

Excerpt from *Kilts & Courage, Vol. III, The Documentary History of the 42<sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment in the American War for Independence, 1776-1783*

by Paul Pace, June 2019 © all right reserved



Light Infantry in “Uniform sketches of British infantrymen,” 1778 by Philip James de Loutherbourg

Picture Source: *Prints, Drawings and Watercolors from the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection*, Brown Univ.

## Appendix D: Organization of the 42<sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regt. 1776-1783

### Enclosure D-3: 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company

#### Introduction

This enclosure is focused on the organization of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company and the Light Infantry Battalions during the American War for Independence. The engagements of the Light Infantry during the war are summarized in Table 1 below and addressed in detail in this Volume in *Appendix B, Official Correspondence, Officer Letters and Contemporary News Articles of the 42<sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment in the American War for Independence 1776-1783*.

#### Light Infantry Battalions:

Following the successful use of Light Infantry in the French & Indian War, the British War Office revised the establishments of British regiments to formally add a Light Infantry Company in 1771. At the beginning of the American War for Independence the Light Infantry Companies saw service in operations around Boston. After the evacuation of that city, the British Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Sir William Howe, issued orders from Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 14, 1776 to form two light infantry battalions by temporarily withdrawing the companies from their regiments and assigning the companies to composite battalions. The 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion was initially commanded by Maj. Thomas Musgrave, 64<sup>th</sup> Regt., and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion by Maj. the Honorable John Maitland, Marines. When the troops who had been with Maj. Gen. Henry’s Clinton’s unsuccessful expedition against Charleston, South Carolina,

joined the army at New York on Aug. 1, 1776, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion was formed. Although frequently mentioned in American War for Independence histories, no 4<sup>th</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion was actually formed.

After Maj. Musgrave was wounded at Throg's Neck, New York, Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby, 37<sup>th</sup> Regt. was appointed to command the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on Oct. 23, 1776.

Following the successful seizure of Rhode Island in late 1776, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion returned to New Jersey and disbanded on Mar. 23, 1777, and the companies assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions.

The two Light Infantry battalions served with the army until it returned to the New York area from Philadelphia and the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey in July 1778. General Orders issued at Sandy Hook, New Jersey on July 5<sup>th</sup> directed "*The Flank Companies of all the British Regiments in this division of the Army are to join their respective Corps until further Orders, to settle their Accounts, &c...*" The flank company officers took this order as an affront and new orders were issued on July 31<sup>st</sup> for "*The Commandg Off<sup>rs</sup> of the British Grenad<sup>rs</sup> & L<sup>t</sup> Inf<sup>y</sup> are to Assemble their respective Batt<sup>ns</sup> as soon as they conveniently can at Bedford, Long Island.*"

When ten companies were pulled from the two Lt. Infantry battalions to rejoin their regiments for Maj. Gen. James Grant's expedition to the West Indies, the remaining companies were consolidated into a single Lt. Infantry battalion. General Orders issued from New York on Nov. 3, 1778 directed "...*The British Grenadiers and Light Infantry are to be immediately formed into one Battalion each, the Light Infantry under the Command of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colonel Abercrombie ...*"

The single combined battalion remained in place until General Orders were issued from New York on Dec. 15, 1779, just before the Charleston expedition. The orders directed "*The Battalions of Light Infantry are to consist of the following companies. 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 33<sup>d</sup> 37<sup>th</sup> 42<sup>d</sup> 54<sup>th</sup> 63<sup>d</sup> 70<sup>th</sup> 74<sup>th</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 38<sup>th</sup> 43<sup>d</sup> 57<sup>th</sup> 64<sup>th</sup> 76<sup>th</sup> 80<sup>th</sup> 84<sup>th</sup>.*" This organization with minor changes of individual companies remained the same until the battalions were surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia in Oct 1781.

#### 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company

In 1771, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was on the Irish Establishment and stationed in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Accordingly the Light Infantry Company of the Royal Highlanders was formed by an order from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, dated Sept. 18, 1771 directing "... *Whereas since the late Establishment of His Majesty's Infantry in Ireland hath taken place, His Majesty finding that it would be for the good of His Service, hath added a Light Company to the several Battalions of His Infantry on the British Establishment; and His Majesty likewise finding, that it will not only be of equal advantage to His Service, that a Light Company be added to each Battalion of his Infantry on the Establishment of Ireland...*"<sup>1</sup>

When the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was ordered to join the American war, the Light Infantry Company was commander by Capt. the Hon. George Mackenzie, son of the Jacobite Earl of Cromarty. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company was assigned to the *Houston Transport* for the Voyage to America from Greenock, Scotland on Apr. 29, 1776 and sailed with 32 other transport ships under convoy of 32-gun *HMS Flora*.<sup>2</sup> Although the convoy was broken up by storms soon after departure, the *Houston* linked up with six other transports and arrived off Halifax in time to join Gen. Sir William Howe's army sailing to New York. The assignments of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company and the Company and Battalion Commanders during the war are shown in Table 2.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company under successive Captains George Mackenzie, John Smith and George Dalrymple served admirably during the American War. Long after the war, former Lt. James Stewart

described his service in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company to Col. David Stewart, who was preparing a history of the regiment. Col. James Stewart wrote in part that “... *About the close of the American campaign 1777 I was appointed a Lt in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and a little before the Army went into Winter quarter at Philadelphia I joined the Light Company serving with the first Batt under Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> Abercromby Summer and Winter I shared with them the severest duty I was ever engaged in till taken with Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown...*”<sup>3</sup>

The capture of the company at Yorktown resulted in severe consequences for the soldiers of the company. A muster of the company’s soldiers conducted at Paulus Hook, New Jersey, on July 28, 1783 after they returned from the prisoner of war camps showed 30 of the 89 (34%) of the men had died during captivity.<sup>4</sup> The muster reports listing the officers and men of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company are shown in this Volume in *Appendix E. Serjeants, Corporals, Drummers, Pipers and Private Men, Enclosure E-1: Company Muster Reports.*

Table 1

42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company Actions/Events During the American War for Independence

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sept. 18, 1771	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Ireland augmented to add Lt. Infantry Co.
Apr. 29, 1776	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. sets sail with 71 <sup>st</sup> Highland Regt.(Fraser’s) for Boston under convoy of <i>HMS Flora</i>
May 4, 1776	Fleet of <i>HMS Flora</i> is disbursed in severe storm. Individual and groups of transports make their way to America without escort.
July 4, 1776	American Continental Congress declares independence.
July 22, 1776	Transport <i>Houston</i> with the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. arrives at Staten Island, New York <sup>5</sup>
Aug. 6, 1776	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. under Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling split into two provisional battalions under Maj. William Murray and Brevet-Maj. William Grant. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co. under Capt. Charles Graham assigned to the 4 <sup>th</sup> Grenadier Bn. and 42 <sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Co. under Capt. the Hon. George M’Kenzie assigned to 1 <sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Bn.
Aug. 22, 1776	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Co. lands on Long Island in first wave.
Sept. 15, 1776	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. and Gren. Co. part of first wave at Kip’s Bay landing on Manhattan Island. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. on transports in second wave.
Oct. 12, 1776	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. and Gren. Co. part of first wave at landing on Throg’s Neck on the New York mainland. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. on sloops in second wave.
Oct. 18, 1776	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. and Gren. Co. part of first wave at landing at Pell’s Point on the New York mainland after being stopped at Throg’s Neck. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. in second wave.
Nov. 16, 1776	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. attacks across Harlem River at Battle of Fort Washington under Brig. Gen. Edward Mathew and take redoubt on Laurel Hill.
Nov. 20-Dec.8, 1776	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. takes part in capture of Fort Lee, N.J. and pursuit of American army to Trenton, N.J.
Jan. 2-3, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. takes part in Lord Cornwallis attack to Trenton, N.J. and Battle of Assunpink Creek. Next day marches to Princeton and Brunswick.
Jan. 4, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. goes into winter quarters in Piscataway, N.J. and the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. at Brunswick.
Apr. 13, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. at battle of Bound Brook, N.J. with 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn.
June 8, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. assembles with Gen. Howe’s army at Brunswick, N.J. to attempt engagement of American army.
June 26, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. as part of 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn. engages American troops near Scotch Plains, N.J.
July 22, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. sails with army to the Chesapeake for Philadelphia Campaign.
Aug. 25, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. lands at Head of Elk, Md.
Sept. 1, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. attempts to flank American troops at Cooch’s bridge over Christiana Creek, Del., but stopped by swamp.

Sept. 11, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. leads Lord Cornwallis' column in flank attack at Brandywine Creek.
Oct. 4, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. heavily engaged in right flank at Battle of Germantown, Pa.
Dec. 5-8, 1777	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. inf. Co. with the 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn. as part of the initial engagements near Beggarstown in the Battle of Whitemarsh, Pa.
Dec. 29, 1777	British Army enters winter quarters at Philadelphia. Light Infantry assigned quarters in the British barracks.
Mar. 21, 1778	Gen. Sir Henry Clinton ordered to send 3000 troops to West Indies, 2000 to Florida and 600 to Halifax. Loss of troops requires abandonment of Philadelphia.
May 11, 1778	General Orders announce Gen. Sir Henry Clinton as new British Commander-in-Chief, replacing Gen. Sir William Howe.
May 19, 1778	Maj. Gen. James Grant attempts to attack Marquis de Lafayette at Barren Hill, Pa. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. was part of Grant's force.
June 18, 1778	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. departs Philadelphia with army to return to New York
June 28, 1778	In Battle of Monmouth the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. is part of unsuccessful attempt to flank the left of rebel lines.
July 5, 1778	Flank Battalions disbanded and 42 <sup>nd</sup> Grenadier and Light Inf. Companies ordered to rejoin the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt.
July 6- 7, 1778	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. loads transports at Neversink, N.J. and sails to Long Island, N.Y.
July 14, 1778	42 <sup>nd</sup> Gren. and Lt. Inf. Cos. assigned as Marines on British Ships, but replaced before sailing by 23 <sup>rd</sup> Regt.
July 31, 1778	Flank Bns. reconstituted, 42 <sup>nd</sup> Light Inf. Co. rejoins 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn.
Aug. 26-Sept. 8, 1778	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. and both flank companies embark to relieve Rebel siege of Rhode Island. On arrival at Rhode Island learn siege had been lifted. Diverted to raid on New Bedford, Fair Haven and Martha's Vineyard, Mass.
Nov. 2, 1778	Army ordered into Winter Quarters. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. flank companies ordered to Jamaica, Long Island.
Nov. 3, 1778	Flank Bns. consolidated into one Grenadier Bn. and one Lt. Infantry Bn.
May 30 – June 2, 1779	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. and flank companies take part in capture of Rebel forts at Stoney Point and Verplanck's Point, NY.
Dec. 15, 1779	Light Inf. Bn. split into two battalions. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. again assigned to 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn. under Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby.
Dec. 26, 1779 – Feb. 11, 1780	42 <sup>nd</sup> Gren. and Lt Infantry Companies sail to S.C. with Gen. Sir Henry Clinton and land near Charleston.
Feb. 11-May 12, 1780	42 <sup>nd</sup> Gren. and Lt. Infantry Companies take part in Siege of Charleston
May 12, 1780	Rebels surrenders Charleston to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton
June 3- 19, 1780	All 42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. companies return to New York with Sir Henry Clinton
Mar. 20 – Apr. 1, 1781	42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. sails with 2100-man expedition under Maj. Gen. William Phillips to reinforce British forces in Virginia.
Apr. 25, 1781	42 <sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Co. with the 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn. at the Battle of Petersburg, Va.
July 6, 1781	42 <sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Co. at the battle of Green Springs, Va.
Aug. 2, 1782	Lord Cornwallis' army, with the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co., moves to the port of Yorktown, Va.
Oct. 17, 1781	British Lt. Infantry, take part in Lt. Col. Abercromby's sortie out of Yorktown lines to spike French cannon.
Oct. 18, 1781	British Lt. Infantry, including 42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co, and other units cross York River in the dark to prepare to breakout of siege. Severe weather prevents entire force from crossing and breakout cancelled.
Oct. 19, 1781	42 <sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Co. surrendered as part of Lord Cornwallis' army at Yorktown. Lt. Inf. Officers released on parole and soldiers are sent to prisoner of war camps.
Nov. 30, 1782	Preliminary Articles of Peace approved by Great Britain and the United States.
June 9, 1783	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. ordered to reduce strength on June 25 to Peace Establishment of Eight Companies of 1 Capt., 1 Lt., 1 Ens., 2 Sgts., 3 Corp., 2 Drummers, and 48 Private men.
May 12, 1783	42 <sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Co. rejoins 42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. from prisoner of war camp.
Sept. 26, 1783	Discharged men of 42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. wishing to settle in Canada embark to sail for Nova Scotia (now New Brunswick).

Oct. 11, 1783	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. sets sail for Halifax, Nova Scotia on Oct. 11 ending its participation in the American War for Independence
Oct. 16, 1783	Discharged men of 42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. embark to sail for Scotland
June 1786	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. relieves 33 <sup>rd</sup> Regt. on Cape Breton with Lt. Inf Company and one other company to Saint Johns Island (PEI)
Aug. 31, 1789	42 <sup>nd</sup> Regt. arrives at Portsmouth, England after passage of nineteen days from Nova Scotia and service in America for thirteen years from 1776 to 1789.

Table 2  
42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Command Assignments

Date	Assigned Organization	Company Commander	Battalion Commander
Apr. 29, 1776	42 <sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regt.	Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie	Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling
Aug. 4, 1776	1 <sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Bn.	Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie Capt. John Smith (after June 25, 1778 )	Maj. Thomas Musgrave Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby (after Oct. 23, 1776)
July 5, 1778	42 <sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regt.	Capt. John Smith	Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling
July 31, 1778	1 <sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Bn.	Capt. John Smith	Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby
Nov. 3, 1778	Light Infantry Bn.	Capt. John Smith Capt. George Dalrymple (after Dec. 5, 1779)	Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby
Dec. 15, 1779	1 <sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Bn.	Capt. George Dalrymple	Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby
Oct. 19, 1781	Prisoners of War	Sgt. John M <sup>c</sup> Farlan (Capt. Dalrymple and Lt. Stewart on parole in Britain)	Maj. James Gordon, 80 <sup>th</sup> Regt. Senior officer of the Yorktown Prisoners of War
May 12, 1783	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42 <sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regt.	Lt. Alexander Grant (for Capt. Dalrymple in Britain) Capt. William Dickson, en Second, after Aug. 25, 1783	Lt. Col. Charles Graham

Notes to Introduction:

1. *Historical Records of the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment, now 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment.) From its Formation, in 1717, to 1893.*, by Capt. Raymond Henry Smythies, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. P.W.V., A. H. Swiss, Devonport, 1894, Google Books, pp. 547-548.
2. *Gen. Sir Thomas Stirling Papers*, Item 0398/6, Black Watch Regiment Archives, Perth.
3. NRS, *Stewart of Garth Correspondence* at GD1/53
4. TNA, *War Office: General Muster and Pay Lists, Infantry, 42<sup>nd</sup> Foot, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1777-1786* at WO 12/5479
5. TNA, *Admiralty: Miscellanea. List of Transports, 1776-1782* at ADM 7-565, p. 3.

Documents



Reproduction 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

Picture Source: Roy and Debra Najecki's American Revolutionary War Reproductions at [www.najecki.com](http://www.najecki.com)

**News Account that Light Infantry Companies are to be Added to Regiments on the Irish Establishment, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., London, Jan. 12, 1771**

LONDON...

In the course of the next month an augmentation will be made to the regiments in Ireland, of twenty men to each company, and an additional company of light infantry be added to each regiment, consisting of one Captain, two lieutenants, one Ensign, three serjeants, three corporals, two drummers, and sixty-two private men.

Source: *General Evening Post* (London), Jan. 12, 1771, p. 3.



*Dublin Castle, 1792, by James Malton*

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *The Irish Aesthete*

**Letter from Lt. Gen. George, Viscount Townshend, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to Prime Minister Lord Frederick North Regarding Implementation of the Addition of the Tenth or Lt. Infantry Company to Regiments on the Irish Establishment, Dublin, Mar. 6, 1771**

Dublin Castle 6<sup>th</sup>. March 1771.

Private and Confidential

My Lord

On receipt of Your Lordship's private and confidential letter of the 18<sup>th</sup>. past, inclosing a plan which has been approved of by His Majesty [King George III] for adding a Tenth Company to each Regiment in the Irish Army I directed an Estimate to be prepared, stating the number of the Infantry now upon the Irish Establishment [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.], and the number which will stand upon it according to the New plan, and specifying as well the additional charge which will be created by it upon the Establishment as the immediate saving of half pay which will be made by the appointment of the new Officers mostly from that Establishment, as also the provision to be made for the Serjeants who are to remain Seconded on their respective Regiments, and inclosed I send Your Lordship a copy of the Estimate which has been prepared and laid before me accordingly.

By this paper Your Lordship will find that upon the military Establishment there will be an addition of 81. Officers 81. Corporals and 54. private men, and a reduction of 189. Serjeants and 216. Drummers having the Infantry 189. less in number than the present Establishment.

That an annual saving will be made by Great Britain by the promotion of the officers who remain Seconded on Irish Regiments amounting to £ 2,259 – 3 – 4. British Money.

That there will be a saving of half pay on the Irish Establishment amounting to the annual Sum of £ 2,101 – 15 – 10. for the Officers who will be provided for in the Regiments serving in Ireland and of £ 836 – 9 – 2. for the Officers to be removed from the Irish half pay to serve in the five Regiments which are paid by Ireland now on Foreign duty.

And that there will be provided for by the King's letter (their being no contingent fund here for that purpose) to make good the difference between the pay of 189. private men and 189. Serjeants, or so many of them as are to be retained, which for the whole number would amount to the Sum of £ 2,847 – 7 – 6.

And that upon the whole according to the above totals, the present annual Additional Expense is calculated to amount to the Sum of £ 3,467 – 10 – 0.

With respect to the Communication of this measure to Parliament, I must take the liberty of informing Your Lordship, that upon settlement of the present subsisting Establishment of the Army for this Kingdom, greater objection was made to the mode than to the number of which it was proposed the Army should consist, and that the Debates in Parliament upon the late augmentation, it was very strongly urged that altho the number fixed upon might be proper, if not necessary, it might be formed upon a plan of better Economy by reducing some of the Regiments, to save the heavy charge of Officers, and by augmenting the Remainder with Private men, and this opinion seemed to be so general Altho the whole plan was adopted that I should be very apprehensive the present Scheme would not be approved of altho it might not be rejected. however as the additional expence thereof upon the whole appears to be very inconsiderable, if His Majesty shall judge it necessary for the general good of his Service to be carried into execution in this Kingdom, I should rather consider it as a measure not of sufficient consequence in point of Expence to be communicated to Parliament, but to be effected by his Majesty's letter during the interval of Parliament.

As by this plan provision will at once be made for all the Officers who remain Seconded on the Regiments of Infantry on the Irish Establishment, I need not trouble Your Lordship with a particular answer to your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup>. past inclosing a Copy of one from Lord Barrington to Your Lordship that it was my full intention before I received Your said letter to recommend those Officers as vacancies should happen from time to time in their respective Corps, except their absenting themselves without leave or some very extraordinary case should prevent it

I am with great respect My Lord  
Your Lordship's Most obedient humble Servant  
Townshend

Signed)

Source: "George III Calendar Papers for 1771," *The Royal Archives*, Royal Collection Trust at GEO/MAIN/1129.



*Britain [Light] infantry uniform sketch, c. 1778, by Philip James de Loutherbourg*

Picture Source: *Prints, Drawings and Watercolors from the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection*, Brown Univ.

### **Report of a Board of General Officers Regarding Light Infantry Clothing, London, Mar. 6, 1771**

At a Meeting of the Board of General Officers at the Judge Advocate General's Office at the Horse Guards on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> March 1771

Present.

General Sir John Mordaunt [10<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Regt.]

General Lord John Murray [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.]. General John Earl of Loudoun [3<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Gds.]

Lieut<sup>s</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>. { Francis Leighton [32<sup>nd</sup> Regt.]  
 { Sir Jeffery Amherst [3<sup>rd</sup> Regt.]  
 { Robert Monckton [17<sup>th</sup> Regt.]

Lieut<sup>s</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>. { George Boscawen [23<sup>rd</sup> Regt.]  
 { Studholme Hodgson [4<sup>th</sup> Regt.]  
 { John Parslow [30<sup>th</sup> Regt.]

Maj<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. { John Gore [61<sup>st</sup> Regt.]  
 { Cyrus Trapaud [70<sup>th</sup> Regt.]

Maj<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. { James Murray [13<sup>th</sup> Regt.]  
 { William Keppel [14<sup>th</sup> Regt.]

General Lord John Murray reported from the Committee appointed on Monday last the Resolutions and Minutes of the said Committee, as follows; viz<sup>t</sup> –

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 1771

General Lord John Murray

Lieutenant General Sir Jeffery Amherst



Lieutenant General Monckton  
Major General Murray  
Major General Keppel  
Major General [Hon. Alexander] Mackay [21<sup>st</sup> Regt.]

It is Agreed,

1<sup>st</sup>. That the Cap prepared under the direction of Major General Keppel be fixed upon, the Letters **L** and **I** to be left out, and the Letters **G** and **R** put a little further apart.

2. That the Cloathing of a Coat and Waistcoat be of the Pattern of Major General [William] Rufane [6<sup>th</sup> Regt.], but the Waistcoat to be red and Laced. The Breeches White or Buff, Suitable to the Waistcoat of the respective Regiments.

3. That the Gaiter to be up to the Calf of the Leg and no higher.

4. That the Accoutrements be conformable to Colonel [Hon. William] Howe's Pattern, with a Small Cartridge Box to contain Nine Rounds in one Row, to be worn before with a Belt of Tanned leather round the Waist.

The Belt to be furnished with two Frogs, one for the bayonet, the other for the Hatchet occasionally which other times will be tied upon the Knapsack.

The 42<sup>d</sup>. or Royal Highland Regiment to have their Company Cloathed according to their present Regulation; but all the other Appointments to be conformable to the rest of the Light Infantry.

5. The Cost of the Cloathing is computed to be as follows.

The Upper Jacket	-.. 12..11
The Inder D <sup>o</sup>	-.. 11.. -
Breeches	-.. 5.. 3
Cap	-.. 8.. 6
	£ <u>1..17.. 8</u>

6. The Committee is of Opinion that a Maude is a proper Covering for the Light Infantry in time of War, in place of a blanket, but it does not appear to them necessary that the same should be permitted in time of peace.

Source and Notes: TNA, *Judge Advocate General's Office, Proceedings of the Board of General Officers* at WO 71/10, pp. 297-298. Gen. Lord John Murray was the Col. of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. This Board is recommending standard uniforms for the new companies. Uniform documents specific to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company are provided in this volume in Appendix K: 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Arms and Uniform Accounts, Documents and Correspondence; Enclosure 3: Grenadiers, Lt. Infantry, Musicians, Pioneers and Staff.

### **Excerpts of Order Forming 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company, Dublin, Ireland, Sept. 18, 1771**

*Order for forming a co. of Light Infantry in each of the Regts. of Foot in Ireland*

Townshend.

Whereas since the late Establishment of His Majesty's Infantry in Ireland hath taken place, His Majesty finding that it would be for the good of His Service, hath added a Light Company to the several Battalions of His Infantry on the British Establishment; and His Majesty likewise finding, that it will not only be of equal advantage to His Service, that a Light Company be added to each Battalion of his Infantry on the Establishment of Ireland, But that it is also of real consequence that all the Battalions in His Service should be similar, and consist of equal Numbers, hath judged it necessary that each of His Twenty-Seven Battalions of Infantry upon the Military Establishment of Ireland should consist of Ten Companies, including a Company of Light Infantry... [Consisting of]

One Colonel and Captain, One Lieutenant-Colonel and Captain, One Major and Captain, Seven Captains, Twelve Lieutenants, Eight Ensigns, One Chaplain, One Quarter-Master, One Adjutant, One Surgeon, One Surgeon's Mate, Twenty Sergeants, Thirty Corporals, Ten Drummers, Two Fifers, and Three Hundred and Eighty Private Men.

We do therefore In pursuance of His Majesty's pleasure as aforesaid hereby direct and require you, forthwith to issue the necessary Orders, that upon the 1st Day of October next ensuing the said companies of Light Infantry be formed accordingly and that for that Purpose a Reduction be made in each of His Majesty's, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>d</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 53<sup>d</sup>, 54<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 57<sup>t</sup>, 62<sup>d</sup>, and 63<sup>d</sup> Regiments of Foot of Seven Sergeants and Eight Drummers and that upon the same day each of the said several Regiments be Augmented with Three Corporals and Two private men, which, with One Captain and Two Lieutenants added by His Majesty to each of the said Regiments, will compleat them respectively to the aforesaid Establishment

Given &c. the 18<sup>th</sup> Day of Sept. 1771

Tho<sup>s</sup> Waite

To the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces  
under the Government of this Kingdom for the time being.

*Source: Historical Records of the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment, now 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment.) From its Formation, in 1717, to 1893., Capt. Raymond Henry Smythies, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. P.W.V., A. H. Swiss, Devonport, 1894, Google Books, pp. 547-548.*



Detail from *Proclamation of Rebellion* issued by King George on Aug. 23, 1775.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons.

### **Letter from King George III Adding a Light Infantry Company to the British Regiments Assigned to the Irish Establishment, London, Sept. 24, 1771**

George R.

Right Trusty &c Whereas by our Royal Letter bearing date y<sup>e</sup> [the] 23<sup>d</sup>. day of May 1770, We were pleased to direct, that each of Our 27. Battalions or Regiments, of which the Infantry of Our Army upon the Military Establishm<sup>t</sup>. of Ireland is composed should consist of 9 Companies each, And that each Regiment should Comprehend.

1 Colonel and Captain  
1 Lieut<sup>t</sup>. Colonel and Captain  
1 Major and Captain  
6 Captains –  
10 Lieutenants  
8 Ensigns  
1 Chaplain  
1 Quarter Master

1 Adjutant  
 1 Surgeons Mate  
 27 Serjeants  
 27 Corporals  
 18 Drummers  
 2 Fifers  
378 Private Men

484. making in the whole 13,068 Men, And Whereas since the abovementioned Establishment for Our Infantry in Ireland took place, We have for the good of Our Service added a Light Company to the several Battalions of Our Infantry on the British Establishment, And Whereas it will not only be of equal Advantage to Our Service, that a Light Company be added to each Battalion of Our Infantry on the establishment of Ireland, But it being also of eual [sic] consequence that all the Battalions in our Service should be Similar and consist of Equal Numbers, We have judged it necessary that Our 27 . Battalions upon the Military Establishment of Ireland should consist of Ten Companies each, including in each Battalion a Company of Light Infantry and that each Battalion should be composed of

1 Colonel and Captain  
 1 Lieut<sup>t</sup>. Colonel and Captain  
 1 Major and Captain  
 7 Captains –  
 12 Lieutenants  
 8 Ensigns  
 1 Chaplain  
 1 Quarter Master  
 1 Adjutant  
 1 Surgeon  
 1 Surgeon's Mate  
 20 Serjeants  
 30 Corporals  
 10 Drummers  
 2 Fifers  
380 Private Men

477 amounting in the whole to 12,879 Men. Our Will and pleasure therefor is, And We do hereby Direct Authorize and require, that you do give the necessary Orders and Directions for discontinuing and determining upon the Military Establishment of Our Kingdom of Ireland from the 1<sup>st</sup>. day of Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1771, inclusive the present established Numbers of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Battalion of Our 1<sup>st</sup>. or Royal Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot, Our 2<sup>d</sup>. 5<sup>th</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup>. 27<sup>th</sup>. 28<sup>th</sup>. 34<sup>th</sup>. 38<sup>th</sup>. 40<sup>th</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. 44<sup>th</sup>. 45<sup>th</sup>. 46<sup>th</sup>. 47<sup>th</sup>. 48<sup>th</sup>. 49<sup>th</sup>. 50<sup>th</sup>. 53<sup>d</sup>. 54<sup>th</sup>. 55<sup>th</sup>. 57<sup>th</sup>. 62<sup>d</sup>. 63<sup>d</sup>. 67<sup>th</sup>. 69<sup>th</sup> & 70<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. of Foot, with their usual Allowances of pay in their respective Ranks, and their present Allowance for Warrant Men to each of the said Regiments respectively, And for replacing upon the said Military Establishment of that Kingdom from the said 1<sup>st</sup>. day of Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1771 inclusive, the said 1<sup>st</sup>. Battalion of Our 1<sup>st</sup>. or Royal Regiment of Foot, Our 2<sup>d</sup>. 5<sup>th</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup>. 27<sup>th</sup>. 28<sup>th</sup>. 34<sup>th</sup>. 38<sup>th</sup>. 40<sup>th</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. 44<sup>th</sup>. 45<sup>th</sup>. 46<sup>th</sup>. 47<sup>th</sup>. 48<sup>th</sup>. 49<sup>th</sup>. 50<sup>th</sup>. 53<sup>d</sup>. 54<sup>th</sup>. 55<sup>th</sup>. 57<sup>th</sup>. 62<sup>d</sup>. 63<sup>d</sup>. 67<sup>th</sup>. 69<sup>th</sup> & 70<sup>th</sup>. Regiments of Foot each Battalion to consist of Ten Companies including a Company of Light Infantry, and to be composed of 1 Colonel and Captain 1 Lieut<sup>t</sup>. Colonel and Capt<sup>n</sup>. 1 Major and Captain 7 Capt. 12 Lieut<sup>ts</sup>. 8. Ensigns, 1 Chaplain, 1 Quarter Master, 1 Adjutant, 1 Surgeon 1, Surgeon's Mate, 20 Serjeants 30 Corporals, 10 Drummers, 2 Fifers.

Major as Major  
 1 Surgeons Mate  
 4 Captains  
 4 Lieut<sup>ts</sup>.  
 4 Ensigns  
 8 Serjeants  
 12 Corporals  
 4 Drummers  
 152 private Men  
 189.

380 private Men with such Allowance of pay in their Several Ranks as hath usually been paid respectively to the Regiments of Foot as well serving within Our said Kingdom of Ireland as serving abroad and with the usual allowance for Warrant Men to a regiment of foot of Ten Companies. And Our Service requiring the Continuance abroad of Our said 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Our 1<sup>st</sup>. or Royal Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot, Our 2<sup>d</sup>. 67<sup>th</sup>. 69<sup>th</sup>. & 70<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. of Foot and that a Major a Surgeon's Mate and 4 Companies of Our 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. shall remain stationed in the Isle of Man. Our further will and pleasure is, And we do hereby Direct Authorize and require you to give the necessary Orders and Directions that from the said 1<sup>st</sup>. day of Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1771 inclusive the s<sup>d</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup>. Battalion of Our 1<sup>st</sup>. or Royal Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot, Our 2<sup>d</sup>. 67<sup>th</sup>. 69<sup>th</sup>. & 70<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. of foot each consisting of the Numbers beforementioned, And the s<sup>d</sup>. Major Surgeon's Mate, and 4 companies of Our 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. of foot consisting of the Numbers in the Margin Mentioned, be paid and cleared from time to time with their usual Allowance for Warrant Men according to the said Establishment during the time they continued or shall or may continue out of Our Kingdom of Ireland to the time they shall respectively return thither again, or until we think fit to give Orders to the contrary notwithstanding the Want of Muster Rolls, And that the Government of Our Kingdom for the time being do give special Orders and directions, That upon the return of the said last ment<sup>d</sup>. regiments and Companies respectively into that Kingdom, they be not henceforth paid and cleared but upon regular musters And that Our Service may not Suffer by Irregularity in the paym<sup>t</sup>. of those said Regiments and Companies that the Governm<sup>t</sup>. of Our said Kingdom for the time being do give the necessary orders and directions that at such time and at all times when Our Reg<sup>ts</sup>. of Foot remaining in Ireland shall be subsisted and cleared, the Subsistence and pay of Our said 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Our 1<sup>st</sup>. or Royal Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot, Our said 2<sup>d</sup>. 67<sup>th</sup>. 69<sup>th</sup>. & 70<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. of foot and of the said Major Surgeon's Mate and four Companies of Our 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot together with their usual Allowance for Warr<sup>t</sup>. Men, be set apart, and reserved in the same manner as if these Reg<sup>ts</sup>. & Companies still continued in Ireland and be forthwith remitted to the paymaster Gen<sup>l</sup> for the time being of Our Forces in Great Britain free and clear of all Deductions for Exchange and all other deductions whatsoever, Except the usual deductions of poundage Hospital and Pell fees, and not issued or applied to any other use or purpose whatsoever, And ^<sup>as</sup> it may be expedient that the said Major Surgeons Mate & four Companies of Our 42<sup>d</sup>. Regiment of Foot now Stationed in the Isle of Man, should from time to time be exchanged for a like detachm<sup>t</sup>. of some other Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot upon the Establishm<sup>t</sup>. of Our said Kingdom of Ireland; Or by any other four Companies of the said 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. you are to cause to be remitted to the said paymaster Gen<sup>l</sup>. in Great Britain, in like manner as the pay of the said Major Surgeons Mate and four Companies is now directed to be remitted, the pay of such like Detachment from any other Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot as shall hereafter from time to time be sent to that Island in order to relieve the said Major Surgeon's Mate and four Companies of the 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. And Whereas upon the said Change of the Establishment of the Infantry in Our Army in Ireland a reduction of 189 Serjeants would take place in Our said 1<sup>st</sup>. Battalion of Our 1<sup>st</sup>. or Royal Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot, Our 2<sup>d</sup>. 5<sup>th</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup>. 27<sup>th</sup>. 28<sup>th</sup>. 34<sup>th</sup>. 38<sup>th</sup>. 40<sup>th</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. 44<sup>th</sup>. 45<sup>th</sup>. 46<sup>th</sup>. 47<sup>th</sup>. 48<sup>th</sup>. 49<sup>th</sup>. 50<sup>th</sup>. 53<sup>d</sup>. 54<sup>th</sup>. 55<sup>th</sup>. 57<sup>th</sup>. 62<sup>d</sup>. 63<sup>d</sup>. 67<sup>th</sup>. 69<sup>th</sup>. & 70<sup>th</sup>. Regiments of Foot. And it appearing to us to be of Advantage to Our Service the said 189 Serjeants should be retained in Our Army by discharging for ^<sup>that</sup> purpose a number of private Men in the said several Corps equal to the number of Serjeants so retained, the said Serjeants remaining upon the established pay of the private Men discharged, and such pay to be made up to them equal to the pay of other Serjeants so long as they shall severally continue

in Our Service, And it being necessary that for the aforesaid purpose the Annual Sum of £15. 4. 2 should be provided for each of the said Serjeants being the difference between the pay of a Serjeant and of a private man, making in the whole for the said 189 Serj<sup>ts</sup>. the Annual Sum of £2,874. 7. 6. Our Will and Pleasure therefore is, And We do hereby Direct Authorise and require that you give the necessary Orders and Directions for issuing out of Our Revenue at large <sup>^ that</sup> Our Kingdom of Ireland from the 1<sup>st</sup>. day of Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1771, inclusive, such Sums of Money as shall from time to time be necessary for making good the pay of the said 189 Serjeants in Our said 1<sup>st</sup>. Battal<sup>n</sup>. of Our 1<sup>st</sup>. or Royal Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Foot, Our said 2<sup>d</sup>. 5<sup>th</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup>. 27<sup>th</sup>. 28<sup>th</sup>. 34<sup>th</sup>. 38<sup>th</sup>. 40<sup>th</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. 44<sup>th</sup>. 45<sup>th</sup>. 46<sup>th</sup>. 47<sup>th</sup>. 48<sup>th</sup>. 49<sup>th</sup>. 50<sup>th</sup>. 53<sup>d</sup>. 54<sup>th</sup>. 55<sup>th</sup>. 57<sup>th</sup>. 62<sup>d</sup>. 63<sup>d</sup>. 67<sup>th</sup>. 69<sup>th</sup>. & 70<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. of Foot not exceeding in the whole the sum of £2,874. 7. 6 Annually, And it is Our pleasure that so often as any of the said 189 retained or Seconded Serjeants shall die be discharged or promoted, the vacancies thereby created shall be filled by private Men only, And that all Vacancies of established Serjeants shall be filled up out of the said 189 retained or Seconded Serjeants and that private Men shall be enlisted in their room until the said Annual Charge of £2,874. 7. 6 hereby provided for such retained Serjeants shall totally die off, and be extinguished, and the Numbers of Non Commissioned officers and private Men in Our several Regiments of foot upon the Military Establishm<sup>t</sup>. of Our said Kingdom of Ireland shall be composed agreeably to our General plan of the Infantry of Our Army Ireland hereby directed to be established. And for so doing this shall be as well to you as to all other Our Officers and Ministers who shall or may be concerned herein a Sufficient Warrant, And so We bid you heartily farewell, Given at Our Court at St. James's the 24<sup>th</sup>. day of Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1771, in the Eleventh year of Our Reign. –

By his Majesty's Command

[Lords of the Treasury][Frederick Lord] North – Geo. Anslow – C[harles]. Jenkinson

Source: TNA, *Treasury: Books of Out-letters concerning Ireland, 1769-1778* at T 14/15, pp. 109-110, (ff. 55-56.)



Detail showing Light Infantry from "Warley Camp: The Mock Attack," 1779, by Philipp Jakob de Loutherbourg

Picture Source: *Royal Collection Trust*

**Order for Light Infantry Drill and Discipline for the Irish Establishment, Dublin, May 15, 1772**

Townshend.

*Rules and Orders for the Discipline of the Light Infantry Companies in His Majesty's Army in Ireland.*

The Light Infantry Companies are always to be drawn up two Deep with a space of Two Feet between the Files. Marching in a Wood upon any Service of a Secret Nature, they are to be taught to lower their arms in two motions and carry them in a diagonal Position, with their hands on the swell of the firelock; and they are to shoulder in three Motions. They are to perform all Evolutions by Files and never to wheel any part of the Circle by Platoons or subdivisions much less by a larger Body. When marching through a Wood or any Strong Country by Files and ordered to form a Front to the Left, the Right Hand File is to face to the Left and the others to run up briskly and dress by it, If to form a Front to the Right the Right Hand File is to face to the Right, and the other Files are to form briskly to the Right of it; and then the Rear Rank of the Detachment becomes the Front, when a few Files are formed the Commanding Officer is to order an Irregular Fire to begin, and to Continue untill the signal shall be given for Ceasing, It is to be particularly observed that each file has an entire dependance upon itself and that the Firelocks of the front and rear Men, are never to be unloaded at the same time, When the front Rank Man Fires, the Rear Rank Man is to make Ready and step up briskly before his Comrade, but is by no means to discharge his Firelock until the other has loaded, and then he is to step briskly before the Rear Rank Man, and this method to be followed untill a signal shall be given for ceasing to Fire. This Mutual Defence and Confidence is one of the most Essential Principles of Light Infantry. The Men when in a Wood are to be taught to Cover themselves with Trees by placing the Right Foot about six inches behind the left, and presenting to the Right of the Tree, and after firing to step back two paces, and give Room to the Rear Rank man to come up to the same Tree and to fire alternately, according to the directions before mentioned. All Officers Commanding Companies, or any body of Light Infantry, are to fix upon signals for extending their Front to the Right or to the Left, or to both Flanks, or to Close to the Centre, to retire, or to advance, and these signals must be made by a loud whistle, a posting horn, or some other instrument capable of conveying a sufficient sound to be heard at a considerable Distance, and the stoutest of the Drummers is to be taught to sound these Instruments by directions from the Commanding Officer, who is to give the strictest Orders to the Men to be silent and attentive without which it is scarce possible that any action in a wood can be successfull.

Tho' the posting of guards depends upon the ground yet in general, Officers who command Light Infantry, must never place their outposts at too great a distance from the Main Body. If it should be necessary to occupy an height, which Commands the Country, Care must be taken to post other guards near to the most advanced, which may Aid its retreat.

When a Corps of Light Infantry is composed of Companies from different Regiments they must do Duty by Companies with their own officers, and as double Centries are always to be posted, the file must mount together; to be relieved every hour Messes are to consist of a Non-Commissioned officer and three File and where it is necessary to detach a Corporal's Command the Men are to go together. Houses, or any strong feature which presents itself upon the face of a Country. But they must take particular Care not to run in Crowds to these objects.

When a Corps of Light Infantry shall be employed in this Kingdom a small Waggon loaded with Intrenching Tools will be Ordered to attend it, and the officers are therefore to make themselves acquainted with the usual Method of Constructing Redans, Square Redoubts, and other parts of Field Fortification, likewise the Manner of felling and Freizing Trees for making abattis D' Arbres and to turn their Thoughts upon fortifying Church Yards and making Creneaus in Houses.

When there is appearance of service the Men must be instructed in the Use of the Intrenching Tools and to make Fascines and Gabeons of different sizes.

The Light Infantry must be Carefull not to fall into Ambuscades when they are marching through a Wood or any inclosed Country and Care must be taken to Advance a Guard, and to detach flanking parties The flanking parties to March in front and the Files to move at the distance of ten yards from each other, when either of these parties shall discover an Enemy, They are not to run into the Main Body, but

to take posts immediately and begin an attack according to the directions before mentioned, and the Commanding Officer is to form his Detachment to the flank that is Attacked and to support his party by sending a few Men under the Command of a Subaltern Officer, and to repeat this reinforcement as frequently as the Exigency of the Case may require. He is also to be very Carefull that the Men do not Crowd, and that the Enemy do not turn his flank, when there is any likelihood of that being the Case he must Order a Signal to be Sounded for extending the Front. If he should Command a Considerable Corps he should keep a small Reserve disengaged as long as possible.

The success of any Engagement in a Wood or Strong Country depends upon the Coolness and presence of Mind of the Commanding Officer, and the Silence and Obedience of the Men fully as much as upon their Bravery.

The Light Infantry are to be taught to fire at Marks, and each Soldier is to find out the proper Measure of Powder for his own Firelock and to make up his Cartridges accordingly.

The Arms of every Soldier should be always kept in good Order, But the Light Infantry Man, in particular, must not neglect his Arms, his Ammunition or throw away his Fire, as his Existence may depend upon a Single Shot's taking place. The Light Infantry must consider that the Service upon which they are likely to be Employed, is very different from that of heavy Troops, The former being always to Engage in open Order and the Attack may frequently become personal between Man and Man, It is therefore necessary to be particular in selecting Men for this Service not only of Activity and Bodily Strength but also of some Experience and approved Spirit.

Each Man must have a sufficient Number of Cartridges made up, But as it may be necessary to have recourse to the Horn, The Men are to be taught to load from it. Every part of the Accoutrements must be kept in Constant repair, the Tomahawks Sharp, and fit for Use. The Hatchet Men of the Light Infantry Companies must be able Active Men and they should know how to Make Use of their Axes. When a considerable Corps of Light Infantry is to march through a Wood or inclosed Country that can admit of it, The Commanding Officer may Order it to move from the Right or Left of Companies by Files the Companies are then to March in parallel Lines, but the flanking Companies must march in Front and form flanking Parties.

An Officer Commanding a Corps of Light Infantry and marching thro' an open Country may shorten his line of March, or move them in whatever manner he may think best.

Should any of the Enemy's Cavalry appear near a Corps of Light Infantry they must endeavour to retire to a Wood or some Strong Ground, in good Order and with a firm Countenance. But if that cannot be effected they must disperse by Files, at Considerable distances from one another, fix their Bayonets, take great Care not to throw away their Fire untill they are shure that a shot shall take place, still endeavouring to gain a Hedge, Broken House, Ravin, Wood or large Stone, Cavalry, seldom attacks Infantry in this dispersed situation if Men are resolute and determined not to throw away their Fire, and the files are attentive to the directions before given. The Light Infantry Companies are to practice Marching very frequently in quarters.

Besides what is before directed the Light Infantry Companies are to be instructed in the manual and every other Evolution which the Battalion may be ordered to perform.

And Officers Commanding Regiments may employ the Light Infantry Company in the manner which shall appear to them most proper, for the safety and protection of the Battalion whether upon a March or in the Field. And We do hereby direct and require the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in this Kingdom to cause these Rules and Orders to be duly observed and executed and he is to direct the Adjutant General to send Copies thereof to the General Officers upon the Staff and to the Commanding Officer of every Regiment of Foot upon this establishment

Given &c. the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of May 1772

*George Macartney*

*Source: Historical Records of the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment, now 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment.) From its Formation, in 1717, to 1893., Capt. Raymond Henry Smythies, 1st Bn. P.W.V., A.H. Swiss, Devonport, 1894, Google Books, pp. 549-552. The orders are noted to be filed in the Martial Affairs, Record Office, Dublin.*



An Original Short Land Pattern Firelock (2<sup>nd</sup> Model Brown Bess)

Picture Source: Museum Victoria Collection, *William Cole Arms Collection* at <http://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/373555>

**Order for Issuance of New Muskets for the Light Infantry Companies on the Irish Establishment,  
Dublin, July 17, 1772**

Townshend

5<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>,  
40<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup>,  
48<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 53<sup>rd</sup>, 54<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>,  
57<sup>th</sup>, 83<sup>rd</sup>.

We do hereby direct and Require you to cause two Sergeants' Fuzils and thirty-nine of the New Short Arms for Light Infantry to be delivered to each of the Commanding Officers of regiments of Foot in the Margin mentioned for the use of the Light Infantry Companies of the said Regiments, etc.

Given &c. the 17<sup>th</sup> Day of July 1772

Tho<sup>s</sup>. Waite

To the Master General and Principal  
of His Ma<sup>ty</sup>'s Ordnance.

Source and Note: *Historical Records of the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment, now 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment.) From its Formation, in 1717, to 1893.*, by Capt. Raymond Henry Smythies, 1st Bn. P.W.V., A.H. Swiss, Devonport, 1894, Google Books, pp. 549-552. Some have read this order to mean that the light infantry companies received 42-inch barreled carbines of .65 caliber. It more likely means that they were issued the new .75 caliber Short Land Pattern Muskets with 42 inch barrels.





Picture Source: Courtesy of the website of *His Majesty's 40<sup>th</sup> Reg. of Foot.*

**Dr. Robert Honyman's Description of Light Infantry Training on the Common,  
Boston, Mar. 22, 1775**

...finding some regiments at Exercise I was so well entertained that I spent the forenoon in looking at them. Some of the Regiments were extremely expert in their Exercise, & the manouvers & manner of fighting of the light infantry was exceedingly curious. Every regiment here has a company of light infantry, young active fellows; & trained in the regular manner, & likewise in a peculiar discipline of irregular & Bush fighting; they run out in parties on the wings of the regiment where they keep up a constant & irregular fire; they secure their retreat; & defend their front while they are forming; in one part of their Exercise they ly on their backs & charge their pieces & fire lying on their bellies. They have powder horns & no cartouch boxes...

Source: *Dr. Robert Honyman's Journal from March and April*, Ed. Philip Radford, Huntington Library, San Marino, Ca., as referenced in "Fieldwork, Notes on the Evolutions of British Light Infantry Tactics," Stephen Gilbert, John Rees, Skip Riddle and Don Hagist in the *Brigade Dispatch* (Brigade of the American Revolution), Vol. XXI, No. 1, Spring 1989, pp. 1-6.

**Flank Companies Taken Off Regular Duties to Learn New Tactics, Boston, Apr. 15 - 16, 1775**

15<sup>th</sup> April. The Grenadier and Light Infantry Companies were this day Ordered to be off all duty 'till further orders, as they will be ordered out to learn the Grenadier Exercise, and some New Evolutions for the Light Infantry...

16<sup>th</sup> April. The Majors and Adjutants of Regiments, ordered to instruct the Grenadiers of their own Corps in the Grenadier Exercise .- It was also notified in Orders that the Light Companies would be instructed in the New Manoeuvres by Lieu<sup>t</sup> [Frederick] Mackenzie, Adjutant of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment who would fix with respective Captains the time of assembling.

Source: *Diary of [Lt.] Frederick Mackenzie* [23<sup>rd</sup> Regt.], Vol. I, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 (Reprinted by *Eyewitness Accounts of the American Revolution*, New York Times and Arno Press), pp. 16-17.



Detail from "General the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Gage," 1788, by John Singleton Copley

**Gen. Thomas Gage Orders Flank Companies to Learn New Tactics, Boston, Apr. 15, 1775**

Head Quarters Boston 15<sup>th</sup>. April 1775...

As the Grenadiers & light Infantry will be ordered out, to Learn Grenadier Exercise, & some new Evolutions for the Light Infantry, they are to be off Duty till further orders...

Head Quarters Boston 16<sup>th</sup>. April 1775...

The Majors & Adjutants will begin to instruct the Grenadiers of their own Corps in the Grenadier Exercise to Morrow at the most convenient place near their Barracks –

The Light Companies will be instructed in the New Manœvers by L<sup>t</sup>. [Frederick] McKenzie, Adj<sup>t</sup>. to the 23<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. who will fix the time of Assembly with the Respecting Captains to morow morning at Guard Mounting...

Source: *Gen<sup>l</sup> Orders from 10<sup>th</sup>. Decem<sup>r</sup>. 1774 to 6<sup>th</sup> June 1775*, Maj. Gen. Thomas Gage, (Manuscript), American Revolutionary War Manuscripts Collection, Boston Public Library.

**General Order Issued for Light Infantry to Routinely Form Up in Open Order, Boston, June 3, 1775**

Head Quarters Boston Saturday 3<sup>d</sup>. June 1775

The Troops will Draw up two Deep on their Regimental Parades, as well as on the Gen<sup>l</sup>. Parade, the Light Infantry when by themselves to be Accustomed to draw up in open order.

The Grenadier & Light Infantry Companies not to Encamp till Monday –

Source: *Gen<sup>l</sup> Orders from 10<sup>th</sup>. Decem<sup>r</sup>. 1774 to 6<sup>th</sup> June 1775*, Maj. Gen. Thomas Gage, (Manuscript), American Revolutionary War Manuscripts Collection, Boston Public Library.

**General Order Issued for Lt. Col. George Clerk, 43<sup>rd</sup> Regt. to Command the Light Infantry Battalion, Boston, June 4, 1775**

Head Quarters Boston Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>. June 1775...

L<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>o</sup>. Clerk of the 43<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. is appoint<sup>d</sup>. to the Command of the Corps of Light Infantry.

Major [William] Butler of the 65<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. is app<sup>d</sup>. Major to said Corps – [Brevet] Major [Thomas] Smels of the 47<sup>th</sup>. is appointed to the Corps of Grenadiers –

The Reg<sup>ts</sup>. who Chuse to Cut their old Hatts after the manner of the 4<sup>th</sup>. have done, may do it, but are not to cut any of their New Hatts.

Source: *Gen<sup>l</sup> Orders from 10<sup>th</sup>. Decem<sup>r</sup>. 1774 to 6<sup>th</sup> June 1775*, Maj. Gen. Thomas Gage, (Manuscript), American Revolutionary War Manuscripts Collection, Boston Public Library.



Detail showing British transports from “12<sup>th</sup> June 1776. Sailing from Halifax to N. York,” by Archibald Robertson

Picture Source: Archibald Robertson: his diaries and sketches in America, 1762-1780, New York Public Lib., Digital Collection.

**Capt. Hon George Mackenzie’s 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company Embarked on  
Transport *Houston* for the Voyage to America; Greenock, Scotland, Apr. 29, 1776**

A List of the particular Transports carrying out each Company of the Royal Highland Regiment

Colonel [Thomas] Stirling	Brilliant
Major [William] Murray	Thomas
[Brevet] Major [William] Grant [Grenadiers]	Thames
Cap <sup>t</sup> . [the Hon. George] M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie [Lt. Infantry]	Houston
Cap <sup>t</sup> . [Charles] Graham	Peggie
Cap <sup>t</sup> . [Archibald] Erskine	Bowman
[Brevet] Major [Duncan] M <sup>c</sup> Pherson	Minerva
Cap <sup>t</sup> . [John] Smith	Oxford
Cap <sup>t</sup> . [Lt. John] M <sup>c</sup> Intosh	Neptune
Cap <sup>t</sup> . [Charles] Grant	Glasgow
[Adj. and QM]	[ <i>Joseph &amp; Henry</i> ]
[Shared Hospital Ship]	[ <i>Globe</i> ]

Convoy the [32-gun *HMS*] Flora Cap<sup>t</sup>. [John] Brisbane

All sailed from Gonroch [Greenock] Harbour at Seven oclock fornoon with a fair wind for America on Monday the Twenty – ninth of April 1776 –

Source: *Gen. Sir Thomas Stirling Papers*, Item 0398/6, Black Watch Regiment Archives, Perth.

**General Order Forming Two Battalions of Light Infantry, Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 14, 1776**

Head Quarters Halifax 14<sup>th</sup> May 1776...

The Commander in Chief is pleased to form the Grenadier and Light Infantry Companies into four Battalions...

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Light Infantry, composed of the following Companies, to be Commanded by Major [Thomas] Musgrave [64<sup>th</sup> Regt.] and Major [Thomas] Dundas [65<sup>th</sup> Regt.], viz.: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>d</sup>, 23<sup>d</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>.

2<sup>d</sup> Battalion of Light Infantry composed of the following Companies, to be Commanded by Major [Hon. John] Maitland [Marines] and Major [Turner von] Straubenzee [17<sup>th</sup> Regt.], viz.: 40<sup>th</sup>, 43<sup>d</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup>, 52<sup>d</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 63<sup>d</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup>.

Source: Gen. Sir William Howe's Orders, 1776, in "The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789" in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books, pp. 352-353.



Detail from Engraving of Sir Thomas Musgrave in the Uniform of the Fortieth Foot at the Chew House, 1786, by Lemuel Francis Abbott

Picture Source: Website Historica Fandom wiki

### **Orders for the Arrangement of the Light Infantry Battalions in America Before the Arrival of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 14, 1776**

Head Quarters Halifax 14<sup>th</sup> May 1776...

The Commander in Chief is pleased to form the Grenadier and Light Infantry Companies into four Battalions...

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Light Infantry, composed of the following Companies, to be Commanded by Major [Thomas] Musgrave [64<sup>th</sup> Regt.] and Major [Thomas] Dundas [65<sup>th</sup> Regt.], viz.: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>d</sup>, 23<sup>d</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>.

2<sup>d</sup> Battalion of Light Infantry composed of the following Companies, to be Commanded by Major [Hon. John] Maitland [Marines] and Major [Turner von] Straubenzee [17<sup>th</sup> Regt.], viz.: 40<sup>th</sup>, 43<sup>d</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup>, 52<sup>d</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 63<sup>d</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup>.

Source: Gen. Sir William Howe's Orders, 1776, in "The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789" in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books, pp. 352-353.



Detail Showing Lt. Col. Hon. George Mackenzie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 73<sup>rd</sup> (MacLeod's) Highland Regt.,  
*Siege of Gibraltar*, 1784, by George Carter,

Picture Source: U. K. *National Army Museum*

**General Order Assigning Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie's 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry  
 Company to the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Battalion, Staten Island, Aug. 6, 1776**

Dyker's ferry, 6<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1776...

The Light Company of the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> to join the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> Light Inf<sup>ry</sup>.

Source and Note: "*Orderly Book, 4<sup>th</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> Grenadr<sup>s</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Grenadiers*" in "13 notebooks containing the journal of Lt. [latterly Capt.] John Peebles of the 42<sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment, during the American War of Independence," *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun, 1776-1782*, National Records of Scotland, at GD 21/492/2, Edinburgh (hereafter *Orderly Book, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Grenadiers*). Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie was the son of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Cromarty.

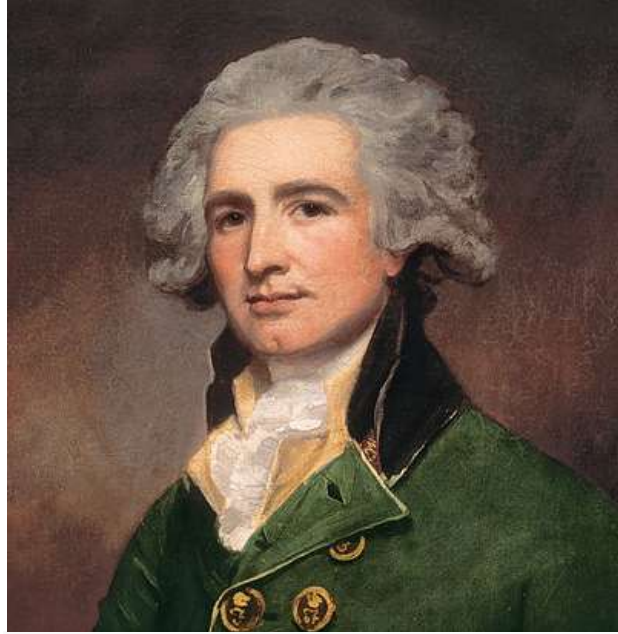
**Regimental Order Dispatching the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company to  
 Join the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion, Staten Island, Aug. 8, 1776**

Staten Island 8<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1776

Morn<sup>g</sup> [42<sup>nd</sup>] Regimental Orders...

The Light Infantry Comp<sup>y</sup> to march at same time [tomorrow Morning] & join the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> under the Command of Major <sup>Brigr</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> [Alexander] Leslie & receive their orders from him...

Source: *Orderly Book, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Grenadiers*.



Detail of *Colonel Robert Abercrombie*, 1788, by George Romney

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Art Gallery of South Australia*

**General Order Assigning Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby, 37<sup>th</sup> Regt., to Command the  
1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Battalion, New Rochelle, New York, Oct. 23, 1776**

Head Quarters New Rochelle 23<sup>d</sup> Oct. 1776...

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col. Abercrombie is appointed to the Command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Light Infantry in the Room of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col. [Thomas] Musgrave [40<sup>th</sup> Regt.], lately wounded.

Source: "The Kemble Papers," Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books.

**General Order to Disband the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion and Assign the  
Companies to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, New York, Mar. 23, 1777**

Head Quarters New York March 23<sup>d</sup> 1777...

The 3<sup>d</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> of Grenad<sup>rs</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Infantry, are to be incorporated into the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt<sup>ns</sup> as follows...

15<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 33<sup>d</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Inf<sup>y</sup> Companies to the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> of L<sup>t</sup> Infantry.

37<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup> & 57<sup>th</sup> Companies to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> of L<sup>t</sup> Infantry.

Source: "Orderly Book of General Sir William Howe, Kept By Major Stephen Kemble, Deputy Adjutant General, 29 January 1777 - 20 June 1777" in New York State Library, Manuscripts and History Library, Accession Number 6744.





Detail of *A sketch of the northern parts of New Jersey*, 1781, by John Hills,

Picture Source: *Library of Congress, Geography and Map Div.*

**42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Leadership from Muster Report,  
Piscataway, New Jersey, Apr. 30, 1777**

His Majesties 42 <sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot Commanded by Gen <sup>l</sup> Lord John Murray					
		George M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie      Cap <sup>t</sup>			
		James Graham      }    Lieu <sup>ts</sup>			
		Robert Potts      }			
		Thomas Lyttleton      }			
Serjeants		Corporals		Drummers	
On Duty	John M <sup>c</sup> Pharlan		John M <sup>c</sup> Intosh	Sick	Duncan M <sup>c</sup> Intyre
	Alex <sup>r</sup> Sinclair		James Fraser		Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Lean
Sick	George Grant	Died 4 Apr <sup>l</sup> 1777  from private 23 <sup>d</sup> Apr <sup>l</sup> 77	John M <sup>c</sup> Lean		
	Will <sup>m</sup> Smith		Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Kennon		
	Alex <sup>r</sup> Aird		James M <sup>c</sup> Nab		
			John M <sup>c</sup> Donald		

Source: TNA, *War Office, Commissary General of Musters, Infantry, 42<sup>nd</sup> Foot*, 1759-1776 at WO 12/5478.



Portrait of Lt. James Stewart, c. 1781

Picture Source: Courtesy of Alexander Good

**Excerpt of Col. James Stewart's Account of his Service in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.  
During the American War to Col. David Stewart (Garth), Oct. 7, 1777 – Oct. 1781**

To Colonel D Stewart jun of Garth, Le Contes Lodging, 26 Frederick Street, Edinburgh. Balmanno

My Dear Colonel.

The task you have assigned me is a light one – Indisposition prevented me discharging it by return post. About the close of the American campaign 1777 I was appointed a L<sup>t</sup> in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and a little before the Army went into Winter quarter at Philadelphia I joined the Light Company serving with the first Batt under Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> Abercromby Summer and Winter I shared with them the severest duty I was ever engaged in till taken with Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. During all this period I have no sight to speak of the reg<sup>t</sup> I came home & went to France a prisoner till the peace absolved me...With every hearty wish for your success, Yours faithfully, my dear Colonel.”

Source and Note: NRS, *Stewart of Garth Correspondence*, GD1/53. Col. David Stewart had asked for information to assist his preparation of the history of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in American War.

**42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Leadership from Muster Report,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Feb. 23, 1778**

Promoted in 57 <sup>th</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> 22 <sup>d</sup> May 77		George M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie    Captain			
		James Graham    }	Lieu <sup>ts</sup>		
		Robert Potts    }			
Exchanged to 5 <sup>th</sup> Foot 7 Oct <sup>r</sup>		Thomas Lyttleton    }			
From Maj McPherson's 22 <sup>nd</sup> May		Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Leod    }			
Serjeants		Corporals		Drummers	
Kill <sup>d</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct <sup>r</sup> 77 Sick	John M <sup>c</sup> Farlan	Made Serj <sup>t</sup> 5 Oct 77	John M <sup>c</sup> Intosh		Duncan M <sup>c</sup> Intyre Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Lean
	Alex <sup>r</sup> Sinclair	Trans <sup>d</sup> to Maj <sup>rs</sup> C <sup>o</sup> 14 June	James Fraser		
	George Grant	Died 22 April 1777	John M <sup>c</sup> Lean		
	William Smith	Sick	Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Kinnon		



Duty	Alex <sup>r</sup> Aird	from private 23 <sup>d</sup> Ap <sup>r</sup> d <sup>o</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup> June	James M <sup>c</sup> Nab John M <sup>c</sup> Donald Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie		
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Source: TNA, *War Office, Commissary General of Musters, Infantry, 42<sup>nd</sup> Foot, 1777-1786* at WO 12/5479



Detail from "View of Philadelphia, 28 Nov. 1777, by Archibald Robertson

Picture Source: *Archibald Robertson: his diaries and sketches in America, 1762-1780*, New York Public Lib., Digital Collection.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Notes that Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie, 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, was Leaving on the Packet Ship to Join the 73<sup>rd</sup> or Macleod Highland Regt. and that Capt. John Smith is to Command the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 9 – 10 and 12, 1778**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>. June, cool last night today pleasantly warm – call'd on [Lt.] Co<sup>l</sup>. [Thomas] Stirling [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] but he was not at home, he came up afterwards to our house & taking me out he asked me if I had any objections to go to the [42<sup>nd</sup>] Light Infantry [Co.]. I said none but hoped he wo<sup>d</sup> send me to the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. [42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co.] when there was an opening, but he wo<sup>d</sup> not promise – he said he had seen the Gen<sup>l</sup> [Sir Henry Clinton] & spoke to him about [Lt. John] Rutherford & me succeeding in the Reg<sup>t</sup>. & he told him he would always pay a proper attention to his recommendations, but that these vacancy's were not to be fill'd up yet – There are two or three applying to get into the 42<sup>d</sup>. on this occasion but Col Stirling thinks we need not be uneasy...

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>. June... I ask'd Col: Stirling when I was to join the Light Infantry, when to my great surprize & astonishment he told me he tho<sup>l</sup>. I had declined it as not convenient, & that he had spoke to Cap<sup>t</sup>. [John] Smith: very strange behaviour M<sup>r</sup>. Stirling, I must say...

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>. June warm as usual...had Company to dine...Cap<sup>t</sup>. M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie who goes home in the Pacquet, to take possession of his Majority

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry for June 9-10 and 12, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 186-188. Maj. Mackenzie's older brother, John Mackenzie, Lord MacLeod, was the colonel of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders. The commander of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. at the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey is a matter of some confusion and these notes provide some information to resolve the confusion. The muster of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. taken at Bedford, Long Island dated July 27, 1778 notes "*Commander in Chiefs leave George M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie } Captain.*" The muster of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. taken at Southampton, Long Island dated Mar. 2, 1779 notes "*From the Regiment 25<sup>th</sup> June ...John Smith Captain.*"

**General Order to Disband the British Flank Battalion and Return the Light Infantry Companies to Their Regiments, Sandy Hook, New Jersey, July 5, 1778**

Head Quarters Sandy Hook 5<sup>th</sup> July 1778...

The Flank Companies of all the British Regiments in this division of the Army are to join their respective Corps until further Orders, to settle their Accounts, &c...

A hand-drawn map of New York City and surrounding areas. The map is drawn on aged, yellowed paper. It shows the Hudson River to the west, with 'New York' written in the upper left. 'Manhattan' is written across the central island, and 'Brooklyn' is written below it. To the east, 'Queens' is partially visible. The map includes several small, dark, irregular shapes representing islands or rocks, some with small red dots. A red line runs through the lower part of the map, possibly representing a road or a boundary. The drawing is done in black ink with some red highlights.

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

Commander in Chiefs leave		George M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie Robert Potts Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Leod James Stewart	Captain } } } Lieutenants }
<b>Serjeants</b>		<b>Corporals</b>	
Transferr <sup>d</sup> to Capt <sup>n</sup> Duncan M <sup>c</sup> Phersons Comp <sup>y</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> Ap <sup>l</sup> 78 From Corporal d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	John M <sup>c</sup> Farlan William Smith Alexander Aird John M <sup>c</sup> Intosh Alexander Sinclair	Sick     Made Serjeant 25 <sup>th</sup> Ap <sup>l</sup> 78 From private d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	James M <sup>c</sup> Nab John M <sup>c</sup> Donald Alexander M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie James Smith Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Kinnon Duncan M <sup>c</sup> Lauchlan
	Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Kinnon		Transf <sup>d</sup> to Col <sup>o</sup> Stirlings 25 <sup>th</sup> Ap <sup>l</sup> 78 prisoner with the Rebels Entertain <sup>d</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> Ap <sup>l</sup> 78 Sick
			Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Lean  Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Leod  Alex <sup>r</sup> Ross

## General Order to Reestablish the British Flank Battalions, New York, July 31, 1778

The Command<sup>rs</sup> Off<sup>rs</sup> of the British Grenad<sup>rs</sup> & L<sup>t</sup> Inf<sup>y</sup> are to Assemble their respective Batt<sup>ns</sup> as soon as they conveniently can at Bedford, Long Island.

Source: "Captured British Army Orderly Book, January 29-August 9, 1778" in the *George Washington Papers* at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: Series 6. Military Papers. 1755-1798

**General Order to Transfer the 37<sup>th</sup> Lt. Infantry Company to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion,  
New York, Aug. 10, 1778**

Head Quarters New York [illegible date – likely Aug. 10, 1778]  
... And the 37<sup>th</sup> Lig<sup>t</sup> Comp<sup>y</sup> from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lg<sup>t</sup> I<sup>y</sup>

Source: George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: Series 6. Military Papers. 1755-1798, Captured British Army Orderly Book, August 4 – October 13, 1778]



Detail from "General Grant of Ballindalloch," 1770

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory*

**Regiments Assigned to Maj. Gen. James Grant's Expedition to the West Indies Ordered to Embark  
(Taking Their Lt. Infantry Companies), New York, Oct. 24, 1778**

Head Quarters New York 24<sup>th</sup> Octor 1778...

After Orders

The 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Regiments are to embark tomorrow. Henceforth those Regiments will receive their Orders from Maj. Gen. Grant...

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan (hereafter *Sir Henry Clinton Order Book*).

**General Order to Consolidate the Two Light Infantry Battalions, New York, Nov. 3, 1778**

Head Quarters New York 3<sup>d</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup> 1778...

The British Grenadiers and Light Infantry are to be immediately formed into one Battalion each, the Light Infantry under the Command of Lieut Colonel [Robert] Abercrombie [37<sup>th</sup> Regt.], and the Grenadiers under the Command of Lieut Col<sup>o</sup> [Henry] Hope [44<sup>th</sup> Regt.]...



Source and Note: *Sir Henry Clinton Order Book*. This order was caused by the departure of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Regiments and their flank companies as part of Maj. Gen. James Grant's expedition to attack French interests in the West Indies.



Reenactors in estimated uniform of 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, 1778

Picture Source and Note: Authors' Collection. With the exception of the officer on the right, the soldiers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Co. likely had a different waistcoat lace pattern than shown here.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record the Consolidation of the Grenadiers and Light Infantry into One Battalion Each and March to Jamaica, Long Island, Nov. 3 – 4, 1778**

Tuesday 3<sup>d</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. frost last night the day pleasant & sunshine – orders for the flank corps to be form'd into one Battalion each, the Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] under the Command of L<sup>t</sup>. Colo: [Robert] Abercromby [37<sup>th</sup> Regt.] ...

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. pretty cold wind at N:W... arrived at Jamaica [Long Island] between 12 & one & Encamp'd at the west end near the English Church, the Light Infantry more to the east & back of the Town – the off<sup>rs</sup>. have to go into houses the best way they can till the Quarters are settled – The Town will be much crowded with the off<sup>rs</sup>. & men will be obliged to hutt...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Nov. 3-4, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 229-230. The consolidation of the flank corps was due to the loss of a number of regiments and their flank companies to other expeditions.

**General Order Assigning Maj. William Dansey, 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt., to the Combined Lt. Infantry Battalion, New York, Nov. 26, 1778**

H<sup>d</sup>. Q<sup>rs</sup>. N. York 26<sup>th</sup> No<sup>vr</sup> 1778 ...

Majr [William] Danzie of 33<sup>d</sup>. Regt. is appointed to Do duty with y<sup>e</sup>. L<sup>t</sup> Inf<sup>y</sup> Under the Command of L<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>n</sup>. [Robert] Abercromby [37<sup>th</sup>] Untill farther Orders –

Source: "Capt. Eyre Coote's 37<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Company Order Book, 1778 – 1781" in the *Eyre Coote Papers*, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan (hereafter *37<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. Order Book*). Transcript by Paul Pace available on-line at <http://www.revwar75.com/library/pace/37-light-OB.pdf>.



Detail showing Southampton in the lower-center from "Connecticut and parts adjacent," 1780, by Covens et Mortier et Covens, Jr.

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Leadership from Muster Report, Southampton, Long Island, New York, Mar. 2, 1779

From the Regiment 25 <sup>th</sup> June		Sick {	John Smith	Captain
		{	Robert Potts	Lieutenants
			James Stewart	
Transferred to the Regiment 2 <sup>d</sup> August 1778			Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Leod	
Commission dated 3 <sup>d</sup> August			William Fraser	Ensign
Serjeants		Corporals		Drummers
On Command	John M <sup>c</sup> Farlan William Smith	Appointed Sergeant and Transferred to the Regiment 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup>	John M <sup>c</sup> Donald Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie	[Missing from copy]
Sick	Alex <sup>r</sup> Aird John M <sup>c</sup> Intosh Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Kinnon		James Smith Duncan M <sup>c</sup> Lachlan James M <sup>c</sup> Nab	

Source: TNA, War Office, Commissary General of Musters, Infantry, 42<sup>nd</sup> Foot, 1777-1786 at WO 12/5479.

### Maj. John Campbell, 74<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt. (Argyll) Ordered to Join the Light Infantry Battalion, New York, Apr. 21, 1779

Head Quarters New York 21<sup>st</sup> April 1779...

The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following promotions...

Major [John] Campbell of the 74<sup>th</sup> Regiment is to serve with the Light Infantry 'till further orders; he will take charge of the flank companies at New Utrecht till they shall be order'd to join their battalions....

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan.

**Strength Report for Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby's Combined, Light Infantry Battalion,  
Southampton, Long Island, Apr. 25, 1779**

Southampton 25 <sup>th</sup> April 1779 – Present State of the 15 Companys of Light Infantry Commanded by Lieu <sup>t</sup> Colonel Robert Abercromby																
Companies	Present Doing Duty				Sick' Present				Sick Absent				Wounded			
	Serj <sup>is</sup>	Corp <sup>is</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private	Serj <sup>is</sup>	Corp <sup>is</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private	Serj <sup>is</sup>	Corp <sup>is</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private	Serj <sup>is</sup>	Corp <sup>is</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private
7 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	-	25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
17	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
23 <sup>d</sup>	3	3	2	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	2	2	1	24	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
33 <sup>d</sup>	3	3	1	25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37 <sup>th</sup>	2	2	1	32	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	2	36	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42 <sup>d</sup>	4	5	-	45	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
43	3	3	2	36	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	3	2	-	31	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
54	2	3	1	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
57	3	3	-	39	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
63	3	2	1	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
64	3	3	2	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	37	35	14	435	1	-	-	24	-	-	1	9	-	-	-	1

[continued]

Companies	abs <sup>t</sup> by leave & Recruit <sup>s</sup>				In the Troop				On Duty at Jamaica				On Command			
	Serj <sup>is</sup>	Corp <sup>is</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private	Serj <sup>is</sup>	Corp <sup>is</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private	Serj <sup>is</sup>	Corp <sup>is</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private	Serj <sup>is</sup>	Corp <sup>is</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private
7 <sup>th</sup>	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	3	3	1	38
22	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	2	2	1	30
23 <sup>d</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
26	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
33 <sup>d</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
37 <sup>th</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
38 <sup>th</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
42 <sup>d</sup>	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
44	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
54	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
57	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
63	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Total	-	-	4	7	-	2	2	35	2	1	-	37	5	6	2	72

[continued]

Company's	Artificers	Pris <sup>rs</sup> with the Rebels	Privates

	Serj <sup>ts</sup>	Corp <sup>ls</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private	Serj <sup>ts</sup>	Corp <sup>ls</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private	Lance Corp <sup>ls</sup>	Addit <sup>l</sup> Gun <sup>rs</sup>	Off <sup>rs</sup> Serv <sup>ts</sup>	Batt-men	Pioneers	Tailors
7 <sup>th</sup>	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	-
17	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
22	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
23 <sup>d</sup>	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	1	1	-
26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	1	1	2
33 <sup>d</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	1	1
37 <sup>th</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	1	1	1
38 <sup>th</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	3	1	1	2
42 <sup>d</sup>	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	3	1	1	4
43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	1	1	2
44	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2
54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	3
57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	2
63	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	1	1	2
64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	1
Total	-	1	-	13	-	1	1	13	6	10	32	12	15	22

[continued]

Companies	Total Effective				Wanting to Compleat			
	Serj <sup>ts</sup>	Corp <sup>ls</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private	Serj <sup>ts</sup>	Corp <sup>ls</sup>	Drum <sup>rs</sup>	Private
7 <sup>th</sup>	3	3	1	40	-	-	1	13
17	3	3	2	48	-	-	-	5
22	2	3	2	44	1	-	-	9
23 <sup>d</sup>	3	3	2	50	-	-	-	3
26	3	3	2	44	-	-	-	9
33 <sup>d</sup>	3	3	1	38	-	-	1	15
37 <sup>th</sup>	3	3	1	47	-	-	1	6
38 <sup>th</sup>	3	3	2	53	-	-	-	-
42 <sup>d</sup>	5	5	-	73	-	-	2	23
43	3	3	2	53	-	-	-	-
44	3	2	2	43	-	1	-	10
54	5	3	2	53	-	-	-	-
57	3	3	2	53	-	-	-	-
63	3	3	2	45	-	-	-	8
64	3	3	2	49	-	-	-	4
Total	46	46	25	733	1	1	5	105

N.B. Cap<sup>ts</sup> Scott & Grant, Lieu<sup>ts</sup> Everard, Amiele & Frazer on Command. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Goff on Duty at Jamaica, Captain [John] Smith [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] & Lieu<sup>t</sup> [Robert] Potts [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] Sick at Jamaica. Lieu<sup>ts</sup> Campbell & Drurey absent by leave – three Lieu<sup>ts</sup> Vacant – one private man of 37<sup>th</sup> Comp<sup>y</sup> Discharg'd since last Return. A Detachment of artillery consisting of 1 Lieu<sup>t</sup> 1 Corp<sup>l</sup>, 1 Bombadier, 1 Gunner. 7 Mattrosses, 6 additional & 3 Drivers not included in the above Return, 1 of the Mattrosses sick, and 1 an Officer's sevant,

*J Ingram*  
Adj<sup>t</sup>

Source: Robert Abercromby, April 25, 1778, Report on Light Infantry at Southampton, New York in the *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress*, Series 4.



Detail showing Bedford in the lower right corner from “Plan of New York and Staten Islands with part of Long Island, survey’d in the years 1781, & 82.”

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Leadership from Muster Report, Camp Near Bedford, Long Island, New York, Sept. 10, 1779

Sick { John <b>Smith</b> Captain Robert Potts } Lieu <sup>ts</sup> James Stewart } Will <sup>m</sup> Fraser Ensign					
Serjeants		Corporals		[Drummers missing in copy]	
	John M <sup>c</sup> Pharlan W <sup>m</sup> Smith Alex <sup>r</sup> Aird John M <sup>c</sup> Intosh Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Kinnon	Sick {  }  Dutv	John M <sup>c</sup> Don <sup>d</sup> Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie James Smith Duncan M <sup>c</sup> Lachlan W <sup>m</sup> Forbes		

Source: TNA, *War Office, Commissary General of Musters, Infantry, 42<sup>nd</sup> Foot, 1777-1786* at WO 12/5479.

### General Order Issued to Return to Two Light Infantry Battalions, with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, New York, Dec. 15, 1779

Head Quarters New York 15<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1779...

The Battalions of Light Infantry are to consist of the following companies.

1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 33<sup>d</sup> 37<sup>th</sup> 42<sup>d</sup> 54<sup>th</sup> 63<sup>d</sup> 70<sup>th</sup> 74<sup>th</sup>.

2<sup>nd</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 38<sup>th</sup> 43<sup>d</sup> 57<sup>th</sup> 64<sup>th</sup> 76<sup>th</sup> 80<sup>th</sup> 84<sup>th</sup>.

Source: “Orders, 1778-1782,” *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan.





Detail of Portrait of Maj. George Dalrymple, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., circa 1791- 1794

Picture Source: *The Black Watch Castle & Museum*. This image may be used for non-commercial research or private study purposes only.

**Excerpt from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Muster Report for the Period June 25, 1779-Dec. 24, 1779, Showing Command Change from Capt. John Smith to Capt. George Dalrymple, Camp near East Chester, New York, July 17, 1780**

Transferred to Batt <sup>n</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> 1779			John Smith	}	Captains	
From D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>			George <b>Dalrymple</b>			
			Robert Potts	}	Lieu <sup>ts</sup>	
Duty			James Stewart			
Transferred to Majors 25 <sup>th</sup> August 1779			William McDonald	}		
from D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup> Duty			William Fraser [ens?] }			
<b>Serjeants</b>			<b>Corporals</b>		<b>Drummers</b>	
Duty	John M <sup>c</sup> Farlan		Duty	John M <sup>c</sup> Donald	prisoner with the Rebels	James Kirkam
	William Smith		D <sup>o</sup>	Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie		
Duty	Alex <sup>r</sup> Aird			Duncan M <sup>c</sup> Lachlan	Sick	Anthony Fuller
	John M <sup>c</sup> Intosh			William Forbes		
	Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Kinnon		sent to Garrison duty 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> 79	James Smith		

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office: General Muster Books and Pay Lists, Infantry, 42nd Foot, 1777-1786* at WO 12/5479. Eastchester is a town in southern Westchester County, New York.

**General Orders to Split the Combined Light Infantry Battalion into Two Battalions, New York, Dec. 15, 1779**

Head Quarters New York 15<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 79

Orders ...

The Battalions of Light Infan<sup>y</sup> are to Consist of the following Comp<sup>y</sup> –

First Batt<sup>n</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup>.. 22<sup>nd</sup>.. 33<sup>d</sup>.. 37<sup>th</sup>.. 42<sup>nd</sup>.. 54<sup>th</sup>.. 63<sup>d</sup>.. 70<sup>th</sup> 74<sup>th</sup> – Second Batt<sup>n</sup>. 17<sup>th</sup>.. 23<sup>d</sup>.. 38<sup>th</sup>.. 43<sup>d</sup>.. 57<sup>th</sup>.. 64<sup>th</sup>.. 76<sup>th</sup>.. 80<sup>th</sup>.. 84<sup>th</sup> –

Source: *37<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. Order Book*.

**General Order Appointing Maj. Thomas Armstrong to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Infantry Battalion,  
Charleston, South Carolina, Mar. 5, 1780**

hed Q<sup>rs</sup> March Y<sup>e</sup> 5 [1780]

Maj: [Thomas] Armstrong of Y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Reg: is appointed to the 2<sup>d</sup> Batt: of Light Infantry

Source: *37<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. Order Book*.



Reproduction 82<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Uniform Button

**Maj. Gen. Alexander Leslie's Order Assigning 82<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company  
to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion, Phillipsburg, New York, June 28, 1780**

Philips burgh 28<sup>th</sup> [June] – 1780...

Maj<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Alexander] Lessly's Orders

The Light Infantry Compy. of the 82<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> is to Joyn the 1<sup>st</sup>. Battlion of Light Infantry ...

Source: *37<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. Order Book*.

**General Order Assigning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion to Be Under  
"the Inspection" of Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby, New York, July 10, 1780**

Head Qua<sup>rs</sup> New York 10 July 1780

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colo [Thomas] Dundas desiring to give his attention to the 80<sup>th</sup> Regiment, which Embarked for America under his Command, has obtained the Comm<sup>r</sup> in Chiefs permission to quit the 2<sup>d</sup> Battalion of L<sup>t</sup> Infantry. This battalion together with the first will therefore 'till further orders be under the Inspection of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colo [Robert] Abercrombie...

Source: *Sir Henry Clinton Orderly Book*.



Detail showing Whitestone from "Plan of New York and Staten Islands"

*with part of Long Island, survey'd in the years 1781, & 82.,”*

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**General Order Providing the Light Infantry Order of Battle for a Planned Expedition Against Rhode Island; Whitestone, Long Island, July 27, 1780**

On Board the Grand Duke at the White Stone 27<sup>th</sup> July 80

The Army for the present Expedition is Brigaded as follows

Yagers	} Inspected by	}
1 <sup>st</sup> Light Infantry	} L <sup>t</sup> Col [Robert] Abercrombie [1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf.]	} Commanded by
2 <sup>d</sup> Light Infantry	}	} Maj General
		} [Alexander] Leslie...

Source: *Sir Henry Clinton Orderly Book*.

**General Order Changing the Establishment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company from 100 Privates to a Level Consistent with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Battalion Companies, New York, Oct. 21, 1780**

Head Qrs New York 21<sup>st</sup> Octo<sup>r</sup> 1780...

The Light Infantry Companies to be immediately Compleated from their Regiments, to 56 Rank & File. The Captains of those Companies, whose Regiments are absent, will compleat them from the Recruits arrived from Europe for their respective Regiments, taking those men most proper for that Service.

Those Companies whose Establishment is 101, and where strength at present is inferior to the Batt<sup>n</sup> Companies, are to be Levelled with those of the Regiments they belong to –

Source and Note: *Sir Henry Clinton Orderly Book*. The Nov. 1, 1780 strength report for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. had a total of 530 privates “Present/Fit for duty” and “on command” in the eight battalion companies indicating the Lt. Infantry Company would have been leveled with them to about 66 privates per company.

**General Order Appointing Senior Officers in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion, New York, Oct. 24, 1780**

Head Q<sup>rs</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup> Oc<sup>r</sup> 1780

Major [Thomas] Armstrong [17<sup>th</sup> Regt.] of the 2<sup>d</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Inf<sup>y</sup> Is apointed To the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>. & Cap<sup>t</sup> [St. Lawrence] Boyd of the 38<sup>th</sup> L<sup>t</sup> C [Company] To be Comandant of the 2<sup>d</sup> Battalion

Source: *37<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. Order Book*.

**General Order Assigning (Recently Exchanged Prisoner of War) Maj. General William Phillips to Command a Corps Including the Light Infantry Battalions, New York, Oct. 27, 1780**

Head Qrs N Y 27 Octo<sup>r</sup> 1780...

The British Light Infantry, British Grenadiers and 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment will form a Corps under the Command of Major General [William] Phillips [Royal Artillery].

Source: *Sir Henry Clinton Orderly Book*.

**Adjutant Appointed to 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Battalion, New York, Nov. 4, 1780**

Head Qrs N Y 4<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1780...

The Comm<sup>r</sup> in Chief has been pleased to make the following proportions...  
 Lieu<sup>t</sup> [George] Dunlap of the 74<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry is appointed Adj<sup>t</sup> to the } 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1780  
 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> of Light Infantry vice Ingram }

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan.

**42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Leadership from Muster Report,  
 Long Island, New York, Jan. 31, 1781**

		George Dalrymple	Captain			
		Robert Potts	} Lieu <sup>ts</sup>			
Duty		James Stewart	}			
D <sup>o</sup>		William Fraser	}			
Serjeants		Corporals		Drummers		
Duty	John M <sup>c</sup> Farlan	Appointed Serg <sup>t</sup> & transf <sup>d</sup> to the Reg <sup>t</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct <sup>r</sup> 80  Duty  from the Reg <sup>t</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct <sup>r</sup> 80	Sick	John M <sup>c</sup> Donald	Sick	Robert White
	William Smith			Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie		
	Alex <sup>r</sup> Aird			Duncan M <sup>c</sup> Lachlan	D <sup>o</sup>	Anthony Fuller
Duty	John M <sup>c</sup> Intosh			William Forbes		
	Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Kinnon			Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Intosh		
				Orange Grant		

Source: TNA, *War Office, Commissary General of Musters, Infantry, 42<sup>nd</sup> Foot*, 1777-1786 at WO 12/5479.



Detail from Portrait of William Phillips, circa, 1756-1763

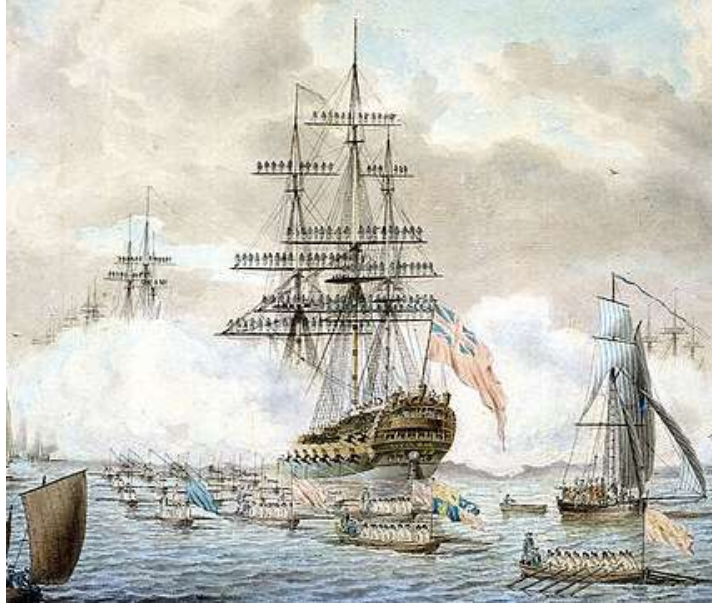
Picture Source: Farmview Herald, (Virginia), July 7, 2015

**General Order for Light Infantry Battalions to Embark for Maj. Gen.  
 William Phillips' Virginia Campaign; New York, Feb. 17, 1781**

Head Qrs NY 17<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1781...

The British Light Infantry, the British Grenad<sup>s</sup>, the Hessian Grenadiers, the 42<sup>d</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Regiments, will hold themselves in readiness to Embark at the shortest notice. The above Corps are to give an Embarkation Return Immediately to the Adjutant

Source and Notes: *Sir Henry Clinton Orderly Book*. This campaign concluded with the light infantry battalions being surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia in Oct. 1781, ending their participation in the American War for Independence. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was countermanded before the expedition sailed.



Detail of "George III reviewing the Fleet at Spithead, 22 June 1773, depicting HMS 'Royal Oak,' 1773, by John Clevely, the Younger

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

**Extract of Letter from Vice, Adm. Mariot Arbuthnot to Secretary to the Admiralty Philip Stephens, Reporting Arrival of Maj. Gen. William Phillips Expedition to Lynnhaven Bay, Virginia Beach, Virginia, Mar, 26, 1781**

*Extract of a letter from Vice Admiral ARBUTHNOT to Mr. STEPHENS, dated [74-gun HMS] Royal Oak, in Lynne-haven Bay [near current Virginia Beach], March 30, 1781.*

In continuation of my letter of the 20th instant [Mar.], I have the honour to acquaint you, that I put to sea with the squadron on the morning of the 24th, and steered a course for the Delaware, where it was conceived likely the enemy might endeavour to take refuge; but as the state of the weather towards noon appeared to indicate a gale, which is generally expected at this season, I judged it adviseable [sic] to return to the bay, where I anchored the same evening.

The next day and the following, we had wind from the northward, which, had we been at sea, must inevitable crippled some of our ships, or driven me considerably to the southward.

On the 26th, a reinforcement of troops, in number about two thousand [including Capt. George Dalrymple's 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion], commanded by Major general [William] Philips, arrived from New York, under the escort of Captain Hudson, of the [32-gun HMS] Richmond, with the ships and vessels named in the margin\*...

The army under Major General Philips were immediately forwarded to Portsmouth, and the junction effected between the forces at present there under [former Rebel] Brigadier Gen. [Benedict] Arnold...

\*[32-gun HMS] Orpheus, [50-gun HMS] Chatham, [16-gun Sloop of War, HMS] Savage, [18-gun Sloop HMS] Halifax [formerly the USS Ranger], [14-gun Sloop, HMS] Bonetta, [8-gun, former merchant, HMS] Vulcan fireship.

Source: *Remembrancer, or Impartial Repository of Public Events, For the Year 1781*, Part I, Printed for J. Almon, and J. Debrett, London, p. 313 – 314.





Moore House in Yorktown, Virginia, where the surrender at the Siege of Yorktown was negotiated.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Navin75

### **Siege of Yorktown Light Infantry Casualty Reports, Yorktown, Virginia, Sept. 28 to Oct. 19, 1781**

*Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, of the following corps, from the 28<sup>th</sup> of September to the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, 1781...*

[1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions] Light infantry. 1 lieutenant, 3 serjeants, 24 rank and file, killed; 3 lieutenants, 2 serjeants, 1 drummer, 51 rank and file wounded.

*General Return of officers and privates surrendered prisoners of war, the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, 1781, to the allied army, under the command of General [George] Washington, taken from the original muster rolls...*

[1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions] Light Infantry. 1 lieutenant colonel [Abercromby], 1 major [Armstrong], 10 captains [including George Dalrymple, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.], 16 lieutenant [including James Stewart, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.], 1 ensign, 2 surgeons, 33 serjeants, 13 drums, 594 rank and file. Total, 671

Source: *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces of North America*, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, Printed for T. Cadell, London, 1787, pp. 445-446, 448.

### **42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Officers on Manifest of Transport *Lord Mulgrave* Following Surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, Oct. 1781**

Officers and Servants to go on Board the Lord Mulgrave Transport Oct. 1781

	Serv <sup>ts</sup>	Soldiers...
<u>Light Infantry</u>	Reg <sup>t</sup> ...	
Captain... [George] Dalrymple	42d	2...
Lieutenant... [James] Stewart	42d	1...
<u>Lord Mulgrave</u> 320 Tons Burthen		
Andrew Easterby Master		
50 Seamen		

Source and Note: National Archives, *Revolutionary War, Miscellaneous Numbered Records*, No. 31591. No 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Company officers accompanied the company to the prisoner-of-war camps. As shown above (see Col. James Stewart's Account of his Service in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. During the American War) Stewart indicated he was "... taken with

*Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown... I came home & went to France a prisoner till the peace absolved me...*” The *Lord Mulgrave* transport was carrying paroled British officers following Lord Cornwallis’ surrender, when it was feared lost. The ship ended up in Charleston, South Carolina and the officers made their way to New York by another ship.

### **General Orders for Captured Light Infantry Companies to be Carried on their Parent Regiments’ Strength Reports, New York, Jan. 20, 1783**

Head Quarters New York 20<sup>th</sup> January 1783...

The 7<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 37<sup>th</sup> 38<sup>th</sup> 42<sup>d</sup> 54<sup>th</sup> 57<sup>th</sup> 70<sup>th</sup> 74<sup>th</sup> 82<sup>d</sup> & 84<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>ts</sup> are in future in all their States & Monthly Returns to Acco<sup>t</sup> for their L<sup>t</sup> Infantry Companies.

Source and Note: *Sir Guy Carleton Order Book*.

### **General Orders for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company to Rejoin the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. After Release from Prisoner of War Camp, New York, May 12, 1783**

Head Quarters New York, 12 May 1783...

All Officers who have been on Parole are to join their Reg<sup>ts</sup> & do their Duty –

The Officers Commanding Reg<sup>ts</sup> are to send in Returns to the Adjutant General daily of the Prisoners that join them, untill the whole arrive –

Source and Notes: *Sir Guy Carleton Order Book*. The Light Infantry Battalions were not reformed after the troops returned from captivity after surrender at Yorktown in Oct. 1781, except for the companies whose regiments were no longer in America.



Detail from Plan of Paulus's Hook and fortifications, 1778

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### **42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Leadership from Muster Report Following Return from Prisoner of War Camps, Paulus Hook (now Jersey City), New Jersey, July 28, 1783**

In Europe Sir Henry Clinton's leave	{	George Dalrymple	Captain
	{	James Stewart	Lieutenants
transf <sup>d</sup> to Col <sup>s</sup> Comp <sup>y</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> May 1783		Will <sup>m</sup> Fraser	}
Promoted 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> 80 transf <sup>d</sup> to Col <sup>s</sup> Comp <sup>y</sup>		Rob <sup>t</sup> Potts	}
Commission D <sup>o</sup> rec <sup>d</sup> from Cap <sup>t</sup> Rutherfords, retired 15 <sup>th</sup> July 81		Kenneth Callender	}

Serjeants		Corporals		Drummers	
Duty Died 23 <sup>d</sup> June 1782	John M <sup>c</sup> Farlan William Smith Alex <sup>r</sup> Aird John M <sup>c</sup> Intosh Hugh M <sup>c</sup> Kinnon	Discharg <sup>d</sup> 23 <sup>d</sup> June 82 duty  Reduc <sup>d</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> June 81 from Private d <sup>o</sup>	John M <sup>c</sup> Donald William Forbes Orange Grant Alex <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Intosh Duncan M <sup>c</sup> Lachlan George Munro	Died 23 <sup>d</sup> June 83 D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>	Robert White Anthony Fuller

Source: TNA, *War Office, Commissary General of Musters, Infantry, 42<sup>nd</sup> Foot, 1777-1786* at WO 12/5479.