, the same caps. On the left, a detail of the central motif with the red cross of St George, symbol of England, superimposed on the Scottish cross of St Andrew. Observe that only the red cross of St Patrick, symbolizing Ireland, is required to make the British flag.

Infantry regiments: 1. 1st Regt or Royal Regiment of Foot — 2. 2nd Regt or The Queen's Royal Regiment — 3. 3rd Regt or The Buffs — 4. 4th Regt or The King's Own Regiment — 5. 5th Regt — 5a. *Idem*, seen from behind — 6. 6th Regt — 7. 7th Regt or Royal Fusiliers before 1751 — 7a. *Idem* in 1751 — 8. 8th Regt or The King's Regiment — 9. 9th Regt — 10. 10th Regt — 11. 11th Regt — 12. 12th Regt in 1750 — 12a. *Idem*, seen from behind — 13. 13th Regt — 14. 14th Regt — 15. 15th Regt — 16. 16th Regt — 17. 17th Regt — 18. 18th Regt or Royal Irish Regiment — 19. 19th Regt — 20. 20th Regt — 21. 21st Regt or Royal North British Fusiliers — 22. 22nd Regt — 23. 23rd Regt or Royal Welsh Fusiliers — 24. 24th Regt — 25. 25th Regt — 26. 26th Regt — 27. 27th Regt or Inniskilling Regiment — 28. 28th Regt — 29. 29th Regt — 30. 30th Regt — 31. 31st Regt — 32. 32nd Regt — 33. 33rd Regt — 33a. *Idem*, seen from behind — 34. 34th Regt — 34a. *Idem*, seen from behind — 35. 35th Regt — 36. 36th Regt — 37. 37th Regt — 38. 38th Regt — 39. 39th Regt — 40. 40th Regt —

accounted for 1,000 dead among the rebels to every fifty redcoats. Its significance, however, was a different matter in view of the interests at stake and the tragic souvenirs that it called to mind. Cumberland, unquestionably victor, acquired for himself the name of 'Cumberland the butcher'—although atrocities had been committed on both sides—in addition to a supplementary yearly income of £25,000.

The military operations on the Continent in 1747 were only a series of defeats, from Lawfeld to the surrender of Kloster Zeven, which ten years later left the whole of Hanover to the French.³

Dismissed from the favour of George II and alarmed at the cold reception of his fellow countrymen, the Duke was forced to resign from his

³ Lawfeld, today called Laaffelt, is situated 3 km west of Maas-tricht. Kloster Zeven is a locality in the north of Germany near Hamburg.

41. Invalids Regiment. Although described in the *Royal Clothing Warrant* of 1751, this cap is hypothetical: not a single document in fact proves the existence of a company of grenadiers among these veterans, who were, for the most part, unfit to take strenuous exercise, and who were, besides, not meant to take part in active fighting. It is not, however, absolutely unreasonable to suppose that a company of grenadiers could have existed with a purely symbolic or honorary status — 42. 42nd Scots Regt — 43. 43rd Regt — 44. 44th Regt — 45. 45th Regt — 46. 46th Regt — 47. 47th Regt — 48. 48th Regt in 1750 — 48a. *Idem* in 1751 — 49. 49th Regt — 49a. *Idem*, seen from behind — 49b. *Idem*, variation.

The problem posed by the arrangement of the number on the back of the cap will without doubt never be completely explained. Before 1747, apparently, numbers were not shown. Later on, both arabic and roman numerals were used; the scarcity of caps now in existence does not assist us in deciphering the system which determined the choice of one type of number in preference to another. The grenade was not as widespread as is generally believed, and the 3rd Foot had only the roman number III. The 2nd Foot carried their number on the grenade; later, the 67th Regiment had a LXVII underneath; but most of the other caps which have come down to us bear an arabic number repeated on both sides of the symbolic grenade.

One will note that the front of the caps was of the distinctive colour of the regiment and adorned with the monogram or royal cipher GR for George Rex. The other, more elaborate emblems were reserved for the royal regiments and a few elite corps.



military post and to retire to Windsor. During the reign of George III, owing to the inconstancy of the people, he regained his popularity. His death in 1765 was deeply felt.¹

However, the contribution of Cumberland to military history could not be completely described without mentioning a second major element in the study of uniforms to which his name is attached: namely, the paintings he had commissioned about 1750 by a Swiss painter from Berne called David Morier. On his arrival in England in 1743 Morier was already well known for his painting of the battle of Dettingen, which can be seen in London's National Army Museum. This artist, then about forty-five years old, was commissioned by Cumberland to paint a grenadier from each of the regiments — an impressive idea, which constitutes a document of inestimable value in studying uniforms. The artist undoubtedly worked without models and without great enthusiasm: he gave his best only in his portraits of officers, but without reaching the standard of the great English masters. After exhibiting his works at the Society of Artists in 1760, Morier accumulated so many debts that he was put in the Fleet prison in 1769, where he died a miserable death the year after.

Walpole said of Cumberland, the artist's protector: 'He was as intent on establishing the form of spatterdashes and cockades as on taking a town.' Not only is this sentence unjust, but, moreover, who today would complain about the concrete proof of a love for uniforms which an unlucky warrior and a poor Swiss painter have bequeathed to us?

The reader will find much additional information in the monumental work by C. C. P. Lawson, mentioned above, from the beginnings until the Napoleonic wars. More concise, but remarkably clear and practical to consult, is the work by W. Y. Carman: *British Military Uniforms From Contemporary Pictures*. This presents in one authoritative volume the evolution of the military costume in Great Britain from Henry VII to this day. We must also mention the works of R.

Monay Barnes on the same subject, very well illustrated by the author himself, and last but not least, the small booklets by Arthur Taylor in the *Discovery* series.

Drummers, fifers and musicians

Not often seen at the beginning of the century, drummers wore colours reversing those of their regiment. They wore the arms of their colonel on the back and had three-cornered hats. Their jackets and trousers were red. However, the drummers of the royal regiments wore the same uniform as the soldiers, and the uniforms of these corps were decorated with the royal arms.

Towards the middle of the century the fifers reappeared, first in the royal regiments, then, in 1747, in all the others. It was at that time,

DRUMMERS AND MUSICIANS OF THE INFANTRY REGIMENTS

1. Drummer of a royal regiment in 1751. The drummers and fifers of these units wore a red coat with blue as their distinctive colour, unlike the ordinary infantry regiments, who had as a background to their coat the distinctive colour of their regiment with lapels, cuffs and turn-ups in red — 2. Fifer of the 64th Regiment in 1745 — 3. Fifer of the 18th Regiment in 1758 — 4. Drummer of the 25th Regiment about 1768. The plentiful ornaments on the sleeves were abolished after that date. The Scottish origin of this regiment was to be found in the motto: *Nemo me impune lacessit* (No one harms me with impunity), written along the top edge of the badge on the fur cap. At the base was written xxv Regiment — 5. Fifer of the light company of the 7th Regiment of Royal Fusiliers in 1789 with the special cap of this company, also called 'the left flank'. Above the emblem of the star and the garter was written the traditional *Nec aspera terrent* (Difficulties be damned!).

In addition to their specific mission to brighten up the different phases of military life, the drummers were allocated the task of administering the punishment of the cat-o'-nine-tails. It is interesting to note that this barbaric punishment was still occasionally given in Britain until 1948 to convicts guilty of crimes accompanied by acts of violence.

¹ The custom of firing three salvos over soldiers' graves goes back to the accession of the Hanoverian monarchs. It is thought to have been imported by the German regiments. Each salvo represented one person of the Holy Trinity.



2



1



3



4



5

L. & F. FUNKEN.

or perhaps later in 1751, that a new shape of hat seems to have been adopted by the fifers and drummers. It was a cap made of cloth with a lower crown than that of the grenadiers. As a special feature it had a kind of bag falling on one side ending in a tassel, in a manner not unlike the nightcaps worn by our ancestors. The front of the cap seemed to be just the place for a little decoration which, in the case of regiments without special insignia, was usually a motif of drums and flags.

The statute of 1751 formulated set rules for uniforms. The red uniform with the distinctive blue braid of the royal livery was given to the drummers and fifers of the royal regiments, while the others had uniforms in their characteristic colour with red lining and trimmings and also the regimental braid covering nearly all the seams. Long, full, false sleeves were one distinctive feature of the musicians, but they were not worn after 1768.

Bands of several drummers and one fifer quickly multiplied, but gradually more elaborate formations developed. The Guards inaugurated the first military orchestra, very modest at first of course, and around 1750 had two oboes, two clarinets, two basses and two horns. Their example was copied, despite the fact that the musicians were, for the greater part, an expense borne by the officers. It was for this reason that orchestras were usually limited to eight musicians, engaged, curiously enough, abroad, like the Hanoverian instrumentalists recruited in 1783 by the Duke of York, who allowed himself the extravagance of twenty-eight musicians. The expenses accepted by the colonels did have their rewards: the right to dress their musicians as they wished, a privilege which they exploited shamelessly.

Officers and non-commissioned officers

Officers

In Marlborough's time it was quite difficult to distinguish between the officers' ranks which were measured by the abundance of braid and decorations.

OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS OF THE INFANTRY

1. The Duke of Cumberland in dress uniform around 1750. At the age of twenty-nine, the youngest son of George II was, according to portraits of that time, abnormally stout —
2. Senior officer in 1756 —
3. General dressed in the uniform worn from 1767 to 1799. The Major-General had buttonholes grouped in twos, the Lieutenant-General in groups of three. The sash was knotted on the left side among officers of the infantry. Before 1772 the jacket, the breeches and coat-lining were all a buff colour —
4. Sergeant of the 11th Regiment in 1743 —
5. Sergeant of the 17th Regiment in 1777 —
6. Sergeant of the 30th Regiment in 1792. The pike replaced the halberd in 1792 —
7. Officer of the 4th Regiment in 1750. The coat is lined with blue —
8. Officer of the 1st or Royal Regiment (Scottish) in 1795. Note that the braid on the hat was soon to be abolished for all the officers. In 1812 this regiment was to be called The Royal Scots —
9. Officer of the 7th Regiment or Royal Fusiliers in 1791. Prince Edward, as Colonel of the regiment since 1784, introduced a number of special refinements to the uniforms of this unit —
10. Officer of the 15th Regiment in 1792. From 1791 all the gorgets were gilt, with a rosette made of ribbon in the distinctive colour at the corners —
11. Officer of the 2nd Regiment in 1799 and detail of a turn-up —
12. Officer with lapels buttoned up, 1799. From 1796 the bows or the tassels on the corners of the hat were gilt and crimson —
13. Officer of the 5th Battalion (light infantry) of the 60th or Royal American Regiment in 1797 —
14. Officer of Manningham's Sharpshooters in 1800. Called the Rifle Corps, it became the 95th Foot in 1802, then the Rifle Brigade without a number, one year after Waterloo. In order to look more like the cavalry, whose uniform they had adopted, the officers (like the soldiers) of the new model light infantry often wore moustaches. Another distinctive feature was the whistle, used for giving orders, which hung from the shoulder belt.
15. Epaulette of an officer of the grenadiers (60th Regiment) around 1800 —
16. Epaulette of an officer of the light infantry around 1800.



Freedom of choice seems to have been granted to officers until 1740, although from time to time an officer could be seen in a uniform similar to that of his troops, but adorned with gilt or silver braid. He wore a crimson silk scarf from the right shoulder to the left hip, with the gorget and the shoulder-knot in gilt or silver to match the braid. The *Clothing Book* of 1742 does not give these details, but it is not unreasonable to assume that the gold was reserved for the royal regiments, and also for the 11th, 12th, 19th, 22nd, 25th, 27th, 32nd, 36th, 39th, 40th, Invalids and 42nd, while silver was given to all the others.

It is, in any case, the regulations of 1768 which allowed gold for the officers of the following regiments: 1st, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, 22nd, 25th, 27th, 32nd, 36th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 48th, 49th, 51st, 53rd, 55th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 66th, 69th and 70th. Other regiments had silver braid or lace on their hats and clothes. The same regulations allowed two epaulettes for the officers of the companies of grenadiers and only one, on the right, for the officers of the hat companies. The scarlet belt, tied round the waist, was worn by all.

Officers had carried the spontoon from 1700; it was abandoned in 1786 at the same time as the fusil, which they had carried since the middle of the century. It is interesting to note that they showed a marked preference for red trousers, while their troops wore blue ones.¹

Non-commissioned officers

Sergeants carried the halberd from 1700 to 1792 when they were given spontoons not unlike those abandoned by the officers six years earlier. The sergeant of the light infantry continued to carry fusils.

During the reign of George II, probably around 1740, the sergeants adopted an extra badge which distinguished them when they were not carrying the halberd: it was a red woollen scarf in the centre of which, from 1768 onwards,

was a stripe of their distinctive colour. The regiments with red as their distinctive colour had a white belt on their red scarf which was tied round the waist.

The only mark that distinguished corporals from ordinary soldiers was an epaulette in white cord attached to the right shoulder.

The uniform of the non-commissioned officers was made of the same cloth as that of the men. This plushy cloth of poor quality² was moreover dyed in a very mediocre way, and the red tint obtained by such a cheap process was in fact only a brick colour and much less striking than the shade one generally imagines. This practice continued until well after Waterloo. It was not until 1871 that the British foot-soldier appeared truly dressed in scarlet.

2 During the first half of the century the greatcoat was worn one year only and then converted into a jacket.

1 Certain royal regiments with blue trousers occasionally wore red trousers which were cut out of old uniforms.

The Scottish troops

The Scots have always had the military calling in their blood, and from time immemorial they have fought wars with tireless passion. Any pretext sufficed for this kind of activity—ranging from a quarrel with a neighbouring clan over a strip of land or the election or the dethronement of a king, to the raid on the herd and the harvest of the regions along the Anglo-Scottish border. Realizing that these exciting expeditions were not very lucrative and above all too sporadic, many hot-blooded Scots offered their services abroad, particularly in France.

The Lowland regiments

England also engaged a large number of these ferocious mercenaries from the Lowlands, and 1633 saw the birth of Sir John Hepburn's Regiment, which became The Royal Regiment of Foot in 1684, then The 1st or Royal Regiment in 1751. It was followed in 1642 by Argyll's Regiment, created by King Charles I in order to quell the Irish revolt, a task the Scots attacked with unusual savageness. Dissolved in 1650, this regiment was re-established ten years later under the name of The Footte Regiment of His Majesty's Lyffe Guards or The Scots Guards before becoming The 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards in 1712. Its record of active service was so extensive that it could almost retrace the history of British wars over three centuries!

Later came the Earl of Mar's Regiment, founded in 1678. It was called The Scots Fusiliers in 1685, classified as 21st Regiment in 1688, 21st or North British Fusiliers in 1707 and finally granted the title of 'Royal' in 1712.

The Earl of Leven's Regiment, raised in Edinburgh in 1689, apparently assembled 1,000 men in four hours! Leven's Regiment, or The Edinburgh Regiment, took the number 25 in

1751. And in 1782 the title 'The Sussex Regiment' was substituted for its old names.

The last of the five infantry regiments called up in the Lowlands, also in 1689, was the Cameronians, destined to uphold the cause of the Prince of Orange, the future King William III of England. It was given the number 26. It is interesting to observe that these companies had practically none of the traditional characteristics of the Scottish costumes. We call them assimilated regiments as they wore a purely English uniform, imposed on them by an official policy which tried to ignore the national pride anchored in the hearts of these mercenaries. In order to obliterate these feelings more thoroughly, care had to be taken to suppress typical Scottish clothing and armaments. This inflexible intolerance persisted until about 1881.

The Highlanders

When one considers the harsh treatment that was inflicted on the Lowland regiments, it is remarkable that the levy of a first regiment in the Highlands in 1739 introduced a surprisingly discordant note in the beautiful uniformity of the British troops. Clearly such an enormous concession was granted only because it was to be the sole method of enlisting the savage warriors of the interior.

A little worried and very curious, the King had, as a preliminary, insisted on meeting some of these 'barbarians' and had shown great satis-

faction at their excellent performance of a sword dance.

The famous *Clothing Book* gives us a picture of a soldier of this first regiment numbered 43rd, then 42nd in 1749 after the dissolution of another regiment. Later on, the glorious regiment received the title of 'Royal' (42nd Royal Highland Regiment) in 1758 and formed, with its second battalion, the 73rd Perthshire Regiment in 1786.¹

¹ Not to be confused with the 73rd Regiment of Lord MacLeod's Highlanders called up in 1777 and renumbered 71st in 1786.

SCOTTISH TROOPS I

1-4. Scottish rebels. No special uniform was worn. The only emblem which made them recognizable was the white cockade. The Scottish irregulars who served under the English wore a black cockade. The classic arms were pistols made entirely of metal — including the butt — which, once fired usually at point-blank range, were thrown at the head of the enemy. The right hand was then free to draw the heavy sword, called the 'claybeg', universally misnamed the 'claymore', while the left hand seized the 'dirk', a sort of hunting knife, which at that time was supposed to measure the length of a forearm. The 'targaide', which was a small shield, round and flat, and often decorated with geometric figures in relief, was an important item in hand-to-hand fighting. The two-handed sword (fig. 2), called 'claidheam-mohr' (big sword), the real claymore, was given to particularly tall and strong men. Its blows were deadly. At the battle of Killiecrankie in 1689 these terrible arms cut to pieces a small Government army, composed, for the greater part, of Scots. The battlefield was covered with severed heads and limbs, severed with the same ease as a cane-stick cuts down wild flowers. There were bodies cut in half at the waist or even split from head to waist. Certainly, few regular troops could resist the devastating charge of the Highland warriors.

5. Grenadier of a Scottish regiment around 1715. His pouch bears the royal cipher of George I — 6. Grenadier of the Cameronians, 1709. Recruited in the Lowlands in 1689, this regiment had an organization which was both religious and military, inspired by a particularly active and austere Presbyterian sect called the Covenanters, a sect which was made illegal in 1660. The reprobates organized themselves into an armed force, made battle once, then again in 1680 under the leadership of a young preacher, Richard Cameron,

only to be defeated a second time while losing their zealous leader whose head and hands were taken to the authorities in Edinburgh — an example of the uncouthness of the time. William of Nassau, who became King as William III in 1689, imposed the Presbyterian religion all over Scotland, gathering against him the faithful of the Episcopal Church who began to recruit an army. As a counter-measure the King decided to raise a regiment of Covenanters, who took the name of Cameron, their martyr — 7. Soldier of an independent company in 1730.

Principal clans who participated in the insurrection of 1745: 8. Cameron — 9. Farquharson — 10. Forbes — 11. Grant — 12. Macbean — 13. Macfie — 14. Mac Gillivray — 15. Mackinnon — 16. Mackintosh — 17. Mac-lachlan — 18. Maclaren — 19. Maclean of Duart — 20. Macnab — 21. Macpherson — 22. Murray of Athol — 23. Ogilvie.

In the contemporary painting relating to the battle of Culloden by David Morier the Scottish rebels do not wear any of these tartans. The artist had, apparently, worked from nature, thanks to his client the Duke of Cumberland who had provided him with prisoners as models. However — and this is surprising — the shields held by his models are convex, while it is absolutely certain they were completely flat! One must acknowledge, however, that the very few remains of tartans of that time which have been saved bear no resemblance to the modern tartans. We provide pictures of some of them, with all necessary reservation, in memory of the unhappy heroes of that time.

The background is inspired by the site of Glenfinnan whence the armies of Prince Charles Edward, 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', set out in 1745 to reclaim the throne of England and Scotland. This foolish venture ended in tragedy at the battle of Culloden, 16 April 1746 (cf. page 22).



8



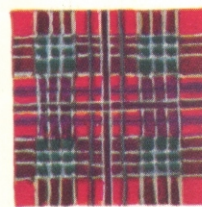
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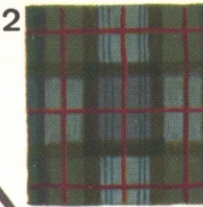
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22



23



C. & F. F. F. (KEY)

The other principal regiments which followed were:

<i>18th-century titles</i>	<i>Modern titles¹</i>
73rd Regt or MacLeod's Highlanders in 1777, 71st Regt in 1786	} The Highland Light Infantry
74th Regt or The 74th (Highland) Regiment of Foot in 1787	
72nd Regt—78th Highland in 1778, 72nd in 1786	} The Seaforth Highlanders
78th Regt or Highland Regiment of Foot in 1793	
75th Regt or Highland Regiment in 1787	} The Gordon Highlanders
92nd Regt—100th in 1794, 92nd in 1798	
79th Regt or Cameronian Volunteers in 1793	} The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders
91st Regt—98th in 1794, 91st in 1791	
93rd Regt or Sutherland Regiment in 1800	} The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

¹ In 1881 the 'Cardwell System' reassembled some regiments in pairs (from 26th to 109th) making them 1st and 2nd battalions of a new regiment, and all the regiments were given the name of a geographical region or a title and were no longer referred to solely by a number.

SCOTTISH TROOPS II

1. Officer wearing the first uniform of the 43rd (then 42nd) Regiment nicknamed 'Am Freiceadan Dubh' or Black Watch, 1739 — 2. Officer of the same regiment in 1745 — 3. Soldier of the Black Watch in 1740 — 4. Soldier of the same regiment in 1742. The jacket worn longer than the coat was a typical Scottish fashion — 5. Corporal of the 43rd Regiment in 1743. His rank can be identified by the whiteshoulder-knot. The shield, which may come as a surprise here, was used in combat at least until 1745 in Flanders. Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9 wear the 'breacan-an-feilidh', or belted plaid, while figs. 3, 8 and 11 wear the 'feilidh beag', or little kilt, also called 'philibeg'. It must be pointed out, regarding fig. 5, that certain prints of that time of considerable workmanship show the belted plaid worn in this unusual fashion. They also show the belts and straps as being of natural hide rather than the traditional black leather. Another interesting detail is that the wool used for the socks was dyed red with a kind of lichen called *crotal geal* or, scientific-

cally, *Lecanora palescens*. This dye was supposed to prevent the feet getting too hot and blisters from forming during long marches — 6. Grenadier of the 42nd Regiment in 1751 — 7. Cap of the 77th Regiment in 1763. The tuft of feathers would soon become bigger until it reached the size of a large fur cap (see fig. 11). Figs. 6 and 9 have, on the contrary, real fur caps — 8. Officer of the centre company of the 73rd Regiment in 1777. The simple fusilier was almost identical, apart from the buttonholes edged with white braid set in red and, understandably, with the absence of the sash, the gorget and the epaulettes replaced by simple shoulder-straps — 9. Officer of the grenadiers of the 73rd Highlanders in 1777. For the simple grenadier see notes on the previous fig., but with wings on the shoulders — 10. Soldier of the Cameronians in 1795. Since its creation in 1689 this regiment always exhibited all the characteristics of the British uniform. Reasons for this can be found in the text. The braid can be seen on the special page reserved for these details — 11. Soldier of the Gordon Highlanders (92nd Regiment) in 1798.



The statute of 1768

The 'Royal Warrant' of 1768 marked out with great accuracy important distinctions and codified all the changes which had occurred in the uniforms since the legislation of 1751. Evidently, its effect was not immediately felt and old uniforms were still worn along with new ones. Red jackets and trousers were still favoured against the prescribed white ones.

The caps of embroidered cloth worn by the grenadiers and fusiliers did not surrender quickly to the new furry hat, particularly in the royal regiments who were proud of their own badges, more richly embroidered and flattering than the simple royal monogram of the other regiments. The men of the 7th Regiment of the Royal Fusiliers kept to their cherished cap at least until 1770.

Another innovation of the period was the adoption of numbered buttons, from one to

seventy at that time. They were made of pewter for the troops, but in gilt or silver for the officers.

Affection and the desire to be different from the other regiments led to the adornment of the simple stamped-on number. The Guards were among the first to introduce these embellishments which continued to spread.

According to the Royal Warrant, the buttons and braid of the hats and uniforms of officers were gilded in the following regiments: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Foot Guards, and infantry regiments 1st, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 32nd, 36th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 48th, 49th, 51st, 53rd, 55th, 57th, 58th, 64th, 66th, 69th and 70th. Silver was reserved for the other regiments.

Ordinary soldiers and sergeants had, apart from pewter buttons, lace with a white background. The lace was used for buttonholes at the lapels, in groups of four on the cuffs and on the pockets (false ones) and three on either side of the slit at the waist on the reverse of the dress-coat. The corporals replaced the white epaulette with a silk one on the right shoulder.

BRAID, BUTTONHOLES AND DISTINCTIVE COLOURS OF THE ROYAL ORDER OF 1768

1 to 70. From the 1st to the 70th Regiment (with the exception of the Guards). It is easy to read each scheme by referring to the black and white model at the foot of the group. A: braid. B: buttonhole. C: distinctive colour (collar, lapels, cuffs). D: jacket. E: breeches. As the shades of one and the same colour are not always easily distinguishable, we give the list as follows:

Buff (camel): 22nd Regt=pale buff; 62nd Regt=yellowish buff.

Yellow: 6th and 25th Regts=dark yellow; 10th, 28th and 34th Regts=bright yellow; 20th, 26th, 30th and 67th Regts=pale yellow; 13th Regt=*feuille morte* (a kind of yellow). Red: 56th and 59th Regts=purple.

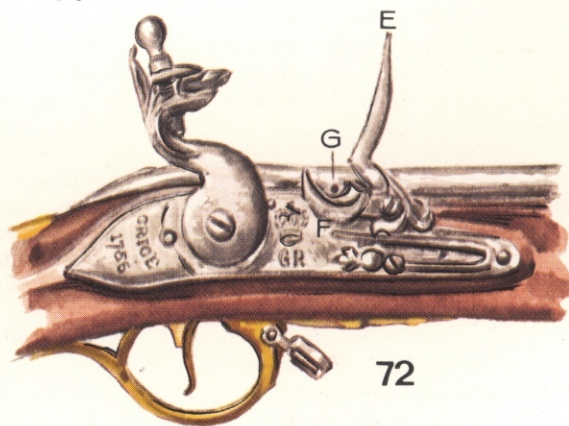
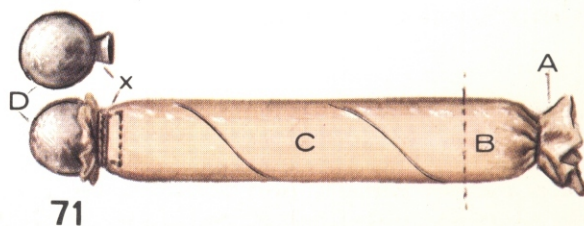
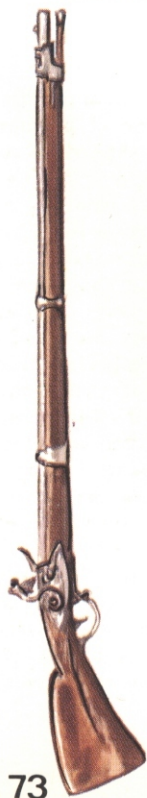
Green: 5th Regt=pale yellowish green; 11th and 49th Regts=bright green; 19th, 45th, 51st and 68th Regts=dark green; 55th Regt=dull green; 66th Regt=yellowish green; 24th and 69th Regts=clear olive green; 54th Regt=green, lined with yellow. White: 17th Regt=greyish white.

Orange: the 35th Regt, the only one to have this colour.

71. Cartridge in its wrapping of thick paper. The bullet always had a small bump on it, formed in the mould, and could be firmly fixed to the cartridge by means of a thread

wound round this.

A: end to be ripped off with the teeth. B: portion of powder deposited in the pan for priming. C: charge of powder poured down the barrel. D: the ball is then slipped down the barrel at the same time as the cartridge paper wrapping. Everything is then rammed down with the ramrod — 72. Lock of a Brown Bess made by Grice in London in 1756. Lacking the mark of the Tower Arsenal, it bears, nevertheless, the crown and the royal cipher (George III at that time). The pan cover E lifts to reveal the pan F, used to hold the priming, which burns and flashes through the touch-hole G (fig. 71 C and D). When the trigger is pressed, the cock is released and flies forward. The flint strikes the combined steel and pan cover E and pushes it clear of the pan so permitting the sparks produced by flint and steel to fall into the priming F. The priming burns and the flame passes through the touchhole G firing the main charge and so discharging the ball — 73. French infantry musket model 1728, with the butt called 'cow's foot' (1,593 m) — 74. French heavy musket model 1763 from Stainville (1,530 m) — 75. French infantry musket model 1777 made in Saint Etienne (1,520 m) — 76. Prussian infantry musket model 1796 (1,450 m). One look at the arms 73 and 76 shows the differences in appearance between the French make and the German one.



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All other details relating to the distinctive colours of jackets, trousers and linings, including the buttonholes of each regiment, are shown on the previous page.

Standards

During the first decades of the eighteenth century the British army deployed a great number of standards which were very similar to those of the French. But the red cross of St George clearly distinguished them at a first glance from the adversary whose emblem was a white cross.

Each regiment had its royal standard in scarlet decorated with the initials of the sovereign surmounted by the royal crown. Colonels, majors and captains all had their own and designed them with as much imagination as their rank permitted. Apart from the personal arms of the colonels, the standards were adorned with an extraordinary variety of animals, symbols, monograms, flowers and pennants whose meanings and associations may never be explained.

This flood of colour and originality received a severe blow and was cut short in 1751 when a royal decree specified the previous instructions of 1743 and 1747 which had hitherto had little effect. From then on each regiment was entitled to have no more than two standards. The first, called the King's colour, which was the national standard, depicted the cross of St George and St Andrew together, a combination called the Great Union. The second emblem, the regimental colour or the regimental standard, had to have its background in the distinctive colour of the regiment and bear the Union in the top corner of the side attached to the staff. Where the main colour of the regiment was red or white, the regimental standard had to be that of St George—white with a large red cross over the entire length and width—and the Union in the upper section next to the staff. The regiments with black as their distinctive colour received

the same standard but with the three empty sections black instead of white.

All regiments, except those which had been rewarded with special royal emblems, had in the centre of their standard a garland of roses and thistles encircling their number which was in roman characters.

The 3rd (The Buffs), 5th, 6th, 8th and 27th (Inniskilling's) regiments, who were endowed with royal emblems, placed them in the centre of their standard, instead of the garland described above, and put their number in the top corner of the side next to the staff.

COLOURS

1st or Royal Regiment — 2. 4th or King's Own Regiment, 1745 — 3. 8th or King's Regiment — 4. 10th Regiment in 1725. The use of the personal arms of the commanding Colonel was forbidden and they disappeared in 1751 — 5. 23rd or Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1742 — 6. 27th or Inniskilling Regiment — 7. 12th Foot in 1768 — 8. 28th Foot in 1784. Note the influence of the decorative style in fashion at that time.

9. Ensign of the 1st Foot Guards with the colours of the Major of the 3rd battalion in 1776. The ensigns were not restricted to simply carrying the colours. They had to assimilate a whole series of very elaborate movements used in ceremonies. The picture represents the method of saluting a general at a military parade.



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L. x F. FÜNKEN



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The Foot Guards

At the time of the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 the three regiments of the Royal Foot Guards were formed into a miniature personal army of Charles II.

The 1st Regiment

This corps was originally formed in Holland by the son of King Charles I and Henrietta of France, the future Charles II, who decided while in exile to give himself a regiment of Foot Guards. It was made up in 1656 from an existing regiment, called Wentworth's Regiment, which was re-named The Royal Regiment of Guards. When Charles II came to the throne in 1660, the regiment, having suffered many casualties, stayed in Holland and the sovereign created a second one which was recruited on British soil by Colonel John Russell. The Flanders regiment was repatriated in 1664 and amalgamated again under the name of The King's Royal Regiment of Guards, a title which was modified to The Regiment of Foot Guards in 1685. It was not until after Waterloo in 1815 that the regiment was granted the title of Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards, nowadays simply shortened to Grenadier Guards.

The 2nd Regiment

The 2nd Regiment owes its origin to the curious personality George Monck, who accomplished the remarkable feat of serving in succession under Charles I, Oliver Cromwell, Richard Cromwell and Charles II. Colonel in the Royal army, captured in 1644, he was put at the head of a new regiment—The Monck's Regiment of Foot—by his conqueror Oliver Cromwell in 1650. With extraordinary flair, and favoured by the political confusion which was rife during the Government

of Richard Cromwell, Monck managed to take advantage of the situation.

At the right moment he left his general quarters at Coldstream, a small Anglo-Scottish town, and led his regiment to London where he ensured law and order and the free election of a new Parliament which favoured the return of Charles II, who returned to the capital amidst general rejoicing. This skilful officer had succeeded with great expertise and, all consideration of his own private conception of loyalty set aside,¹ had spared his country from a second civil war.

Cromwell's old army was dissolved, including Monck's Regiment who ceremoniously laid down their arms after the parade at Tower Hill on the feast of St Valentine in 1661. Immediately after this gesture, the regiment picked up their

¹ It would take a whole volume to retrace and try to explain objectively the career of this person.

FOOTGUARDS I

1. Soldier of the 2nd Regiment or The Scots Regiment of Foot Guards, 1710. In 1705 the laces were yellow. *Left*, detail of the decoration on the pouch — 2. Grenadier of the 1st Regiment in 1704 (Battle of Blenheim) — 3. Corporal of the grenadiers of the 1st Regiment; his rank is indicated by the shoulder-knot. The throwing of the grenade was regulated by traditional and detailed movements which were carefully executed. Here the soldier lights the slow match, which ignites the fuse of the grenade, which in turn explodes the projectile. The water-colours by Bernard Lens, dated 1735, are unusual as they do not show the indispensable fuse container in which the grenadier carried his fuse wick — 4. Sergeant of the 1st Regiment in 1745 — 5. Corporal of the grenadiers 3rd Regiment in 1751 with a match-case — 6. Fifer of the 1st Regiment in 1745 — 7. Grenadier of the 3rd Regiment in 1775. The front plate of the fur cap carries the royal arms flanked by the lion and the unicorn in white metal on a black background for the 1st, red for the 2nd, and in white metal entirely for the 3rd Regiment. Note here again the fuse container peculiar to the grenadiers; it was, however, purely ornamental — 8. Officer of the 1st Foot Guards in 1745 — 9. Officer of the 1st Regiment in town dress, 1745.



muskets and was reinstated under another name: The Lord General's Regiment of Foot Guards.¹

On Monck's death it became The Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards and it has kept the name of Coldstream Guards until this day.

The 3rd Regiment

In 1642 a Scottish regiment formed by the Duke of Argyll in 1639—Argyll's Regiment—was sent by Charles I to curb the troubles in Ireland. It stayed in Ulster until 1645, when it was recalled to Scotland to fight, this time, against the royalist troops of Montrose.² Sent back to Ulster in 1646, the regiment stayed there until 1650, the year following the execution of Charles I. Reduced to a very small effective force, it was then known by the name of Irish Companies. This small company returned to Scotland to serve under Charles II who had just landed there. Greatly reduced in numbers at the battle of Dunbar, the regiment was immediately reconstituted and re-named His Majestie's Foote Regiment of his Lyffe Guards and took part in the King's march on London. But this advance of the royalist troops was interrupted by the victory of Cromwell at Worcester in 1651. The survivors of the Lyffe Guards of Foot dispersed and the regiment ceased to exist. It reappeared during the Restoration and was garrisoned in Edinburgh and Dunbarton Castles. Enlarged by additional companies in 1662, it became The Scots Regiment of Foot Guards. Called back urgently to England to help in the suppression of Monmouth's revolt³ in 1685, it was based in London the following year with the title of 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards. It was re-named The Scots Fusilier Guards in 1831 and obtained its final name of Scots Guards in 1877.

1686 marked the real date of the birth of

the Foot Guards of the Royal Household. The Scots, who were the last to be formed, were given for this reason the nickname 'The Kiddies'. An irritating point was the fact that, although six years older than the 1st Regiment, The Coldstream Regiment, it was given second place by Charles II. Indignant but obedient, the frustrated regiment took for vengeance the motto: *Nulli secundus*, which means 'second to no one'. On parade days they always insisted on marching not immediately behind the 1st Regiment but well after the 3rd, showing their silent but obstinate protest.

FOOTGUARDS II

1. Drummer of the 1st Regiment in 1750 — 2. Drummer of the 3rd Regiment in 1798 — 3-5. Drummers of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Foot Guards in 1789. The coats of arms shown are those of George I and George II. According to contemporary pictures, they still adorned the drummers of the 1st and 2nd Regiments of the Guards, despite the fact that the reigning sovereign was George III and that his coat of arms was slightly different. The 3rd Regiment (fig. 5) decorated its drummer with the star and cross of St Andrew — 6. Sergeant of the grenadiers of the 2nd Regiment in 1789. The motif on the cap and the silver braid were white for the ordinary grenadiers — 7. Grenadier of the 1st Regiment in 1789. Sergeants had the front plate and the braid in gold. The men of the 3rd Regiment wore a slightly more pointed fur cap (see fig. 5) with a front plate in white and gold — 8. Officer of the 2nd Regiment in 1790. Note the buttons on the lapels grouped in pairs, while they were equally spaced for the 1st Regiment and in groups of three for the 3rd. Apart from this small detail, the uniforms were identical — 9. Sergeant of the 1st Regiment in 1792. The sash of rank tied round the waist shows the white central line indicating the 1st Foot Guards; the 2nd Regiment had a sash completely in crimson and that of the 3rd was in crimson, white and blue. In the infantry regiments the central line was in the distinctive colour of the regiment, and this rule applied since 1768 — 10. Soldier of the 2nd Regiment in 1790.

1 Monck, who became Duke of Albemarle, owned the title of Lord General.

2 Royalist chief, the Marquis of Montrose (1612-50) led a diversionary expedition against Scotland at the beginning of the Civil War. He was hung in Edinburgh.

3 James Scott, Duke of Monmouth (1649-85), was pretender to the throne of James II. He died on the scaffold in the Tower of London.



The Light Infantry

It was during the war against the French in Canada around 1758 that the first troops of light infantry of the British army appeared. The altogether special nature of skirmishes in forests required the formation of specially trained troops, lightly dressed and armed.

The problem of the uniform was quickly solved: the tails of the traditional dress-coat were cut off to the level of the jacket, so that it would not get caught up in briars and low branches. The brightly coloured laces were also abandoned while 'wings' (crescent-like projections) were fixed to the shoulders, in order to hold up the equipment slings more effectively and also as a protection, no doubt, against blows on the shoulders by edged weapons.

The much lighter armament consisted of a shorter musket. The heavy and cumbersome cartridge-box was replaced by a small one, worn across the stomach, containing nine cartridges lined up in a row. In order to compensate for this poor provision of 'ready to use ammunition',¹ the soldier carried a supply of gunpowder in a scooped-out cow's horn, which he often decorated artistically in his spare moments. Extra bullets were carried in a little bag hanging from a shoulder belt, or sometimes in two breast pockets made of leather which were sewn on the coat. These pockets were also used to carry the spare flints for the lock of the musket.

The bayonet was optional but the tomahawk was very much favoured. It was made in England and originally destined for trade with the Indians.

The hat was the most bizarre element of the equipment and was made up, at the start, from the three-cornered hat which had been cunningly cut away. Depending on circumstances and individual personality, Indian cloth-

ing was worn, resembling a type of riding outfit, delightfully unconventional.

The obvious usefulness of these troops led the authorities to create in 1770 a light company in each of the eighteen regiments serving in North America, and later in the whole body of the army. A hat called the 'tarleton' appeared in 1787 and was exactly like the crested helmets of the French infantry of 1791. The traditional red jacket disappeared in 1797.

LIGHT TROOPS

1. Light company of the 46th infantry of the line, 1778 — 2. Light company of the 5th infantry of the line, 1771 — 3. Light infantry in 1758. Note the lapels folded back on the stomach with small breast pockets added. These were used for holding the spare fuses and a few balls. The bayonet was often replaced by a tomahawk — 4. Light infantry in 1761 — 5. Officer about 1756. In North America deficiencies in leadership and the peculiar character of ambush war completely transformed the outline of the British soldier. The officers, almost wiped out by expert shooters, adopted a dress not unlike that of their men. Note the Indian leggings. The coat is cut at the waist and the hat, jockey style, is simply a smaller version of the tricorne — 6. Light company about 1765 — 7. Light company of the 2nd Regiment of Foot Guards in 1794. The regiments of the Guards did not have any light companies before 1792. The soldier wears breeches and gaiters in one piece, also used as overalls by the recruits.

8. Headdress of fig. 6. Towards 1765, when the light infantry had been more or less deserted, light companies were hastily formed. The skirt of the coat was shortened and the classic tricorne was cut down in order to obtain a suitable type of headdress — 9. Hat of fig. 7. This hat was also worn by the recruits of the Foot Guards during their training — 10. Headdress of fig. 1. This was a leather headdress reinforced with metal, as stipulated by the regulations. The picture opposite is one example amongst others of a very free interpretation of the regulations — 11 and 12. Headdress adopted by the 5th Regiment in 1771. Like the model of fig. 10 it protected the skull much better than the tricorne in single combat, in battles with edged weapons to which the light troops were often exposed. Note the number of the regiment on the central circle.

¹ For details concerning the cartridge see the illustration on page 35, no. 71.



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L. & F. Funck

Evolution of the uniform

The hat

We have previously mentioned the appearance of the first three-cornered hat worn by the ordinary soldier as shown by illustrations of that time—with the front corner above the left eye. We have provided a drawing of it, seen from above,¹ but it occurred to us afterwards that the representations of the time, showing the front horn worn slightly to the left, could just as well suggest that the whole hat was worn a little sideways, in order to avoid the left corner getting in the way of the musket. As no authentic hats have been sufficiently well preserved for us to examine, we find it impossible to support this supposition. We must however not forget that the officers, who sometimes carried a fusil, wore the front corner at right angles to the centre of the face. The cockades of black cloth were replaced by leather ones in about 1790.

The cap

The officers of the grenadiers and fusiliers wore caps like their men, but they were more elaborately decorated.

Hair

Worn loose at the beginning of the century, the hair was later cut on the temples (or rather on the face) and on the neck, and fixed in plaits on top of the head. This curious arrangement gave the impression that the hair, when covered by the hat, was cut short.

In 1750 curls on the temples were allowed, while the rest of the hair was plaited. The pigtail or *queue* obtained that way was folded over twice,

held in position under the hat, or held together with a fancy ribbon. To make a pigtail one had simply to gather one's hair together and tie a ribbon round it. No doubt after 1760 one or other of these methods was practised.

Wigs were unfashionable around 1710, except in the case of bald people, because the new, less voluminous hairstyle could easily be achieved with the natural hair. But as compensation it was common to powder the hair—a practice which, for ordinary soldiers, was approved only for ceremonies.

A longer pigtail, often extended by a hair-piece, appeared from 1750 among the high-ranking officers. Sometimes it hung down to the waist. A silk ribbon was wreathed round the whole length of the pigtail. This was, apart from keeping the hair in place, a precaution against soiling the coat with powder. This pigtail, even when shortened, was never worn by all the troops. Only a few units adopted it very late in the century, particularly in the light infantry.

INFANTRY 1760–70

1. Soldier of the 36th Regiment in uniform during the period of change around 1760 — 2. Fusilier of the 35th Regiment in 1764–5. The carrot-shaped plume is a trophy taken from the French in Canada — 3. Grenadier of the same regiment at the same period. He wears his belt crosswise over the shoulder, a new practice which was soon to become widespread. Note that the first three figures wear smaller leather accessories and cuffs, which were characteristic of this period of change, and also gaiters with leather knee-caps, introduced around 1760 and in general use by 1767. Knee bands, of a type used by the cavalry, were sometimes worn underneath the gaiters with knee-caps in order to protect the breeches against the rubbing of the leather. Breeches, red until then, began to appear in buff or beige towards 1760–1, then from 1767 onwards they were commonly white — 4. Grenadier of the 53rd Regiment in 1768. He wears the new style of fur cap with a metal band. The fur cap of fig. 3 was only a transitional model — in fact it was the old cap of embroidered cloth recovered with fur, sometimes completely, or, in this case, except for the front flap — 5. and 6. Details of styles in 1768. The plaited cord we see at the base of fig. 5 served as a chin-strap to keep the cap in place, but it was worn at the nape of the neck, under the bun of plaited hair — 7. Fusilier of the 7th Regiment in 1770. The cap did not carry the grenade at the back. At least until this date the old embroidered cap was used, in spite of the regulations of 1768 — 8. Corporal of the 25th Regiment in 1770 — 9. Grenadier of the 57th Regiment in 1770 — 10. Corporal of the 11th Regiment in 1770.

¹ Page 21, no. 6.



L. & F. J. FUNKEN

Dress-coat and jacket

The illustrations show better than long descriptions the evolution of these essential elements of uniform. Note that the jacket has nine to ten buttonholes depending on the size of the soldier.

The coat had developed slowly until it finally had lapels which showed the jacket off to advantage. Between 1797 and 1800 the dress-coat was to undergo a complete transformation and become 'modern' to the point of outdating those of other nations.

Gaiters

These were white for special occasions, but for marching they were grey, at least since 1744, then black, and sometimes brown from 1749 onwards. New, all-black gaiters appeared in 1760 with leather knee-caps. White gaiters disappeared in 1767. Finally from 1784 they were shortened to knee-length.

Greatcoat

This piece of clothing has rarely been mentioned—at the very most it is referred to for the sentries—but it is obvious that the uniform, even with the buttons done up, would have been inadequate in keeping the troops really warm in very cold weather.

One more often finds references to a covering which was really a blanket worn like a cape. As far as protecting himself against the rain is concerned, the soldier probably had to be patient, get soaked to the skin, and wait until he could dry himself out in the barracks.

INFANTRY 1789–1800

1. Soldier of the 6th Regiment in 1789 — 2. 24th Regiment in 1792 — 3. 5th battalion of light infantry of the 60th or Royal American Regiment in 1797 — 4. 6th battalion of the 60th Regiment in 1799. Several types of foreign flintlocks with rifle barrels were used before the introduction of the Baker Rifle of English make in 1800 — 5. Transitional uniform adopted in May 1797. The coat has the lapels fastened with hooks and eyes over its whole length. They could also be worn turned down and folded over, thus showing the red lining. This uniform certainly did not have time to become widespread for it had to be abandoned in October of the same year — 6. Second transitional uniform, October 1797. The lapels have completely disappeared and the coat is done up with ten buttons. Since the previous year the hat had lost the braid around its border, but it must be noted that some years earlier, after the fashion of the Foot Guards, several regiments (see fig. 1) had anticipated the order. The loop keeping the cockade in place was no longer in distinguishing braid as in figs. 1 and 2, but in white thread; the corners of the hat, on the contrary, were decorated with tassels in white cotton mixed with thread of the distinctive colour. The gaiters, cut under the knee, had been worn since 1784 — 7 and 8. Uniform of 1800. The heavy shako, called the stove-pipe, replaced the hat. The little black cockade had in its centre a regimental button. The plume was red and white for the companies of the centre, white for the grenadiers and dark green for the light company. The little flap fixed to the back of the shako could be turned down when it rained to protect the neck of the soldier against the wet weather. As can be seen, these last two figures offer a striking contrast to the uniforms of the previous year.





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