

# Preparing a British Unit for Service in America: The Brigade of Foot Guards, 1776

William W. Burke and Linnea M. Bass

ON 13 February 1776 the Earl of Loudoun, commanding His Majesty's Foot Guards, issued orders forming a detachment to serve in the American War for Independence. The unit was to consist of men and officers from all three existing regiments: the First (now Grenadier) Guards, the Coldstream Guards, and the Third (now Scots) Guards. When first detached for this service the men were attired in their own regimental uniforms. Some new items of equipment and clothing were issued to prepare them for the impending campaign. In addition, between the time the detachment formed in March and the date it went ashore in North America in August, significant alterations were wrought in its appearance. For these to be fully appreciated, however, one must understand the parade-ground uniform of the Guards in London.

## Uniform in England

There are four principal sources of information pertaining to the clothing and accouterments of the Foot Guards in 1776. The first is a series of orders or Warrants, issued between 1768 and 1774, prescribing their uniforms.<sup>1</sup> Secondly, a series of drawings once in the collection of Landgraf Ludwig IX of Hesse Darmstadt depicted the uniforms of the Guards circa 1775. Cecil C. P. Lawson's notebooks in the National Army Museum (London) contain his colored sketches of them. These include a grenadier from each Guards Regiment, as well as an officer and a drummer.<sup>2</sup> (FIG 1) Third, the National Army Museum owns three Guards coats dated between 1770 and 1780: one is a drummer's coat and two are privates' coats.<sup>3</sup>

FIG 1. Darmstadt figure of Third Guards Grenadier from Maurice.



FIG 2. "Corporal Cartouche instructing Miss Camplove in her martial exercises," 1778, by John Collet. (Photo courtesy of the Guards Museum, London.)

Finally, there is a painting by John Collet entitled "Corporal Cartouche instructing Miss Camplove in her martial exercises." (FIG 2) It depicts the famous actress Charlotte Walpole in 1778 learning her role for the play *The Camp*. Her teacher is a Third Guards corporal painted in profile.<sup>4</sup>

While the three regiments of Foot Guards were all attired in scarlet coats with white breeches and waistcoats, each maintained unique features.<sup>5</sup> The principal distinction among them was the pattern of coat lace. All privates wore plain white tape, but First Guardsmen laced their coats diamond fashion and had plain buttons evenly spaced. (FIG 3) Third Guards' regimental buttons were in groups of three with pointed loops. (FIG 4) Coldstream Guards wore scolloped headed loops and their regimental buttons set on in twos. (FIG 5) There was also a difference in the brass waist belt buckles. The First Guards used a square frame buckle, the Third Guards wore a curved

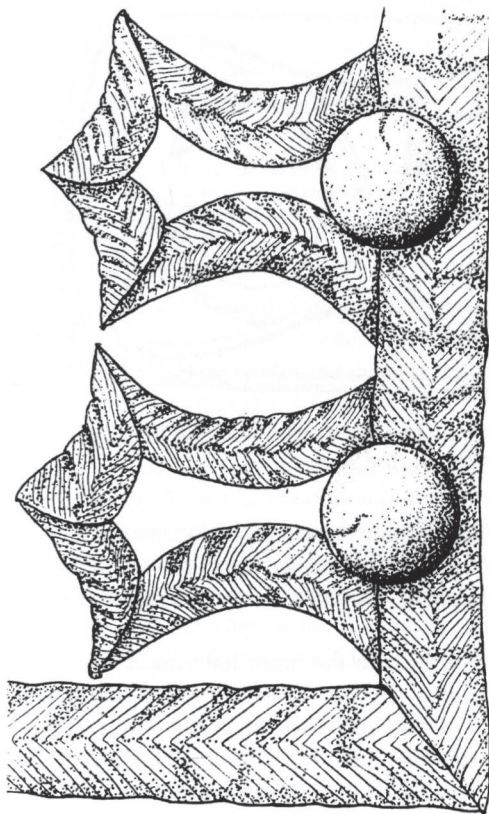


FIG 3.

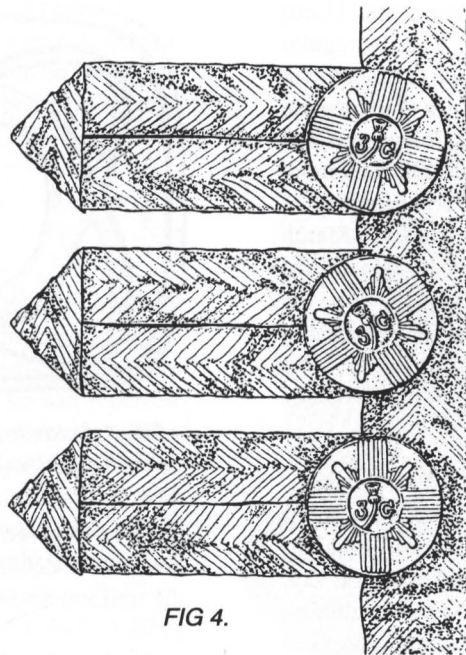


FIG 4.

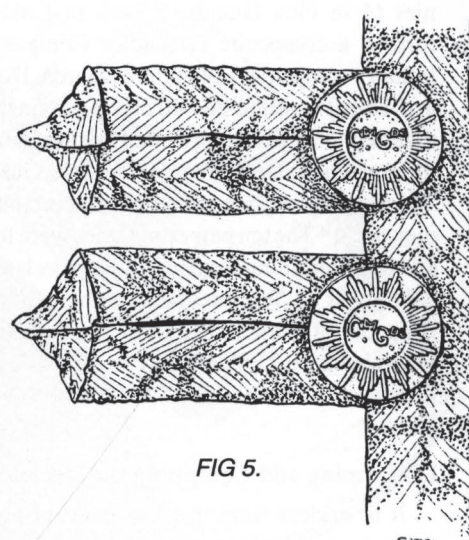


FIG 5.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JEFFREY A. SAEGER

FIG 3. First Guards diamond loops with regimental plain  $\frac{7}{8}$ " buttons.

FIG 4. Third Guards pointed loops with regimental  $\frac{7}{8}$ " buttons.

FIG 5. Coldstream Guards scolloped headed loops with regimental  $\frac{7}{8}$ " buttons.

rectangle, and the Coldstream Guards utilized a curved rectangle with "CG" in the center. <sup>6</sup> (FIGS 6 and 7)

In all three regiments, waist and shoulder carriages were white to match the small clothes. The badge on the First Guards cartridge pouch carried the traditional regimental version of the Royal Cipher: a "GR" intertwined with a reversed "GR." The other two regiments utilized a plain "GR" within an open circle, backed with red wool. Both badges were surmounted with a crown.<sup>7</sup> Privates' buttons were white metal, but buckles and badges were of brass. The officers' metal was gold. The Darmstadt drawings show a white neckcloth, but black stocks were also available.<sup>8</sup> Battalion companies wore the traditional cocked hat taped with white. The Guards had both white and black long gaiters, the former worn only on special occasions.

The coats were faced with dark blue, signifying a Royal Regiment. Linings were white padua serge. Shoulder straps, although not prescribed in the Warrants, exist on the surviving Guards' infantry company coats. The coat skirts were turned back by a rectangle with points on both ends and a small regimental button in the center.<sup>9</sup> Both the shoulder straps and turnbacks were blue with white taped edges.

Grenadiers sported the black bearskin cap with the King's coat of arms in white metal on a colored background.<sup>10</sup> They were also distinguished by blue flank company wings on their coats and brass match cases on their cartridge pouch carriages. Guards grenadiers evidently wore no hangers, as none are

visible on the Darmstadt figures. Their musket slings were constructed without buckles, to allow rapid loosening if the weapon needed to be slung to facilitate handling grenades. The Darmstadt figures show either a leather slide or a leather button on the grenadiers' slings. Presumably, the battalion companies used a traditional brass buckle.

The weapons consisted of a bayonet worn on the waist carriage and a Long Land Pattern Musket with a metal rammer. While it is generally thought that most, if not all, of the Army had adopted the Short Land Pattern by the time of the War, there is ample evidence that all three regiments of Foot Guards were still using Long Lands until at least 1781.<sup>11</sup>

### Forming the Detachment

The original order called for the detachment for American Service to consist of 30 officers, 82 NCOs, 14 drummers, 6 fifiers, and 960 privates. Three staff officers, five additional staff, and one drummer were added to the strength prior to embarkation for North America. The men were to be selected by draft from the three regiments of Foot Guards.<sup>12</sup> Captain and Lieutenant Colonel Edward Mathew, Coldstream Guards, was chosen for the command.<sup>13</sup> An augmentation to each regiment was ordered to replace the men going abroad.<sup>14</sup>

In early March 1776, a draft of 15 privates from each of the 64 companies in the three regiments provided the men for American service. They were reorganized into ten new companies. The 120 drafts from the 8 existing grenadier compa-

nies (4 in First Guards, 2 each in Coldstream and Third) formed a composite Grenadier Company. The 56 regular infantry companies (24 in First Guards, 16 each in Coldstream and Third) contributed 840 privates. Ninety-six of them were diverted to form a composite Light Infantry Company, since there was no extant light infantry in the Guards. The remaining 744 men were divided into 8 regular infantry companies of 93 men each.<sup>15</sup> The ten new companies were formed on 12 March and began training together three days later. The detachment assembled on Wimbledon Common to be reviewed by the King on 19 March. They left their quarters in and around Wimbledon on 25 March and set off for Portsmouth. The King reviewed them again on 30 March, this time on Moulsey Hurst.<sup>16</sup>

### Uniforming and Equipping the Detachment

It is evident from the few relevant pieces of correspondence in the Loudoun papers at the British Library (London) and the Huntington Library (California) that he and Lt. Col. Mathew had, from the inception, entertained ideas of altering the uniform of the service detachment. It may be that Lord Loudoun's experiences in North America during the Seven Years' War contributed to these plans.<sup>17</sup> Some of the ideas under consideration included trousers, leggings, and checked shirts. On 28 February Mathew sent Loudoun an estimate of the cost of the extra clothing he desired:

a Cloak	-11.-
a pr. of Leggens	4.6
2 pr. of Trowsers	5.-
a Cap	-6
2 pr. of Mittens	1.2
2 pr. of half Gaters	2.-
a Check Shirt	3.9
2 pr. of Shoe Soles & Heels	2.4
3 pr. of Socks	1.3
Alteration of the Mens Knapsacks	.6

...for a total of £1.12.0 per man.<sup>18</sup> In the same document he requested an "Allowance from the Governmt. to each Man for a Knapsack" at a cost of 2 shillings 6 pence. Unfortunately, in some cases the implementation of an idea cannot be verified. In others, no description or pattern remains to provide a

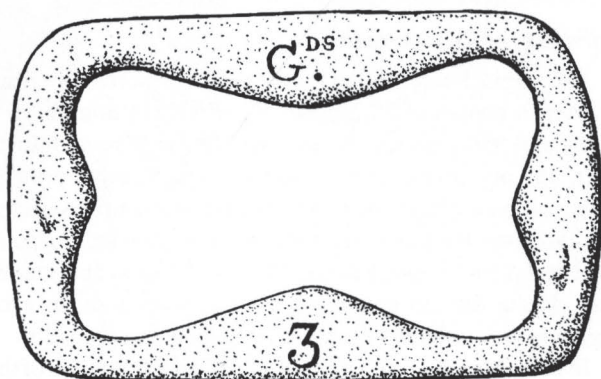


FIG 6. Third Guards waist belt buckle [approx. 3" x 2"]. (Illustration by Jeffrey A. Saeger.)

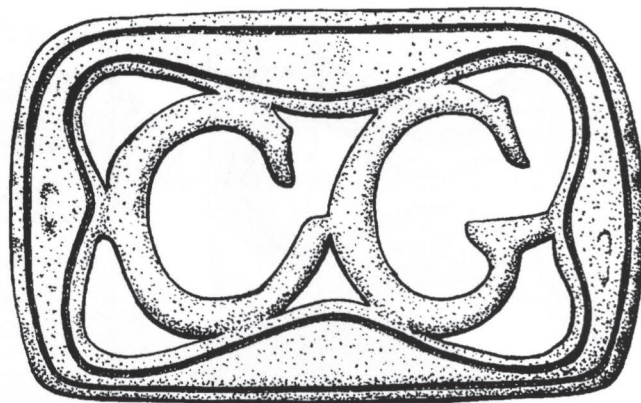


FIG 7. Coldstream Guards waist belt buckle [3 1/4" x 2"]. (Illustration by Jeffrey A. Saeger.)

picture of a given item. Despite these gaps in documentation, a wealth of detailed information can be compiled regarding the uniform and equipment provided for the detachment in 1776.

Mathew faced opposition to the immediate implementation of some of his ideas. He had evidently asked that the detachment's new 1776 clothing be altered in some way. The King, however, insisted that their new clothing be the traditional uniform that would be issued to the remainder of the Foot Guards in London in June. A letter from Loudoun to Mathew elaborates: "...His Majesty had order'd the new Cloathing to be sent out compleat in the Same Shape as it would have been deliver'd here... As to the old Cloathing, after the Detachment is given into your Hands I shall ask no Questions."<sup>19</sup> Thus, after 15 March Mathew had the power to alter the 1775 clothing that the men were wearing. Any new items, however, required the approval of the King.

Mathew evidently did receive permission to implement the portion of his plans that affected officers and serjeants. On 12 March the officers bound for America were ordered "to make up a Uniform with white Lace like the Privates of their Respective Regiments..." In addition, they carried fusils instead of spontoons.<sup>20</sup> These orders must have been instituted immediately, since the *Middlesex Journal and Evening Advertiser* (London) reported that at the review before the King five days later, the "officers and soldiers were dressed in the same uniforms."<sup>21</sup> Sergeants were likewise instructed to make up uniforms with white lace and to carry fusils.<sup>22</sup> Officers evidently began serving in the detachment without swords, but in late March were instructed to send for them.<sup>23</sup>

### Flank Companies

From the beginning, Col. Mathew envisioned a light infantry company uniformed and equipped in a manner that distinguished it from the rest of the detachment. In mid-February he proposed cutting "the 2nd Clothing of this Year into Jackets."<sup>24</sup> A number of notes and memoranda in Loudoun's papers mention Mathew's ideas for equipment for the Light Infantry Company. These include caps, pouches and belts,

ball bags, powder horns, and light infantry accouterments.<sup>25</sup> It is not clear whether they received all of these items. Loudoun wrote to the Secretary at War, Lord Barrington, on 24 February noting that Mathew had “demanded” only the following:

	£.S.d
A Tub and Strap, instead of the Canteen	2.6
A Bill hook with case and Bayonet belt	7.1
A Powder horn	1.3
A Ball bag	.6
A Pr. of Bugle Horns	7.7.- <sup>26</sup>

The new belts may have been necessitated by Mathew’s desire to have a “Bill Hook and Bayonet in the same case.”<sup>27</sup> It appears that the authorities complied with all of these requests. Barrington notified Loudoun that he had received the letter of the 24th, and that the King had allowed the tubs and straps, and the “remaining Articles, specified in your Lordship’s Letter...”<sup>28</sup> Loudoun then wrote to Mathew, and specifically mentioned approval of the wooden tubs, bugle horns, powder horns, and ball bags.<sup>29</sup> The light infantrymen were to be furnished with unique head wear as well. They received “Hatt Caps according to the Pattern approved of instead of Hats for the New Cloathing.”<sup>30</sup>

On 12 March this directive was issued: “...the Coats of the Offrs., Non Commsd., Private & Drummers of the light Infantry Company to be cut according to the Pattern To be seen in the Coldstream Regiment Orderly Room. This order relates only to the present Cloathing.”<sup>31</sup> No record has survived of the manner in which the coats were cut. At a minimum, they were shortened to the traditional light infantry length of nine inches from the ground on a kneeling man.<sup>32</sup> Since Mathew had earlier mentioned jackets for the light infantry, the coats were probably cut still shorter. The necessity for a pattern may indicate even more radical changes. Finally, instead of taking regular firelocks, the men were issued “Light Firelocks,” also referred to as “Light Infantry Musquets.”<sup>33</sup> These were Short Land Pattern Firelocks, rather than the Long Land Pattern carried by the rest of the Foot Guards.<sup>34</sup> Despite Mathew’s desire for light infantry pouches, the company was probably equipped with the traditional pouch carried by the battalion companies.<sup>35</sup>

The Grenadier Company appears to have maintained most of its traditional accouterments, since it is referred to only twice in orders. Once, it was directed to hand in a return of the number of match boxes wanting among soldiers from the First Regiment.<sup>36</sup> The other order, however, implemented a radical change in appearance. Along with the light infantrymen, the grenadiers received “Hatt Caps” “instead of Fur Caps or Hatts for the New Cloathing.”<sup>37</sup> It is not certain when the flank companies received the hat caps. An order of 11 March required that the detachment’s 1776 new clothing be packed up and delivered to the regimental Quarter Masters with the exception of “the Hatt caps of the Grenadier & Light Infantry



FIG 8. Light infantry hat cap based on Andre’s 1777 drawing. (Illustration by Jeffrey A. Saeger.)

Companies which are to be delivered Separately.”<sup>38</sup> The delivery was probably prior to 26 March, since the *Middlesex Journal* announced that at that time part of the detachment had marched out: “The men had felt caps with black feathers delivered to them before they set off, to wear instead of hats.”<sup>39</sup> Since there is no record of any hats or caps with feathers being worn by the battalion companies of the detachment while in England, this report probably refers to the hat caps of the flank companies.

Other than the newspaper report, no description of these hat caps has survived. A rather intriguing hint, however, was left behind by Major John Andre on his map of a skirmish which was part of the Battle of Whitemarsh on 6 December 1777.<sup>40</sup> (FIG 8) On one side of the title he drew a cap, and on the other side he drew a light infantry horn and bayonet. The cap has no brim other than a small visor in front. There is a

turban around the base of the crown with a bow at the back. Feathers arch over the top. A frontlet with a white edge and the letters "L.I." on it complete the cap. The engagement depicted is one which involved only the Queen's Rangers, the Light Infantry of the Guards, and a company of Jaegers. The cap is not associated with the Jaegers or Rangers, nor is it the standard light infantry cap of the period. Thus, it is quite possible that Andre drew the hat cap worn by the Guards Light Infantry Company in 1776–1777.<sup>41</sup> The grenadiers' hat caps were probably based on the same pattern. They would not have carried the "L.I." on the frontlet, but perhaps a grenade symbolized their uniqueness. The hat caps were almost certainly felt rather than leather, as indicated by the inclusion of the word "hatt" in the name. The report in the *Middlesex Journal* reinforces that conclusion, since it mentions that the caps with feathers were made of felt.<sup>42</sup>

### Necessaries

Efforts were made to see that the men going to war were provided with adequate supplies of what were termed "necessaries." The prices of some of these items were recorded, and a number of them were inventoried and inspected prior to the departure of the detachment. The items ordered by Loudoun were as follows:

- Three Shirts
- Three Pair worsted Stockings
- Two pair of Socks 7¼ pr. Pair
- Two pair of Shoes
- Three pair of heels and Soles 1/2d pr. pair
- Two Black Stocks
- Two Pair of Half Gaiters 1s/ pr. pair
- One Cheque Shirt 3/9d
- A Knapsack (2/6d Allowed by Government)
- Picker, Worm & Turnscrew
- A Night Cap<sup>43</sup>

The soles, socks, and half gaiters were packed aboard the transport ships with the new 1776 clothing.<sup>44</sup> The Coldstream Guards considered some of the items to be "Extraordinary Necessaries," implying that they were over and above the normal allotment. These included the soles and heels, check shirts, half gaiters, socks, stocks, and caps.<sup>45</sup> The men's coats, waistcoats, and breeches were inventoried and reviewed to see if they were "Clean" or "Dirty." The necessaries — shirts, shoes, stockings, gaiters, turnscrews, pickers, brushes, and black balls — were counted to see if any were wanting. Firelocks, bayonets, shoulder belts, and waist belts were examined to see if any needed repairs. Finally, the knapsacks were checked to see if they were serviceable or unserviceable.<sup>46</sup>

The men began service with the detachment wearing full gaiters. They left Britain, however, wearing half gaiters. Even though the new issue spatterdashes were packed up, Mathew ordered on 26 March that "The Gaiters, at present in use to be made into Half Gaiters forthwith." This conversion was completed almost at once. Only four days later the detachment paraded for the King in "half Gaiters & White Stockings." The flank company officers also paraded in stockings and half

gaiters, while the other officers wore boots.<sup>47</sup>

Some company commanders evidently tried to send inferior clothing with their privates who were drafted for the detachment. Their superiors, however, acted to rectify the situation. Major General Francis Craig, Lieutenant Colonel Commanding, First Guards, received complaints from the officers going to America about the quality of the shirts provided to the men by their companies in London. The third shirts were the worst problem and were, in many cases, "reported to be no better than a Rag..." General Craig ordered that in such instances a new shirt was to be supplied the next day!<sup>48</sup>

Trousers were procured for the men in 1776, as they were in each subsequent year. Mathew had estimated their cost at five shillings for two pair.<sup>49</sup> While trousers do not appear on any of the inventories or lists of necessaries actually acquired, they were provided to the detachment. On 28 April, officers commanding companies were given permission to issue them.<sup>50</sup> The material of which the trousers were made was never mentioned in 1776. In July of 1777, however, companies in the First Battalion were ordered to acquire drill or duck for trousers, probably the same material that had been used the previous year.<sup>51</sup>

### Miscellaneous Items

Field equipment for the detachment was under consideration in early February. Barrington ordered Loudoun to procure 1062 water flasks with strings, 1062 haversacks, and 1062 knapsacks.<sup>52</sup> The new haversacks were provided, but for reasons which were not elaborated, the men altered their old knapsacks and were compensated for the difference in price between old and new.<sup>53</sup> There is no documentation for the style of Guards packs in 1776. They may have been the double shoulder-strap variety that the Guards carried in the 1790s.<sup>54</sup> No information has been found regarding the alteration of the knapsacks for American service. Regimental identification may have been removed to foster a sense of unity in the detachment. The packs may have been waterproofed like those of a Guards detachment sent on service in 1790.<sup>55</sup> Although they would seem to be an item which did not require tailoring, orders were given that the knapsacks "be fitted to each Man, according to a late Regulation, and to be seen that they are perfectly whole and strongly sewed."<sup>56</sup>

There is considerable confusion about the canteens carried by the detachment in 1776. Loudoun's original instructions were to acquire tin water flasks for the men.<sup>57</sup> The correspondence between Barrington, Loudoun, and Mathew on 29 February, however, states that the King was "pleased to allow that the detachment from the Brigade of Foot Guards, shall be furnished with Tubs and Straps, instead of the Canteens, mentioned in the List of Camp Necessaries..."<sup>58</sup> This is curious, since the notes and correspondence on the light infantry seem to indicate that Mathew intended for it to be the only company equipped with tubs and straps.<sup>59</sup> To add to the confusion, a Treasury Warrant dated 30 April lists a payment



*FIG 9. Colonel Thomas Dowdeswell, 1776–1777, by Joseph Blackburn.  
(Photo courtesy of the Guards Museum, London.)*

for 1062 “Water Flasks with Strings.”<sup>60</sup> Not only are the orders, correspondence, and Warrant contradictory, but the prices are not consistent either. Loudoun had estimated the

cost of a tub and strap at 2 shillings 6 pence and a canteen or flask at 10 pence.<sup>61</sup> The Treasury Warrant indicates a price of 1 shilling 6 pence. Thus, it is impossible to determine with

certainty which type of canteen was issued. In addition, research has not revealed the construction of a tub and strap.

Foul weather gear for the detachment consisted of eighty watch coats, probably of kersey.<sup>62</sup> Several other items for inclement weather were mentioned in the memoranda and correspondence but may never have been supplied. These include mittens and leggings, as well as cloaks (although Mathew did note that they could be dispensed with).<sup>63</sup>

Caps are mentioned a number of times in documents regarding the detachment. A nightcap was on one of Mathew's preliminary lists.<sup>64</sup> A later estimate mentioned "Caps" at a price of six pence each.<sup>65</sup> An order of 13 March required that each man going to America receive "A Night Cap" with his necessaries.<sup>66</sup> On 24 March the Coldstream Guards listed "Caps" among the extraordinary necessaries.<sup>67</sup> The *Middlesex Journal* reported that on 19 March each soldier had been provided with, among other things, "a woollen cap, to wear during the voyage."<sup>68</sup> There are references, therefore, to caps, nightcaps, and woolen caps. While these could be three different items, most likely they were all the same article: some sort of fatigue cap. Captured American officer Alexander Graydon confirms this idea. He noted that in New York in the autumn of 1776, virtually every British soldier "was accommodated with a woollen night cap, which most of them had yet on."<sup>69</sup>

Rather than taking their old muskets and bayonets, the men (with the exception of the light infantry) carried the new ones which had been ordered for the augmentation.<sup>70</sup> These were the Long Land Pattern Muskets carried by the rest of the Guards. The old weapons were left behind for the replacement troops. The detachment was evidently equipped with the new cartridge pouches and straps ordered for the augmentation as well.<sup>71</sup> The grenadiers and battalion company men must have worn their old waist belts, since new ones had not been ordered.

The detachment carried its own ammunition. It expended some, both in the reviews for the King and in target practice.<sup>72</sup> Mathew requested additional powder and cartridge paper several times.<sup>73</sup> By the time the authorities responded, it was too late for ammunition from the Tower of London to catch up with the detachment. As a result, directions were given for Mathew to draw it from the stores at Portsmouth. He was to receive the following: 20 barrels of powder, 39½ Cwt of ball, 5000 flints, 8½ reams of fine paper, 24 [illegible] of thread, and 20 musket formers.<sup>74</sup>

### **Voyage and Arrival in America**

As the detachment boarded its transports on 26 April 1776, the accouterments were placed in storage and the men were ordered to reverse their coats during the voyage.<sup>75</sup> Each company took its own camp equipage on board, along with "a sufficient quantity of Oil to preserve the Arms from the effect of the Sea Air & Salt Water."<sup>76</sup> The convoy put to sea on 6 May. After a series of mishaps, including a great fog and a storm, most of it arrived at Sandy Hook, New York by 12

August.<sup>77</sup> General William Howe, Commander in Chief of the Army in North America (except for the province of Quebec), ordered the Guards to field as a Brigade composed of two battalions with five companies each. The First Battalion consisted of the Grenadier Company and four line infantry companies; the Second was composed of the Light Infantry Company and four more regular infantry companies.<sup>78</sup>

### **Uniform Changes in America**

Upon arrival, Mathew, now a Brigadier General, ordered a series of truly radical alterations in the uniform of the Brigade.<sup>79</sup> All of these were accomplished before the men disembarked for the invasion of Long Island on 22 August. While no explanation of Mathew's reasoning remains, most of the changes he instituted are consistent with Loudoun's North American service during the Seven Years' War.<sup>80</sup> The foliage in the colonies was easily seen as a factor which could restrict the mobility of a soldier wearing a uniform with elements that could be snagged by brush or tree branches.

The first adaptation forced the battalion companies to join the flank companies in a loss of traditional head wear. On 14 August they were ordered to "cut their Hats round immediately & sew the Lace on again, one flap to stand up & the other two to be down."<sup>81</sup> The soldiers were evidently unable to remove the lace in adequate condition for re-use, since the order was amended two days later: "The Hats to be Cut round but not Laced again, if Black Ferrett can be procured the Hats to be bound with it."<sup>82</sup> A portrait of Captain Thomas Dowdeswell, First Guards, shows the charming, though unusual, result of this order.<sup>83</sup> (FIG 9)

Mathew also initiated alterations of the uniform coats. On 17 August he ordered them to be stripped of their elaborate taping: "The Lace may be taken off the Officers & Private Mens Coats when it can be conveniently done."<sup>84</sup> While this adaptation reflects Loudoun's previous experience, it also reduced the differentiation among the three regiments of Guards within the Brigade. The next day, the First Battalion was ordered to "keep the Lace on their Shoulder Straps," evidently as a battalion distinction.<sup>85</sup> On 18 August, Mathew indicated that "The Coats to be Cut after a pattern to be seen on Board the *Royal George* till 4 o'Clock this Evening."<sup>86</sup> While the change could not have been too complicated if the pattern was only available for a day, no information remains as to what it was. The most logical assumption is that, consistent with Loudoun's experience, the coats were shortened to light infantry length. The pattern was probably needed to demonstrate how the front corner was to be turned back. The final step in altering the coats was to make "The Epaulets & Shoulder Straps" "plain blue According to a pattern to be seen," further reducing the differentiation between privates and the commissioned and non-commissioned officers.<sup>87</sup>

One of Mathew's changes was a particularly surprising innovation. On 17 August he ordered that the bayonets "be carried fixed to the Pouches according to a pattern to be seen on board the *Aeolus*. The Waistbelts to be Stowed in some dry

manner till further Orders.”<sup>88</sup> The wording in all versions of the order specifies that the bayonets were to be affixed to the pouches, not the carriages in the fashion sometimes used by the French. Glyn’s version reads “fixed to the Mens Pouches,” implying that the officers retained theirs in the original location.<sup>89</sup> On 20 August, a concern for conserving any left-over leather is reflected in this instruction: “Whatever the Compys. have Cut off their Waistbelts is to be Carefully Preserv’d.”<sup>90</sup>

### Orders Governing Disembarkation

Although they were not changes in the uniform of the Brigade, a series of orders specified the accoutrements and supplies it was to carry at its disembarkation. Canteens, haversacks, trousers, and blankets were to be ready for immediate delivery, beginning 14 August.<sup>91</sup> Five hundred new flints “of a better sort” (about five per man) were provided to each company.<sup>92</sup> Each soldier was to carry sixty rounds of ammunition.<sup>93</sup> Whatever could not “be put into the Cartridge Boxes, to be carried tied in small parcels, Bladders, Canvass, or other small bags with which the Compys. must provide themselves forthwith.”<sup>94</sup> Resistance from the rebels was expected when the army landed on Long Island. As a result, the soldiers were limited in what they could carry. General Howe ordered that “When the Troops land they are to carry nothing with them but their Arms, Ammunition, Blankets, & three days provisions. The Commandg. Officers of Compys. will take particular care that the Canteens are properly fill’d with Rum & Water...”<sup>95</sup> The previous day, Mathew had specified that the proper proportion was two gills of rum to each canteen.<sup>96</sup> He had also ordered every man in the Brigade to disembark with “a Blanket, in which he is to carry three days provisions, one Shirt, one pair of Socks, & one pair of Shoes.”<sup>97</sup> Since Howe’s order superceded this, the socks, shirts, and shoes were probably left behind. Glyn implies that the Guards carried their provisions in haversacks, since his version of the order mentions disembarking with “a Blanket & Havresack.”<sup>98</sup> The Brigade landed on Long Island with the rest of the Army on 22 August. On the morning of the 23rd, it brought the camp equipage and knapsacks ashore to begin its years of foreign service in North America.<sup>99</sup>

### Conclusion

The picture presented by the Brigade of Guards on Long Island in 1776 was a startling contrast from its London parade ground appearance. Trousers and spatterdashes had replaced breeches and long gaiters. The traditional cocked hats and bearskin caps had been superceded by small round hats and hat caps. Finally, the coats of both men and officers were plain and efficient, having lost their regular length and splendid regimental lacing. The Brigade was fully prepared for field service rather than for the public duties in England.

### Notes

1. “Miscellany Book: Clothing Correspondence,” 9 April 1768, 27 November 1770, 15 November 1773, 11 July 1774, Great Britain, Public Record Office, War Office, Class 30, vol. 13A, pp. 24, 26, 28, 31; quoted

- in Hew Strachan, *British Military Uniforms, 1768-1796* (London: Arms and Armour Press, 1975), pp. 132–135 (henceforth cited as Strachan).
2. The original drawings are evidently lost. Our thanks to Lt. Col. Uwe Peter Boehm, German Army, Retired, for going to Darmstadt to search for them. Cecil C. P. Lawson’s sketches are in Notebook Number 6503-45-8, National Army Museum, London (henceforth cited as Lawson drawings). Lawson published some of these in black and white in his *A History of the Uniforms of the British Army* (New York: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1974), vol. III, pp. 50–56 (henceforth cited as Lawson). Another Darmstadt figure of a Third Guards grenadier appears in F. Maurice, *The History of the Scots Guards* (London: Chatto & Windus, 1934), vol. II, p. 272A (henceforth cited as Maurice).
  3. The authors examined two of these coats. One of them is depicted in MUIA plate 517, *MC&H*, vol. XXXIII, no. 4 (Winter 1981), p. 163. Photographs appear in the following: Philip R. N. Katcher, *Encyclopedia of British, Provincial, and German Army Units, 1775–1783* (Harrisburg, Penn.: Stackpole Books, 1973), pp. 27, 140; Gregory Urwin, “Cornwallis in Virginia: A Reappraisal,” *MC&H*, vol. XXXVII, no. 3 (Fall 1985), p. 123; R. J. Wilkinson-Latham, *Collecting Militaria* (New York: Arco Publishing, 1975), plate 33. Unless otherwise noted, details in the description of the Guards uniform in England are from the Guards Warrants, the Darmstadt figures, or the existing coats.
  4. Atalanta Clifford, *Charlotte Walpole: The True Pimpernel* (London: The Barclay Press, n.d.), cover, p. 3. The original oil painting is in the Guards Museum (London).
  5. The Warrants call for scarlet coats and Percy Sumner in “Uniforms of the Foot Guards, 1768-74,” *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, vol. XXII, (1943/1944), p. 56 refers to the coats in the National Army Museum as a “poor tint of scarlet” (henceforth cited as Sumner).
  6. A photograph of a Coldstream Guards buckle appears in William L. Calver and Reginald P. Bolton, *History Written with Pick and Shovel* (New York: The New-York Historical Society, 1950), p. 163 (henceforth cited as Calver). The others are illustrated in the Darmstadt figures. The design of the Third Guards buckle was recently confirmed in an archeological find by Company Fellow Don Troiani. The artifact is the same shape as the Coldstream buckle, but open in the center. “G<sup>ps</sup>” is engraved on the top arm and “3” on the lower arm.
  7. Calver, p. 167.
  8. Orders of the First Regiment of Foot Guards, London, 29 January 1776, manuscript in Regimental Headquarters, Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, London, reprinted courtesy of the Lt. Colonel commanding (henceforth cited as Regimental Orders, First Guards). The Coldstream Guards lost black stocks in a fire at the Savoy Barracks in March 1776 according to a Treasury Warrant, 14 May 1776, Great Britain, Public Record Office, Treasury Papers, Class 52, vol. 64, p. 317 (henceforth cited as PRO T).
  9. Strachan on p. 134 transcribed the Warrant to have turn backs pointed at one end. Lawson on p. 53 and Sumner on p. 54 correctly transcribe it as pointed on both ends. Corporal Cartouche wears a turn back with two points.
  10. First Guards cap plates had black backgrounds. Those of the Coldstream Guards were red, and those of the Third Guards were white. Lawson, p. 54.
  11. Long Land Pattern Muskets were ordered for all three regiments of Guards for use in both England and America from 1776 through 1781. Charles Jenkinson, Secretary at War, to Viscount Weymouth, Secretary of State for the Southern Department, 16 March, 23 April, 18 November 1779, Great Britain, Public Record Office, War Office, Class 4, vol. 105, p. 330, vol. 106, p. 22, vol. 108, p. 202 (henceforth cited as PRO WO); Jenkinson to the Earl of Hillsborough, Secretary of State for the Southern Department, 22, 24 January, 2 February 1781, PRO WO 4/112, pp. 277, 293, 332.
  12. Orders of the Brigade of Foot Guards, London, 13, 17, 18 February 1776, Order Books of the First, Coldstream, and Third Guards, manuscripts in Regimental Headquarters, Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, and Scots Guards, Wellington Barracks, London, reprinted courtesy of the Lt. Colonels Commanding the Regiments (henceforth cited as Brigade Orders). Viscount Barrington, Secretary at War, to Richard Rigby,



- Paymaster General of the Forces, 11 March 1776, PRO WO 4/96, p. 277.
13. Brigade Orders, 15 February 1776. Mathew is referred to as Captain and Lieutenant Colonel because Guards officers above the rank of ensign enjoyed the privilege of double-rank, which had been bestowed by King James II. A lieutenant in the Guards held the rank of captain in the Army; Guards captains held the rank of Army lieutenant colonel. They were most frequently referred to by the higher rank. Maurice, vol. I, pp. 57–58, 82–84.
  14. Barrington to Weymouth, 29 January 1776, PRO WO 4/95, p. 486.
  15. Brigade Order, 7 March 1776. "Return of the Number of Effective Private Men belonging to the Detachmt. from the Brigade of Guards ... 25 March 1776," *Orders, Returns, Morning Reports, and Accounts of British Troops 1776–1781*, National Archives Microfilm Publication 922 (henceforth cited as National Archives Microfilm 922).
  16. Brigade Orders, 5, 12, 17 March 1776. Orders of the Detachment for American Service 15, 28 March 1776, "Sir William Howe Orderly Book, January 27, 1776–May 1, 1778," Orderly Book Collection, William L. Clements Library, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (henceforth cited as Detachment Orders). It was kept by the First Battalion, Brigade of Guards on American Service. *The Middlesex Journal and Evening Advertiser* (London), Tuesday, March 12 to Thursday, March 14, 1776 (henceforth cited as *Middlesex Journal*); microfilm collection of Company Fellow Donald M. Londahl-Smith, typescripts by CMH Member Todd W. Braisted. Moulsey Hurst is across the Thames River from Hampton Court Palace.
  17. During the Seven Years' War, Loudoun was Commander in Chief in North America and had experience with non-standard uniforms in some regiments. The Royal Americans (62nd and later 60th Foot), of which he was Colonel in Chief, had no lace on their coats. Gage's Light Infantry (80th Foot) wore "jackets" with no lace. The lace is discussed in a letter from Robert Napier, Adj.-General, to an unknown recipient, 6 November 1758; quoted in S. M. Milne and Astley Terry, *The Annals of the King's Rifle Corps: Appendix Dealing with Uniform, Armament and Equipment* (London: Smith, Elder & Co., 1913), p. 1. Jackets are mentioned in *A List of His Majesty's Forces in North America ... 1761* (New York: Hugh Gaine, 1761); quoted in René Chartrand, "Uniforms of the British Army in North America, 1761," *MC&H*, vol. XXIV, no. 2, (Summer 1972), p. 58.
  18. "Estimate of the Extra expence of the Necessary Equipment of the Detachment from the Brigd. of Foot Guards Intended for Foreign Service," 28 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6514, The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA (henceforth cited as Loudoun Papers, Huntington).
  19. Loudoun to Mathew, 29 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6518, Huntington.
  20. Brigade Orders, 12 March 1776; Detachment Orders, 17 March 1776.
  21. *Middlesex Journal*, Saturday, March 16 to Tuesday, March 19, 1776.
  22. Loudoun to Barrington, 28 February 1776, PRO WO 1/992; Brigade Orders, London, 12 March 1776.
  23. Detachment Orders, 20, 24 March 1776. It is interesting to note that both orders refer to the officers having "Regimental Swords," indicating that they were to carry the approved regimental design rather than their personal weapons.
  24. Memorandum, Mathew to Loudoun, 16 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6510, Huntington. This idea was not carried out. The "second Clothing" was the 1774 issue.
  25. *Ibid.*; "Extra Accoutrements and Appointments humbly proposed for the Light Infantry of the Detachment from the Three Regiments of Foot Guards," no date, Earl of Loudoun Papers, Additional Manuscripts, no. 44084, f. 228, The British Library, London (henceforth cited as Loudoun Papers, British Library).
  26. Loudoun to Barrington, 24 February 1776, PRO WO 1/992.
  27. Memorandum, Mathew to Loudoun, 16 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6510, Huntington.
  28. Barrington to Loudoun, 29 February 1776, PRO WO 4/96, p. 205.
  29. Loudoun to Mathew, 29 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6518, Huntington.
  30. Brigade Orders, 3 March, 1776. The men did not alter the cocked hats they were wearing. Instead, the new 1776 clothing included "Hatt Caps" instead of hats. These were probably delivered in March (see notes 38 and 39).
  31. Brigade Orders, 12 March 1776. This did not apply to the new 1776 clothing issue, but only to the 1775 clothing which they were wearing.
  32. Thomas Simes, *A Military Course for the Government and Conduct of a Battalion* (London, 1777); quoted in Strachan, p. 190.
  33. Barrington to John Boddington, Secretary to the Board of Ordnance, 26 February 1776, PRO WO 4/96, p. 177; Loudoun to Barrington, 28 February 1776, PRO WO 1/992.
  34. Since the remainder of the Guards in America and England were issued Long Land Pattern Muskets through 1781, these must be Short Land Pattern Firelocks since they were not fusils (see note 11).
  35. On 26 February, Barrington wrote to Boddington ordering him to supply "Light Firelocks with Steel Ramrods with Bayonets and scabbards" for the Guards light infantry (PRO WO 4/96, p. 177). Two days later, on 28 February, Loudoun requested Barrington to provide "Light Infantry Muskets, Bayonets, with Scabbards & Cartouch Boxes" (PRO WO 1/992). The muskets, bayonets, and scabbards had already been ordered. There is no evidence that any special cartridge pouches were ever provided. The light infantry probably got new battalion company style pouches which had been ordered for the augmentation (see notes 70, 71).
  36. Detachment Orders, 23 March 1776.
  37. Brigade Orders, 2 March 1776.
  38. Brigade Orders, 11 March 1776. The new 1776 clothing would ordinarily have been issued in London in June. With the exception of the hat caps, it was not issued to the men who went to America until late December.
  39. *Middlesex Journal*, Saturday, March 23 to Tuesday, March 26, 1776.
  40. John Andre, "Attack of an advanced Corps of the Rebels, the 6th Dec., 1777," map, 1777, as reproduced in John Andre, *Andre's Journal: An Authentic Record of the Movements and Engagements of the British Army ...*, ed. Henry Cabot Lodge (Boston: Bibliophile Society, 1903), vol. I, inserted at pp. 126–127. (Although the text has been reprinted, the maps appear only in this edition.)
  41. Philip J. de Louthembourg sketched a very similar cap worn by the Glamorganshire Militia Light Infantry at Warley Camp in 1778. Philip J. de Louthembourg, "Sketches of Infantry," 1778, as reproduced in W. Y. Carman, *British Military Uniforms From Contemporary Pictures* (New York: Arco Publishing, 1957), plate 44. If the flank companies received their new 1776 issue hat caps in England, they did not receive new caps until the 1777 clothing was delivered to the men in April of 1778.
  42. *Middlesex Journal*, Saturday, March 23 to Tuesday, March 26, 1776.
  43. Brigade Orders, 13 March 1776. The prices that appear to be fractions of a pence, such as 1/2 d, are not. The first number represents shillings, and the second represents pence. The only exception to this is the socks, which are priced at 7¼ pence per pair.
  44. *Ibid.*
  45. "Return of the Extraordinary Necessaries furnish'd for the Coldstream Regt. of Foot Guards," 24 March 1776, in National Archives Microfilm 922.
  46. "Report of the review of Necessaries of the Detachment from the Brigade of Guards Commanded by Colo Mathew," 21 or 27 March 1776, National Archives Microfilm 922.
  47. Detachment Orders, 26, 28 March 1776.
  48. Regimental Orders, First Guards, 23 March 1776. In addition, Craig directed that in future when the men's linen was marked, "a date be put on each shirt."
  49. Memorandum, Mathew to Loudoun, 28 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6515, Huntington.
  50. Detachment Orders, 28 April 1776; the *Middlesex Journal*, Saturday, March 16 to Tuesday, March 19, 1776 reported that the soldiers in the detachment had been provided with "trowsers. . . to wear during the voyage..."
  51. Detachment Orders, First Battalion, 3 July 1777.
  52. Barrington to Loudoun, 7 February 1776, PRO WO 4/96, p. 45.
  53. Memorandum, Mathew to Loudoun, 28 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6515, Huntington; Brigade Orders, 13 March 1776.
  54. A series of engravings by T. Kirk after E. Dayes in 1792 shows each

- regiment of Guards with a knapsack of that style painted with a regimental device. One of the engravings is reproduced in Strachan, plate 34, and another in Carman, plate 45. A similar Coldstream Guards pack from about 1790 was in the collection of the Zeughaus Museum in Berlin. A photograph of it appears in William L. Brown III and Walter H. Bradford, "A Revolutionary War British Cartridge Box," *MC&H*, vol. XXXVIII, no. 1 (Spring 1986), p. 37.
55. *The London Chronicle*, 27 October 1790; quoted in "Note 1237. Foot Guards Knapsacks 1790," *JSAHR*, vol. LXVI, no. 266 (Summer 1988), p. 126.
  56. Regimental Orders, First Guards, 7 March 1776; a similar order was issued by the Coldstream Guards on 8 March.
  57. Barrington to Loudoun, 7 February 1776, PRO WO 4/96, p. 45.
  58. Barrington to Loudoun, 29 February 1776, PRO WO 4/96, p. 205. Loudoun to Mathew, 29 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6518, Huntington, specifies that the items referred to were "wooden Tubs" rather than "Tin Water Flasks."
  59. "Extra Camp Necessaries humbly proposed for the Light Infantry of the Detachment from the Three Regiments of Foot Guards," no date, Loudoun Papers, f. 226, British Library. Loudoun to Barrington, 24 February 1776, PRO WO 1/992, included a specific request for "A Tub and Strap, instead of the Canteen" for the Light Infantry Company.
  60. Treasury Warrant for "Camp Necessaries for a detachment of ye Guards," 30 April 1776, PRO T 52/64, p. 301.
  61. Loudoun to Barrington, 24 February 1776, PRO WO 1/992; "[ ] (illegible) Mr. Trotter," no date, Loudoun Papers, f. 236, British Library.
  62. Mathew Lewis, Deputy Secretary at War, to John Robinson, 7 February 1776, PRO WO 4/96, p. 39; "[ ] (illegible) Mr. Trotter," no date, Loudoun Papers, f. 236, British Library; Brigade Orders, 26 February 1776.
  63. Memorandum, Mathew to Loudoun, 28 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6515, Huntington.
  64. Memorandum, Mathew to Loudoun, 16 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6510, Huntington.
  65. Memorandum, Mathew to Loudoun, 28 February 1776, Loudoun Papers, LO 6515, Huntington.
  66. Brigade Orders, 13 March 1776, from the Orderly Book of the Scots Guards.
  67. "Return of the Extraordinary Necessaries furnish'd for the Coldstream Regt. of Foot Guards," 24 March 1776, National Archives Microfilm 922.
  68. *Middlesex Journal*, Saturday, March 16 to Tuesday, March 19, 1776.
  69. Alexander Graydon, *Memoirs of His Own Time* (Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1846; repr., New York: New York Times & Arno Press, 1969), p. 214. The caps may have been knit or woven. A Coldstream Guards pioneer appears to be wearing one made out of uniform coat cloth in William Hogarth, "The March to Finchley," Oil Painting, 1746, as reproduced in David Bindman, *Hogarth* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1981), p. 159.
  70. Brigade Orders, 6 March 1776. The light infantrymen received a special order of Short Land Pattern Muskets (see notes 33 and 34).
  71. Barrington to Weymouth, 29 January 1776, PRO WO 4/95, p. 486. Barrington requested "Firelocks," "Cartouche boxes with Straps," and "Bayonets with Scabbards" for the augmentation. Loudoun's order of 6 March was for the men to receive "the new arms ordered for the augmentation." If by "arms" he meant the entire stand of musket, bayonet, scabbard, and cartridge pouch, then the old pouches stayed behind for the augmentation.
  72. The *Middlesex Journal*, Saturday, March 16 to Tuesday, March 19, 1776 reported that during the review for the King on 19 March, each man of the detachment expended 32 rounds of powder. Detachment Orders, 3 April 1776 indicated Mathew's desire to "Fire at a Mark with Ball."
  73. Loudoun to Barrington, 26 March 1776, PRO WO 1/992. Lewis to Mathew, 6 April 1776, PRO WO 4/96, p. 467 refers to a letter from Mathew to Lewis written 3 April.
  74. Lewis to Mathew, 6 April 1776, PRO WO 4/96, p. 467.
  75. Detachment Orders, 28 April 1776.
  76. Detachment Orders, 25 April 1776. Additional camp equipage not referred to in the article included 22 bell tents at 2 pounds 12 shillings each, 13 "Silk Camp Colours poles & Tickg. Cases" at 1 pound 8 shillings each, 20 drum cases at 10 shillings each, 224 "Tin Kettles with Slewpan Covers & Bags" (the bags were canvas) at 5 shillings each, 448 hand hatchets (2 per cent) at 2 shillings each, 10 powder bags at 7 shillings each, and 1120 blankets. Barrington to Loudoun, 7 Feb. 1776, PRO WO 4/96, p. 45; Treasury Warrant for "Blankets sent to America," 1 May 1776, PRO T 52/64, p. 304; Treasury Warrant for "Camp Necessaries for a detachment of ye Guards," 30 April 1776, PRO T 52/64, p. 301. The detailed information about the camp colour cases, etc. appears in the Treasury Warrant.
  77. Thomas Glyn, "Ensign Glyn's Journal on the American Service with the Detachment of 1,000 Men of the Guards commanded by Brigadier General Mathew in 1776," Manuscript Department, Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ (henceforth cited as Glyn).
  78. Detachment Orders, 16 August, 1776. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Infantry Companies were composed of men and officers from First Guards. The 4th or Brigade Company had men from all three regiments, but officers from First Guards. Companies 5 and 6 were composed of men and officers from Third Guards, while Companies 7 and 8 had men and officers from Coldstream Guards. The Light Infantry and Grenadier Companies were composite, made up of men and officers from all three regiments.
  79. A letter from Barrington to Mathew on 11 March 1776 confirmed his rank as Brigadier General dating from the 14th of February. The new rank was not generally used, however, until it was announced in orders in America on 18 August.
  80. See note 17.
  81. Brigade Orders, 14 August 1776. Beginning 14 August orders issued by Mathew to the detachment are titled "Brigade Orders" in the Orderly Book. Those issued by one of the Battalions are called "Regimental Orders." Footnotes will henceforth be consistent with that practice.
  82. Brigade Orders, 16 August 1776. According to Florence M. Montgomery, *Textiles in America, 1650-1870* (New York: W. W. Norton, n.d.), p. 237, ferret was "a tape, ribbon or binding." Montgomery cites eighteenth-century sources referring to "round" and "flat ferret Laces," which could be cotton or silk.
  83. Joseph Blackburn, *Colonel Thomas Dowdeswell*, oil on canvas, signed and dated 1776 on reverse. A color reproduction hangs in the Guards Museum, London, and another appears in Ian Bennet, *A History of American Painting* (London: Hamlyn, 1973), plate 13. Dowdeswell retired from the Guards as a Lieutenant and Captain, but was a Lieutenant Colonel in the militia.
  - Although the portrait is dated 1776, the authors believe it was painted after Dowdeswell's return to England in 1777. The artist is not believed to have been in America in 1776. Since the cocked hats were not converted until August, the portrait could not have been done in early 1776 before the Brigade's departure. The coat is piped in gold and is, therefore, not the private's coat worn by officers in 1776. Many have speculated that Dowdeswell was in the Light Infantry Company. In fact, his entire American service was in the First Company.
  84. Brigade Orders, 17 August 1776.
  85. Regimental Orders (First Battalion), 18 August 1776.
  86. Brigade Morning Orders, 18 August 1776.
  87. Brigade Morning Orders 18 August, 1776.
  88. Brigade Morning Orders, 17 August 1776. The waistbelts were returned to service on 11 March 1777, when they were worn across the shoulder and once again used to hold the bayonets.
  89. Glyn, 17 August 1776.
  90. Brigade Orders, 20 August 1776.
  91. Brigade Orders, 14 August 1776.
  92. Brigade Orders, 17 August 1776.
  93. Brigade Morning Orders, 18 August 1776.
  94. Brigade Morning Orders, 17 August 1776.
  95. General (Army) Orders, 20 August 1776.
  96. Brigade Orders, 19 August 1776. A gill is ½ cup.
  97. Brigade Orders, 19 August 1776.
  98. Glyn, 19 August 1776. The knapsacks were left aboard ship with a careful man to guard them, Brigade Orders 19 August 1776.
  99. Brigade Orders, 22, 23 August 1776.

# “The Great Neglect in Provideing Cloathing...”

## Uniform Colors and Clothing in the New Jersey Brigade During the Monmouth Campaign of 1778: Part II

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*John U. Rees*

### “The Regiments Have No Uniforms or Distinguishing Colours:” Uniform Coats and the New Jersey Brigade During 1778

The men of Maxwell’s Brigade began the year 1778 in a ragged and ill-clad condition. As Captain William Gifford of the 3rd Regiment wrote on 12 January from “Camp at Valley Forge:”

We have a large Army in every respect fit ... for Action, Tho’ some are very bare for Clothes, I wish with all my heart our State wou’d make better Provision for our Brigade, respecting Clothing & other necessaries than they do, if they had any Idea of the hardships we have & do undergo, they Certainly wou’d do more ... than they do. I assure you Sir we have had a very severe Campaign of it, since we came in this State.<sup>24</sup>

The clothing worn during 1778 presents an interesting change in fortunes for the four regiments of the brigade. In the beginning of the year the men’s clothing was, on the whole, worn out and the prospect of obtaining replacements for the old items somewhat dismal. Contrasted with this situation was the state of the clothing at the end of December 1778 when all four regiments were clad in coats, waistcoats and breeches imported from France, one of the few periods during which the soldiers of the New Jersey Brigade were (except for hats) uniformly attired. During the spring, summer and fall of the year, no information has been found which would indicate that any large numbers of regimental coats were worn by the New Jersey soldiers, while there is much evidence that only light clothing was issued and worn (probably including hunting shirts) until early December when the imported French clothing reached the brigade.

One of the earliest mentions during 1778 of any wearing apparel being received for the use of the soldiers, and the only one in which any coats are mentioned until December, is a listing dated 28 February which contains clothing and cloth received by the 2nd New Jersey Regiment. Among the items contained in the document are thirty-one coats and various quantities of material including twenty-six and one quarter yards of brown narrow cloth and twenty-seven and one half yards of brown light coating, all of which could have been made into wool coats.<sup>25</sup> Another source of clothing for the enlisted men of the brigade was mentioned in a newspaper article dated 17 March 1778:

The following donations were lately received at the hospital in Princeton, viz.; From the Rev. Mr. Hardenburg’s congregation at Raritan, 180 pairs stockings, 62 good shirts, 43 [shirts] in part worn, 20 pair linen trousers, 5 [pair of linen] breeches, 2 [linen] jackets, 11 shirts, 50 wollen jackets, 25 pair of [wool] breeches, 17 coats, 4 blankets, 5 pair of shoes

... And from the Reverend Mr. Chapman’s congregation in Newark Mountains, 10 blankets, 19 sheets, 45 shirts, 9 coats, 40 vests, 27 pair breeches, 105 pair of stockings, 2 pair of shoes, 3 surtouts, 3 watchcoats, 15 pair of trousers ... [in addition to a variety of cloth and bedclothes.]

The donors of the above, and those who before contributed, and [those] who may contribute in the same way, are hereby informed, that a proper assortment of all kinds of clothing will be kept in the hospital [for the] sick and wounded soldiers in general of the Continental army, who shall be sent to the hospital, and the residue will be distributed to them who are fit for service, paying a particular attention to the regiments of this state [New Jersey], whether in hospital or camp.<sup>26</sup>

As noted, donations of civilian clothing had been made before and it is not unreasonable to assume that more were made later. It is also fair to assume that at least a small proportion of this clothing eventually made its way to the soldiers of the New Jersey brigade.

In January Colonel Israel Shreve and Lieutenant Colonel David Brearley (of the 4th Regiment) left the brigade at Valley Forge and embarked on a special errand. On 19 January Shreve wrote his wife that “tomorrow morning I shall set out for Jersey once more on a Command for Cloathing for our Brigade ...” The two officers were also to present a memorial to the Legislature of New Jersey concerning “the want of proper Cloathing, [by which many men] are rendered unfit for duty.” The previously mentioned coats and material were probably one of the results of this mission. Other materials were purchased or requisitioned for the New Jersey officers by the two men and these shed some light on a preference in uniform coat colors at the time. In a listing of cloth “taken at Salem [New Jersey] for the use of the four Jersey Regts” a note by Israel Shreve states that “2¼ yds Scarlet Broad cloth” and “3½ yds blue” broad cloth was “kept for My Self and Lt. Shreves”, his son. This material was most probably used for making a blue and red regimental coat, perhaps the same one documented by the colonel when he noted the disbursement of monies late in January for “Makeing a uneform Coat.”<sup>27</sup>

Another document is even more comprehensive in listing the “Clothing purchased by Colo. I Shreve and D. Brialy [Brearily] for the New Jersey Brigade.” Among the assorted wools and linens of various colors and quality are twenty-five and three quarter yards of blue nap [possibly of coat material quality], two and one quarter yards of blue serge, twelve yards of blue broadcloth, and two and one quarter yards of blue coating. In addition there is listed one and one quarter yards of scarlet serge, four and one quarter yards of scarlet broadcloth, four and five eighths yards of scarlet coating and fourteen and one quarter yards of red nap. Various other shades of red