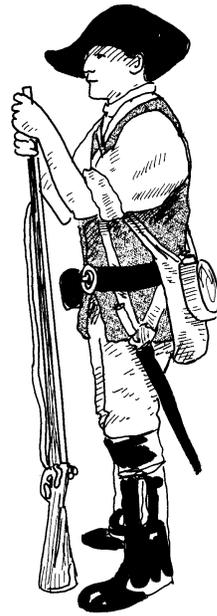




Why  
not  
join  
us?



Revolutionary War reenacting is a fun, exciting, and educational hobby in which the entire family may participate. If you and your family are interested in joining an Nwta unit, talk to some people around camp. They will be more than happy to answer questions. Check out our website, [www.nwta.com](http://www.nwta.com), for more information about our organization, our units, and our event schedule and locations. Then contact the Recruiting Officer via [nwta.com/join-form/](http://nwta.com/join-form/) to find out more about joining our organization.

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# A Field Guide to the Nwta



## The North West Territory Alliance

### Recreating the American Revolution

## 1775-1783

# Welcome to The NWTA

The North West Territory Alliance is a non-profit educational organization that studies and recreates the culture and arts of the time of the American Revolution, 1775-1783. We strive to duplicate the uniforms, weapons, battlefield tactics, camp life and civilian life of the time as accurately as possible.

The organization is named after the Northwest Territory the area north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi rivers. The area held untold riches of furs, precious metals, and lead deposits, and was coveted by the French, British, Spanish, and Native American populations. After the French and Indian War, the British found that this vast wilderness was difficult and expensive to govern and protect. The British government raised taxes partly to help pay for defending this frontier (taxation without representation) and in 1774 passed the Quebec Act which returned much of the Northwest Territory to Canada. The colonists wanted to expand their holdings westward and take advantage of the area's riches. The Quebec Act is mentioned as one of the "intolerable acts" in the Declaration of Independence so control over the Midwest was one of the root causes of the American Revolution.

The NWTA is organized into military units, each representing an actual regiment at a specific time during the American Revolution. Uniforms and accoutrements are scrupulously researched, documented and reproduced. Among you will find soldiers and sailors, Patriots, Rebels, Tories, Loyalists, frontiersmen, townsfolk, farmers, craftsmen, and merchants from America, England, Germany and France and their colonies.

The NWTA hosts events all over the Midwest, featuring accurate military camps, military drills and parades, battle recreations, fashion shows and more. By re-creating 18th century camp life and battle scenarios, the NWTA hopes to entertain as well as educate you on one of the most fascinating and crucial times in our history.

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18th century warfare is thought by many to be a sluggish, slow-moving affair where armies moved in great masses and prevailed over each other with enormous casualties. In fact, the maneuvers and drills used by 18th century armies were designed to operate at maximum speed of horses and men on the battlefield. Maintaining orderly formations was important to allow the most effective use of the main infantry weapons the musket, bayonet and cannon for maximum effect. The field commanders relied on the same tactics of maneuver, surprise and concentration of force that modern students at West Point would recognize. Volley fire, fire by platoon, voluntary fire, bayonet assaults and cannon fire were all basic "tactical tools" used between opposing forces to inflict casualties and panic upon the enemy.

The NWTA, through research in original documents and actual training with the weapons and equipment of the period, attempts to provide an accurate representation of the drill, formations and tactics of the American War for Independence.

## Answers to Common Questions

*Q: Do you sleep in those tents?* Yes, many of us do spend the night in those tents. They are outfitted like those of the 18th century straw on the floor and around the edges provides padding and keeps the floor dry. The canvas shrinks and tightens up when it gets wet, so the tents are waterproof in all but the most torrential downpour. In the 18th century, five or six men would share a tent (rotating sleep and duties) and sleep cross-ways to the opening.

*Q: Are those real guns, knives, and bayonets?* Yes, our weapons are all authentic, working reproductions. Many of us own genuine, antique items, but they are usually too fragile and valuable to bring out to events.

*Q: Didn't the Revolution mostly happen out east?* Surprisingly, there was quite a bit of military activity here in the Midwest. The "battles" were mostly heated skirmishes between local militia, traders, and Indians, but several major military expeditions passed through parts of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

*Q: Aren't you hot in those clothes?* If you are warm and uncomfortable then yes, we probably are too. But our clothes are made of natural fibers that absorb and wick moisture away from our bodies, keeping us cooler. Most uniforms are made of wool, which is an excellent insulator and reflects body heat in during cool weather, but it also reflects the sun away from our bodies.

# Chronology of Events

Most often, the regiments in line of battle would deliver fire *by platoon*. In this method, the regiment would fire its muskets two companies at a time until all companies in the regiment had fired. This way, while some companies were firing, others were re-loading and at least some of them would always have loaded muskets.

After a few rounds of platoon fire, the volleys would break down due to miss-fires or other interruptions. The soldiers in a well-disciplined or veteran unit would continue to fire individually as fast as they could reload. This irregular but continuing fire was known as *voluntary fire*.

The Bayonet assault was the final tactical option available to the commander of a well-trained infantry unit. In this kind of assault a regiment would most often initiate its movement with the command "Charge bayonets!" This was often done on the march at a slow measured cadence approximating one step per second. The advance was then speeded up by the command "March-march!" which doubled the pace. Finally, the shouted command "Charge!" would bring the regiment to a full run. All these movements were conducted in unison by a well-drilled regiment without disturbing the lines of the battle.

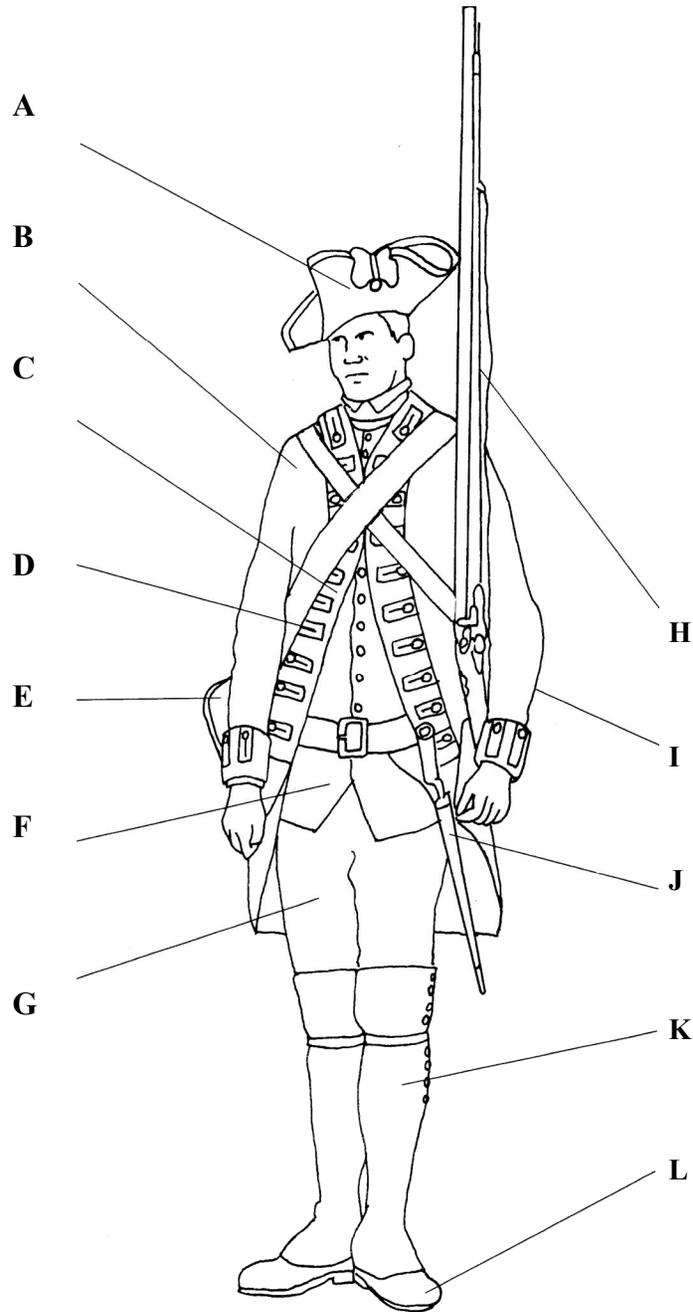
The ability of the defending unit to withstand such an attack depended likewise upon its discipline and resulting ability to maintain a regular pattern of volume fire while maintaining formation. This was necessary to provide psychological as well as physical support in resisting damage from the enemy. Most often on open ground, one side or the other would break before actual contact was made. When cover or fortifications were available, hand to hand combat could continue for many minutes.

The ultimate weapon against infantry on the battlefield was the cannon. Round shot was fairly easy to withstand and could often be actually seen in flight and avoided. Grape shot or canister delivered clouds of smaller projectiles and could take out dozens of men with a single shot. Both armies tried to distribute cannon among the regiments for greatest tactical advantage and used them against large numbers of men in a similar fashion to machine gun fire in later wars. The use of cannon is recorded as breaking up charging regiments or defending lines of battle on a number of occasions. A single round of grapeshot was often enough to induce panic in the receiving unit.

In spite of the incredible killing power of a discharge of grape or canister and the high volume of musket fire, casualty rates were not nearly as high as those suffered in the American Civil War. 18th century tactics appear to have been designed for maximum psychological impact on opposing forces. Small unit fighting and drawn out fire-fights were actually discouraged in favor of rapid movement and violent action to provoke and then exploit confusion and disorganization in opposing units.

Regular type = Continental victory. <b>Bold type</b> = <b>Crown victory</b> . <i>Italic type</i> = <i>political event or non-decisive battle</i>	June 28	<i>Battle of Monmouth</i>
	July 4	G. R. Clark captures Kaskaskia
	Aug. 29	<b>Battle of Rhode Island</b>
	Dec. 29	<b>British occupy Savannah, Georgia</b>
<b>1775</b>		
April 19	Battles of Lexington & Concord.	
May 10	Allen & Arnold capture Ft. Ticonderoga	
June 17	<b>British take Breeds (Bunker) Hill.</b>	
July 3	<i>George Washington takes command.</i>	
Nov. 13	Montgomery occupies Montreal.	
Dec. 9	Skirmish at Great Bridge, Virginia.	
Dec. 31	<b>Americans lose attack on Quebec.</b>	
<b>1776</b>		
Mar. 17	British evacuate Boston	
June 21	Siege of Charleston, South Carolina	
June 28	Sullivan's Island repels invasion	
July 4	<i>Declaration of Independence</i>	
Aug. 27	<b>Continentalists defeated at Long Island</b>	
Sept. 16	<b>Battle of Harlem Heights, New York</b>	
Oct. 28	<b>Battle of White Plains, New York</b>	
Nov. 16	<b>British capture Fort Mifflin</b>	
Nov. 20	<b>Fort Mifflin abandoned to British</b>	
Dec. 26	Washington's victory at Trenton	
<b>1777</b>		
Jan. 3	Battle of Princeton	
July 5	<b>Continental Army evacuates Ticonderoga</b>	
Aug. 6	Battle of Brandywine, New York	
Aug. 16	Germans defeated at Red Bank	
Sept. 11	<b>Washington's Army routed at Brandywine, Pennsylvania</b>	
Sept. 19	Burgoyne defeated at Red Bank, New York	
Sept. 2	<b>British defeat Continentalists in a surprise night attack near Red Bank</b>	
Sept. 26	<b>General Howe seizes Philadelphia</b>	
Oct. 4	<b>Washington defeated at Germantown</b>	
Oct. 7	Burgoyne's advance stopped at Red Bank	
Oct. 17	Burgoyne surrenders at Red Bank	
Nov. 8	British evacuate Ticonderoga	
Nov. 15	<b>Continentalists evacuate Fort Mifflin</b>	
Dec. 19	<i>Washington encamps at Valley Forge</i>	
<b>1778</b>		
Feb. 6	<i>France joins the war effort, signs treaty of American alliance</i>	
	June 28	<i>Battle of Monmouth</i>
	July 4	G. R. Clark captures Kaskaskia
	Aug. 29	<b>Battle of Rhode Island</b>
	Dec. 29	<b>British occupy Savannah, Georgia</b>
<b>1779</b>		
Feb. 24	G. R. Clark recaptures Vincennes	
May 8	<i>Spain enters the war on the side of America</i>	
July 15	Continentalists take Stony Point,	
Oct. 9	<b>French and Americans stopped at Savannah</b>	
<b>1780</b>		
May 12	<b>Charleston, South Carolina finally taken after long siege</b>	
July 11	<i>French troops arrive in Newport, Rhode Island</i>	
Aug. 16	<b>Americans defeated at Camden, South Carolina</b>	
Sept. 25	<i>Benedict Arnold defects to the British</i>	
Oct. 7	British defeated at Kings Mountain	
<b>1781</b>		
Jan. 1	<i>The Pennsylvania line mutinies</i>	
Jan. 17	Daniel Morgan defeats the British at Cowpens	
Mar. 15	<b>Battle of Guilford Courthouse</b>	
April 25	<b>Greene pushed back at Hobkirk's Hill</b>	
July 29	<b>Loyalist victory at Deep River, North Carolina</b>	
Sept. 5	French fleet takes Chesapeake Bay	
Sept. 8	<b>British hold Eutaw Springs, South Carolina</b>	
Sept. 26	Siege of Yorktown begins	
Oct. 19	Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown	
<b>1782</b>		
June 4	Crawford defeated at Sandusky	
July 11	Savannah evacuated by British	
Aug. 19	<b>Americans defeated at Blue Licks</b>	
Nov. 30	<i>Preliminary peace treaty signed in Paris</i>	
Dec. 14	<i>British evacuate Charleston</i>	
<b>1783</b>		
April 3	Loyalists and militia battle at Tuckertown, New Jersey	
April 19	<i>Congress declares end of hostilities</i>	
Sept. 3	<i>Final peace treaty signed in Paris</i>	
Nov. 25	<i>British evacuate New York</i>	
Dec. 23	<i>George Washington retires from command</i>	

## THE UNIFORM OF THE 18TH CENTURY SOLDIER



## THE TACTICS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Most modern observers of this type of warfare have the initial impression that people once fought this way because (1) they didn't know any better or (2) they had a mutual agreement that is, this fighting style only existed because the opposing armies agreed to its use.

In fact, battlefield commanders of the period knew of rapid movement and positions of tactical advantage similar to modern commanders. The drills and maneuvers of the 18th century were actually devised to allow units to move over a battlefield and respond to officers' commands as quickly as possible while maintaining formations for maximum fire-power.

The units of this war were organized by regiments which were comprised of a number of companies. These units fought on the battlefield in lines called *ranks*. After some early combat experiences, both the Crown forces and Continental forces fought in two ranks with a space of two to four feet between soldiers. This type of loose formation was not used in Europe due to the presence of large numbers of cavalry on European battlefields which would literally ride through the spaces between men. Experience had taught the military that horses would not break into a solid rank of men, but cavalry was a scarce commodity on American battlefields.

In most conventional 18th century battles the first troops to come into contact would be the *light infantry*. These troops, who were typically picked for their physical agility and accurate musket fire, fought in a very spread out *open order*. Both sides used light infantry forces to harass the enemy and slow the formation of their units into ranks or *lines of battle*. The rifle, used mainly by the Americans and some elite German troops, was the ideal weapon for this kind of skirmishing. Light infantry in normal proportions to regular infantry units were capable of causing irritating casualties, but could do little more than slow the movement of massed formations because of their limited rate of fire.

In most cases, regular infantry would open fire at ranges of 100 to 200 yards. Firing would continue from this distance down to ranges recorded as low as 25 or 35 yards with casualties rising as range was reduced. At extreme musket range casualties would be very low. A man who received a wound from an enemy musket at a range of 150 yards was considered extremely unlucky.

Musket fire was delivered from the line of battle in several manners. The most common method to modern readers is *volley fire*, where all muskets would be discharged at once. This method was used only under special circumstances as no officer would completely unload his entire unit's muskets at once, considering the time it took to reload.



out firing to break up French formations. They would take significant casualties for only the last 100 yards and their ability to hold formation under fire and still deliver a massive bayonet attack often broke the will of the French to stand and fight. The British referred to the bayonet as "the Queen of the battle" because of its central role in 18th century warfare.

**THE FLINTLOCK RIFLE** The rifle was similar in construction to the musket except the barrel was manufactured with spiral grooves called *rifling* cut into the bore. These grooves served to spin the bullet as it was driven from the barrel, which stabilized the ball, enabling it to fly straighter, and therefore give the rifleman longer range  $\hat{\circ}$  200 to 300 yards versus the 80 to 100 yards of the musket.

Despite greater accuracy and range, there were disadvantages to the flintlock rifle on the battlefield. A rifle *required* loading the ball in a greased "patch" of cloth or leather to enable it to grip the rifling. This made loading with the faster paper cartridge method impractical. To make matters worse, the rifleman would have to spend at least a minute reloading and was subject to the same miss-firing problems as the musket man. If the rifleman's opponent closed in on him fast enough, the rifleman would only have time for one shot before he was within musket range  $\hat{\circ}$  or worse  $\hat{\circ}$  bayonet range.

Because of the heavier construction of the rifle barrel, mass and speed. This firing was conducted mainly in line of sight with the enemy  $\hat{\circ}$  the diameter became too large to practically mount a bayonet, leaving the rifleman virtually defenseless in a bayonet charge.

**THE CANNON** Where the bayonet was called "Queen" of the battle, the undisputed "King" was the cannon. In the Revolutionary War, cannon fired mainly solid or *round* shot that did damage by the impact of its he aiming conducted by naked eye.

At longer ranges round shot might be fired against troops, a single ball bouncing through ranks of men. At closer ranges, cannon would fire either *grapeshot* or *canister*. Grape shot consisted of a number of small iron spheres contained in a tight fabric bag. Canister consisted of a metal cylinder fastened to a wooden base and filled with small round shot. Either of these projectiles would scatter when fired from a cannon, making a very effective weapon against infantry.

**A: Hat-** Three cornered hats (called *cockedö hats*) were typical with regular infantry, or battalion troops. Small leather caps were more common on skirmishers - rangers and light infantry units. British grenadiers and musicians often wore tall bearskin caps. Other military and civilian hats varied greatly.

**B: COAT-** Often highly decorated, the regimental coat was the 18th century soldier's most distinctive feature. Most British regulars wore the familiar red coats. Artillery units of both sides wore dark blue or black, and green was worn by rangers on both sides. White, brown and various shades of blue were also worn, with blue becoming more common amongst Continental regulars as the war progressed.

**C: FACINGS-** The lapels, cuffs and collars of the regimental coat were usually of a different color than the coat. Color of facings varied between regiments and helped distinguish them from each other.

**D LACE-** The tape decoration around the buttonholes and on the pockets was unique in design and placement to each European regiment.

**E: CARTRIDGE BOX-** Most soldiers carried a tin canister or leather covered wood block on a shoulder strap. The cartridge box held prepared rounds of powder and lead rolled in paper tubes for fast loading and rapid fire. Smaller belly boxes were sometimes worn on the belt.

**F: WAISTCOAT-** The long vest, or *öweskitö*, was worn by all decent men in public, the shirt being considered underwear. Regular troops of all participating nations usually wore white *ösmall clothesö*, which included the waistcoat and some sort of leg wear (see below). Civilian small clothes were a variety of styles and colors.

**G: LEGWEAR-** *öBreechesö* were short, full-cut pants which fastened just below the knee. *öTrousersö* were ankle length pants, and *ögaitered trousersö* covered the shoe tops to keep out stones and debris.

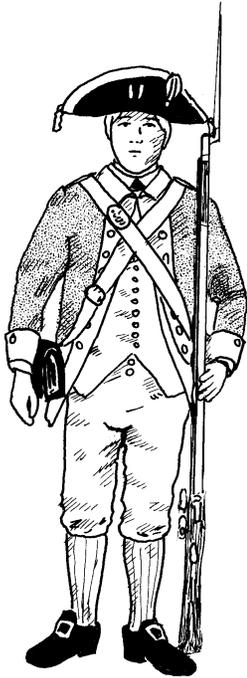
**H: LONGARM-** Smoothbore flintlock muskets, the most common firearms of the day, were notoriously inaccurate, but fast loading and deadly in massed fire. Rifles were NOT common, but were employed for their accuracy at long distances by some light troops and frontiers people.

**I: HAVERSACK-** (Not visible) A linen shoulder bag used to carry food rations.

**J: SIDEARM-** Musket men carried bayonets, riflemen carried tomahawks and knives. Commissioned officers carried swords on either a waist or a shoulder belt.

**K: SPATTERDASHERS-** Ankle-high spatterdashers or tall dark fabric *ögaitersö* with many buttons were common to European troops. Frontiers people might employ gaiters or tall *ölegginsö* made of blanket material or buckskin.

**L: FOOTWEAR-** Buckled shoes were common, though many had ties. Moccasins were not at all unusual, especially with frontier regiments.



## Crown Forces

In the 18th Century the British army was home to some of the best equipped and well-trained troops in the world. At the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775 there were 8,000 British regulars already stationed in North America

The British regimental uniform was almost universally red faced with various colors depending on the regiment. Most wore white small clothes and a black coked hat with side arms and cartridge box on crossed white leather belts. The primary weapon was the smooth-bore musket.

### 1st Battalion Marines, 2nd Company June, 1775

A red regimental coat with white facings and the usual white waistcoats and breeches, with white cross belts, mark the 1st Marines in their shore uniforms. Aboard ship they would wear more typical sailors' clothing called "slops" (see Virginia State Navy).

The primary function of Marines was to maintain shipboard discipline, although in June of 1776 they were aiding in the defense of Boston.



### 4th (King's own) Rgt. of Foot, Grenadier Co'y November, 1775

Tall bearskin miter hats, brass match cases on the cartridge box strap and wings on the shoulders of their coats are typical to grenadier companies, the elite of the British army. Their coats are red faced blue, their small clothes are the usual white wool, and they wear tall black wool gaiters. Their uniform is in nearly perfect condition and in its idealized form, as it was on their arrival to Boston. The 4th Grenadiers were at Lexington-Concord, at the outbreak of American Revolution, and were almost wiped out recapturing Breed's (Bunker) Hill at Boston.

## Weapons and tactics



From an article by Gregory F. Holm

The NWTA through its historical research and field trials, recreates the tactics of the war of the American Revolution as a central feature of its living history encampments. This is no easy task considering the modern view of 18th century warfare as bodies of men organized in slow-moving linear formations.

This article will attempt to provide some basic information on the weapons and tactics commonly used in the American Revolution to provide a more accurate view of how events actually occurred on the battlefield between Royal and Congressional forces.

### THE SOLDIER'S WEAPONS

THE MUSKET Warfare in this period was defined by the capabilities of the flintlock Musket and the socket bayonet. A well-trained British soldier could be expected to fire and re-load in 15 seconds at a rate of four shot per minute (achieved mainly on the parade ground). Unfortunately even after proper loading, studies by the British government at that time indicates that the musket used by its soldiers could be expected, on the average, to miss-fire once in every six attempts.



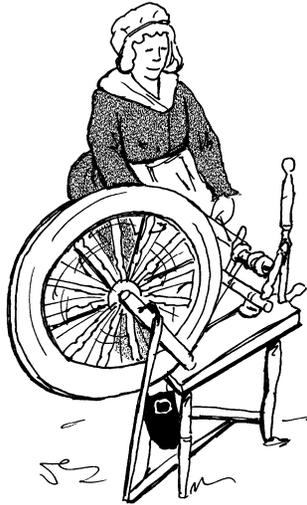
When the musket did fire, its range was under 100 yards. In fact the effective range was probably closer to 80 yards. Given the fact that the soldier would be firing under the extreme pressure of combat, where he literally feared for his life and saw his comrades fall around him, his aim would certainly be affected.

THE BAYONET With the unreliability of the musket as a firearm, the armies of the period often relied upon the bayonet in mass hand-to-hand engagements. The British army had distinguished itself in Europe through its use of the bayonet. In the Seven Years War (known as the French and Indian War in America), the British army very often would advance with-



**Sandridge Settlers of Albany-Town,  
New York**

Although Albany was still predominantly Dutch, by the late 18th century it had become a center of international trade attracting immigrants from the British Isles, France, Poland, Germany and Denmark. The residents of Albany Almshouse demonstrate a variety of skills influenced by the Old World traditions.



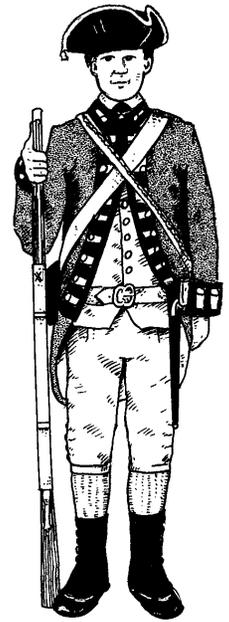
**Civilians**

Set aside from the military camp you will meet various people depicting the daily life of the towns folk and farmers during the conflict. What was it like living in an area controlled by the British if you supported the Congressional forces or the other way around? Members research and demonstrate skills and trades you would find in the towns or on the farm such as weaver, lace maker, blacksmith, gunsmith, brewer or fisherman. You may see processing of fibers for cloth, foods available as well as cooking and preserving food. You will also hear music of the era.

**55th Regiment of Foot,  
Captain Trevor's Co'y August, 1776**

Green facings on their red coats set the 55th apart in the NWTA. The uniform of the 55th reflects the classic British uniform for service in Europe, as yet not adapted to the rigors of American warfare.

The 55th fought at Long Island, Princeton, Brandywine, and Germantown, before being transferred to the West Indies where it saw heavy action against the French in 1778-1784.



**Brigade of Guards, Grenadier Co'y  
November, 1776**

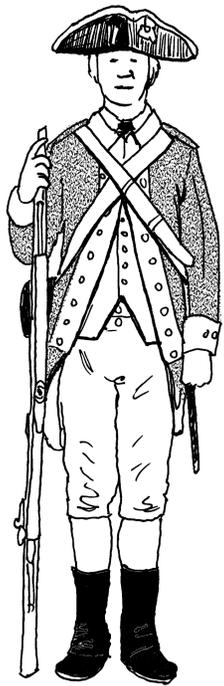
The Guards Grenadiers have the typical grenadier match case and wings on their shoulders, but not the bearskin hat. Their coats are scarlet faced blue and have no lace. They wear white waistcoats and long trousers. A brigade consists of several regiments acting under the command of a brigadier general, in this case the 1st, 2nd (Coldstream), and 3rd (Scots, pictured) Regiments of Foot Guards. The grouping of buttons on their lapels indicates the regiment. The Brigade of Guards arrived in America in August of 1776, was captured at Yorktown in 1781, and was eventually released from prison in 1783. At the time portrayed, the Brigade was operating around New York.



**42nd Royal Highland Rgt., Grenadier  
Co'y January, 1777**

The 42nd wear the tall bearskin mitered hat that was common among grenadier units. Their short red coats are faced with blue, signifying a royal regiment. Red and white lace is on the shoulder wings, lapels and cuffs. They wear a belted plaid or kilt and diced hose. The cartridge box is worn at their waist and has a GR and crown on the flap. The 42nd were active mostly in and around New York state and participated in the battles of New York, Brandywine, Germantown and others.





### New York Volunteers July, 1777

The green coats and white facings of the New York Volunteers identify them as Loyalists to the British Crown. Five thousand such coats were supplied to the Provincials in spring of 1777, at which time the New York Volunteers were encamped at Kingsbridge, at the north end of Manhattan Island, and actively recruiting from Westchester County and the Hudson Highlands. They eventually became the Third American Regiment, at which time they were issued red coats with blue facings and sent to fight in the Southern Campaign until the end of the war.

### 17<sup>th</sup> Reg't of Light Dragoons, March, 1776

The regiment's formation dates back to Wolfe's victory at Quebec in 1759. At the break out of hostilities, in 1775, the high character of the regiment occasioned it to be the first cavalry corps selected to proceed across the Atlantic, landing at Boston on the 24th of May. The regiment participated in fighting outside New York and succeeded in capturing American General Sullivan. It then took part in forcing the American evacuation of New York. The troop wears scarlet regimentals with 3 inch white lapels, white collar and cuffs. Their distinctive cavalry helmet is black leather with a white turban at the base; the plume and crest being scarlet and white. The helmet bears the death's head (skull and crossbones) as does the regimental standard (flag) which also has the motto "Or Glory."



### 71st Rgt of Foot, Fraiser's Highlanders, Major's Co'y - September, 1777

Fraiser's Highlanders wear short red coats faced white, topped

by the traditional highlander's bonnet as they were at the Battle of Brandywine. Trousers were considered more practical than kilts for service in America. Their leather waist belts with single frogs for bayonet are black, unusual for British troops. Fraiser's entered the war in April of 1776 as the largest British regiment that served in the Revolution, but suffered enormous casualties before returning to England in late 1783.



## Non-Military and Civilian

Women, children, sutlers, and other non-military personnel commonly accompanied 18th-century armies on campaign. Without the efforts of these trades people and camp-followers, the war machines of both sides would have quickly ground to a halt. In addition, our civilian camp presents aspects of 18th century life away from the military camps, representing people of the towns and farms of the colonies.



### Women and Children in the Army

During the American Revolution, it was common for women and children from both sides to follow their husbands into war. This was done by all classes of women from the very wealthy - who just visited their husbands in the field from time to time - to the common, everyday women who had no

other means of support and no place else to go. The British army officially allowed one woman for every six men, or one per tent. The Continental army had similar ratios, but in both armies this quota was often exceeded. They were known as "women on the ration" and received one-half of what ever the army gave a soldier. Useful children received a one-quarter ration. They had jobs in the army, such as mending clothes, taking care of the sick men, doing laundry, and cooking. A few even followed the army out on the battle field to bring water and ammunition to the men.



### Philadelphia Ladies Association

June, 1780

Thirty-six prominent Patriot women organized a major fundraising campaign for the relief of impoverished patriot troops, urging women to forgo luxuries and frivolities and donate to the cause. Over \$300,000 continental dollars were raised and at General Washington's insistence linen was purchased and 2200 shirts were made to supply the desperate need of the soldiers.

**Commander in Chief's Guard  
September, 1782**

Dark blue regimentals faced buff with brass buttons, red waistcoats and gaitered trousers mark Washington's Life-guard. Their cocked hats are bound in white with the alliance cockade of black and white silk. All their clothes are in unusually good condition. The officer pictured here has a gorget at his breast, a red silk sash and a silver epaulet on his left shoulder, all symbols of rank, in this case a lieutenant. He also carries a spontoon. The Commander in Chief's Guard was formed March 12, 1776 at Cambridge Massachusetts, during the siege of Boston. It served as General Washington's personal bodyguard, and as a training vehicle for the entire Continental army until June 6, 1783 when it's duties were taken up by members of the New Hampshire Line.



**Ship's Company of the Frigate [USS] Boston,  
Cont'l Navy January-June, 1780, Charleston**

The Continental frigate *Boston* was a 24-gun frigate, launched in Newburyport, MA in June of 1776, completed in 1777. Known as the most successful and longest serving ship in the Continental Navy, *Boston* captured more prizes than any other American vessel of the war. In 1778, commanded by Capt. Samuel Tucker, *Boston* carried John Adams to France. While there, she cruised European waters taking at least four prizes before returning to Portsmouth, NH. In 1779, she made two cruises in the North Atlantic capturing nine ships. In early 1780, *Boston* accompanied the American Squadron tasked with



defending Charleston, SC, from British invasion. For a brief period, the guns from *Boston* were brought ashore and used in stationary batteries. When the city fell, in May 1780, *Boston* was handed over to the British. Renamed the HMS *Charlestown*, she would go on to serve with the British for another year in the North Atlantic before being assigned to escort merchant convoys to Canada from Britain. There she participated in the Battle of Louisburg (1781) where she narrowly escaped French capture and was laid up in Halifax for the rest of the year. She was sold out of British service in 1783. In its later years, the US Navy retroactively applied the USS designation to all Continental Navy ships, making USS *Boston* one of seven ships to bear that name.

**2nd Battalion,  
Light Infantry  
Sept. 1777**

In 1771 each British infantry regiment was required to select good men who were quick, agile and accurate marksman to create a company of light infantry. Today they would be known as special forces. They were adaptable in both dress and tactics. Their madder red coat is short and fitted rather than bulky. They wear close fitting gaitered trousers. Their hat has a narrow brim. All



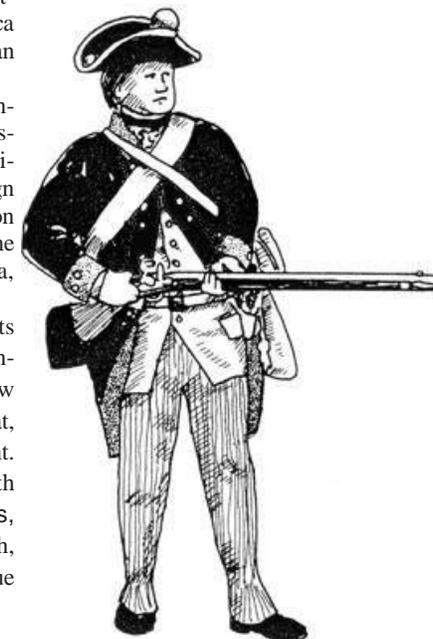
these uniform changes allow for unencumbered movement on the march and attack. The recreated unit represents troops during the Philadelphia Campaign; from the Battle of Brandywine (September 11, 1777) to Germantown (October 4, 1777). The 2nd Battalion earned their nickname, the "Bloodhounds," after their nighttime bayonet attack on Continental General Anthony Wayne's troops at Paoli.

**Braunschweig Rgt. Prinz Friederich,  
Leib Kompanie October, 1777**

The English Crown for a number of years been subsidized the armies of several German duchies. Six of these duchies (Hesse-Kassel, Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel, Hesse-Hanau, Ansbach-Bayreuth, Waldeck & Anhalt-Zerbst) agreed to send troops to America to fight for the Crown in exchange for an agreement to continue the subsidies.

The Brunswick contingent landed in Canada in 1776, and helped drive the Congressional forces out of Canada, then participated in General Burgoyne's campaign down Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. Rgt Prinz Friederich was one of the units left to garrison Fort Ticonderoga, avoiding surrender at Saratoga.

Rgt Prinz Friederich wears dark blue coats with yellow collar and cuffs, red turnbacks, and white metal buttons. A yellow and white pom-pon tops their cocked hat, identifying them as a Musketer regiment. The regiment was originally equipped with white woolen breeches and black gaiters, but due to the cold and dense undergrowth, they switched to overalls made from blue and white striped mattress ticking.





**Fort St. Joseph Militia July 1779**

The Fort St. Joseph Militia wears civilian clothing with a wild mix of French and Indian influences: bright colors, moccasins, wooden shoes, finger woven sashes, and decorative silver broaches. Weapons and accouterments reflect their frontier lifestyle and French heritage. The militia at Fort St. Joseph, in what is now southwestern Michigan, was not an organized "permanent" militia, but rather civilians acting as militiamen. They joined forces with a detachment of the King's 8th in an effort to forestall an impending attack on Detroit by George Rogers Clark. The French at Fort St. Joseph were deported to Michilimackinac by Governor Patrick Sinclair in June of 1780.

**8th (King's) Rgt. of Foot July, 1779**

Dressed in red coats faced blue, white small clothes, tall black gaiters, and black cocked hats trimmed white, the 8th may be seen with their distinctive goatskin knapsacks. Painted canvas knapsacks were common for troops' personal articles when on the march, but some German and British regiments chose goatskin. The 8th Regiment covered the widest range of any regular British unit, from Montreal to the Mississippi River and Canada to Kentucky. They served on the frontier with Indians and loyalists from well before the war, 1768, until after the war's end in 1785.



**1st American Rgt. (Simcoe's Queen's Rangers), Light Company October, 1780**

This light company wears a short green jacket faced green, and typical white trousers with spatterdashers. The leather cap has a silver crescent, symbolizing Diana, Goddess of the Hunt and feathers of white and black, the black worn in mourning for Major André who was captured and hung for his part in Benedict Arnold's betrayal. The 1st American Regiment was originally raised during the Seven Years War by Robert Rogers and were better known as Roger's Rangers. They were re-raised by Rogers in 1776, and served to 1784. Today they are part of the Canadian Army as the Queen's York Rangers, 1st American Regiment.

**Capt. Edward Worthington's Co'y, Illinois Rgt. Virginia State Forces October, 1780**

Worthington's wear short blue coats faced white, cocked hats bound white, and carry a variety of weapons and accouterments, many of which were provided by the Spanish. On their hats they wear a black cockade common to Congressional forces. Raised in 1778 of eastern farmers, Ohio Valley long hunters and French from the Illinois country, Worthington's were with Clark at Vincennes and saw action against Indians and French militia as well. They fought in the engagement around St. Louis and Cahokia in late spring of 1780, and in October of that year, they were at the mouth of the Ohio on the Mississippi River defending Fort Jefferson against Chickasaw Indians.



**Wayne's Light Infantry Corp, Ashmead's Company—July, 1779**

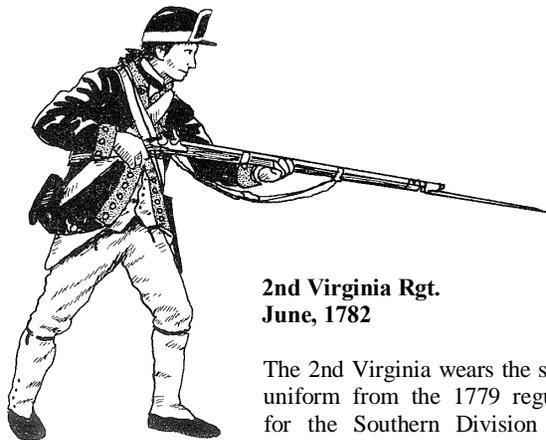
In 1779, Washington gave general orders for many of the regiments in the Continental Line to each form a light infantry company. These companies joined to create the Light Infantry Corp under General Anthony Wayne and participated in the July 16<sup>th</sup> midnight storming of Stony Point. They attacked the fort with bayonets only, gunfire being expressly forbidden, and wore white paper in their hats to recognize each other. The assault included Captain Jacob Ashmead with a company of light infantrymen from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment. Ashmead's Company wore the French royal blue Lottery coats, with red facings, white turnbacks, and pewter buttons. Their light infantry caps included a black hair cockade. Because the men were recruited from different companies of the regiment, the rest of their clothing, accouterments, and firearms varied.



**Webb's Additional Rgt., Band of Musick May, 1780**

Five to eight musicians in dark yellow coats faced red, with black cocked hats trimmed yellow, form the Band of Musick. Their coats are British musicians' coats, captured with a supply ship full of uniforms bound for the British army in America. As part of its effort to uniform the army, captured British uniforms were often used by the patriot forces.

Regimental Musicians typically wore their regiment's coat and facing colors reversed. This officer's band of two oboes, two clarinets, two horns, and two bassoons played for military ceremonies, dinners, and dances. These musicians were all promoted to sergeant in May 1780.



**2nd Virginia Rgt. June, 1782**

The 2nd Virginia wears the standard uniform from the 1779 regulations for the Southern Division - blue waistcoats and overalls. Their hats are black light infantry helmets, bound white. The 2nd was formed in the fall of 1775, and served from New York to Georgia for the duration of the war.



**Lauzun's Legion October, 1781**

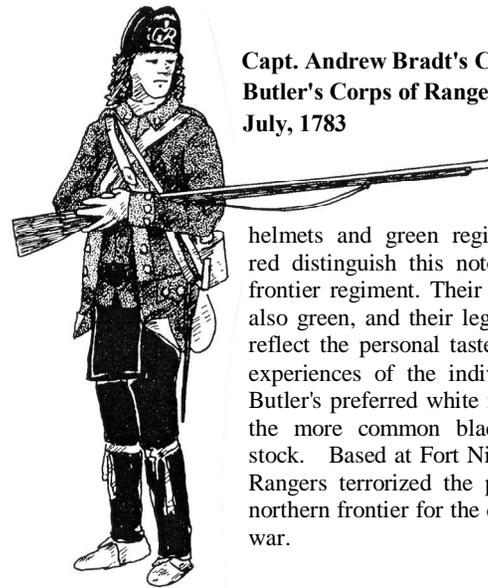
Powder blue regimentals with yellow facings and very tall gaiters distinguish this ally of the rebel cause. The coat is long with short lapels and large pocket flaps, indications of the French origin of Lauzun's Legion. They carry canteens made from gourds. The importance of the French contribution to American independence cannot be overstated. After Burgoyne's defeat in October of 1777, previously half-hearted support became generous, with major supplies of uniforms, weapons, troops, and even ships. The surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, the climactic battle of the American Revolution, could not have been won without the aid of both the French army and navy. Lauzun's Legion defeated Tarleton at Gloucester Point, across the Chesapeake Bay from Yorktown, and thereby closed a possible escape route for the British Army.

**Campeau's Co'y, Saint Anne's Militia, Bird's Expedition 1780**

Campeau's company wears a variety of civilian clothing that shows their frontier lifestyle and French heritage. Weapons and accouterments are also civilian in nature and vary greatly. The Saint Anne militia was comprised of men raised along the Detroit River Region. Captain Bird led a British expedition into Kentucky that was supported by the local militia - including Campeau's Company - and Native Americans. The expedition resulted in the capture of Ruddle's and Martin's stations.



**Capt. Andrew Bradt's Co'y, Butler's Corps of Rangers July, 1783**



Leather helmets and green regimentals faced red distinguish this notorious loyalist frontier regiment. Their waistcoats are also green, and their leg and footwear reflect the personal tastes and frontier experiences of the individual soldier. Butler's preferred white neckwear over the more common black military stock. Based at Fort Niagara, Butler's Rangers terrorized the patriots of the northern frontier for the duration of the war.

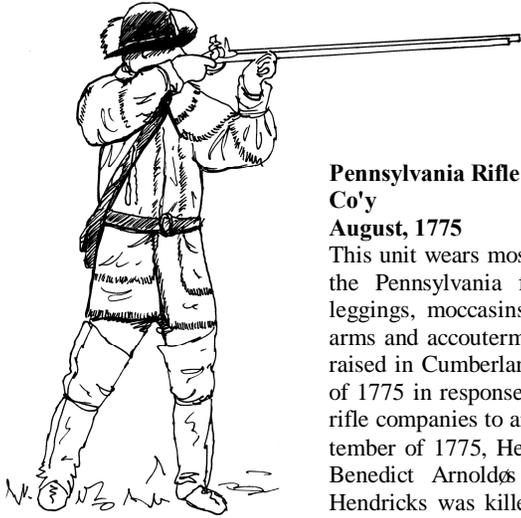
**84th Rgt. of Foot, 1st Bat., Royal Highland Emigrants March, 1782**

The 84th, in their government plaid and short red coats faced blue, look very much like the 42nd. Their blue highland bonnet, the style of lace on their lapels and cuffs, and the absence of shoulder wings are the primary differences. They wear white small clothes and a cartridge box and bayonet on their waist belt. The 84th was the only highland regiment to be raised outside of Scotland. It was formed in 1775 from the families of the 42nd, 77th and 78th Highlanders, who had



# Congressional Forces

When war finally broke out, the Colonists had no disciplined army that could match the British in open battle and very little military equipment. Militia regiments, despite generally large numbers, were rarely well trained and were usually only active within their own state boundaries. In 1775, Congress appointed George Washington Commander-in-Chief and the difficult task of putting together a regular army was begun. Regiments were raised and equipped by individual states for Continental service, and color, style and condition of clothing and accouterments was anything but uniform. In 1779 Washington ordered all Continental troops to be outfitted with blue regimentals, faced with different colors to indicate the unit's origin. This order was carried out with moderate success.



**Pennsylvania Rifle Battalion, Capt. Hendricks' Co'y  
August, 1775**

This unit wears mostly civilian dress common along the Pennsylvania frontier fringed hunting shirts, leggings, moccasins, slouched hat and a variety of arms and accouterments. The 90-man company was raised in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania in June of 1775 in response to an appeal from Congress for rifle companies to aid in the siege of Boston. In September of 1775, Hendricks' Company accompanied Benedict Arnold's expedition to Quebec, where Hendricks was killed and all but 18 men from his company were captured.



**3rd New York Rgt., Capt. Lewis Dubois' 4th Co'y  
November, 1775**

Short gray regimental coats faced green illustrate one of the earliest uniforms of the Continental Army. Like many other early rebel units, the soldiers of the 3rd New York supplement their incomplete military issue with civilian items and surplus from the earlier war with France. The 3rd New York served with Montgomery and Arnold on their unsuccessful campaign against Quebec in the winter of 1775-1776, and were mustered out of service in April 1776. The regiment was re-raised in 1776 and again in 1777.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Regiment, Fitch's Company June-July, 1778**

After heavy combat at Ft. Mifflin and Germantown in the fall of 1777, Fitch's Company endures the winter at Valley Forge with the death of six men and only 20 of 44 men fit for duty by April of 1778. They spend the spring of 1778 cleaning and repairing clothing and equipment, with donations of civilian clothing from their neighbors in Connecticut. They have just learned Von Steuben's new German Exercise and are in a high state of discipline and morale. The regiment fights well at Monmouth in June 1778. The 4th Connecticut soldiers wear linen overalls and a variety of waistcoats and jackets. A few men may wear hunting shirts, but most are still wearing the dark brown regimental coats with red facings and plain buttons that the State of Connecticut gave them in 1777.



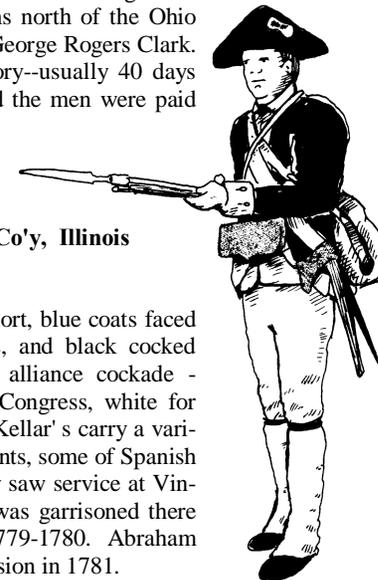
## **Capt. John Holder's Co'y of Boonesborough Militia, Fayette Co. Virginia September 1778, during the Great Siege of Boonesborough.**

Holder's Co'y wears civilian clothes common in the harsh frontier wilderness: moccasins, breechclout, leggings, hunting shirt, and round hat, etc. John Holder was a militia leader from 1777-1782 in Virginia's Kentucky frontier counties. His company defended the settlement of Boonesborough and marched against the Indians north of the Ohio with Joseph Bowman and George Rogers Clark. Service was often mandatory--usually 40 days or until they returned and the men were paid in either specie or plunder.



## **Capt. Abraham Kellar's Co'y, Illinois Rgt. Virginia State Forces January, 1780**

Kellar's company wears short, blue coats faced white, white small clothes, and black cocked hats. Note the tri-colored alliance cockade - black for the Continental Congress, white for France, and red for Spain. Kellar's carry a variety of arms and accouterments, some of Spanish origins. Kellar's Company saw service at Vincennes, and the company was garrisoned there through the winter of 1779-1780. Abraham Kellar resigned his commission in 1781.



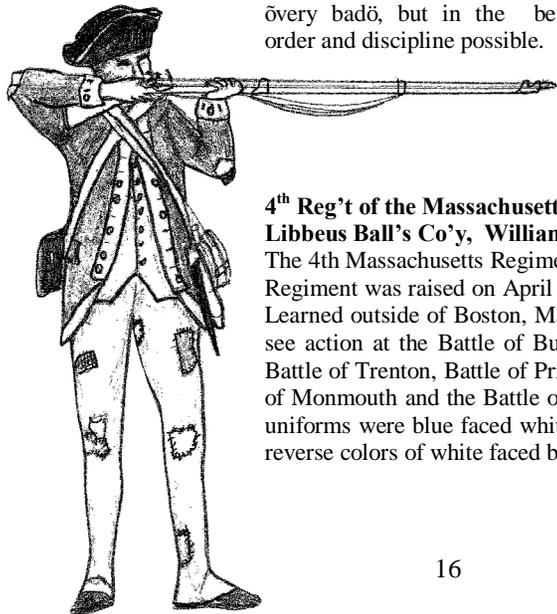


**Capt. Joseph Bowman's Co'y, Illinois Rgt.,  
Virginia State Forces August, 1778**

Raised in frontier Virginia for the defense of Virginia's claimed Illinois Territory, Bowman's Company served without uniforms. Their civilian clothing reflects the rigors of frontier life, and the ingenuity of early frontier people. Their service took them west to capture and garrison Cahokia on the Mississippi River, then on with George Rogers Clark to capture Vincennes.

**10th Virginia Regiment, Nathan Reid's Co'y,  
Continental Line  
April-May, 1779**

Raised in the Piedmont counties of Virginia in 1777 as the 14th Virginia Regt and was assigned to Weedens Bgd. of the Main Army. Assigned to Muhlenbergs Bgd. as the 10th Virginia in Sept. 1778 with Wm. Davies as Colonel. Captured at Charleston in 1780. Uniform included a cocked hat with black lace and cockade. Issued a blue faced red French lottery coat, with white small clothes. Virginia stores also issued red flannel or serge weskits and blue or green broad-cloth breeches. A Von Steuben IG report from May 1779 states: Arms and Accouterments in good order, clothing övery badö, but in the best order and discipline possible.



**4<sup>th</sup> Reg't of the Massachusetts Line, August, 1778  
Libbeus Ball's Co'y, William Shepard's Reg't.**

The 4th Massachusetts Regiment also known as 3rd Continental Regiment was raised on April 23, 1775 under Colonel Ebenezer Learned outside of Boston, Massachusetts. The regiment would see action at the Battle of Bunker Hill, New York Campaign, Battle of Trenton, Battle of Princeton, Battle of Saratoga, Battle of Monmouth and the Battle of Rhode Island. Their regimental uniforms were blue faced white with the musicians wearing the reverse colors of white faced blue.



**Culpeper Minute Battalion  
December, 1775**

Green fringed hunting shirts with " Liberty or Death" across the chest make this unit instantly recognizable. Blue wool leggings and various civilian clothing completes their uniform and reflects the rural counties where they were raised. Their weapons are civilian as well, mostly rifles. The Culpeper minute battalion was raised in Culpeper, Orange, and Fanquier counties in Virginia. They saw action at Hampton, Virginia and the battle of Great Bridge.

**Capt. Alexander Hamilton's New York  
Provincial Co'y of Artillery  
September, 1776**

Dark blue coats with buff facings, buff waistcoats and leather breeches mark Hamilton's artillery. Raised by the State of New York for the defense of New York City, they are unusually well uniformed, partly out of the pocket of their captain, the young Alexander Hamilton, later to become the first U. S. Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton's Artillery is the only U.S. military unit of any type to have an unbroken line of service from the war of the Revolution to the present.



**Virginia State Navy,  
of the Boat " Hero"  
November, 1776**

Short, very loose pants called " slops" and small hats, tarred for weatherproofing, were common, sensible clothing for sailors, no uniforms having yet been developed. The Virginia Navy wears red waistcoats as a sort of uniform article. The officers wear blue faced red, styled after the British naval officers' uniform of the day. The Congressional navy was woefully inadequate, and depended heavily on state supported navies and privateers operating under a Congressional " Letter of Marque and Reprisal" for coastal defense. Children as young as six years old served aboard ships as powder monkeys and cabin boys.





**Captain Benjamin Logan's Co'y,  
Kentucky Co. Militia March, 1777**

The British supplied arms, munitions, as well as occasional British regular troops and officers, to the Natives who launched attacks against the fledgling frontier settlements. By 1777, settlements in Kentucky had been reduced to Boonesboro, Harrodsburg, and Logan's Fort- and only some 500 colonists. During March of 1777, the Company successfully defended Logan's Fort against severe Indian attacks. Logan sent a detachment to reinforce Boonesboro for the Siege in 1778. Some men of fought with Joseph Bowman in 1779 against the Indian town of Chillicothe, and Logan led his men with George Rogers Clark at the battle of Picaway, in August 1780. The men also saw service as "Over Mountain Men", at the turning-point battle of Kings Mountain, S.C. The men wear traditional garments of the civilian frontier.

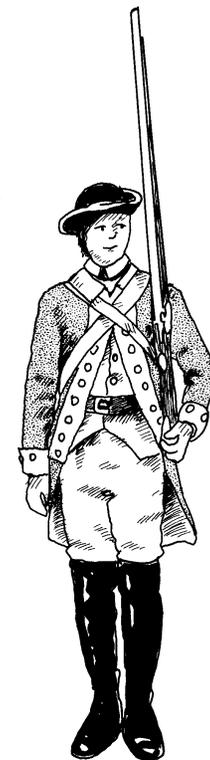


**1st Regiment of Light Dragoons  
Capt. Henry Lee's-5th Troop  
June, 1777**

The 1st Regiment of Light Dragoons, 5th Troop, (Virginia Light Horse) was raised in 1776 by Theodorick Bland and Captained by "Light Horse Harry" Lee. Thirty men joined Washington in New Jersey in December of 1776. Under Lee they were very successful in the early years of the war, highly praised by Washington and local press for their meritorious service. They served as Washington's body guard in the Battle of Germantown. Uniforms were blue wool regimental coats with red facings, red wool waistcoats, white leather breeches and leather high top boots. For head protection they wore black leather helmets with vertical shields and white horse hair crests.

**Continental Marines, Dean's Co'y January, 1777**

A moss green coat faced white, and a black round hat trimmed white mark the Continental Marines. Their small clothes are white and there is a green stripe on the seam of their breeches. They also wear tall black gaiters. Dean's Company was raised late in 1775, fought as line troops in the second battle of Trenton, served with the artillery, but never saw service aboard a ship. Dean resigned his commission in July of 1777.



**4th Continental Rgt. of Light Dragoons  
(Dismounted service), Capt. John Craig's  
Troop July, 1779**

A visored leather helmet with a bearskin crest and green turban, tall boots and a red waistcoat make the 4th Continental Dragoons easy to identify. They may be seen in either their green regimental coat with red facings or fringed frock coats of various colors. Formed in 1777, the regiment served throughout the entire war. Raised primarily in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, they served in both the northern and southern campaigns. They had both mounted and dismounted troops.