

1775

**News Account of Orders for the 42nd and other Regiments to Embark for America,
London, Jan. 21, 1775**

LONDON

There is no doubt of it being a fixed resolution to enforce all the late acts in America.

The regiments to go to America are the 34th, the 42^d, commonly called the Highland regiment, and the 55th, also the 17th regiment of light horse. Order were issued on Saturday last, for their embarking as soon as possible.

It is contemplation, we hear, to send over two general officers to America.

Source: *London Evening Post*, Jan. 21-24, 1775, p. 4.

Account of Planned Relief of the 42nd Regt. by the 40th Regt., Waterford, Ireland, Jan. 28, 1775

IRELAND.

Waterford, Jan. 28...

We hear the 40th Regiment is to relieve the 42^d (or Royal Highlanders) in this City.

Source and Note: *Northampton Mercury*, Feb. 20, 1775, p. 1. The 42nd Regt. was actually replaced by the 67th Regt.

**Letter from Ens. James Campbell, 42nd Regt., to his Father, Duncan Campbell of Glenure,
Waterford, Ireland, Feb. 25, 1775**

D^r Father

Waterford Feb^y 25th 1775

I would have wrote you some time ago but had nothing worth communicating concerning myself
– The expence of my journey to Scotland and back to Ireland I got from Coll. Murray without a grudge
– The only necessaries that I have got as yet are two Suits of Regimentalls 14 Shirts and a Bed So shall delay sending you any acc^t till I have got the whole The operation of guard mountin (I've recknt) a long time ago and a serious affair It seems to be a snap till [illeg.] The very first day that I mounted was very near being obliged to turn out the guard and fire upon a mob of Coupers who assembled in order to prevent the exportation of pork without Casks as it hurt their trade and was obliged to send a body to protect the merchants and the pork – We were all very much alarmed lately upon receiving instructions that were meant for the 44 Reg^t but in mistake Directed for us they are under sailing orders with other 3 Reg^{ts} for Boston besides the 4 that are at Cork ready to Embark Colin Corries's reg^t goes we are amongst the first to go now but we can not be spared out of this Kingdom till we are relieved by other regiment we have been obliged to send [illeg.] men as Drafts to the army at Boston and we are told 6 or 8 men a Company more must be sent so that we shall want about 120 men to Compleat and all hands must go recruit it will bring about one thing that I am very happy at Captⁿ [James] M^cPherson will stay at home another year

There has been a Step in the reg^t lately and I hope there will be some more soon as this is an order lately come out that no officer shall sell when the Reg^t is under Sailing orders for abroad and it is our Turn so soon all that wish to go out must sell soon or run the risk of going first abroad – As I believe we shall be but a very short time in this Kingdom would be glad you would apply to [Lt.] Col^l. [Thomas] Stirling for leave of absence to me this year we once thought he would not come over this year but he has changed his mind I had the Worthie major's [William Murray's] promise of leave but his coming over may alter the matter every body will be applying to see their friends before we go the major would indulge me full as soon as any officer in the Reg^t but I am not so well acquainted with the Coll there is no time to Loose – We were in the general relief of 78 put down for Gibraltar at least we are sure of not going to the West Indies for there is no relief there till 79 a year later then our turn of going

abroad I believe we shall go sooner than our time therefore would wish to go home this year – Major Mungo [Murray] is upon the purchase of a Lieutenant Coll. I wish from my heart he may succeed but I fear not – This is a very genteel place and in this Country in general the people are exceedingly civil to officers – I have met with a great deal of Kindness in the Regiment from my Uncle Allans old friends all of whom have a great regard for him Capⁿ M^cPherson writes me that Colin is ordered to join immediately I am sure hell make an excellent officer – I hope my mother will be so good as to make a plaid and some kilts as highland plaids are in great respect with the Reg^t I wish my Dirk could be sent over by the first recruits that Capⁿ M^cPherson sends as a man can not [wilt] wear any other arms with the kilt – The duty is pretty severe here just now we are obliged to visit the Sentries every night about 12 o'clock to see that all are alert whether the night be good or bad and it generally rains in this Climate more than in Argyshire this order was (quation sot) by a Sentries being found off his post at the Custom house a very dangerous thing – D^r Father I have long been very foolish and negligent of my self but I really begin to think I shall do some good yet This is the sphere of life that my disposition was out for I wrather I never could make Thought have had jenious enough for it but could not give the requisite application tho application as very necessary in my present profession but it is a pleasure in this for who is he that would not be delighted at setting a whole battalion of fine fellows in motion by his single word even suppose it but Een more It is the custome in this Reg^t to make the Ensigns exercise the regiment in order to Learn the duty few regiments take that trouble with their young officers I am exceedingly happy and hope yet in spite of what is past to be a credit to you and all my friends I might have had follies but never vices I shall always return a gratefull sence of the friendship and good office of Ardchattan. I hope he and all his family are well I would have wrote him but as I had not frank did not chose to put him top the expense of postage for any thing I could have to say. There are two Regiments of Invalids to be embodied from the pensioners list but the officers from the order on half pay list This I fancy you have heard in Britain It would be a good way for [Edership] to realize the price of his Commission if he could get in I think his Chances are good as they are to be disposed off awarding to length of service I would esteem it a particular favour would you return me an answer (encosersed) I wrote Capⁿ M^cPherson by the nights Post Please let me know who has bought the Estate of Barcaldine – I am D^r Father with best duty to my Mother Brothers &^c

Your reclaimed Son

James Campbell

Source and Note: NRS, Letter from Captain James Campbell, 77th Regt. to Duncan Campbell of Glenure (later of Barcaldine), his father, 1773-1781 in *Papers of the Campbell Family of Barcaldine*, GD170/1127 p. 6. Capt. Macpherson is James Campbell's uncle, Capt. James Macpherson of the 42nd Regt. Additional Company. Maj. Mungo is Mungo Campbell, the Major of the 55th Regt. He was promoted to Lt. Col. of the 52nd Regt. in June 16, 1776. (Source: Baule and Gilbert, *British Army Officers Who Served in the American Revolution 1775-1783*, p. 32). Colin is likely James Campbell's younger brother Colin Campbell, later a Captain in the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Regt. Ardchattan is James Campbell's uncle, Charles Campbell of Ardchattan, the husband of Anne Campbell, his father's older sister.

News Account of Countermanding of Order for Drafts of the 42nd Regt. to Embark, Waterford, Ireland, Mar. 10, 1775

WATERFORD, *March* 10. [1775] The embarkation of the draughts from the 42d regiment is countermanded; in consequence of which they are to return in a day or two, and join their corps here.

Source: *Southampton Chronicle* (U. K.), Mar. 27, 1775, p. 3.

News Account of Planned Dispersal of 42nd Regt. Companies in Ireland, May 1775

Quarters of the infantry for the year 1775...

42^d; 2 comp. Downpatrick, 3 Belfast, 3 Killough, 2 Carrickfergus...

Source and Notes: *Hibernian Magazine: or, Compendium of Entertaining Knowledge for May, 1775*, Vol. V, Printed by Thomas Walker, Dublin, 1775, Google Books, p. 319. Downpatrick is on the northeast coast of Northern Ireland opposite the Isle of Man and about 100 miles north of Dublin. Belfast is also on the northeast coast of Northern Ireland. Killough is about 58 miles south of Belfast on the coast, and Carrickfergus is on the coast about ten miles north of Belfast.

News Account of Fourteen Men Drafted from the 42nd Regt. at Waterford, Ireland, May 6, 1775

Waterford, May 6:

Yesterday an express arrived here from Cork to the Commanding Officer of the 42d, with orders to make out a draft of 14 men, which was accordingly done, and this morning they set off for the above mentioned city, in order to embark on board the transports lately arrived there. We are informed the like number is to be drafted from every regiment at present in this Kingdom.

Source: *Freemen's Journal*, [Dublin] May 9, 1775. This order was countermanded not long after, and the men returned to the regiment.

Wedding Announcement for Soldier of the 42nd Regt., Waterford, Ireland, May 11, 1775

Married - At Waterford, Mr. Daniel Noble, of the 42d regiment of foot, to Miss Shepherd.

Source: *Freemen's Journal*, [Dublin], May 11, 1775. There were several soldiers named "Noble" in the muster reports from America, but "Daniel Noble" is not listed.



Detail from *Portrait of John Wesley*, 1788, by William Hamilton

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *National Portrait Gallery*, London

Rev. John Wesley's Account of Preaching to the 42nd Regt. at Waterford, Ireland, May 26, 1775

Wed. 26. - I went on to Waterford, where the rain drove us into the preaching house...The next day I got into the open air, and a large congregation attended. I had designed to set out early in the morning; but doubting if I should ever have such another opportunity, (the major [William Murray] of the Highland regiment standing behind me, with several of his officers, many of the soldiers before me, and the centinel at the entrance of the court,) I gave notice of preaching at ten the next morning, and at four in the afternoon. I did so to a well-behaved congregation, and in the evening went on to Carrick.

Source and Note: *The Work of the Reverend John Wesley, A.M.*, Vol. IV, by John Emory, Published by T. Mason and G. Lane, 1840, Google Books, p. 432. John Wesley was the founder of the Methodist Church.

Strength Report from the Review of 42nd Regt., Waterford, Ireland, May 30, 1775

Major General [Robert] Cuninghames Observations on the Fortysecond Or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot reviewed By Him at Waterford on the 30th Day of May 1775....

COMPANIES	Officers Present										
	Commission.			Staff							
	Colonel	Lieut ^t Colonel	Major	Captains	Lieutenants	Ensigns, or 2 ^d Lieut ^{ts}	Chaplain	Adjutant	Quartermaster	Surgeon	Mate
Col ^l Lord John Murray				1		1	1	1	1	1	1
L'Col ^l Thomas Stirling		1			1	1					
Major William Murray			1		1						
Capt ^s { William Grant				1		1					
{ Alexan ^r Donaldson				1	1	1					
{ George M ^c Kenzie				1	2						
{ Earl Balcarres				1	2						
{ James M ^c Pherson					1						
{ Charles Graham				1	1	1					
{ Archibald Erskine				1	1	1					
Total		1	1	7	10	6	1	1	1	1	1

COMPANIES	Sergeants Present	Drummers & Fifers Present	Effective Rank And File							Wanting to Complete to Allowance			Alterations since last Review				
			Present & Fit for Duty	Sick in Quarters	Sick in Hospitals	On Command	Recruiting	On Furlow	Total	Sergeants	Drummers & Fifers	Rank & File	Inlisted	Dead	Discharg ^d & Recomm ^d	Discharg ^d & not Recomm ^d	Deserted
Col ^l Lord John Murray	2	1	32	3	1				36			3	2			4	
L ^t Col ^l Thomas Stirling	2	1	31	1			2		34			5	2		3	4	1
Major William Murray	2	1	31	1	2		2		36			3	3	1		6	1
Capt ^s { William Grant	2	1	30	3			1		34			5	3		4	5	
Alexan ^r Donaldson	2	1	33	1					35			4	2	1		5	
George M ^c Kenzie	1	1	30	1	1		1		32			7	1			4	
Earl Balcarres	2	3	38						38			1	1	1		1	

James M ^c Pherson	2	1	32		1		1		34			5	3			6	
Charles Graham	2	1	31	1	3				35			4	3			5	
Archibald Erskine	1	1	26	1	4		1		32			7	3		3	5	
Total	17	12	314	12	12		8		346			44	23	3	10	45	2

Source and Note: TNA, *Inspection Returns, Irish, 1775-1776* at WO 27/35 sheet No. 3. Nine companies were authorized two sergeants, one drummer and 39 corporals and privates, and the grenadier company under Capt. the Earl of Balcarres had an additional authorization for two pipers.

News Account of 42nd Regiment's Departure for other Irish Cities, Waterford, Ireland, June 5-6, 1775

Waterford, June 7...

Monday [June 5] and Yesterday [June 6] the first and last Divisions of the 42d (or Royal Highland) Regiment of Foot, marched out of our Barracks for their Quarters at Belfast, Downpatrick, Killough and Carrickfergus.

Source and Note: *Hibernian Journal; Or, Chronicle of Liberty* (Dublin), June 12, 1775, p. 4. This order to move to the other Irish cities was countermanded and the 42nd Regt, was ordered instead to return to Scotland to recruit to it new higher required strength.

News Account of 42nd Regt. Being Diverted from Previous Assignment for American War, Waterford, Ireland, June 10, 1775

Waterford, June 10. A report has been current here some days that the royal Highland regiment is countermanded from proceeding to their quarters in the North, and is to embark at this port or Corke for America.

Source: *Saunders's News-Letter* (Dublin), June 14, 1775, p. 1.

News Account of 42nd Regt. Listed for Service in America, Dublin, June 10, 1775

Dublin, June 10.

We hear the following six regiments are ordered to get ready to embark for America, the 15th reg...27th...28th...42d, by Lieut. General Lord John Murray; 46th...and 55th...

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, June 23, 1775.



Dublin Castle, Forecourt, 2006

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, by Jtdirl

**News Account of Several Companies of the 42nd Regt. Arriving, Dublin, Ireland,
June 12, 1775**

12th...Several companies of the 42 regiment of Royal Highlanders, commanded by General Lord John Murray, arrived here from Waterford, and are to set out immediately for different quarters in the North.

Source and Note: *Freemen's Journal*, (Dublin), June 15, 1775. A similar article was printed in the *Hibernian Journal*, or, *Chronicle of Liberty* (Dublin), June 16, 1775, p. 3. Waterford is about 100 miles SSW of Dublin.

**Notification from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Gen. Lord John Murray,
Col., 42nd Regt., that the Regiment was to Move to Scotland for Augmentation,
London, June 29, 1775**

War Office 29th June 1775.

My Lord

His Majesty having been pleased to direct, that the 42^d. /or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot under your Command, shall forthwith be brought from Ireland to North Britain [Scotland]; I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship therewith, and that H. M's. Commands thereupon have been signified to His Excellency Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and His Grace the Duke of Argyll.

I am to add, it is further proposed that the 42^d. Regiment, on their arrival in this Kingdom, shall have ten additional Lieutenants, and One Additional Surgeon's Mate, and that each Company shall be augmented so as to consist of Five Serjeants, five Corporals, two Drummers, and One Hundred private Men, with two Pipers to the Grenadier Company.

R^t Hon^{ble}
General Lord John Murray

I have the honor to be
My Lord &ca
Barrington

Source: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters* at WO 4/93, p.573, f. 236.

**Notification from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Paymaster General
Hon. Richard Rigby, on the Augmentation of the 42nd Regt., London, July 3, 1775**

W: O: 3^d July 1775.

Sir,

H: M: [His Majesty] having been pleased to direct that the 42^d /or Royal Highland/ Reg^t of Foot shall be brought from Ireland, to N^o Britain [Scotland], and that the 67th Reg^t of Foot shall be sent to Ireland to replace the same, I have the honor to acquaint you therewith.

I am also to inform you, H: M: has thought proper to direct that the 42^d. Reg^t. shall be augmented so that each Company may consist of Five Serjeants, Five Corporals, two Drummers, & 100 private Men, with two Pipers to the Grenadier Company besides Commissioned Officers, and that the said Augmentation shall take place on the Establishment of Great Britain from the 25th of June last, inclusive.

Enclosed I sent you an Estimate of the Charge of the said Additional, that you may be pleased to lay a Memorial before the R^t Hon^{ble} the Lords Comm^{rs} of H: M; Treasury for the Money wanting for this Service.

I shall take Care to acquaint you with the day on which the 67th Reg^t., & the Irish Numbers of the 42^d Reg^t. are to change their Establishment respectively.

R^t Hon^{ble} Richard Rigby
Paym^r General
&c. &c. &c.

I have the honor to be
Sir &c
Barrington

Estimate of the Charge of an Augmentation to the 42^d. /or Royal Highland/ Reg^t. of Foot, from the 25th June 1775, inclusive.

		s	d	<u>Pay per diem</u>		
10 Lieutenants	each	4	8	2.	6.	8
1 Surgeon's Mate					3.	6
30 Serjeants	each	1.	6	2.	5.	-
20 Corporals	each	1.	-	1.	-	-
10 Drummers	each	1.	-		10.	-
<u>620 Private Men</u>	each	-	8	<u>20.</u>	<u>13.</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>691</u>				£ <u>26.</u>	<u>18.</u>	<u>6</u>

Source: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters* at WO4/93, pp. 580-581 (f. 240). There were 20 shillings to the Pound Sterling (£) and 12 pence per shilling.

Treasury Board Minute Books Reflects Augmentation of 42nd Regt., London, July 5, 1775

Read Letter from the Secretary at War, acquainting My Lords that the King has ordered the 42^d. regiment of Foot shou'd be removed from Ireland, to North Britain, and be augmented so that each Company shall consist of 5 Serjeants, 5 Corporals, 2 Drummers, & 100 Private, besides Commissioned Officers, to take place from 25th June last and including an Estimate of the charge of the said additional.

Source: TNA, *Treasury Board: Minute Books*, July 1774-Dec. 1775, at T29/44, p. 298, f. 149.

Excerpt of Letter from Arthur Lee to Benjamin Franklin, Reporting 42nd and 71st Regiments to be sent to American War, July 6, 1775

July 6th. 1775.

Dear Sir.

The report is that [Gen.] L^d. John Murray's Regiment of Highlanders, and others to be rais^d by Col. [Maj. Gen. Simon] Fraser are to be sent over. The former I believe is true. The Scotch will fight with ten

times the rancour and not half the bravery of the english. I can not conceive them to be formidable foes if bravely oppos^d. Against timid or flying enemies they act heroically...

A.L.

Source: Founders Online, National Archives from *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 22, *March 23, 1775, through October 27, 1776*, ed. William B. Willcox, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1982, pp. 89–91.

**News Account of Selection of 42nd Regt. for Augmentation and Recognition of Dependability,
London, July 17, 1775**

LONDON, *July 17...*

The 67th regiment is ordered to embark from Scotland to Ireland, and the royal regiment of Highlanders, now in that kingdom, are ordered over here to be augmented to 100 men a company, besides non-commissioned officers; after which they are to be sent to America, to remain there.

The Highland regiment has been partially singled out by the ministry as the regiment most to be depended on. It is to be sent to Scotland (contrary to a resolution long since formed, and steadfastly adhered to for above these thirty years past) that it may be the sooner augmented to a thousand men. If they were intended to act against the French or Spaniards, their having been so particularly selected from the other regiments to be augmented, and so partially trusted to, in preference to the rest of the army, would have been a high compliment to them, at the expence of the English regiments; but as the case stands, it is a reproach, instead of a compliment. Ministry could have had no other reason for pitching on a thousand Highlanders to be stationed in America but because they know that all the gentlemen of Scotland are inveterate enemies of the Americans, and consequently, that they will be heartily against them; whereas nine tenths of the English regiments detest the business in which they are engaged.

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (John Pinkney), Oct. 5, 1775, pp. 2-3.

News Report of Departure of 42nd Regt. from Belfast for Scotland, Belfast, July 20, 1775

BELFAST.

Yesterday [July 20] the 42d Regiment of Royal Highlanders marched hence for Scotland, by Donaghadee...

Source and Note: *Belfast News-Letter*, July 21-25, 1775, p. 3. Donaghadee is a seaport about 19 miles east of Belfast on the North Channel opposite Portpatrick, Scotland.

**Irish Parliament Document Lists Embarkation Date for the 42nd Regt.'s Return to Scotland,
Dublin, Ireland, July 22, 1775**

No. IV. Abstract of the several Regiments, which have embarked for Foreign Service, since the First Day of last *April*, specifying the number of Effective Men in each Regiment, Commission and Non-commission Officers included, and the Dates of their several Embarkations.

Regiments	Dates of the several Embarkations	Number of Effective Men Commission and Non-Commissioned officers included...
42d	22 July	428...

Henry L. Luttrell, Adj^t. Gen^l

Source: *The Journals of the House of Commons of the Kingdom of Ireland From the Second Day of June, 1774, inclusive to the 4th Day of April, 1776, inclusive*, Vol. 17, Published by Order of the Honourable House of Commons, Dublin, 1776, p. 97.

Account of 42nd Regt.'s Departure for Augmentation, Donaghadee, Ireland, July 24, 1775

Belfast, July 28:

Last Monday [July 24] sailed from Donaghadee, for Scotland, four transports, with the 42d regiment or Royal Highlanders, commanded by Lord John Murray...

Source: *Freemen's Journal*, (Dublin), Aug. 8, 1775. A similar report in *Belfast News-Letter*, July 25-28, 1775, p. 3 and *Saunders's News-Letter* (Dublin), Aug. 9 – 11, 1775, p. 1.



Detail of A View of Glasgow from the Southwest, 1764, by Robert Paul

Picture Source: *Extracts From the Records of the Burgh of Glasgow*, Vol. VI, A.D. 1739-59, Ed. Robert Renwick, Scottish Burgh Records Society, Glasgow, 1911, frontispiece.

Account of Arrival of 42nd Regt. for Augmentation, Glasgow, July 29, 1775

Saturday last [July 29], arrived at Glasgow, the 42d regiment or Royal Highlanders, from Ireland.

Source: *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, Aug. 5, 1775.

Ladies' Account of the City, Glasgow, Aug. 10, 1775

To the EARL of C-----

Glasgow, August 10, 1775

...I write this at Glasgow, being on a tour of Inverary; this town (Glasgow) is a very good one and ought to figure considerably in the history of *modern Scotland*; the houses are well built, and the streets broad and well paved. There is an air of *metropolitan dignity* in it, (notwithstanding the cold look of stone houses) which entitle it to a much greater share of the traveler's admiration, than ever the capital of the country; for Edinburgh is not only dirty, dismal, and irregular, in many parts, but seems more contracted, and is built upon a less liberal scale – Glasgow, hath also the great advantage of superior architectural uniformity... It is, by far, the greatest commercial town in the Kingdom...

Source: *A Journey to the Highlands of Scotland, with Occasional Remarks on D^r. Johnson's Tour by a Lady*, Fielding and Walker, London, 1777, pp. 15-17.

News Account of 42nd Regt. Assignment to the Castle, Edinburgh, Aug. 11, 1775

The 66th [67th] regiment of foot, presently lying in the castle, have got orders to march for Ireland. They will be replaced by part of the 42^d, or Royal Highlanders now at Glasgow, commanded by [Gen.] Lord John Murray.

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Aug. 11, 1775, p. 94. Other accounts indicate it was the 67th Regt. that would replace the 42nd Regt. in Ireland.

News Account of 42nd Regt. Inclusion in Forces for the American War, London, Aug. 12, 1775

The following is a list of the forces intended to do duty in America early in the spring of 1776, exclusive of officers, artillery, and marines. There are to be thirty one battalions; to consist of twelve companies each, sixty rank and file per company, making in the whole 22, 320 rank and file, viz... 42^d, [Gen.] Lord John Murray's...

Source: *London Evening Post*, Aug. 12, 1775, p. 1.



Detail of Portrait of John Campbell, 5th Duke of Argyll, by Thomas Gainsborough

Portrait Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Sotheby's*

Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lt. Gen. John Campbell, Duke of Argyll, Commander-in-Chief, Scotland, Forwarding a Copy of the New Establishment of the 42nd Regt., London, Aug. 14, 1775

War Office 14th Aug^t 1775

My Lord

I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Grace's letter of the 5th instant.

Enclosed I send your Grace a Copy of the Establishment of the 42^d /or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot, including the Augmentation ordered to be made to the Regiment.

The Charge on account of the Expences of Reviewing Ground will be allowed in the Contingent Bills of the Regiments under your Command – Your Grace will be pleased to Direct the Commanding Officers to take care that the Charges on that account be as reasonable as possible.

I have the hon^r to be

His Grace The Duke of Argyll
&c &c &c
Edinburgh

My Lord &c
Barrington

[Enclosure]

Establishment of the 42^d./or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot from 25th. June 1775

1 Colonel and Captain
1 Lieutenant Colonel and Captain
1 Major and Captain
7 Captains more
22 Lieutenants
8 Ensigns
1 Chaplain
1 Adjutant
1 Quarter-Master
1 Surgeon
2 Surgeon's Mates
50 Serjeants
50 Corporals
20 Drummers
2 Pipers
1000 Private Men
1.168

Source and Notes: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, July 1775-Nov. 1775* at WO 4/94, pp. 130-131 (f. 68). As shown in the "*Establishment*" the three senior field grade officers were also commanders of companies. This list counters numerous modern accounts that the pipers of the regiment were not in authorized slots.

Letter from Lt. Gen. Edward Harvey, Adjutant General to the Forces, to Col. Robert Skene, Adj. General, Scotland Mentions Unspecified Problem with the 42nd Regt., London, Aug. 16, 1775

D^r Sir

Capt. Tydds Comp^y w^{ch} was raise'd in Irel^d will land at Whitehaven & proceed from y^t [that] place to Berwick. I am sorry to hear w^t you say abo^t the 42^d. No more News as yet from N.A.
London 16th Aug^t 1775

I am &c^a
[not signed: E. Harvey]

Col: Skene

Source: TNA, *Office of the Commander-in-Chief: Out-letters, General Letters* at WO3/5. The disturbing information about the 42nd Regt. is not known.

News Account Listing Regiments Scheduled for Service in America, London, Aug. 19, 1775

LONDON...Aug. 19.

The following is a list of the forces intended to do duty in America early in the spring of 1776, (exclusive of Officers, Artillery, and Marines. There are to be thirty-one battalions, to consist of twelve companies each, sixty rank and file per company, making the whole 22,320 rank and file)
4th...5th...[illegible] Sir William Boothby's...[illegible] Lord R. Beitie's ...8th ...10th ...14th ...15th
...16th ...17th ...22d ...23d ...26th ...27th ...28th ...35th ...37th ...38th ...40th ...42d, Lord J. Murray's; 43d
...44th ...45th ...46th ...57th ...49th ...52d ...55th ...63d ...64th ...65th ...Preston's regiment of
dragoons...Twenty five flat bottomed boats are nearly complete for the debarkation of troops. Each ship is to carry one; and every boat will row with 10 oars and 40 carry men besides officers..."

Source: *New-York Gazette and the Weekly Mercury*, Nov. 6, 1775.

**Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lt. Gen. John Campbell, Duke of Argyll,
Commander of His Majesty's Forces, Scotland, Requesting Status Reports on 42nd Regt.
Recruiting, London, Aug. 21, 1775**

War Office 21st August 1775

My Lord,

Not having received any Return of the State of the 42^d /or R^l Highland/ Regiment of Foot since their Arrival in Britain, I am to request Your Grace will be pleased to give Directions to the Commanding Officer to send me an exact Return of the Regiment under his Command, and to continue to send me a Weekly Return, specifying the Recruits raised towards compleating the said Corps to the intended Establishment for H: M's [His Majesty's] information.

His Grace
The Duke of Argyll
&c &c &c
Edinburgh

I have the honor &c
Barrington

Source and Notes: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters* at WO 4/94, p. 175 (f. 90). "*Lt. Gen. John, Duke of Argyll*" is the Annual Army List entry for Lt. Gen. John Campbell, 5th Duke of Argyll. A "*Return of the State*" means a report on the strength of the regiment.

**Unconfirmed News Report that the 42nd Regt. (Referred to as the
"Old Highland Watch") Refused to Serve in America; Glasgow, Aug. 22, 1775**

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Glasgow; to his Son in this City, dated Aug. 22.

"The Old Highland Watch, who were stationed in Ireland, upon being ordered to Boston, they all refused going, to a Man, and declared they would not go and fight against their Brethren, who last war fought and conquered by their Side."

Source and Notes: *New-York Journal or, The General Advertiser*, Nov. 23, 1775. There is no known documented basis for this account. On the contrary, the augmentation of the regiment to over 1000 men was accomplished fairly quickly.

**News Account of a Detachment of the 42nd Regt. Assisting Custom Officials,
Port Glasgow, Aug. 22, 1775**

Edinburgh, Aug. 26. A Letter from Port Glasgow informs, that on Tuesday last [Aug. 22] Mr. William Lindsay, Officer of his Majesty's Customs there, with a Party of the Highland Watch, seized upwards of eight hundred Pounds of Leaf Tobacco from a Gang of Smugglers about eight Miles from that Place on their Way to the North Country...

Source: *Public Advertiser* (London), Aug. 31, 1775, p. 4.

**Orders from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt.
to Augment the Regiment with Two Additional or Recruiting Companies, London, Aug. 29, 1775**

W.O. 29th. Augst 1775.

My Lord

H.M. [His Majesty] having been pleased to direct that the 42^d. /or Royal Highland/ Reg^t. of Foot under your Command, shall be further augmented with two additional Companies to be raised in Great Britain, each consisting of One Captain, One Lieutenant, One Ensign, five Serjeants, five Corporals, two Drummers, & 100 private Men, I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship therewith, and to Signify to you H: M: P: that in the execution of this Service, the following particulars be duly observed, Viz^t.

The Sum of Five Guineas will be allowed to the Recruiting Officer for each Recruit that shall be approved, of which the Recruit is to have three Guineas, notwithstanding any former Regulation, and to compensate the loss that the Recruiting Officers may Sustain by the additional Bounty to the Recruit, in Case of Desertion, It is H: M: P: [His Majesty's Pleasure] that the Commanding Officer, or person authorized to pass the Recruits, should certify the Number of Men who may desert, previous to their being approved of as proper Recruits, that one Guinea & a half may be allowed to be charged for each Deserter in the Contingent Bill of the Reg^t.

H: M: has been pleased to direct that the Establishment of the said additional Companies shall take place from the 25th instant inclusive.

Levy Money at five Guineas per Man for 216 Men, will be issued immediately, to enable you to carry on this Service, in which it is expected the utmost diligence will be used.

I have the honor to send your Lordship a list of Officers appointed from half Pay to One of the additional Companies. The Officers for the other Company will be appointed by a regular Regimental Promotion, your Lordship will therefore be pleased to Send me the Recommendation of this Succession, & to appoint the proper Non commissioned Officers & Drummers, that the two additional Companies may be forthwith formed.

R ^t Honble, General Lord John Murray	I have the honor to be
Col ^o of the 42 ^d . /or Royal Highland/ Reg ^t	My Lord &c
of Foot	Barrington

42^d. Regiment

Captain Duncan M ^c Pherson –	of the late 89 th Foot
Lieutenant _ _ _	not yet appointed
Ensign Alex ^r M ^c Leod_	

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, July 1775-Nov. 1775* at WO 4/94, p. 217 (f. 111). "Guineas" were gold coins worth 21 shillings at this time. The Pound Sterling was worth 20 shillings.

Notification from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Paymaster General Hon. Richard Rigby, Transferring 42nd Regt. from Irish to British Establishment, London, Sept. 2, 1775

War Office, 2^d September 1775

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint you His Majesty has been pleased to direct that the 67th Regiment of Foot, Maxwell's, shall cease on the British Establishment on the 22^d. July last inclusive, and that in lieu of the 67th. Regim^t. the 42^d Regiment of Foot, agreeable to the do Number, shall take place on the British Establishment from the 23^d July last, inclusive.

Enclosed I send you an Estimate of the 42^d /or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot, from the 23^d. July last inclusive, that you may be pleased to lay a Memorial before the R^t. Honble the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for the Money wanting for this Service.

Right Honble Richard Rigby	I have the honor to be
&c ^a &c ^a &c ^a	Sir &c
	Barrington

Estimate of the Charge of the Pay of the 42^d/ or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot, from the 23^d. July 1775, inclusive

				Pay <i>p</i> diem		
1	Colonel & Captain			£ 1..	4..	
1	Lieu ^t Colonel & Captain			– ..	17..	
1	Major & Captain				15..	
7	Captains more	each	.. 10..	3..	10..	
12	Lieutenants	each	.. 4..8..	2..	16..	
8	Ensigns	each	.. 3..8..	1..	9..	4
1	Chaplain				6..	8
1	Adjutant				4..	
1	Quarter Master				4..	8
1	Surgeon				4..	
1	Surgeon's Mate				3..	6
20	Serjeants	each	1..6	1..	10..	
30	Corporals	each	1..	1..	10..	
10	Drummers	each	1..		10..	
2	Fifers	each	1..		2..	
<u>380</u>	Private Men	each	.._ 8..	<u>12..</u>	<u>13..</u>	<u>4</u>
477				27..	19..	6
	Allowance to the	Widows		..	13..	4
		Colonel		..	11..	8
		Captain		..	10..	
		Agent		..	<u>5..</u>	
				<u>£29..</u>	<u>19..</u>	<u>6</u>

Source: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, July 1775-Nov. 1775* at WO 4/94, pp. 263 – 264 (f. 135).

Notification from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to John Robinson Esq., Secretary to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, Transferring 42nd Regt. from Irish to British Establishment, London Sept. 2, 1775

War Office 2^d Sept^r. 1775.

Sir

I am to acquaint you for the Information of the Right Honble the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, that His Majesty has been pleased to direct, that the 67th. Regiment of Foot Maxwell's, shall cease on the British Establishment on the 22^d. July last inclusive, and that in lieu of the 67th. Regiment, the 42^d. Regiment of Foot, agreeable to the old Number shall take place on the British Establishment from the 23^d. July last inclusive.

Enclosed I send you, for their Lordships Information, an Estimate of the 42^d. /or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot, from the 23^d. July last inclusive.

I am

John Robinson Esq^r.

Sir &c^a.

Barrington

Source and Notes: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, July 1775-Nov. 1775* at WO 4/94. Estimate not included in War Office Copy Book. It refers to copy of estimate in letter from Lord Barrington to Paymaster Gen. Rigby, dated Sept. 2, 1775, above.



The trademark of the Carron Company above the old entrance to the Carron Ironworks, 2010, by Kim Traynor

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

News Account of Detachment of the 42nd Regt. Ordered to Restore Peace, Carron, Sept. 27, 1775

Edinburgh. Sept. 29...

We hear from Carron, that last week some differences having arisen betwixt the coal-masters and colliers, (at Carronhill and Kinnard coal-work) about having their wages advanced, which not being complied with by the masters, they left off working, and have since paraded through the country, to the terror of the inhabitants. A party of the Scotch Greys being sent for from Linlithgow, in order to secure the ring-leaders, a scuffle ensued, by which several were wounded. On Wednesday [Sept. 27] morning a detachment of the Highland regiment, consisting of 60 men, marched from Glasgow to Carron in order to restore peace.

Source and Note: *The Morning Post, and Daily Advertiser*, Oct. 4, 1775, p. 2. A similar article was printed in the *Public Advertiser* (London), Oct. 5, 1775, p. 4. The “*Scotch Greys*” were officially titled the 2nd (or Royal North British) Regt. of Dragoons. Carron is located about 25 miles northeast of Glasgow, where the regiment headquarters was located.

News Account of Fifty Recruits of the 42nd Regt. Arriving in Glasgow, Sept. 29, 1775

Edinburgh, Oct. 6. On Saturday last [Sept. 29] fifty recruits arrived at Glasgow from the Highlands, belonging to the forty second or Royal Highlanders, and a number more is daily expected. Since the arrival of that regiment they have been very successful in raising men. —

Sources: *Morning Post, and Daily Advertiser*, London, Oct. 11, 1775, p. 2. The article also appeared in *The Edinburgh Advertiser*, for Oct. 6, 1775, p. 221.

Orders from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Regimental Colonels, Including Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., to Withhold Discharges, London, Oct. 5, 1775

War Office 5th Oct^r. 1775

My Lord

It being absolutely necessary that the several Regim^{ts} of Foot should be kept as compleat as possible, I have the hon^{or} to signify to your Grace it is His Majesty’s Pleasure, you give directions that ‘till further orders, no Discharges be granted to any men of the 1st /or Royal/ Regiment of Foot under

your Command who, from length of Service, may think themselves entitled to Chelsea, in case they appear still able to serve.

His Grace The Duke of Argyll	I have the hon ^{or} to be
&c &c &c	My Lord &c
	Barrington
Like letters, of same date, to the Colonels of the following Regiments Viz ^t ...	
42 ^d /or Royal Highland/ D ^o [Regiment]	Gen ^l Lord John Murray...

Source: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, July 1775-Nov. 1775* at WO4/94, p. 372 (f. 189).

Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Height of Highland Recruits, Chesterfield, England, Oct. 10, 1775

My Lord...

By the Regimental Recruiting Instructions of my Regiment that no men are to be inlisted under five feet Six Inches high without Shoes, except under Eighteen if likely to grow, I am inform'd other Corps takes them much lower, will it be agreeable to your Lordship, I give orders to lower the Size one inch, the Highlanders in general are not tall but Strong, and well made, and in my humble opinion, every way as fitt for Service & fatigue as those of a higher Size...

I have the honour to be with the Greatest Regard

My Lord

Your Lordships most faithful
and most obedient Servant

John Murray

Chesterfield 10th Oct^r 1775
L^d Viscount Barrington

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO 1/993.

News Account of Detachment of 42nd Regt. Arrival for Duty in the Castle, Edinburgh, Oct. 14, 1775

EDINBURGH...

Thursday morning [Oct. 12], the party of the third, or King's own regiment of dragoons, who, for some time past have been doing duty in the Castle, marched from thence for Musselburgh and Dalkeith. And this morning, a small party of the 42d regiment of foot, or Royal Highlanders, commanded by [Gen.] Lord John Murray arrived in town from Glasgow, and will soon be followed by more, in order to do the same duty.

Source: *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, Oct. 14, 1775, p. 2.



Detail of Photograph of Edinburgh Castle from the North, 2012

**Edinburgh Lawyer James Boswell's Account of Capt. James M^cPherson's Company
of the 42nd Regt. Taking Duty in the Castle, Edinburgh, Oct. 14. – Nov. 14, 1775**

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER. Having heard that the Royal Highland Regiment was to march in today to the Castle, I was eager to meet them. Grange went with me, and Mr. Lawrie also went. We overtook Dr. Boswell near the West Port, who harangued what fine fellows the Highlanders were in 1745. He was going but a little way. We walked to the other side of the Coltbridge. I had wrought myself into a kind of enthusiasm about *The Highland Watch*, recollected their not having been in Scotland since the year 1744, and never in Edinburgh Castle, and I said to Grange that he and I would talk of their entry into *Auld Reekie* [Old Smoky, *i.e.* Edinburgh] many years hence. I have straw or chips in my mind which a little matter will kindle into a blaze. But I have more solid materials, hard coal and old wood, which require stronger heat to inflame them. I should, however, take care. A chimney has been set on fire and a house burnt by an inconsiderable kindling. We were disappointed, for there were no more of the Regiment came in than fifty-five men, which were all they had for four companies. There were three officers: Captain [James] Macpherson of _____, who commanded them, Lieutenant [William] Graham, son to my cousin the late Colonel Gordon Graham, and Ensign [George] Dalrymple. I spoke with young Graham as a relation, and it seems he had seen me before. There was a great number of people meeting them. The windows in Portsburgh and Edinburgh were crowded. I liked to see them enter the West Port. We saw them fairly enter the Castle.

... And away I went to the Castle, and viewed it in possession of the Highlanders; and as I saw the tartan in the sentry-boxes and the square swarming with filibegs, I felt as if in the days of one of the ancient kings of Scotland. The officers were engaged in different parties. But I got the sergeant upon guard, Monro, a fine black fellow who had been twenty years in the Regiment, and a sergeant of the Invalids, who turned out to be John Taylor, a Kilmarnock man (who when in the Royal Scots was tried for murder at Guildford, and got off), as also Shearer, the head gunner--and with these three I drank strong beer for two hours. I wanted to have had a number of the men with us. But Monro said they got as much this night from their friends as would do them good. But I made him promise to have all the men then upon guard to meet me next day at four o'clock in the afternoon in the place where we were then drinking; to wit, the little room in which Queen Mary was delivered of King James VI. This was a strange satisfaction to me. I was quite military and Highland. Monro was a true specimen of the Scotch Highlanders: robust and intrepid. It is curious how the character is continued through generations...

SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER. Was a little vexed at last night's adventure, and not a little uneasy to think of my engagement for today, which, as it was with soldiers, I resolved to keep. I went down to Grange and prevailed with him to promise to accompany me. I was at the New Church both forenoon and afternoon, and at home between sermons; so that I had a good counterbalance of decency. At four Grange and I repaired to the *cantine*. But luckily for me, Mr. Monro had either thought that I was joking or in liquor, or would not remember my appointment, and he was not there. I had resolved to drink only a single glass and leave them. But it is hard to say what might have happened if the Highlanders had been quite to my mind. I gave Sergeant Taylor money to buy beer for them, and came off. I meditated on the Highland character, which I really believe is truly Scythian and does not know the weaknesses which occasion distress to most men. There is a hardness of body and a firmness of spirit quite peculiar...

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER. ..I walked out to the Abbey Hill and met the first division of the 31 Regiment, and walked along and was cheered by their drums and fifes and martial air. Got before them into the Castle, and saw them enter the square. They were to relieve the Highlanders, who were to go to the Forts and other parts of Scotland...

Source and Note: *Boswell: the Ominous Years, 1774-1776*. James Boswell (ed. by Charles Ryskamp and Frederick A. Pottle), McGraw-Hill, 1963, pp. 165-167, 180-181. "*Auld Reekie*" ("Old Smoky") is a nickname of Edinburgh. There were two "*Capt. Macphersons*" in the 42nd Regt. at this time. A letter from the War Office from about the same

period dated Oct. 11, 1775 described Capt. Duncan M^cPherson in the 1st Additional Company with Lt. Munro and Ens. M^cLeod, so the captain at the castle is likely Capt. James M^cPherson. Boswell's use of the name "*The Highland Watch*," refers to the original founding of the companies of regiment whose purpose was to keep a watch on the Highlands of Scotland.

**Approval to Reduce Height Requirement from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington
to Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., London, Oct. 18, 1775**

War Office 18th October 1775

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 10th ins^t, and to acquaint your Lordship, that in the present Scarcity of Men H: M: [His Majesty] is pleased to consent that the Recruiting of the R^l. Highland Reg^t under your Command, should not be limited to men of Five feet Six Inches; but it is expected that the Recruits be sound, able bodied Men, and in every respect fit for immediate Service although they may be of a lower Size than the Regulation.

I have the honor &ca
Barrington

R^t Honble
Gen^l Lord John Murray
At Chesterfield
Derby shire

Source: TNA, Secretary-at-War, Out-letters, WO 4/94 p. 400 (f. 203). See request letter from Gen. Lord Murray above dated Oct. 10, 1775.

**Gen. Lord John Murray's Advertisement for Additional Pipers for the 42nd Regt.,
Edinburgh, Oct. 27, 1775**

ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT

WHEREAS HIS MAJESTY has been graciously pleased to allow, that TWELVE PIPERS, being one for each Company, with Drummers pay be appointed for the 42d or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot under my command, and as some are still wanting to complete that number, whatever able bodied Highlanders, who are well skilled in playing PIBROCHS, if they offer to enlist with any of my recruiting officers; they will not only receive THREE GUINEAS enlisting money, when approved of by the commanding officer at Glasgow, but a present from me of a pair of new pipes with flags, and other advantages, till the number is complete; and he that is the best piper, and regularly bred at the colleges in the Isles of Skye and Mull, will be appointed piper major. Bannercross near Sheffield, Yorkshire, 21st Oct. 1775} JOHN MURRAY, GENERAL.

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Oct. 27, 1775, p. 269. The letter from Lord Barrington to Gen. Lord John Murray indicating that the 42nd Regt. was to be augmented dated June 29, 1775 provides that two pipers were authorized for the Grenadier Company in lieu of the normal two fifers in English regiments. This article may indicate that one of the two drummers also authorized for each company may have been a piper. There are two instances where this allowance of a piper in the battalion companies may be shown. "*Robert M^cFarlane Piper*" is listed in the muster of Maj. William Murray's company dated at "*Philadelphia 28 March 1778*." In addition, the normal "*Drummer*" column in the New Jersey muster report of Maj. Duncan M^cPherson's company at "*Piscataway 30th April 1777*" is modified to read "*Drummers & Pipers*."

**News Account of Departure of Detachment of the 42nd Regt. from Duty in the Castle,
Edinburgh, Nov. 15, 1775**

EDINBURGH...

Yesterday, five companies of the 31st regiment of foot, commanded by his Excellency Lieutenant General [James Adolphus] Oughton, arrived here, in order to do duty in the castle, in room of a party of the Royal Highland regiment, who this day marched for Glasgow.

Source: *Caledonian Mercury* (Edinburgh), Nov. 15, 1775. p. 2. A similar article was printed in the *Public Advertiser* (London), Nov. 21, 1775. p. 4.

News Account of Difficulties in Recruiting for the 42nd Regt., London, Nov. 16, 1776

By the Ship Centuries, Capt. Alled, arrived at Philadelphia from Newry, we have the following advices, viz.

LONDON, November 16...

The general difficulty of recruiting extends even to the Highlands, insomuch that [Gen.] Lord John Murray's battalion wants above a third of the number to compleat it.

Source and Note: *Providence Gazette* (Rhode Island), Mar. 2, 1776, p. 2. Capt. James M^cPherson's letter below dated Dec. 5, 1775 confirms the difficult recruiting.



Some of the defences at Fort George, 2005, by Flaxton.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

News Account of Four Companies of the 42nd Regt. Departing for Duty at Fort William and Fort George; Glasgow, Nov. 25, 1775

EDINBURGH...

Last week, the 69th [68th] regiment of foot, commanded by Colonel [John] Lambton, arrived at Glasgow, in two divisions, from the north, in their way to Ireland. At the same time four companies of the 42d, or Royal Highlanders, marched from Glasgow for Fort William and Fort George.

Sources: *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, Nov. 25, 1775. p. 2. The report was also published in the *Edinburgh Advertiser* on Nov. 24, 1775, p. 334, and the *Public Advertiser* (London), Dec. 2, 1775, p. 4.

Excerpt of Letter from Patrick Campbell. 71st Regt. to his Father, Duncan Campbell of Glenure, Regarding Height Requirement for Recruits in the 42nd Regt., Glasgow, Dec. 1775

D^r Fayr

Glasgow Dec^r 1775

I arrived here at 11 o'clock at night after parting with you I find that I have left the best field for recruiting behind me I have got but one man since a barber 5 feet 5 inches I hope you have been more successful. In all here 8 young boys much about the size of those you said here my men in Edin^r are much stronger and in general taller.

The 42^d are taking them at 5 feet 3 ½ growing lads...

Your affect son
Pat Campbell

Ps five guineas are given here for very indifferent men I shall be with you monday first adieu

Source: NRS, *Papers of the Campbell Family of Barcaldine* at GD170/1176-9.

Excerpt of Letter from Capt. James M^cPherson, 42nd Regt., to Duncan Campbell of Glenure, Regarding Poor Recruiting, Glasgow, Dec. 7, 1775

Glasgow 7th Dec^r 1775

D^r B^r...

I was wrong informed as to our Reg^t being near compleat we still want near four hundred and this very day I had that information from the Agent...

Yours Aff^{ly} James M^cPherson

Source and Note: NRS, Letters from Capt. and later Brevet Maj. James MacPherson, 42nd Regt., to his brother-in-law Duncan Campbell of Glenure (later of Barcaldine) in *Papers of the Campbell Family of Barcaldine* at GD170/1354/39 f. 179.

News Account of General Difficulty of Recruiting Extending to the 42nd Regt., London, Nov. 16, 1775

LONDON, Nov. 16 ...

The general difficulty of recruiting extends even to the Highlanders, insomuch that [Gen.] Lord John Murray's battalion wants above a third of the number to compleat it.

Source: *Connecticut Journal*, Feb. 28, 1776, p.1.

Incorrect American News Account of Augmentation and Destination of the 42nd Regt., Philadelphia, Nov. 18, 1775

PHILADELPHIA, November 18...

We learn that the Royal Highland regiment, under command of Sir John Murray, is to be augmented to twelve hundred men, and will sail in March next for South-Carolina. This regiment has about two hundred men who served in America, three hundred are lately raised, and the other seven hundred are to be raised in the Highlands, and made veterans by March next.

Source: *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, Nov. 18, 1775. The 42nd Regt. did not sail for South Carolina, but for Boston and later New York.

News Account of a Letter from a 42nd Regt. Officer about Being Busy Recruiting in Scotland;

Waterford, Ireland, Dec. 1, 1775

Waterford [Ireland], December 1...

A Letter from an Officer in the 42d Regiment (Royal Highlanders) says, they are extremely busy compleating their Regiment to Twelve Companies, for which Purpose they had already enlisted 400 Men, and expected to embark for America next March.

Source: *Hibernian Journal; or, Chronicle of Liberty* [Dublin], Dec. 6, 1775, p.3. This article was also published in the *Leeds Intelligencer*, Dec. 19, 1775, p. 2.

**Comments by Duke of Gordon's Estate Manager on Recruiting Success of
Brevet-Maj. Duncan M'Pherson, 42nd Regt., Ruthven, Scotland, Dec. 11, 1775**

Dear Sir

I received yours of the 4th and 7th. I shall use my utmost endeavours to procure Recruits for Cap^t [Hamilton] Maxwell [71st Highlanders] and I shall be happy if am successfully but I'm much afraid Her Grace's orders have come too late - Major Macpherson (Breakachy) of the 42^d has been employed on the Recruiting Service in this Country for several Months past, and as he made use of all legal (all legal is underlined) means to engage the Men here, there are but few remaining - he takes them of all ages & sizes, and I'm told, does not scruple five Guineas of Levy Money...

Her Grace may depend upon my using the Means for serving her Brother, although I cannot promise upon being successful

I am D^r Sir

Your most Obt Serv
William Tod

Ruthven

11th Dec^r 1775

Source: NRS, *Papers of the Gordon Family, Dukes of Gordon (Gordon Castle Muniments)* at GD44/43/153

Example "Recruiting Instructions" from the 71st Highland Regt., Newcastle, Dec. 15, 1775

- 1st You are to Enlist none but Protestants and natives of Great Britain.
- 2^d You must Enlist no Stroller, Vagabond or Sailor, or any person who is not of the neighbourhood of the place you are appointed to recruit, unless he has resided there for some time and can give good account of himself.
- 3^d You are to Enlist no man who has ever been in the Service.
- 4th You must Enlist no man under 5 Feet four Inches without Shoes, or above 30 years of age.
- 5th Your Recruits must be straight and well made, Broad Shouldered, a good face and in every respect fit for his Majesty's Service.
- 6th All Recruits before Enlisted must be Carefully Examined by a Cherurgion [Surgeon], as any one who has the appearance of a Rupture, Broken bones, Kings evil Running Sores on any part of His Body, Falling sickness or fits, and in a word any Infirmary in Body or Limbs will Certainly be rejected at the Expençe of the Officer who Enlists him.
- 7th You must Enlist no Indented Apprentices.

For Every Recruit agreeable to the above Instructions when Delivered at Starling and approved by the Commanding Officer appointed by Major General Fraser, to reside there, if so delivered and approved on or before the 24th of March one thousand seven Hundred & Seventy Six you shall Receive £5 Sterling but it is Expected they shall be provided out of their Enlisting money with at least 3 good Shirts 2 pair of shoes.

To Serj^t. Miller of the
Northumberland Militia

Pat. Campbell
Cap^t. in Maj^r. Gen^l. Fraser
Reg^t. of Highlanders

In the event that Serjeant Miller Delivers me in every way agreeable to the within description and terms Six or more Good men I shall allow him one shilling per day over and above the within conditions untill the twentyeth of March next with this provision that he is not to be employed by any other person in recruiting but me & can declare to the same as witness to my hand- P. Campbell

Newcastle on tyne
Dec^r. 15th 1775

Source: *Campbell Accounts and Papers, 1773 - 1771*, Box 17, folder 2, New York Public Library, Bayard-Campbell-Pearsall Collection, in *The Brigade Dispatch*, Vol. 23 No. 3, Brigade of the American Revolution. Although these instructions were not specifically associated with the 42nd Regt., they represent contemporary recruiting instructions from the other highland regiment being raised at the same time period as the augmentation of the 42nd Regt. Newcastle-Upon-Tyne is about 100 miles SE of Edinburgh in Northern England.

**War Office Authorized Discharges to Recruits After Three Years or the End of the American War,
London, Dec. 16, 1775**

War Office, December 16, 1775.

IT is His Majesty's Pleasure, That, from the Date hereof, and during the Continuance of the Rebellion now subsisting in North America, every Person, who shall enlist as a soldier in any of His Majesty's Marching Regiments of Foot, shall be entitled to his Discharge at the End of Three Years, or at the End of the said Rebellion, at the Option of His Majesty.

By His Majesty's Command,
BARRINGTON

Source: *London Gazette*, Dec. 16-19, 1775, p. 1.



Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *An Historical Account of the Settlements of Scotch Highlanders in America prior to the Peace of 1783*, J.P. Maclean, 1900.

Letter from Simon Fraser of Fanellan to Maj. Gen. Simon Fraser, Col., 71st Highland Regt., Reporting Success of 42nd Regt. Recruiters, Near Inverness, Dec. 16, 1775

Dr Sir

I was made acquainted by wednesdays post of your friendly intentions towards my son Tom, previous to your having got a Reg^t., & since, likewise the friendly interview you had w^t. Coll: Grant ... if Tom is to be one of your officers, is, the getting of men. I never knew them so backward as now, & the 42^d Reg^t. have picked up all the loose ones, they got the start of you & artfully gave it out, that they would better go freely w^t. them as soon as You would appear & have them taken up... Hugh Fraser Dell told me this day they got thirteen young fellows...

Fanellan Dec^r 16th

I always am Dr Sir
Your most obed^t & obliged Serv^t

Simon Fraser

Source and Note: *Laing Papers* at LA.11.506, Edinburgh University, Special Collections. pp. 153-154. Fanellan is located about fourteen miles west of Inverness.

**Note from John Boddington, Secretary to the Board of Ordnance, to Dep. Secretary at War
Matthew Lewis, War Office, Regarding Number of Pistols for the 42nd Regt., London, Dec. 22,
1775**

M^r. Boddington presents his Compliments to M^r. Lewis, and begs to know the Total Augmentation to the 42^d or Highland Regiment there being some doubt about the Number of Pistols to be paid for.

Office of Ordnance
22^d. Decem^r. 1775

Source: TNA, *War Office: In-letters* at WO 1/865, p. 113.

**News Account that the 42nd Regt. was Nearly Complete to One Thousand Men,
Glasgow, Dec. 22, 1775**

Saturday last a recruiting party belonging to [Maj.] General [Simon] Frazer's [71st] Highland regiment, began to enlist men at Glasgow, since which they are meeting with good success, notwithstanding the great number that has listed with the old [42nd] Highland regiment, which is compleated to near a thousand.

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Dec. 22, 1775, p. 397. The same article was published in the *Caledonian Mercury*, Dec. 23, 1775, p. 2. The "old Highland regiment" was the 42nd Regt.

1776



Detail from Engraving of Portrait of John Murray, 4th Duke of Atholl, Approx., 1811, by John Hoppner

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., to John Murray, 4th Duke of Atholl, Regarding Recruiting, Bannercross, Sheffield, England, Jan. 4, 1776

My Dear Lord

Not having had the honor of an answer to my letter, sometime ago inclosed to Lord Cathcart I beg your Grace will please lett me know if you have or intent writing to some in Atholl of your desire of having some recruits for Lord William [Murray], & to assist Lieu^t W^m Stewart Recruiting there & M^r Stewart of Clockfoldick for his Son who is an Ensign. I am persuaded Cap^t Stewart of Urrard, who was formerly in the Royal Highland Reg^t and others, of your Friends & Vassalls would Excert themselves at your Request; Which almost every one is doing for their friends, I hear the Duchess of Gordon, attends the Markets in the Shire of Inverness, to get recruits for her Brother who is to be in major Gen^l Frasers new Corps, and has had a good deal of Success; and as will I am persuaded be very acceptable to the King & his Administration, your Grace Interest your self for the Royal Highland Reg^t and I had the honor of informing his Majesty I Expected a considerable Number of Recruits from Atholl, as well as Invernessshire & Argyleshire, I am Sorry to say very few have hitherto been got there, tho I expect at any rate, this Augmentation will now be very soon compleat. S^t Robert Menzie Invercald, Moness, Balackin, Lude, Edradour &c, I am sure will do what they could, if your Grace thought proper to write to them.

As its probable, some further Augmentation, may be made to the 42^d or Royal Highland Reg^t, after this is fully completed, I should be glad to know if its agreeable to your Grace & the Duchess Dowager, I should again apply to Lord Barrington, to Recommend to His Majesty Lord William for a Lieutenancy, his Lordship in answer to mine some time ago wrote me he believed he had Satisfied your Grace about it if you think proper to inform me of it, I shall be better able to judge if a Second application would be proper.

My Daughter joins me in our best Compliments to both your Graces, & wishing you many happy years, & the Young Lady, & beg your Grace will please make offer of the same to Lord Catheard and the rest of his family, to Whom I have taken the liberty to [initore?] this. and am My Dear Lord

Your Graces Most Affectionate and Most Obed^t Serv^t *John Murray*

Bannercross

Jan^{ry} 4th 1776

Source and Note: Item No. 65(2) 3 in Letter from Mrs. Jane Anderson, Blair Castle to Mr. Ed. Brumby, Elgin, Scotland enclosing documents related to Highland recruiting (undated – about 2000). The augmentation increased the

regiment by 691 officers and men. Lord William is the Duke's son Ens. Lord William Murray, commissioned Aug. 27, 1775.

News Account of Recruiting of the 42nd and 71st Highland Regiments, London, Jan. 1776

LONDON, February 14.

Corps in America, and under Orders for the Continent, January, 1776...

42d – [Gen.] Ld. [John] Murrays, recruiting in Scotland...

2d battalion [Maj. Gen. Simon] Fraser's corps, raising in Scotland, to consist of 2000 men...

N.B. The marching regiments, for the American service, are to consist of twelve companies of fifty-six effective rank and file each company; the three Highland battalions excepted, viz. Lord John Murray's and Fraser's, which are to consist of 1000 men each..."

Source and Note: *New-York Journal or, The General Advertiser*, May 23, 1776. "Fraser's corps" consisted of the two battalions of the 71st Highland Regt.



Detail from Mezzotint of Gen. Sir William Howe, 1777, by Richard Purcell

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Anne S. K. Brown Military History Collection*

Excerpts of Letter from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, to Maj. Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Regarding the Assignment of the 42nd Regt. to the American War, London, Jan. 5, 1776

Whitehall 5 January 1776

Sir,

...you must depend for the augmentation you wish upon the numbers of levies that will be raised by recruiting (which I am sorry to say goes on slowly) and upon such additional Battalions as we shall be able to send you. You are therefore to add to the 42^d Regiment, which will be 1000 Men complete, two other Battalions of 1000 each which will be raised upon a plan proposed by [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser [71st Highland Regt.] and approved by the King, and which will be ready to embark for Boston with the 42^d Regiment early in the month of April.

...I have pressed forward the supply of flat-bottomed boats, of which 32 are already sent out ...

Upon a revisal of your Commission as Commander-in-Chief, it has been observed by the King that you are authorized in general terms to post Officers upon vacancies, on which head I am

commanded by His Majesty to say that it is not to be understood to apply in any case to the vacancy of a Regiment. As to vacancies in the rank of lieutenant-colonels and majors, you may post Officers to such vacancies until His Majesty's Pleasure be known, and His Majesty will if he thinks fit confirm them by Commissions here...

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution 1770-1783 Volume XII, Transcripts 1776*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 33-36 from CO 5/93, f. 1. Maj. Gen. Sir William Howe was appointed General in America only by a War Office announcement dated Mar. 26, 1776.

**Excerpt of Letter from Lachlan M^cPherson to Maj. Gen. Simon Fraser, Col., 71st Highland Regt.,
Regarding the Recruiting Success of Capt. Duncan M^cPherson, 42nd Regt.,
Breakachy, Scotland, Jan. 7, 1776**

[Cover sheet]

To

Hon^{ble} Gen^l Fraser

London

[Letter]

Hon^d Sir

I had the Honour of receiving your letter w^t the papers Inclosed respecting Major [Duncan] M^cPhersons [of Cluny] Company [71st Regt.] three days ago In my last I mentioned the bad effects that your not sending Instructions earlier might be attended with & particularly that the Major himself was not to appear his Recruiting could not I feared be carried on w^t any degree of Spirit – upon Arrival in this Country I found my fears too well founded for till then they had no certain Intelligence of [Duncan Macpherson of] Clunys appointment. And M^cIntosh had for the whole course of this winter his Emissaries in the foot of the Country Capt [Brevet-Maj. Duncan] Mcpherson Breakachie [42nd Regt.] had Uncommon Success in the Breas & Capt [Hamilton] Maxwell [71st Regt.] for above Twenty days has had parties flying over the Country with the whole weight of the Duke of Gordons interest... There is [illeg. word] of this Country a clever fellow uncommonly handsome a grenadier in the 42^d Alex^r Lesslie by name can read & write is at present on the recruiting Service in this Country could you obtain the favour of the Commandant to dispense with this man he would be a very fit recruiting Serj^t. for Cluny & might be of great Service I have reason to believe your letter to me shown to Capt M^cpherson of Breakachie will have the desired effect so far as decency can allow of ...

I have the honour to be with every sentiment of Respect, Kind Sir

Your most obed^t a faithfull humble Serv^t.

Lach M^cPherson

Breakachie 7th Jan^y 1776...

Source: *Laing Collection*, University of Edinburgh, Item La. II, 506.

News Account of 42nd Regt. Party Assisting with House Fire, Glasgow, Jan. 9, 1776

Tuesday [Jan. 9] last at four o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the house of Mr. Campbell, saddler in Stockwell-street, Glasgow, which had got to an alarming height, in one part of the house before it was discovered. The activity however of the Lord Provost, and magistrate assisted by a party of the Royal Highlanders, and the exceeding proper management of the fire engines, put a final stop to it by seven o'clock. A young woman (a servant of Mr. Campbell's) who showed a deal of resolution in saving one of the children and in carrying out goods and furniture, perished, being suffocated with the smoke: the rest of the family with much difficulty got all out safe.

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Jan. 12, 1776, p. 29.

Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department to Arrange Transports for the 42nd Regt., London, Jan. 13, 1776

W.O. 13th Janry 1776

My Lord

I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship it is intended that the 42^d Reg^t of Foot (or Royal Highlanders) Murray's consisting of 1,160 Men Officer included, and the two Batt^{ns} of the 71st Reg^t Fraser's, consisting of 2,298 men, Officers included, shall embark early in the Spring from Scotland for N^o America.

Your Lordship will therefore be pleased to receive & transmit H: M: [His Majesty's] Commands to the R^t Honble the Lords Comm^{ns} of the Admiralty that the proper Vessels may be provided for embarking & carrying over the said Corps to the places of their destinations [as] also H: M: Commands relative to the disembarkation, & the future disposition of the Reg^{ts} on their arrival in N^o America.

Each Reg^t is to embark with their Tents & Camp Equipage compleat.

The Number of Women, Servants, & baggage for each is underneath.

	Women	Servants	Tons of Baggage
42 ^d Murray's	80	16	140
71 st Fraser's, 2 Batt ^{ns}	160	32	280

I have the honor to be My Lord &c
Barrington

R^t Honble Lord G: Germain

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters* at WO 4/95 p. 379 (f. 189) and copy in CO 5/256, pp. 5-6 (f.3). It was common for a small number of soldier's wives and children to accompany the regiments. The most common duties of the women, who were provided army rations, were as laundresses and nurses.



Reproduction 42nd Regt. Uniform Button

Picture Source: Roy and Debra Najecki's American Revolutionary War Reproductions at www.najecki.com

Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Status of Recruiting to the Augmentation and Offer to Raise a 2nd Battalion, Bannercross, Sheffield, Jan. 17, 1776

My Lord

I have the honor to enclose to your Lordship the last Monthly Return of the Reg^t. under my Command by which there was 347 wanting to complete at head Quarters, yet there is marked at Recruiting Quarters 160, which reduces the Number then wanting to one hundred and eighty seven. and by the last weekly Return of the 8th. Ins^t. from Glasgow there was 765 inlisted, and 8 more by the Return of the 7th. from Fort George, which was not then known at head Quarters. So that then there was only 150 wanting, and as your Lordship will observe there was 240 Raised in the Month of December, this Augmentation will probably be compleat before the end of this Month. The Storm of snow has been so

great here for ten days, and more to the South, that the London post has not arrived here since last Friday. Which left it on Tuesday night. and four mails due this day. Therefore imagine many more Recruits has been inlisted in the Highlands than could be known by last Return.

If it should be His Majestys Pleasure to add a Second Battalion to the Forty Second or Royal Highland Regiment as was the last War, I beg leave to be informed of it as soon as you think proper, Otherwise the Number the Number of Recruits will be ever Complete.

Several Half pay Officers have made Application by themselves or fiends, to be Employed in that Event and to raise Men, and by the last post a half pay Cap^t offers to bring twenty five men, he has already engaged the day he receives his Beating order. and twenty five more within a month after, if he is appointed to a Company, in the Event of a Second Battalion to the Royal Highland Regiment.

If I have the honor of receiving your Lordships commands, shall wait on you with a List of half pay Officers, to be Recommended to His Majesty if your Lordship approves of it.

I have the honor to be with Great Respect

My Lord

Your Lordships most obedient and most faithfull humble Serv^t

John Murray

Bannercross

January 17, 1776 –

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO1/993. Lord Murray's offer to raise a second battalion was not accepted until 1779.

**Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War
Viscount Barrington, Regarding Recruiting, Bannercross, Sheffield, Jan. 27, 1776**

My Lord...

The Roads and passages by Water, must make the Correspondences of the Recruiting Officers very uncertain at this Season in the Highlands, The Storm of snow and frost Still continues here, which occasions the posts to come in very irregularly.

I have the honor to be with the Utmost Regard & Esteem

My Lord

Your Lordships most humble and most obedient

Servant

Bannercross

January 27, 1776 ...

John Murray

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO 1/993.

**Account of Shipping and Provisions Being Readied for Embarkation of 42nd and 71st Regiments,
Glasgow, Jan. 27, 1776**

EDINBURGH...

Last week, commissioners arrived from London, who have since contracted with the merchants of Glasgow and at Greenock, (upon government account) for upwards of 7000 tons of shipping, to be employed as transports to carry over troops to America. they have likewise contracted for a large quantity of bedding, water casks, basket, and butcher meat, &c. which are all ordered to be ready by the middle of March; at which time, we hear, the 42d or Royal Highlanders, with [Maj. Gen. Simon] Fraser's two battalions [71st Regt.], are to embark at Greenock for America; they will consist of about three thousand five hundred men.

Source: *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, Jan. 27, 1776, pp. 2-3.

**Excerpt of Letter from James Stewart to the Duke of Atholl Regarding Recruits for
Ens. Lord William Murray, 42nd Regt., Atholl, Feb. 4, 1776**

...I am sorry to inform Your Grace that we have not been at all Successfull in recruiting for [Ens.] Lord Will^m [Murray]— All we have yet got amongst us are 8 Men & not one of these above the pass they will not list except they are compelled & that we can not do...

...4th Feb^{ry} 1776

My Lord Duke...

James Stewart

Source: Letter from Mrs. Jane Anderson, Blair Castle to Mr. Ed. Brumby, Elgin, Scotland enclosing documents related to Highland recruiting (undated – about 2000), item: 65 (2) 21. Lord William Murray was a younger son of the Duke of Atholl.

**Excerpts of Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War
Viscount Barrington, Regarding the Quartermaster for the 42nd Regt., Bannercross, Sheffield,
Feb. 7, 1776**

My Lord

Since I had the honor to write your Lordship have been honor'd by yours of the 29th with two letters return'd to Dispose, also Lieu^t W^m Graham who is Quarter Master, but it seems has never acted as Such, his father the late Lieu^t. Colonel [Gordon Graham] attained it from the Lord Lieutenant [of Ireland] five years ago: I have taken the liberty of inclosing in another Cover two of his Letters, with a Copy of mine to Lieu^t Colonel [Thomas] Stirling and his answer that your Lordship may be fully inform'd of what he writes of both these Officers.

As it is of the Greatest consequence to the Regiment especially at present for me to have a careful Quarter M^r. and a greater charge in the Royal Highland Regiment than any other to take care of the Plaids & hose, and see them properly made by the Manufacturers and delivered out, to the amount of Eighteen or nineteen thousand yards contracted for this year. Shall transmit his Memorial (when I receive it from head Quarters) to your Lordship...

I have just Rec^d. a letter from my Lieu^t Colonel that he wished Sincerely that I had a Quarter Master that would fully do the duty as there is great occasion for it. Which I flatter my self will plead my Excuse for giving your Lordship so much trouble of perusing at your leisure the letters sent with this.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

your Lordships most obedient

and most obliged humble Serv^t

John Murray

Bannercross
Feb: 7th. 1776

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO 1/993.



Detail of Portrait of Maj. Gen. Thomas Stirling, by Benjamin Marshall

Picture Source: The Black Watch Castle & Museum

**Letter from Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42nd Regt., to Capt. and Lt. Col. James Murray,
3rd Regt. of Foot Guards, Regarding Augmentation of the 42nd Regt., Glasgow, Feb. 8, 1776**

Glasgow Feb^{ry} 8th 1776

My Dear Murray,

I have long wished to enquire after your Welfare and to have it under your hand, but I was afraid to disturb you in the weighty affairs of the state which you are occupied in, my chief reason for troubling you is to know what you propose – or wish to be done with your Nephew [Ens.] Lord Will^m [Murray], I believe he is too young to go out with us, and as it happens, by our order for camp Equipage, that only ten Comp^{ys} are to go out he can easily be left behind with the Additional Companys untill you can get him removed to something better, I only mention this to prevent your asking a needless favour of the folks above however I should be glad to hear from you about him, there is transports taken up here for ours & [Maj. Gen. Simon] Frasers [71st Regt.] and they want to take 9000 more tons

we have got about Eleven hundred men and should have been complete long e'er now had not Frasers been let loose upon us, who neither spares age of Sex, for they have listed two Women here, and gives so much money that none comes near us, [Gen.] Lord John [Murray, Col., 42nd Regt.] I find is very keen for a 2^d Battⁿ, but they and we must be gone before that can happen, and if he arranges his Officers as ill for it as he did for the Augmentation, it will go but poorly on, I have nothing but a paper War with him since I came here, which with a neglect & want of Countenance from above has made me Sick of my profession, and I do think will give it up when the service we are going on is over – if you have leisure should be glad to hear some intelligence of our destination, which we hear is Canada, and our Armament the Whole Reg^t will be assembled end of this Month here and I starting to bring them on so far, as that you may not be ashamed of your Old Friends the Royal Highlanders when they go on Service...

Y^r faithfull & Affecte Yr faithfull & Affec^{te} Servant,
Tho^s Stirling.

Sources: Letter from Mrs. Jane Anderson, Blair Castle to Mr. Ed. Brumby, Elgin, Scotland enclosing documents related to Highland recruiting (undated – about 2000), item: 65(2) 26 and *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*, Vol. IV, Ed. John, 7th Duke of Atholl, Ballantyne Press, Edinburgh, 1908, pp. 64-65. Ens. Lord William Murray was only 14 years old at the time of the departure of the regiment. Although Lt. Col. Stirling complains about Lord John Murray's selection of officers for the augmentation, the War Office filled some of the positions by taking officers from the half-pay list of the 42nd and other regiments.

**News Account of the Assembling of the 42nd Regt. Companies at Headquarters, Glasgow,
Feb. 19, 1776**

LONDON, February 19...

The Division of the 42d Regiment, or Royal Highlanders, which was stationed at Fort George, is marching for Glasgow.

Source and Note: *Manchester Mercury*, Mar. 5, 1776, p. 2. A similar article was published by the *Newcastle Courant*, Mar. 2, 1776, p. 4 and the *London Evening-Post* on Feb. 27-29, 1776, p. 3. The march south from Fort George, near Inverness, to Glasgow was about 185 miles long.

Letter from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Regarding the Embarkation of the Highlanders in the Clyde, London, Feb. 21, 1776

My Lords,

Whitehall, 21st Feb^{ry} 1776

In answer to your Lordships Letter of the 19th Instant, desiring to be informed when the six Regiments ordered to embark at Cork, and the Highland Corps which are to be embarked in the Clyde may be expected to be ready, and the number of those Troops; I have the Honor to acquaint your Lordships, that each of the Six Regiments ordered to embark at Corke, consists of 677 Men Officers included, that 60 Women and 12 Servants are allowed, & 86 Tons will be wanting for the Baggage.

The 42^d Regiment of Highlanders consists of 1168 Men, Officers included, 80 Women & 16 Servants are allowed, and 140 Tons for Baggage.

[Maj. Gen. Simon] Fraser's Corps [1st and 2nd Bn., 71st Highland Regt.] consists of 2098 Men, Officers included, 160 Women & 32 Servants are allowed, and 280 Tons will be wanted for the Baggage; and they will all be in readiness to embark, at the places directed for their Embarkation the middle of next Month. I am &ca

Geo: Germain

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office: Original Correspondence, Secretary of State, Admiralty* at CO 5/123, 80. as shown in *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 4, p. 925.

News Account of Recruits for the 42nd Regt. Arriving, Glasgow, Feb. 26, 1776

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh, Feb. 26, There are no less than fourteen recruiting parties from different regiments present in Glasgow, and within these few days near 100 recruits have arrived there from the Highlands, belonging to the Royal Scots Highlanders, and 400 more are daily expected from Fort George.

Source: *Kentish Gazette* (Canterbury), Mar. 9, 1776, p. 3.

Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Regimental Colonels, Including Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. Regarding Pardon for Deserters, London, Feb. 27, 1776

War Office, 27th February 1776

Sir,

Enclosed I have the honour to send you some printed Copies of His Majesty's most gracious Pardon to Deserters from the land Forces, and am to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure, that all such who shall surrender themselves before the 10th day of April next, to any party of your Regiment, be received and regularly attested for the same, provided it appears they were actually Deserters before the Publication of His Majesty's Pardon and that they are able bodied Men, and fit for Service.

You are likewise to distinguish the respective Numbers of Highlanders, Lowlanders, Irish and English Recruits.

You will also be pleased to inform me how far the Recruiting Instructions of the Colonel or Commanding Officer have been observed in compleating the said Corps.

Should there be any supernumeraries they are to be subsisted by the Regiment until further order.

I have the honor &c
Barrington

Sir Adolphus Oughton
Edinburgh

[Response]

My Lord

I am honoured with Your Lordship's of the 2^d by last Night's post, acquainting me with His Majesty's Pleasure that I should inspect the 42^d. Regiment as soon as assembled and transmit to Your Lordship accurate Reports of the Fitness of the Recruits for Service, with other Particulars. This I have notified to Lord John Murray, who commands his Regiment; and have given Orders for calling in all their Out Parties as soon as may be.

I have the Honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant

Caroline Park, March 9, 1776 –

Ja^s: Adol^o: Oughton

Sources: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters* at WO 4/96, p. 223 (f.112) and *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO 1/865, p. 351. On May 28, 1778 Oughton was appointed Commander of the Forces in North Britain.



Lt. Gen. John Campbell, 5th Duke of Argyll, by Thomas Gainsborough

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Sotheby's*

Excerpt of Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lt. Gen. John Campbell, Duke of Argyll, Commander-in-Chief, North Britain, Regarding Inspection of the 42nd Regt. by Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, London, Mar. 2, 1776

War Office 2^d March 1776.

Lord Barrington presents his Compliments to the Duke of Argyll...

See page 223

Lord Barrington has the honor to enclose for His Grace's information a Copy of his Letter to Sir Adolphus Oughton, relative to the inspecting the Royal Highland Regimt
Duke of Argyll

Source: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, Jan. 1776 – Apr. 1776* at WO 4/96, p. 225 (f.113).

Letter from Commissary Thomas Bissett, to John Murray, 4th Duke of Atholl Regarding Obtaining Recruits for Ens. Lord William Murray's Quota, Dunkeld, Mar. 3, 1776

Dunkeld, 3rd March 1776.

Frederick [Crerar, gamekeeper at Dunkeld] marched for Glasgow on Fryday with Lord William's recruits, thirteen in number, of which I made six in my low country Department. Till Frederick returns we shall not know if there will be time for raising any more. I hear [Gen] L^d John [Murray, Col., 42nd Regt.] has come to Glasgow.

Source and Note: *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*, Vol. IV, Ed. John, Seventh Duke of Atholl, K. T., Ballantyne, Press, Edinburgh, 1908, p. 65. Ens. Murray, son of the Duke, was required to raise 25 recruits for his commission.

Order from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lt. Gen. John Campbell, Duke of Argyll, Commander-in-Chief, Scotland, for Brevet-Col. Robert Skene, 59th Regt to Facilitate Embarkation of 42nd and 71st Regts., London, Mar. 4, 1776

War Office 4th March 1776

My Lord,

As a Variety of Arrangements must be taken in N^o. Britain [Scotland] respecting the Embarkation of the 42^d. and 71st. Regim^{ts}, which will require the presence and superintendence of some experienced Officer; I have the honor to desire your Grace will be pleased to order Colo: Skene to that duty, and direct him to take the care and management of the several Particulars attending the execution of this Service, subject however to your Grace's Orders, and those of the Officer commanding the Forces in N^o. Britain.

Colo: Skene is to communicate immediately to me as well as to the Commander-in-Chief in No^o Britain such Arrangements as he shall from time to time think necessary to take previous to & during the Embarkation of the said Corps, in order that H. M. may have the earliest information of the progress made in this Service.

I have the honor &c
Barrington

P. S. The R^l. N^o, British Dragoons march out of Scotland before the Embarkation will be over, and therefore Colonel [John] Douglas cannot be well spared for this duty,

His Grace
The Duke of Argyll
&c &c &c

Source: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, Jan. 1776 – Apr. 1776* at WO4/96, p. 224. "Colonel Douglas" is Lt. Col. John Douglas, 2nd (or Royal North British) Regt. of Dragoons (Scots Greys). The 1778 Army list shows Skene as the senior Capt. of the 59th Regt., but a Maj. Gen. in the Army with date of rank of Aug, 29, 1777. He is listed as the Adj. Gen. North Britain.

**Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington,
Regarding the Status of the 42nd Regt., Glasgow, Mar. 4, 1776**

My Lord

I have the honor to Send herewith to your Lordship, the Status, and monthly Return of the Regiment under my Command. and have the Satisfaction of having the Battalion here more than compleat. They fired with ball this day at a mark, and were thought to perform extremely well for the first time. I am in hopes they will Soon be pretty well disciplined.

The 31 Regiment went from this to Embark at Greenock this morning in great Spirits, and are a fine body of men.

Lieu^t. [James] Cramond dined with me on Saturday he seems a very pretty Gentleman & am much obliged for his being appointed in the Regiment, and wish I had the opportunity of Recommending him to His Majesty thro your Lordship, for further preferment.

I have the honor to be with the most Sincere Regard and Esteem

My Lord

Glasgow

Your Lordships most humble and most obedient Servant

4th. March 1776

John Murray

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO1/993.



Reproduction 26th Regt. Uniform Button

Picture Source: Roy and Debra Najecki's American
Revolutionary War Reproductions at www.najecki.com

**Notification from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lt. Gen. John Campbell, Duke of
Argyll, Commander-in-Chief, Scotland, That a Party of the 26th Regt. is to Sail with the 42nd Regt.,
London, Mar. 6, 1776**

War Office 6th March 1776.

My Lord

I have the honor to acquaint your Grace, that I have written to the Admiralty Board that instructions may be given for receiving on board the Vessels destined to carry the Comp^{ies} of the 42^d Regim^t to N^o. America, a Party consisting of One Commiss^d Officer & forty Recruits belonging to the 26th. Reg^t. ready to embark in the Clyde with the 42^d. Reg^t., in order to their being turned over from the 26th. to the 23^d. Reg^t., that you may give such orders as your Grace may think proper accordingly.

I have the honor &c

Duke of Argyll

Barrington

&c &c &c

Edin. Castle.

Source: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, Jan. 1776 – Apr. 1776* at WO 4/96, p. 243 (f. 127).

Request from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Philip Stephens, Secretary to the Admiralty, for a Party of the 26th Regt. to Travel to America with the 42nd Regt., London, Mar. 6, 1776

War-Office 6th March 1776.

Sir,

There being a Party consisting of One Commissioned Officer & Forty Recruits belonging to the 26th Reg^t. ready to embark in the Clyde with the 42^d. Reg^t., in order to their being turned over from the 26th to the 23^d. Reg^t. on their Arrival in North America, I am to desire you will move the Right Honble the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Directions may be given for receiving the said Party together with their Baggage on board the Vessels destined to carry the Ten Companies of the 42^d. Regiment to North America.

I am &c
Barrington

Philip Stephens Esq^r

Source: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters* at WO 4/96, p. 236 (f. 118).

Letter from George Jackson, Deputy Secretary to the Admiralty, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Approving Party of 26th Regt. to Sail With 42nd Regt., London, Mar. 8, 1776

Admiralty Office 8 Mar 1776

My Lord

Having laid before my Lords Comm^{rs} of the Admiralty your Letter of the 6th. Instant, desiring that a Party consisting of One Commissioned Officer belonging to the 26th Regim^t of Foot, ready to embark in the Clyde with the 42^d. Regiment, may with their Baggage be received on board the Vessels destined to carry Ten Companies of the said Regiment to North America; I am commanded to acquaint your Lordship that directions are given to the Navy Board for that purpose; and am

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most Obedient humble Servant
Geo Jackson DS

R^t Hon^{ble} Lord Visc^t Barrington

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO 1/865, p. 627.

News Account of Gen. Lord John Murray's Arrival to Review the 42nd Regt., Glasgow, Mar. 8, 1776

On Friday [Mar. 8] last, arrived at Glasgow, Lord John Murray, Colonel of the 42d or Royal Highlanders, in order to review them.

Source: *Caledonian Mercury* (Edinburgh), Mar. 9, 1776, p. 2.

Request from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Phillip Stephens, Secretary to the Admiralty, for Information on the Transports for the Highland Fleet, London, Mar. 9, 1776

War Office 9th March 1776

Sir

[Brevet] Colonel [Robert] Skene Adjutant General of the forces in N^o. Britain [Scotland] having been appointed to Superintend the Embarkation of the two [42nd and 71st] Highland Regiments; I am to desire you will be pleased to move the R^t. Hon^{ble} the Lords Commiss^{rs}. of the Admiralty that Directions

may be given to the Agent Victualler, and Agent of the Transports intended to carry the said Corps to North America, to give Col^o: Skene such information as he may from time to time require, respecting the Vessels or Provisions, and to co-operate with him in every thing which shall be thought necessary for the due execution of this Service.

I am &c
Barrington

Philip Stephens Esq^r.

[In Margin:] See p. 241.

Source: TNA, *War Office Out letters, General Letters* at WO 4/96, p. 270 (f. 135). Transcribed by Todd Braisted.

Letter from Ludivick Grant Regarding a Deserter from the 42nd Regt., Elgin, Mar. 9, 1776

Elgin March 9th 1776

Dear Sir,

I am this moment favour of yours, and expected to have hear'd from you before now, The man Inlisted for Carron turns out to be a deserter from the 42nd Regt, his name is Hugh Fraser but listed with [Capt. Hamilton] Maxwells Ser^{jt} [71st Regt.] under the name of Gordon, and was deliver'd up by one of his Serj^{ts}. to the 42nd for which Provost Duff gave the Ser^{jt} Twenty Shillings, he afterwards deserted from the 42nd upon their march south & came and Inlisted with me under the name of Grant, he this day came before me & surrendered himself as a Deserter from the 42nd at same time taking the benefite of the Kings Proclamation pardoning all Deserters who shall join their Respective Corps before the first of April, I therefore propose sending him to Nairn tomorrow to an officer of the 42nd who is left behind upon the Recruiting service. This Family has been in great distress most of the winter, we are all now pretty well we never doubted of our losing our youngest child but thank God she is now out of danger - All here join in best wishes, and am in haste

D^r. Sir

Yours Sincerely

Source: NRS, *Papers of the Gordon Family* at GD44-43-157, Item 20.

Letter from Brevet-Col. Robert Skene, Adjutant Gen., Scotland, to Dep. Secretary at War Matthew Lewis, Regarding His Assignment to Facilitate Embarkation of the 42nd and 71st Regiments and a Copy of the Duke of Argyll's Orders, Edinburgh, Mar. 9, 1776

Old Bond Street
March 9th 1776.

Dear Sir,

By the direction of the Duke of Argyll I have the honor to inclose to you a Copy of His Grace's instructions to me in relation to the embarkation of the 42^d. & 71st. Regiments.

To
M^r Lewis Esq^r

I am with great regard, D^r Sir,
Your most obedient & most humble Servant
Rob^t Skene

[Enclosure]

Sir,

As variety of Arrangements must be taken in N. Britain respecting the embarkation of the 42^d. & 71st. Regim^{ts}; You are to repair immediately to the place of embarkation to take upon the care &

Superintendence of the several particulars attending the Execution of this service, subject however to such orders as you may receive from [Lt. Gen.] Sir [James] Adolphus Oughton.

You are to send a report of such Arrangements as you shall from time to time find necessary to be taken previous to & during the embarkation of the said corps to Sir Adolphus Oughton to be by him transmitted to the Secretary at war in order that His Majesty may have the earliest information of the progress made in this service.

But if it shall appear that this report may be retarded by being sent thro' the hands of Sir Adolphus Oughton you are in that case to send it directly to the Secretary at war, a copy of it being sent at the same time to Sir Adolphus Oughton.

March 7th. 1776
To Col. Skene

I am Sir,
Your humble Ser^t
Signed Argyll

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO 1/865, pp. 343 and 347.

List of Questions Regarding Preparations for the Embarkation of the 42nd and 71st Regiments, Likely March 1776

Memorandums & Queries with respect to the Embarkation of the troops in N Britain [Scotland] necessary for [Brevet] Colonel [Robert] Skenes information & Conduct during his superintending that Service

If the 42 and 71 Regiments are to Sail together

If the Sick are to embark with their respective Regiments

In case the Sick are to be left behind how are they to be taken care of, as no Regimental Surgeon or Mate can be left with them

Colonel Skene should have as early information as possible of the time determined for the Embarkation

Is there to be any man of War to Convoy the Embarkation

If they are to Sail directly to America without going into Corke or elsewhere

What Tonnage is allowed p^r Man

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO1/865, p. 531.

Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding the Status of the 42nd Regt., Glasgow, Mar. 11, 1776

My Lord

I have the honor to acknowledge the Recp^t of your Lordships letters of the 26 and 27th. last month, and 2^d. Ins^t: I have r.^{ed} a letter from S^r. Ja^s. Adolp Oughton yesterday to call in all the parties to be seen with the Regiment here by him which I have done accordingly & to be here by the 20th. ins^t. if they possibly can.

I have the honor to inclose a State of the Regiment and shall write by tomorrows post.

I have the honor to be with great Respect

Glasgow 11th March 1776
My Lord
your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant
John Murray

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO 1/993.

Letter from George Jackson, Secretary to the Admiralty, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Agreeing to Direct the Assignment of Transports and Victualing for the 42nd and 71st Regiments' Voyage to America, London, Mar. 11, 1776

Adm^{ty} Office 11 Mar 1776

My Lord

Having laid before my Lords Comm^{rs} of the Admiralty your Letter of the 9th Instant, desiring that directions may be given to the Agent Victualler and Agent of the Transports intended to carry the Two Highland Regiments to North America, to give [Brevet] Colonel [Robert] Skene is appointed to superintend this Embarkation, such information as he may from to time require respecting the Vessel or Provisions, and to cooperate with him in every thing which shall be thought necessary for the due execution of this Service; & I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship that the Navy and Victualling Boards are directed to give Orders to the said respective Agents accordingly

I am, My Lord

Your Lordships most obedient humble Servant

R^t. Hon^{ble} Lord Viscount Barrington

Geo Jackson DS

Source: TNA, *War Office In-letters, Gov. Departments* at WO 1/865, p. 631.

Letter from Brevet- Col. Robert Skene, Adjutant Gen., Scotland, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Status of Transports, Greenock, Mar. 17, 1776

Greenock March 17th. 1776

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that there are 7.427 tuns of transports at present here but none yet intirely I with provisions, 1.000 tuns are by the Navy board ordered immediately for Corke, those in a few days I hope will be ready to sail as they want only some beer which has been embarked some days, but can't get down the river by constant contrary winds, I have directed the Agent of transports to send boats to tow down the Gabarts with provisions if possible the want of them being the only delay.

The Contracts here for Provisions engages to have the transports for the 42^d Regiment ready by the 1st. day of April and for the 71st. Regim^t by the 20th which I imagine will be as soon as required for the 71st. Regiment.

The transports here are exceedingly fine Ships, well done up & well found.

No man of War for a convoy is arranged as yet here.

I have the honor to be with the utmost Respect, My Lord,

Your Lordships Most obedient & most humble Servant

Rob^t Skene

R^t Hon^{ble} Lord Viscount Barrington

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO 1/865, pp. 383-385.



Detail from *Sir James Adolphus Oughton*, 1778, by John Downman

Picture Source: National Galleries of Scotland, Given by Capt. L. T. Ross, 1957, Creative Commons Lic.

Note from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Scotland, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Inspection of Recruits and the Status of Transports, Approx. Mar. 19, 1776

[Brevet] Colonel [Robert] Skene is just returned from Greenock, and informs me that the fitting up and victualling the transports there is carrying on with great Diligence; and that those for the 42^d Regiment will be ready by the 1st of next Month. I must, therefore, beg your Lordship will be pleased to inform me if that Regiment is to sail as soon as ready, or wait for the 71st; whither they are to wait for Convoy, or proceed directly to Cork. I must likewise beg your Lordship will be pleased to direct Col. Townshend to let me know what Additional Companies are to be stationed in this Country.

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO1/865, page not marked.

Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, North Britain, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Inspection of Recruits and the Status of Transports, Caroline Park, Edinburgh, Mar. 19, 1776

My Lord,

I am honoured with Your Lordship's several Letters of the 13th and 14th ...I have sent the 42^d Regiment His Majesties Instructions for their Government during their Passage to North America A fresh fall of Snow in the Highlands has rendered the Roads impracticable; so that I fear their Recruits will not be able to join so soon as was expected. I shall obey Your Lordship's Commands for inspecting the Recruits of the Additional Companys by a Field Officer: But must beg leave to observe that, after the Embarkation of the Highlanders, and the Dragoon Reviews there will be but two Field Officers in Scotland. Perhaps Your Lordship may think it expedient to appoint some particular Officer for that Duty. [Brevet] Colonel [Robert] Skene reports to me from Greenock that there are 9427 Tons of transports there, 1000 of which are order'd immediately to Cork: that the Transports for the 42^d regiment will be ready by the 1st of April, and those for the 71st by the 20th; that they are fine Ships, well fitted up, and well found.

I have the Honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant
Caroline Park, March 19, 1776 – Ja^s: Adol^s: Oughton

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO1/865, p. 387.

Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, North Britain, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding the Provisioning of the Transports and the Status of Uniforms and Equipment for the 42nd Regt., Caroline Park, Edinburgh, Mar. 21, 1776

My Lord,

Colonel [Robert] Skene writes me that the 1000 Ton of Transports destined for Cork are ready to sail; but that the blowing Weather and contrary Winds still continues. The rest of the transports are victualling with great Expedition, but are in great Want of Water Casks, which are not to be got in this Country. Through some Ignorance of the Revenue Laws the Cloathing of the 42^d Regiment is still detained in Ireland; but [Gen.] Lord John Murray writes me that he has sent off an Express, and hopes to receive it before the Time of Embarkation. The Camp Equipage of that Regiment has likewise been detained by contrary Winds and is not yet arrived...

I have the Honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant
Caroline Park, March 21, 1776 Ja^s: Adol^s: Oughton

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO1/865, p. 391.

News Account of 42nd Regt. Detachment Sent to Suppress Mutiny of Transport Crewmen, Greenock, Mar. 23, 1776

Saturday [Mar. 23] last a party of the 42^d or Royal Highlanders marched from Glasgow, for Greenock, in order to quell some disturbance which had happened there, by some sailors belonging to the transport ships, coming ashore and refusing to proceed on their without an augmentation of their wages. – Happily before the arrival of the party (the magistrates having secured some of the ringleaders) the difference was made up, and all the sailors are gone aboard.

The above regiment are upwards of twelve hundred strong, two hundred of which are to be picked and formed in two companies to remain in Scotland, the rest to be sent immediately for America.

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Mar. 29, 1776, p. 204. The Article was also published in the *Public Advertiser*, London, Apr. 4, 1776 and the *Leeds Intelligencer*, Apr. 9, 1776, p. 2.

Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, North Britain, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Plans to Inspect the 42nd Regt., Caroline Park, Edinburgh, Mar. 26, 1776

My Lord

I am honoured with Your Lordship's several Letters of the 20th, and 21st. I shall take Care that the Recruits of the 26th Regiment embark with the Highlanders...

As the 42^d Regiment is now assembled, I shall inspect them, agreeable to His Majesty's Commands, on Friday next: but shall not embark them 'till I receive further Orders; as their Cloathing and camp Necessaries are not yet arrived, and the Transports for the 71st will not be ready before the 20th of next Month. [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser [71st Regt.] writes me that he has raised about 2500 Men; but the Inverness Division will not be able to join for some Time...

I have the Honour to be, My Lord,
Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant
Ja^s: Adol: Oughton

Caroline Park March 26. 1776...

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO1/865, p. 399.



Model of 30-gun French Frigate *Vestale*, recommissioned in 1761 as *HMS Flora*,
Scale model on display at the *Musée de la Marine* in Toulon, France

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, by Rama, 2009

**Letter from Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Lord George Germain,
Secretary of State for the American Department, Regarding Assignment of 32-gun
HMS Flora to Escort Highland Convoy to America; London, Mar. 26, 1776**

My Lord,
1776.

Admiralty Office 26th March

Having ordered Cap^t [John] Brisbane, of His Majesty's Ship the *Flora*, to proceed to the Clyde, and there take under his Convoy the Transport Ships appointed to embark the Highlanders, to be carried to such Place as His Majesty shall be pleased to direct; We acquaint Your Lordship therewith, and desire you will receive, and signify to us His Majesty's farther Pleasure thereon. We are &ca

J. Buller Lisburne H Palliser

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office, Letters from Admiralty* at CO 5/259 as shown in *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 4, p. 995.

**Excerpt of Letter from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American
Department to Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America,
Reporting Status of 42nd and 71st Regts., Mar. 28, 1776**

Whitehall 28th March 1776

General Howe...

The transports for the first Division of Hessians, amounting to 8,200 men, are already compleated, and on their passage will not be long first, and that the Corps of Highlanders, consisting of the 42^d & 71st regiments, making together 3466 men which are nearly if not intirely completed , will embark in the Clyde, by the 20th of next Month at furthest...

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1775-1776* at CO 5/93 ff. 68-75 and *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XII, Transcripts 1776*, pp. 93-96

**Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton,
Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Scotland, Regarding Convoy for the 42nd and 71st Regiments,
London, Mar. 29, 1776**

War Office 29th March 1776

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of y^r letter of the 23^d instant, and to acquaint you I understand that the ten Companies of the 42^d Regiment of Foot, and the two Battalions of the 71st Regiment, are to proceed together to N^o America under the Convoy of the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* Frigate, without touching at Corke.

As soon as the Recruits for N^o. America are sent away and the arrangement of the Companies can be made Lieutenant Colonel Townsend will acquaint you which of the additional Companies are to be stationed in N^o. Britain.

Sir Adolphus Oughton
&c &c &c
Edinburgh

I have the hon^{or} to be
Sir &c
Barrington

Source: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, Jan. 1776 – Apr. 1776* at WO 4/96, p. 421.

**News Account of Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton's Review of the 42nd Regt.,
Glasgow, Mar. 29, 1776**

The eight British regiments, viz. 9th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 34th, 53d, and 62d, under embarkation orders, are destined for Canada, excepting the Royal Highlanders, the Foot Guards, and Burgoyne's Light Horse, which are to be sent to General Howe...

On Friday last [Mar. 29] the 42d regiment or Royal Highlanders (Lord John Murray's), were reviewed by General Oughton, before several officers of distinction. The regiment made a fine appearance, and went through their evolutions to the general satisfaction of all present. They are allowed to be as fine a body of men as is in his Majesty's service. We hear they are ordered to be on board the transports destined for America by the 10th instant; and the 71st regiment (Fraser's), are ordered to be on board by the 20th instant.

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Apr. 2, 1776, pp. 212-213. A similar article was published in the *General Evening Post* (London), Apr. 6, 1776, p. 3. Lt. Gen. Oughton's report of the inspection has not been located in the National Archives.

**Another News Account of Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton's Review of the 42nd Regt.,
Glasgow, Mar. 29, 1776**

Yesterday seenight [Mar. 29], the 42d regiment, or Royal Highlanders, (commanded by Lord John Murray) were reviewed at Glasgow by General Oughton: They made a fine appearance, and went through their evolutions to the satisfaction of the General and a vast multitude of spectators, who had

convened from all parts of the country in order to have the pleasure of seeing them before they embark for America, where it is hoped, they will protect innocence and chastise rebellion.

Source and Note: *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, Apr. 6, 1776, p. 2. The term “*seenight*” is a contraction for seven nights or a week.

Letter from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Order 32-gun *HMS Flora* to take Highland Convoy to Boston; London, Apr. 1, 1776

My Lords,

Whitehall 1st April 1776.

I have not failed to lay before the King Your Lordship’s letter to me of the 26th ulto [March] acquainting me that you had ordered Captain [John] Brisbane, of His Majesty’s Ship *Flora*, to proceed to the Clyde, and there take under his Convoy the Transport Ships appointed to embark the Highlanders, and I am commanded by the King to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty’s Pleasure, that you do give Orders to Captain Brisbane that so soon as the two [42nd and 71st] Highland Regiments shall be embarked on board the Transports, which, I hope, will be by the 15th instant, he do proceed therewith to Boston in N^o America and if, upon his Arrival in that Harbour he shall be informed that General Howe & Vice Admiral Shuldham with the Land & Sea Forces under their Command, are removed from thence, he is to follow them, with the said Transports and Troops, to such place as they may be removed to, or to proceed according to such Directions as they may have left for that purpose.

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Admiralty* at CO 5/124 f. 11 as shown in *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 4, p. 1010.

News Account of British Regiments with Orders for America; London, Apr. 1, 1776

LONDON, April 1.

THE following is a state of the troops now under orders for Boston... [Gen.] lord John Murray’s 42d, or royal Highland regiment of 1168... in all 15,820.

Source: *Saunders’s News-Letter* (Dublin), Apr. 5 – 8, 1776, p. 1.

Request from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, to Order the 42nd and 71st Regts. to Embark, London, Apr. 1, 1776

Whitehall 1st April 1776

My Lord,

The Transports, for carrying to North America the 42^d. & 71st Regiments of Highlanders, being now assembled in the [River] Clyde, and a Ship of War [32-gun *HMS Flora*] appointed for their convoy; I am commanded by the King to signify to your Lordship His Majesty’s Pleasure that you do give the necessary Orders for the Embarkation of the said Regiments on board the Transports by the 15th instant.

I am My Lord, Your Lordships Most Obedient Humble Servant

Geo: Germain

Lord Viscount Barrington

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters* at WO1/681, f. 140 and copy in TNA, *Colonial Office* at CO 5/261, p. 35.

Account of Arrival of 42nd Regt. Tents and Equipment at Carron, Scotland, Apr. 1, 1776

Edinburgh, April 3...

Upon Monday [Apr. 1], a party likewise marched for Carron shore, in order to escort to Glasgow, the ammunition, tents, &c. of the 42^d regiment, which is arrived there from London.

Source: *North British Intelligencer; or Constitutional Miscellany*, Vol. I, Edinburgh, Wednesday, April 3, 1776, Google Books, p. 30. Carron is about 25 miles northwest of Glasgow near the Firth of Forth.

Request from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to the Lt. Gen. John, Duke of Argyll, Commander of His Majesty's Forces, North Britain, to Order the 42nd and 71st Regts. to Embark, London, Apr. 1, 1776

W.O. 1 April 1776

My Lord,

In consequence of H.M.'s Commands signified to me by Lord George Germaine, I have the honor to acquaint Your Grace, It is H.M.P. that you do give the necessary Orders for the Embarkation of the 42^d. & 71st. Reg^{ts} of Foot by the 15th of this Month, in case the Transports be then ready to receive them. A Ship of War [32-gun *HMS Flora*] is appointed for their Convoy.

I have the honor &ca

Duke of Argyll

Barrington

&c &c &c

Edinburgh

Source: TNA, War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, Jan. 1776 – Apr. 1776 at WO4/96, p. 433. "H.M.'s" is the abbreviation for His Majesty's. "H.M.P." is His Majesty's Pleasure.

Order from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department to Lt. Col. Sir William Erskine, 71st Regt., to Proceed to Boston with the 42nd and 71st Regts., London, Apr. 1, 1776

Whitehall 1st April 1776

Lieu^t Col. Sir W^m Erskine Kn^t }
or }
The Commanding Officer of }
the 42^d & 71st Regiments }

Sir

The King having thought fit to order the 42^d & 71st Regiments upon Service in North America, It is His Majesty's Pleasure that you take upon you the Command of the said Regiments, & as soon as they shall be embarked on board the Transports provided for their Reception, which it is expected will be by the 15th instant, you do proceed with them under Convoy of His Majesty's Ship *Flora* to Boston, where, upon your Arrival, You are to put Yourself under the Command of General [Sir William] Howe, and follow such Orders as you shall receive from him; but if, upon your Arrival there, you shall be informed that General Howe is removed from thence, and you shall find no Orders from him, you are to proceed to such other Ports as you shall be informed General Howe is removed to –

I am &c^a

Geo: Germain

Source and Note: TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1775-1776* at CO 5/93, f. 377 and copy at TNA, PRO 30/55, Vol. 2, pp. 46-47.

Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding the Regiment's Clothing in Ireland and

Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton's Review, Glasgow, Apr. 2, 1776

My Lord

I have the honor to Acquaint Your Lordship, the Ship with the Irish Cloathing is at last arrived at Irvine, this morning, and the Ship Glasgow is hourly Expected at Carron, I have inclosed copys of two letters, which Explain their not arriving Sooner. I have sent duplicates of the Returns Signed by Lieu^t. Colonel [Thomas] Stirling to [Lt. Gen.] S^r. Aud^s. Oughton last Friday When he inspected the Reg^t for Severall hours, and afterwards Reviewed them. I refer to his Report and have the honor to be

My Lord

Glasgow 2^d. April 1776
Lord Barrington

Your Lordships most obed^t and most humble Serv^t
John Murray

[Enclosures]

Copy Letter Cap^t. Lieu^t. John M^cIntosh to Lord John Murray

Dated Glasgow past 10. O'Clock
Monday night 1st. April 1776

My Lord

In Answer to your Commands received just now to know why the Warrant for the Cloathing was not Sent to [Regimental Agent, Dublin] S^r. William Montgomery in place of a Copy.

I Rec^d. the warrant from Colonel [Thomas] Stirling about the first of February to keep it, but no order to forward it to S^r. William Montgomery. And when I saw the Cloathing was not arrived as was Expected, I sent S^r. William Montgomery a Copy of the Warrant which I thought was Sufficient.

I have the honor to be

Gen^l Lord John Murray

My Lord

Your Lordships most obedient humble Serv^t
/Signed/ John M^cIntosh

A true Copy
John Murray

Extract of S^r. William Montgomery's letter to Lord John Murray Dated Dublin 23^d. March 1776.
Received at Glasgow Monday night the 1st April.

My Lord

I have been favoured with yours by Express which arrived yesterday Morning at ten of the Clock, without the Original Certificate which you sent me I could not have obtained the permission, to send the Cloathing on board.

Glasgow 2^d. April
1776

John Murray
General

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO1/993. Irvine is a seaport 30 miles southwest of Glasgow. Carron is a seaport 25 miles northwest of Glasgow. Sir William Montgomery of Dublin was the regimental agent when the 42nd Highlanders were stationed in Ireland.

**Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War
Viscount Barrington, Regarding Orders for a Medicine Chest, Glasgow, Apr. 2, 1776**

My Lord

I had the honor to write your Lordship this morning which I sent by Express to Edinburgh, to be in time to be Sent from thence by this nights post...

The Surgeon M^r. [Alexander] Potts informs me he has not got any order for a Medicine Chest, or allowance to buy one, I therefore desire the favour your Lordship will give orders for his having one, or the Allowance Other Regiments gets, that Serves Abroad...

I have the honor to be with great Regard

My Lord

Your Lordships most humble and most obedient Serv^t

Glasgow 2^d. April 1776

John Murray

Lord Viscount Barrington &c &c &c

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO 1/993.

Letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Capt. John Brisbane, 32-gun HMS Flora, to Proceed to America with Highland Transport Ships, London, Apr. 4, 1776

Whereas we intend that the Ship you command shall proceed to North America with the Transport Ships which are to carry thither the two [42nd and 71st] Highland Regiments under Orders to embark in the River Clyde; You are hereby required and directed to make enquiry for the said Ships, the Names of which will be given you by Lieu^t [John] Henry at Greenock who is appointed Agent to them; And, so soon as those Regiments shall be embarked (which it is hoped will be the 15th. ins^t) You are to take the Ships having them on board under your Convoy, And, in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to Us by Lord George Germain one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 1^t. ins^t. to put to Sea with the first Opportunity of Wind and Weather & proceed with them, without a Moments loss of time, to Boston in New England; and, if upon your arrival in that Harbour you shall be informed that General [Sir William] Howe and Vice Admiral [Molyneux] Shuldham with the Land and Sea Forces under their command, are removed from thence, you are to follow them with the said Transports & Troops to such place as they may be removed to, or to proceed according to such directions as may have been left, for that purpose, by the said Vice Admiral or the Commander in Chief, for the time being of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in North America; whose Orders you are to follow for your further proceedings.

Given &c. the 4th April 1776.

Sandwich

J. Buller

H. Penton

By &c. GJ. DS.

Source: TNA, *Admiralty, Lords' Letters and Instructions* at ADM 2/101, pp.8-9 in *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 4, p. 1017.

Letter from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Scotland, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington Regarding Preparations for the 42nd and 71st Regts. Embarkation, Caroline Park, Edinburgh, Apr. 4, 1776

My Lord...

I have acquainted [Gen.] Lord John Murray [42nd Regt.] and [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser [71st Regt.] that their Regiments are to sail together under convoy of the [32-gun HMS] Flora Frigate, without touching at Cork. Round the North of Ireland is by far the nearest and most expeditious passage from the Clyde to America that with limited Submission. One Frigate does not appear a sufficient convoy for twenty two transports. Lord John Murray has written me that his Irish Clothing has arrived at Irvine on the 2nd Ins^t and that he is in hourly expeditions of the ship from London with the remainder of Camp necessities. His Lordship complains that the Powder and Flints which his Regiment received from the stores here are extremely bad and that no medicine chest has been furnished to his Regiment. I am so well acquainted with the [illegible word] of the ordinance Flints that I bought 1,000 in London for the

use of my Regiment. I have desired General Fraser to acquaint me as soon as ever his Regiment is assembled that I may lose no time in issuing them. I am not yet honored with Your Lordships Orders for embarkation of those two Regiments, One Additional Company of the 42^d Regiment will be stationed at Fort George the other at Perth or Glasgow, as the service may require...

I have the Honour to be, My Lord Your Lordships
Most humble and most obedient Servant

Ja^s. Adol^s Oughton

Caroline Park April 4.1776

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters*, 2. *Government Departments: f. Various Departments*, 1770 - 1776 at WO 1/865, pp. 423-424. The "*Irish Clothing*" mentioned in the letter is the annual regimental clothing for the 42nd Regt. which was shipped to their previous post in Ireland and required customs release to be returned to Scotland.

News Account of Soldiers of the 42nd and 71st Regiments Crowding into Private Houses, Glasgow, Apr. 5, 1776

LEEDS, APRIL 16...

A letter from Glasgow, dated the 5th instant, says, that the town is full of soldiers, the Royal Highlanders to the number of 1200 were there, and well disciplin'd and that next week they expected [Maj.] Gen. [Simon] Frazier's [71st Highland] regiment, which is upwards of 2000, they must be quartered in most of the private houses, and that the transports and stores are all ready.

Source and Note: *Leeds Intelligencer*, Apr. 16, 1776, p. 3. The estimated population of Glasgow in 1755 was 23,500.



Dublin Castle, 1830, by Alphonse Dousseau.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons,

Letter from H. Maguire, Staff of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington Regarding Customs Release of the Clothing of the 42nd Regt., Dublin, Apr. 5, 1776

Dublin Castle 5th April 1776

My Lord,

I have received and laid before My Lord Lieutenant, the Honor of your Lordship's Letter of the 30th past, requesting me to move His Excellency that the Clothing of the 42^d. Regiment of Foot, which is

still detained in this Kingdom may be forwarded, with as much Expedition as possible, and, every Obstacle removed that can be done with Propriety, the Regiment being under Orders for immediate Embarkation, and by His Excellency's Command I have sent a Copy of your Lordship's Letter to the Commissioners of the Revenue with Directions to them to issue immediately the Necessary Orders to their Officers for that Purpose accordingly.

I have the Honor to be, My Lord

Your Lordship's Most obedient, Humble Servant

H Macquire

R^t Hon^{ble} Lord Barrington

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO 1/865, p. 829. Recently assigned to Ireland, the annual regimental clothing for the 42nd Regt. was shipped to their previous post and required customs release to be returned to Scotland.



Detail of Photograph of Caroline Park House, Edinburgh, 2008, by Ronnie Leask

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Letter from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Dep. Commander-in-Chief, Scotland, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington Regarding Preparations of the 42nd and 71st Regts. for Embarkation, Caroline Park, Edinburgh, Apr. 6, 1776

My Lord,

I was honoured with your Lordship's by last nights post, and immediately issued the necessary Orders for embarking the 42^d & 71st Regiments by the 15th of this month, agreeable to His Majesty's Commands.

As I have diligently reported to your Lordship every circumstance which came to my knowledge, and strictly obeyed every order I received relative to these Regiments, I trust no Blame can be imputable to me, should the 42nd embark without their Belts, Caps, and part of their Camp Equipage and the 71st without their full Compliment of Men.

As of 26th [Maj.] General [Simon] Frasers [71st Regt.] Northern Recruits were not arrived I could not inspect that [71st] Regiment consistently with my Orders, which required their being previously assembled. I shall however inspect one Battalion of them at Perth on Tuesday next and the other the Day following at Stirling

Therefore of their embarkation Return, and Orders for their Conduct on Board are forwarded to them.

I have no account of the convoys being arrived

I have the Honour to be, My Lord Your Lordships
Most humble and devoted Servant

Ja^s. Adol^s Oughton

Caroline Park April 6. 1776

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters, Government Departments* at WO 1/865, p. 427.

Letter from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, North Britain, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Difficult Preparations for the 42nd and 71st Regiments to Embark, Caroline Park, Edinburgh, Apr. 7, 1776

My Lord,

In my last I had the Honour of acquainting Your Lordship, with my having taken all the necessary Steps for embarking the 42^d and 71st Regiments by the 15th agreeable to the orders I had received; and at the same Time representing that the former had not received all their Camp Equipage and Accoutrements; and that the latter was not joined by a very considerable Number of their Northern Recruits. [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser, on receiving the Orders for having his [71st] Regiment inspected, and the Routes for their March to Greenock, came here post to report that (so large a Number of his Men not having joined) it was impossible for him to have them formed into Companies and Battalions; and of Course that an Inspection was as yet impracticable: and that part of the Camp Equipage and Accoutrements was not yet arrived from London; which must render the Regiment very unfit for Service. As my orders were not discretionary but positive, I have not ventured to deviate from them; and have accordingly order'd the 42^d Regiment to embark on Friday next, and the 71st to pursue their March to Glasgow: but, at the same time thought it my Duty to acquaint Your Lordship with the above Particulars by Express, and enclose to you a State of General Fraser's Regiment and his Representation to me Your Lordship Will be so good as to excuse the Hurry with which this is wrote. I have the Honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant

Ja^s: Adol^s: Oughton

Caroline Park April 7, 1776

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO1/865, p. 431.



Gen. Simon Fraser of Lovat

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons from *An Historical Account of the Settlements of Scotch Highlanders in America prior to the Peace of 1783*, J. P. Maclean (1900)

Request from Maj. Gen. Simon Fraser, Col., 71st Highland Regt., to Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Scotland, for a Delay in Embarking, Perth, Apr. 7, 1776

Sir,

I have this moment the honour to receive your orders for the immediate inspection of my Regiment & their march for embarkation on the 15th it becomes my indispensable duty to represent to You, that the Accoutrements, part of the Camp equipage; & part of the Arms are not yet arrived from London, that the Clothing is but just arrived. & the hose not yet made. And what is of more consequence still about 700 of the best men of my Regiment are not yet joined, & as part of those Men are to be in the 1st & portion in the 2^d. Batⁿ., the Batt^{ns}. are not yet formed, there are also along with the 700 men 38 Officers not joined, those Men and Officers have received orders to march Southward some days ago, on account of accommodation, they must march in small divisions. I expect the first division daily but it is impossible they should arrive by the time ordered for embarkation _ so that if it takes place then it will not be my Regiment that will be embarked, but a number of men that I did not mean to be in it, & those in the worst possible order, I beg leave to Submit to you whether it will not be more for the good of the Service to have a complete & good Regim^t embarked ten days later than to have such an imperfect body as I have represented embarked on the 15th.

I have the honor to be with the utmost respect.

Sir

Your most Obed^t & most faithful Serv^t

S. Fraser

Perth April 7th 1776

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO 1/865, pp. 433-434.

Letter from Adjutant General Edward Harvey to Brevet-Col. Robert Skene, Adj. Gen. for Scotland, Regarding Preparations of the 42nd and 71st Regts. for Embarkation, London, Apr. 8, 1776

D^r Sir

I am oblig'd to you for the fav^r of y^t L^r of the 1st wth y^e Inclosure of y^e Reports/
L^t Col^o. [Thomas] Sterling seems to have done as much as Cou'd be Expected in y^e time. I hope y^t y^e 10 Men of the 31st will join at Corke before y^e Reg^t Sails. I am ignorant at pres^t as to y^e Naval Orders which have been given; relative to y^e passage of y^e 42^d & 71st but shall y^e day probably hear. I hope nothing will prevent the Clothing of the 42^d Arriving in time. Its odd it sh^d not have arrived before this time.
C.C. 8th April 1776 I am &c^a E.H.

B – Sail'd on y^e 5th from S^t Helen's at 4 Afternoon
No Hess__s yet arrived at S. H^d __ 5 Batt^s & 1 Comp^y of Chass__s have been Embk'd Sometime at Bremer Lehe

Col: Skene

Source and Note: TNA, *Office of the Commander-in-Chief: Out-letters, General Letters* at WO 3/6, p. 26. The term "y^e" is equivalent to the word "the" but uses the old English letter "y" or "thorn" pronounced as "th."

Letter from Deputy Secretary at War Matthew Lewis to Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, North Britain, Regarding Shipment of Medicine Chests for the 42nd and 71st Regiments, London, Apr. 8, 1776

W. O. 8th April 1776

Sir,

In the Absence of the Secretary at War who is at present in the Country, I have the honor to acknowledge the rec^t of your letter of the 4th instant, & to acquaint you, that Medicine Chests for the two

Highland Reg^{ts}, are shipped in a Vessel, which has on board a great part of the Clothing &c of the 71st Reg^t, & will Sail in a day or two for the [River] Clyde

I have the honor to be

Sir Adolphus Oughton
&c &c &c
Edinburgh

Sir &c
M Lewis

Source: TNA, *War Office Out-Letters, General Letters, Jan. 1776 – Apr. 1776* at WO 4/96, p. 472 (f. 237).

**Letter from Dep. Secretary at War Matthew Lewis to Under Secretary of State John Pownall
Requesting a Delay for the 42nd and 71st Regiments' Departure for America, London, Apr. 11, 1776**

War Office 11th April 1776

Sir,

Having just received, in Lord Barrington's Absence, a Letter from [Lt. Gen.] Sir Adolphus Oughton [Deputy] Commanding in Chief His Majesty's Forces in North Britain [Scotland], together with a Letter from Major General [Simon] Fraser [71st Regt.] to Sir Adolphus, and a state of the 71st Regiment, I send you herewith Copies of the said Papers, which you will be pleased to submit to Lord George Germain's Consideration, that His Lordship, if he thinks proper, may receive His Majesty's Commands, whether the Embarkation of His two Highland Regiments shall take place on the 15th Instant, according to the present Orders, or be deferred for ten days, as General Fraser proposes.

I am Sir &c

M Lewis

John Pownall Esq^r.

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office, Original Correspondence, Secretary of State*, [from the] *Secretary at War* at CO 5/168, p. 261.

**Letter from Under Secretary of State John Pownall to Dep. Secretary at War Matthew Lewis,
Allowing for a Delay for the 42nd and 71st Regiments' Embarkation, London, Apr. 11, 1776**

Whitehall 11th April 1776

Sir,

I have laid before Lord George Germain your Letter to me of this day's date, and I am directed by his Lordship to acquaint you, that an Express must be immediately Dispatched to [Lt. Gen.] Sir Adolphus Oughton, informing him that it is His Majesty's Pleasure that the embarkation of the 42^d & 71st Regiments may be delayed, till the 25th Instant, but that His Majesty expects that both Corps be embarked on, or before that Day, and that His Majesty will not admit of any excuse for further delay, as Major General [Simon] Fraser [71st Highland Regt.] in his Letter to Sir Adolphus Oughton undertakes to have his Regiment in proper Order to go onboard the Transports by that Day.

I am, Sir, Your most obedient Humble Servant

J Pownall

Mr [Matthew] Lewis

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters* at WO 1/681, f. 144. A copy is filed in *Colonial Office* at CO 5/261.

Account of 42nd Regt. Departing Glasgow for Embarking at Greenock, Apr. 12, 1776

The 42^d regiment or Royal Highlanders were to march from Glasgow for Greenock this day to embark for America.

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, April 12, 1776, p. 237. The port city of Greenock at the mouth of the River Clyde is about 25 miles west of Glasgow.



Greenock and Scotts' Yard in the Eighteenth Century

Picture Source: *Two Centuries of Shipbuilding by the Scotts at Greenock*, Partially reprinted from "*Engineering*," Offices of Engineering, London, 1906, Google Books, p.4.

Journal of Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, Records the Embarkation of the 42nd Highlanders, Greenock, Scotland, Apr. 12-15, 1776

On Friday the 12th April 1776 the Reg^t. march'd from Glasgow to Greenock to Embark, but the Wind blowing too high it was put off for that day. Saturday morning [13th] being more moderate we Embark'd early and were all safe on board by 10 o'Clock; The Baggage arrived the same day in Gabbards from Glasgow and was put on board the respective ships.

Sunday 14th the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* arrived in the Evening for a Convoy for the Transports, Cap^t. [John] Brisbane Commander.

Monday [15th] we heard that we were to wait for [Maj. Gen. Simon] Fraser's [71st Highland] Reg^t. who were now assembled at Glasgow, and having much to do in forming the Companies & modelling the two Battalions would not be ready to march for eight or ten days.

Source and Note: National Records of Scotland (NRS), "13 notebooks containing the journal of Lt. (latterly Capt.) John Peebles of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment, during the American War of Independence," *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun, 1776-1782* at GD 21/492/2 (hereafter *Peebles' Journal*) also published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa.), 1998, p. 24. "*Gabbards*" were small one masted sailing vessels for inland waters navigation.

Account of 42nd Regt. Arrival and Embarkation at Greenock, Scotland, Apr. 12-13, 1776

Extract of a letter from Greenock, April 16.

"On Friday last [Apr. 12] the 42d regiment or Royal Highlanders came down from Glasgow to this place and Port-Glasgow. They were hospitably entertained and lodged all night, and embarked on Saturday [Apr. 13] on board the transports all in high spirits.

Sunday evening the [*HMS*] *Flora* frigate of 36 [32] guns commanded by Capt. [John] Brisbane, arrived at the tail of the bank, who is to take the transports under convoy...

The 42d regiment has for nine months past been cantoned in Glasgow, during which time their uniform good behaviour; their sobriety, temperance, and attention to their duty, gained them the sincere esteem and affection of the inhabitants.

Friday and Saturday last, upwards of sixteen hundred of [Maj.] General [Simon] Frazer's [71st] regiment of Highlanders arrived at Glasgow from Perth and Stirling and the rest are daily expected. We hear they are to embark for America by the 24th instant.

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, April 19, 1776, p. 253. "General Frazer's regiment of Highlanders" is the 71st Regt. A similar story was published in *The Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, Apr. 20, 1776, p. 3 and *The London Evening-Post*, Apr. 20-22, 1776, p. 4. The "tail of the bank" is a wide area in the Firth of Clyde where fleets would assemble.

**Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Paymaster General
Hon. Richard Rigby, Regarding Payment for Provisions for the 42nd Regt., Apr. 13, 1776**

Sept 26

Sir

W:O: 13th April 1776

16th Light
Dragoons
18 Serjeants
24 Corporals
384 Private

H: M: having been pleased to direct that in Order to defray the expense of Provisions to be issued to the Forces in N^o America & Newfoundland a Stoppage of two pence half penny per diem be constantly made at home, from the Substance of each non Com^d Officers & private Man of the Several Reg^{ts} of Cavalry & Infantry employed there, I have the honor to acquaint you that the Stoppages for the two Reg^{ts} of light Dragoons & for the 42^d & 71st Reg^{ts} of Foot are to be made agreeable to the Numbers ment^d in the margin, & for the other British Reg^{ts} of Foot according to the Numbers underm^d

17th Light D^{ns}
The Same

42^d Foot
50 Serjeants
2 Pipers
20 Drummers
1010, Rank &
File

Thirty Serjeants, 2 Fifers, 20 Drummers, 560 Rank & File for each Reg^t.

The above Stoppages to take place from 25th June next inclusive.

I am to add that the Stoppages made from the 7th, 14th, & 26th Reg^{ts} are to continue as at present.

71st 2 Batt^{ns}
80 Serjeants
4 Pipers
40 Drummers
2000 R & File

R^t Honble
Rich^d Rigby
&c &c &c

I have the honor to be
Sir &c
Barrington

Source: TNA, War Office, Out-letters, WO 4/97, p. 15. "Stoppage" is a term used to indicate money taken from the soldiers' pay.

**News Account of 32-gun *HMS Flora* Sailing to Scotland, to Convoy the 42nd and 71st Highland
Regiments, London, Apr. 13, 1776**

LONDON...

The *Flora* frigate is sailed to Scotland, to take under convoy the 42d and 71st regiments for America.

Source: *London Evening Post*, Apr. 13, 1776, p. 4.

**Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War
Viscount Barrington, Regarding Embarkation of the Regiment, Glasgow, Apr. 14, 1776**

My Lord

I had the honor to Acquaint your Lordship that Friday morning the Battalion of the 42^d. or Royal Highland Regiment marched to Greenock, but could not embark that day, as the wind was So high & Sea rough, but yesterday morning I am informed they all embarked in great Spirits, and no desertion the night before, but the returns could not be made up from the different Transports Which I shall have the honor to transmit to Your Lordship as soon as received.

Lieu^t. W^m Rose absent without leave, is not Arrived.

Major Gen^l [Simon] Fraser is here, & most of his two Battalions [71st Regt.] but Some still on their March from the North, I hear he has a Number above Compleat when joined, I should be very glad if Agreeable to Your Lordship, to have from him, those wanting to compleat my two Additional Companys, after they have been inspected by S^r. Ja^s. Ad. Oughton who I hear is expected here tomorrow Evening for that purpose, and that they are to Embark Wednesday next Which I hope they will, as all the Sea faring people here Agree, if they don't Sail in a week hence, they will probably be much longer at Sea then Otherwise. I have not heard the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* Frigate is yet arrived for a Convoy. I have the honor to be with Great truth & Respect

My Lord

Your Lordships most humble and most obedient Servant

John Murray

Glasgow Sunday

April 14. 1776

If your Lordship approves of my having any of the men of the 71. Major Gen^l Fraser /that are above compleat after they have been inspected by S^r. Adolp. Oughton, please give me your Lordships directions, what bounty money should be paid for them to the 71 Regiment.

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO1/993. Lt. William Rose took ill enroute to Greenock and although he joined the regiment before sailing, the surgeon decided he was too ill to sail.

**Report from Capt. John Brisbane, 32-gun *HMS Flora*, to Dep. Secretary of the
Admiralty George Jackson of His Arrival, Greenock Road, Apr. 14, 1776**

Sir

Flora, Greenock Road 14th April 1776

You will please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that his Majesty's Ship under my Command Anchored here this Evening, where I found their Lordships Orders of the 4th. Instant to take the Two [42nd and 71st] Highland Regiments under Convoy as soon as they were Embarked, and proceed with them to Boston in New England; I have received from Lieutenant Henry the Agent for the Transports a List of the Ships, and find there are One Thousand and Two Hundred Embarked, and the remainder expected in a day or two, and as soon as they are on board, shall put their Lordships Orders in Execution, without a Moments loss of time.

I have likewise received your Letter Signifying their Lordships direction to proceed with the said Transports by the North of Ireland, as also the Private Signals, which shall be kept Secret, Inclosed is the State and Condition of the Ships.

I am Sir [&c.]

J: Brisbane

Source: TNA, *Admiralty: Captains' Letters* at ADM 1/1497, Section 14, 10 from *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 4 p. 1036.

Excerpt Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Regiment's March to Greenock to Embark, Glasgow, Apr. 15, 1776

My Lord

I have the honor to Acquaint your Lordship that in consequence of L^t Gen^l S^r. Ja^s. Ad Oughton orders the battalion of the 42^d. or Royal Highland Reg^t. of Foot marched this Morning to Greenock about 24. miles where they were ordered to embark on their arrival this day. I have the Satisfaction to inform your Lordship they marched from this in great Spirits, amongst a great concourse of people; the battalion compleat of Officers & Soldiers, Except Lieu^t W^m Rose of the Battalion, who has not joined Since his Appointment from half pay... None appeared to be the least in Liquor, nor any desertions for some days, & only a few since His Majestys most Gracious Pardon was read to them, their Names sent to S^r. Ja^s.

Ad:olph Oughton

I reviewed the Battalion Yesterday, and it gave me great pleasure to See them so much improved in their Exercise firings & Evolutions, in Marching the Highlanders are remarkable. There is not one English, or Irish amongst the Men, only one Officer of each, as your Lordship knows, and few Lowlanders in proportion to the rest, & mostly picked up here, but they are Learning Ersh [Erse or Gaelic], as the Others don't chuse to converse with them except in their own Language;

I believe my being here so long, has been of Service & occasioned the recruits to be more eager in learning their Exercise, they have often fired at a mark with Ball, extreamly well, and am hopefull they will distinguish themselves, as well as their predecessors of the Royal Highland Reg^t. have formerly done in His Majestys Service... I intend to be here until the Reg^t. Sails, which I am in hopes will by Wednesday next, as I hear the 71 is to be inspected and Reviewed, by S^r. Ad. Oughton next Monday & to March for Embarkation on the next day. I have the honor to be

My Lord

Glasgow 15th April
1776.

Your Lordships most humble & most obed^t Serv^t.
John Murray

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO1/993.



Reproduction 42nd and 71st Regt. Uniform Buttons

Picture Source: Roy and Debra Najecki's American Revolutionary War Reproductions at www.najecki.com

Report from Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, North Britain, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington on the Preparations of the 42nd and 71st Regts., Caroline Park, Edinburgh, Apr. 15, 1776

My Lord

I was last Night honoured with Your Lordship's the 11th by Express and immediately forwarded it to Major General [Simon] Fraser an Account of His Majesty's Pleasure that the Embarkation of his [71st] Regiment should be deferred until the 25th Instant by which this time His Majesty expected that it should be in proper Order to go on board the Transports. Though it was my Duty to report the Situation of the Regiments under Orders for Embarkation I did not from them presume to delay the Execution of His Majesty's Commands, and of Course the 42^d Regiment was embarked on Friday last [Apr. 12].

Agreeable to the Advices transmitted to me by M^r [Mathew] Lewis [War Office] in his Letter of the 8th, I acquainted the Commanding Officers of the 42nd and the 71st Regiment that Medicine Chests were shipped in a Vessel which had on board great part of the Cloathing and of the 71st Regiment, and which was to sail in a day or two for the Clyde. The Convoy was not arrived yesterday in the Forenoon. I have the honour to be,

My Lord Your Lordship's most humble
and most obedient Servant

Ja^s. Adol^s Oughton

Caroline Park April 15. 1776

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 - 1776* at WO 1/865, p. 455.

Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Deferment of Sailing, Glasgow, Apr. 15, 1776

My Lord

I Rec^d. a letter by Express from [Lt. Gen.] S^r. [James] Adolp. Oughton at half an hour after Eight this morning, dated 14th Ins^t: half past Seven in the Evening, that he had just rec^d. orders from your Lordship with His Majestys Commands to defer the Embarkation of the 42^d. & 71 Regiment to the 25th. Currant [Apr.], and that it was rather unlucky the Royal Highland Regiment was on Board before this order arrived. But as they must now remain on Board, I desired [Brevet] Co^l. [Robert] Skeen would give an order for Billiting three hundred men at Greenock, if it should be necessary, and desired Lieu^t Co^l. [Thomas] Stirling, would give orders that Number might be brought on Shore to be better Disciplined, as they were the last Recruits, I had the honor to write your Lordship before that I had the Satisfaction of Seeing the Battalion, which consisted of about 700 Men, perform better than I could have Expected, and I think entirely fit in every Respect for immediate Service, I am in hope in a few days these 300 will be Equally well disciplined, which they are Extreemly anxious to do,

I have just now rec^d. a letter from Major [William] Murray on Board the Thomas Transport, that yesterday in the Evening The [32-gun HMS] Flora came to an Anchor there.

I have proposed to Co^l. Skeen to endeavor to get a Hospital Transport for the 42^d. & 71 Reg^{ts}. & a Surgeon & Mates from them.

Severall of my Recruits have got the Measels, & others Distemper, but I intend to have those not able to go abroad, to be replaced by the Additional, that the battalion may be quite Compleat...

I have the honor to be with the Greatest Regard

My Lord

Glasgow 15th. April 1776

Lord Viscount Barrington &c:

Your Lordships most humble and most Obed^t Serv^t

John Murray

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO 1/993.

Notes on Assignment of Transport Ships by Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, Greenock, Apr. 15 -16, 1776

Monday [Apr. 15] we heard that we were to wait for [Maj. Gen. Simon] Frasers [71st] Reg^t. who were now assembled at Glasgow, and having much to do in forming the Companies & modelling the two Battalions would not be ready to march for eight or ten days.

Tuesday [Apr. 16]...Our transports were The Brilliant Colo: [Thomas] Sterling, The Thomas, Major [William] Murray, The Thames [Brevet] Major [William] Grant with the Grenad^{rs}., The Houston Cap^t. [Hon. George] M^cKenzie Light Infantry, The Peggy Capt. [Charles] Grahams, The Bowman Cap^t. [Archibald] Erskine The Oxford Cap^t. [John] Smiths, The Minerva [Brevet] Major [Duncan] M^cPhersons The Glasgow Cap^t. C[Charles] Grants The Neptune the Gen^{ls}. [Lord John Murray's Company] & the

Joseph & Henry with some odd men the Q^r.M^r. & Adjutant – Eleven ships for our Reg^t. & double that number for Frasers two battalions, and one The Globe for an Hospital Ship for both Reg^{ts}.

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Apr. 15-16, 1776.

**Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War
Viscount Barrington, Forwarding Embarkation Return, Glasgow, Apr. 16, 1776**

My Lord

I have the honor to inclose to your Lordship the Embarkation return of the Regiment under my Command. Those men that are not from Sickness able to go abroad, shall be replaced from the Additional's here. That the Battalion may Sail quite compleat.

I have the honor to be with great Regard

My Lord

Your Lordships most humble and most obedient

Servant

Glasgow 16th. April 1776

John Murray

Lord Viscount Barrington &c &c &c

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO1/993.

Letter from Brevet-Col. Robert Skene, Adjutant Gen., Scotland, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington Regarding a Hospital Ship for the 42nd and 71st Regiments, Greenock, Apr. 16, 1776

My Lord,

As the measles has broke out amongst the men of the 42^d. Regim^t of foot I have been obliged for the good of the Service to order a Ship to be fitted out immediately as an Hospital ship for the 42^d. & 71st. Regim^t.

The 20 men of the 42^d Regim^t left Sick here, I have ordered to be immediately replaced from the two additional Companys of that Regiment here,

I have the honor to be with the utmost respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordships Most obedient & most faithfull Servant

Rob^t Skene

To

The R^t Hon^{ble} Lord Barrington –

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO 1/865, p. 459.



Detail of Greenock Harbor, 1838

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Gazetteer of Scotland*

News Account of Letter Describing 42nd Regt. Arrival, Greenock, Apr. 12, 1776

Extract of a letter from Greenock, April 16.

“Friday last [Apr. 12], one of the boats belonging to the transports, with five men on board, overset, by which a man and a boy were lost; the other three were taken up by boats set off for their assistance.

“Same day, the 42d regiment came down from Glasgow to this place and Port Glasgow. they were hospitably entertained and lodged all night, and embarked on board their respective transport ships, all in high spirits.

“Sunday evening, the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* frigate arrived of 36 guns, commanded by Captain [John] Brisbane, arrived at the tail of the bank, who is to take the transports under convoy.

“by the great number of strangers resorting hither, to see the shipping and troops, fresh provisions of all kinds are rising greatly in their prices.”

Source: *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, Apr. 20, 1776, p. 3. Similar article published in the *London Chronicle*, Apr. 23-25, 1776. The “*the tail of the bank*” was the usual assembly point in the Firth of Clyde for convoys. It is named for a long sandbar stretching out from the firth’s edge.

Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Arrival of Supply Ships and Assignment of Hospital Ship, Glasgow, Apr. 17, 1776

My Lord

I have the pleasure to Acquaint your Lordship I am just informed of the Arrival of the Glasgow & Stirling Ships at Carron. and have order’d what is in them to be brought up directly, to be Embarked on Board the Transports at Greenock.

Co^l. [Robert] Skeen has ordered an Hospital Ship for the Sick of the 42^d & 71st Reg^{ts}.

Lieu^t. W^m – Rose returned Absent without leave, is not Yet arrived. I have the honor to be with great Regard

My Lord

Glasgow 17th. April 1776

Your Lordships most humble and most obedient Serv^t

John Murray

Lord V. Barrington &c &c

Source: TNA, War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776 at WO 1/993.

**News Account of 32-gun Frigate *HMS Flora* Sailing for Scotland
to Escort the 42nd and 71st Regts. to America; London, Apr. 17, 1776**

LONDON, June 10...

April 17. The *Flora* frigate is sailed to Scotland to take under convoy the 42d and 71st regiments for America.

Source: *Maryland Journal*, Sept. 11, 1776.

News Account of Embarkation of 42nd and 71st Regiments, Greenock, Apr. 17, 1776

York, April 23. Last Wednesday [Apr. 17] 1000 of [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser's new-raised [71st] Regiment of Highlanders embarked at Greenock for America, under the Command of Sir William Erskine, [Lt.] Colonel of the first Battalion. The Royal Regiment of Highlanders embarked the Friday before [Apr. 12].

Source: *Public Advertiser*, London, Apr. 26, 1776. Transcribed by Todd Braisted. A similar article was published in the *Oxford Journal*, Apr. 27m 1776, p. 2.

Letters from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Philip Stephens Esq., Secretary to the Admiralty, Regarding Additional Troops to Sail with the 42nd Regt., London, Apr. 18, 1776

War Office 18th April 1776

Sir,

I am to desire you will be pleased to move the Right Hon^{ble} the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to give directions that about 18 or 20 Men, who have joined the Party of Recruits mentioned in my Letter to you of the 6th. of last Month, may also be received on board the Vessels destined to carry the ten Companies of the 42^d. Regim^t. of foot to North America.

I am Sir &c
Barrington

Philip Stephens Esq^r

Source: TNA, Secretary-at-War, Out-letters, WO 4/97, p. 47 (f. 24). Transcribed by Todd Braisted.

News Account of Good Behavior of the 42nd Regt., Glasgow, Apr. 18, 1776

Extract of a letter from Glasgow, April 18...

“This city has, for these last nine months past, been the rendezvous of the 42d, or Royal Highlanders; and it is with pleasure we can mention, that their uniform good behaviour had gained them the sincere esteem and affection of the inhabitants. Strangers to vice, their ambition and study seemed to excell in sobriety, temperance, and the strictest attention to their duty. An example well worth the copying.”

Sources: *Caledonian Mercury* (Edinburgh), Apr. 20, 1776, p. 3. The same story was published in the *North British Intelligencer or Constitutional Miscellany* (Edinburgh), Apr. 24, 1776, p. 127.

Letter from Brevet-Col. Robert Skene, Adj. General, Scotland, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington Reporting on the Arrival of Lt. William Rose, 42nd Regt. and the Planned Embarkation of the 71st Highlanders, Glasgow, Apr. 20, 1776

Glasgow April 20th 1776

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that Lieu^t Rose of the 42^d Regiment, joined his Corps this day.

The 1st Battalion of the 71st Regiment are to embark the 21st instant, the 2^d the 25th & if the wind favors them, shall sail the 26th.

I have the honor to be with the utmost respect,

My Lord, Your Lordships Most obedient & most Humble Servant

Rob^t Skene

R^t Hon^{ble} Lord Viscount Barrington
His Majestys Secretary at War

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters* at WO1/865, pp. 463-464. As shown in Skene's letter of Apr. 28, below, Rose was too ill to travel with the regiment to America.

**Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lord George Germain
Reporting on the Embarkation of the 42nd Regt., London, Apr. 20, 1776**

War Office 20th April 1776

My Lord

I have the honour to acquaint you Lordship that, in consequence of my letter of the 11th instant, to Sir Adolphus Oughton, sent by express, the Embarkation of the 71st. Regiment was prevented, but the 42nd regiment embarked on Friday the 12th instant, and are still on board.

I have the honour to be My Lord

Your Lordship's Most obedient and Most Humble Servant
Barrington

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State. Secretary at War* at CO 5/168, p. 285 and at *Entry Book Letters from War Office* at CO 5/256, p. 51.

Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Lt. William Rose and Status of the Embarkation, Glasgow, Apr. 22, 1776

My Lord...

Lieu^t. William Rose came to Glasgow Friday last the 19th. Ins^t. Says he was two or three days ill at Inverness & one day at Forres. he looks very thin, & has an Impediment in his Speech, I am Suprized he should make application to your Lordship to be on full pay.

The [ship] Forth with the two Medicine Chests is not yet arrived, [Lt. Gen.] S^r. Adolp. Oughton came here last night but does not begin to Inspect the 71 till tomorrow at noon, he Acquainted Major Gen^l [Simon] Fraser, & me that he was to make over his Supernumerary Men to my Additional Officers, in the mean time, & would order them to be Subsisted... As its intended that the 71 is to Embark Wednesday & Thursday next. Shall go to Perthshire for a Short time, If I am honord with Your Commands, please order my Letters to be directed for me at Perth.

I have the honor to be with the most Sincere Regard

My Lord

Your Lordships most humble and most obedient Serv^t

John Murray

Glasgow 22^d April 1776

Lord Viscount Barrington &c &c.

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO 1/993.

**Letter from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief,
Scotland, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Lt. William Rose,**

42nd Regt. and Supernumerary Recruits of the 71st Regt., Glasgow, Apr. 23, 1776

My Lord

I am this Day honoured with Your Lordship's of the 17th April, relative to the Supernumeraries of [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser's [71st] Regiment. As they must necessarily be the worst of the Great Numbers raised for that Regiment, and the generality of the Highlanders, though strong and square built, are of a much lower Size than are accepted of in other Corps, the Regiments to which they may be turned over will probably be very ill pleased with them, though I may judge them capable of going through the Duty and Fatigue of a Campaign. I shall see them to Morrow and shall endeavor to be as impartial as possible in my Judgement. I have order'd the Commanding Officer [Capt. Alexander Donaldson] of [Gen.] Lord John Murray's Additional Companies to take Charge of them for the present; and have acquainted major General Fraser that he is to subsist them 'till they are otherways disposed of. I found here Lieu^t [William] Rose of the 42^d regiment who was reported absent without leave in the Embarkation Return of that Regiment; he proved to me that he set out to join his Reg^t the Day after he received his orders, but had fallen dangerously ill on the Road, and his Looks proved his Assertion: I ordered him on Board to join his Company. I have the Honour to be

My Lord, Your Lordship's

Glasgow April 23^d, 1776

most humble and most obedient Ser^t:

Ja^s: Adol^s: Oughton

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO 1/865, p. 419.

News Account of the Embarked 42nd Regt. Waiting for the 71st Highland Regt. to Embark, Greenock, Apr. 23, 1776

The 42^d regiment or Royal Highlanders, which embarked at Greenock on Friday se'ennight [Apr. 12], are still lying there, as they got orders to wait for [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser's [71st] regiment, and to sail together, under convoy of the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* frigate. It is thought Fraser's regiment will not be ready to embark for some days yet. Many of the transports that are to carry over these troops have mounted guns, ready to defend themselves in case of attack from the American privateers.

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, April 23, 1776, p. 262. A similar article was published in *Daily Advertiser* (London), Apr. 23, 1776. A "se'ennight" is an archaic term for seven nights or a week.

Extract of Letter from Lt. General Edward Harvey, Adj. General to the Forces, to Brevet-Col. Robert Skene, Adj. General, Scotland, Regarding the Embarkation of the 42nd Regt., London, Apr. 24, 1776

D. S^r.

Col^o. Skene As the 42^d. was Emb^{kd}. you have done all y^t. you Cou'd I have rec^d. y^e.
Returns. I hope y^t. the 71st. will turn out well; It will give me pleasure...

C.C. 24th. April 1776.

I am &^a: E H.

P. S. S^r. W^m. E_____ has the R_____ of Col^o. in America only. This will be the means of his Serving as Brig^{dr}. in that Country.

Source: TNA, *War Office, Office of the Commander-in-Chief, General letters* at WO3/6, p. 29 (f. 23). The word "y^t." is the abbreviation for "that." "S^r. W^m. E_____" refers to Lt. Col. Sir William Erskine, 1st Bn., 71st Regt. "Gu^{ds}" is the

abbreviation for the Foot Guards Brigade. “*Brunsk*” refers to the troops hired from Brunswick, Germany. “*H*” likely refers to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Col. Sir William Erskine, 1st Battalion, 71st Regt. Appointing Him to Command the “*Brigade of Highlanders*,” London, London, Apr. 24, 1776

War Office 24th April 1776

Sir

Enclosed I have a Letter for Gen. [Sir William] Howe signifying to him His Majesty’s Pleasure that you should be appointed to command the Brigade of Highlanders. – You will be pleased to deliver the same to the General on your arrival in N^o. America.

I have the hon^r to be Sir &c

Barrington

Colonel Sir W^m. Erskine
of the 71st Reg^t Greenock
near Glasgow

Source: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters*, WO 4/97, p. 80. On arrival in America Sir William Howe appointed Sir William Erskine as Quarter Master General and the “*Brigade of Highlanders*” was never formed. The letter to Gen. Howe follows.

Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Appoint Lt. Col. Sir William Erskine, 1st Battalion, 71st Regt. to Command a Highland Brigade Made up of the 42nd and 71st Regiments, London, Apr. 24, 1776

War Office 24th April 1776

Sir,

The King having been pleased to confer the Rank of Colonel in North America only, on Sir William Erskine, Lieut. Colonel of the 1st Battalion of the 71st [Highland] Regiment of Foot, I have the honor to acquaint you therewith and to signify to you His Majesty’s Pleasure that on the Arrival of that Corps in America, you appoint Sir William Erskine to act as a Brigadier. I am further to acquaint you it is His Majesty’s Intention that Sir William should command the Brigade of Highlanders now under orders for North America.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient and Most humble Servant

Barrington

The Hon^{ble} General Howe

&c &c &c

Boston

Source and Note: TNA, *Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester Papers*, Headquarters Papers of the British Army in America, Item No. 163 at PRO 30/55/2/59. Contrary to this request, Sir William Howe did not establish a “*Brigade of Highlanders*” with the 42nd Regt. under the command of Sir William Erskine. The 42nd Regt. was assigned to the Reserve, and the 71st to its own brigade.

Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Completion of 42nd Regt., Glasgow, Apr. 25, 1776

My Lord

It is with pleasure I have the honor to Acquaint your Lordship, the ship *Forth* arrived the 25th. Inst: at Carron, with the few remaining Swords, and the two Medicine Chests, & will be here this night. There is nothing further wanting to compleat the Battalion, with new Accoutrements, and every thing else, and the Officers & Soldiers compleat to a Man, I sent some from this to replace the Sick. only the pistols not being quite ready, have directed them to be sent from London to America.

[Lt. Gen.] S^r. Ja^s. Adolph. Oughton came here on Sunday, inspected & Reviewed the 1st. Batt: of the 71. Major Gen^l [Simon] Frasers / on Tuesday, and yesterday the Second Battalion. There was a great many good and handsome Men in both Battalions, the officers appeared well, most of them Young. But as S^r. Adolp. Oughton I suppose has made his Report to Your Lordship, not proper for me to make any Observations. he ordered 114 Men of the Supernumerary, & afterwards three more to be the Charge of Cap^t. [Alexander] Donaldson [42nd Regt.], of the Additional, to be Subsisted by the 71 Reg^t. till further orders, they are of different Sizes Ages and Country. I am informed a Lieu^t. Mackenzie of the 71. is on his March with a number of Recruits but not Ascertained, on their Arrival Cap^t. Donaldson has orders to inspect them & pass Such as are fit for Service.

Both their Battalions Marched this morning for Greenock, Cap^t. [Charles] Cameron of Lochiel arrived here Soon after

I have this moment Reviewed there men in Cap^t. Donaldson's Charge there are about 40 or 50 English Irish, & a few foreigners, many of them Servicable men, S^r. Adolp. Oughton ordered about two hundred to be discharged.

I intend to Set out tomorrow for Perth, & to make some Visits with my Daughter [Mary] before I leave this Country, hope to receive your Lo:ps Commands directed at Perth, & wish to Know if any Highlanders of M^r. M^cKenzies party of the 71 or of those here, may be given to My Additional.

I have the honor to be My Lord
Glasgow 25th April 1776 Your Lo:ps most humble and most obed^t Serv *John Murray*

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: M-R, 1776* at WO 1/993.

Letter from Brevet-Col. Robert Skene, Adjutant Gen., North Britain, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Reporting the 42nd Regt. Complete, Greenock, Apr. 25, 1776

Greenock April 25, 1776

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that I have this day embarked both Battalions of the 71st Regiment of foot and 17 men of the Recruits of the 26th Regiment in consequence of a letter from [Adj.] General [Edward] Harvey to Lord Adam Gordon transmitted to Captain [John] M^cdonald of the 26th Regiment.

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship likewise that the 42^d Regiment is this day complete both of Officers & Men, the Sick left behind three men dead & two deserters since they embarked I ordered to be replaced from the Additional companies.

I have the honor to be with the utmost Respect, My Lord,
Your Lordships Most obedient & most humble Servant
R^t Hon^{ble} Lord Barrington. *Rob^t Skene*

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO 1/865, p. 475.

Letter from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Scotland, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Regarding Status of 42nd Regt. Medicine Chest, Caroline Park, Edinburgh, Apr. 26, 1776

My Lord,

I have just received Advice from [Brevet] Colonel [Robert] Skene that the 71st Regiment was embarked Yesterday, and that the Wind was fair. The Escorts with part of the Cloathing, Arms, Accoutrements and medicine Chests for that Regiment and the 42^d, were on the Road but not arrived when I left Glasgow Yesterday.

I have the Honour to be My Lord, Your Lordship's

Caroline Park April 26th, 1776

most humble and most obedient Ser^t:

Ja^s: Adol^s: Oughton

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments, 1770 – 1776* at WO 1/865, p. 471.

**Letter from Capt. John Brisbane, 32-gun *HMS Flora*, to Philip Stephens,
Secretary to the Admiralty, Regarding Delay in Sailing, Greenock, Apr. 26, 1776**

Flora Greenock Road. 26th April 1776

Sir

You will please to communicate to my Lords Commissioners of the Adm^{ty} that [Brevet] Colonel [Robert] Skene Adjutant General here, having acquainted me by Letter of this days date that the 71st. Regiment of Foot was embarked: I immediately made the signal for sailing: since which I have received a Letter signed by Sir William Erskine and Lieu^t. Colonel Archibald Campbell of the said Regiment, a Copy of which I herewith inclose, together with the Copy of one from the Adjutant General [Robert Skene], and I beg leave to inform their Lordships that I thought it my duty for the Good of His Majesty's Service to acquiesce with their request, and I flatter myself their Lordships will approve of what I have done, and wind & weather permitting I shall sail on the 28th. of this month but at present the wind is not favourable. I am Sir

Your most Obedient humble Servant
Brisbane

Philip Stephens Esq^r.

[Enclosure from Lt. Cols. Erskine and Campbell]

Greenock 26th April 1776

S^r

Knowing well that your sailing Orders are of too positive a nature to admit of any delay in the execution of them, it would be highly improper to solicit an Extraordinary extension at this Juncture, did not an absolute necessity require it.

By contrary Winds above one half of our Battalion Accoutrements all our Swords & Officers Fuzees, part of our Camp Equipage & the whole Ammunition of the Regiment did not arrive at the Carron from England before the 24th of this month – An Officer with a Detachment is now employed in forwarding these Articles with the utmost Expedition to Greenock, and from the Accounts receiv'd from him late last Night, we have reason to believe the whole will arrive at Greenock upon the 28th at farthest. This being the Case we hope you will join in opinion that it is absolutely necessary for His Majesty's Service that the Fleet should remain for that time at Greenock than that the Troops who are destined for immediate Service, should proceed to North America without their Accoutrements & Ammunition.

We have the honor &c.

Will^m. Erskine

L^t Col^l of the 1st Battⁿ 71st

Arch^d Campbell

L^t Col^l of the 2^d Battⁿ 71st

To

Cap^t John Brisbane
of His Majesty's Frigate
The Flora
at Greenock

[Enclosure from Brevet-Col. Skene]

Greenock April 26th. 1776

Sir

Sir William Erskine & Lieu^t. Colonel [Archibald] Campbell commanding the Two Battallions of the 71st. Regiment having represented to me that the Ammunition from London Tent Equipage, and Accoutrements for these Battallions are not yet arrived, but expected to morrow I am of Opinion they cannot be ready to sail before the 28th. ins^t. consistent with the Good of the Service.

I have the honor to be With great regard Sir
Your most Obedient and Most humble Servant

Rob^t. Skene

To
Cap^t Brisbane
Commanding the Flora frigate

(A Copy)
Brisbane

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office, Original Correspondence, Secretary of State. Admiralty* at CO 5/124, ff. 97, 99 and 101.

**Invoice for Medical Supplies for the Highland Fleet Hospital Ship *Globe*,
to Ross & Gray, Agents for the 71st Regt., Greenwich, Apr. 26, 1776**

Invoice of sundry provisions & Stores shipt by Patrick Colquhoun embarked His Majesty's hired Transport the *Globe*, in consequence of an order from [Brevet] Col^o [Robert] Skene dated the 25th day of April, which Stores & provisions are for the use of the Sick Troops on board the said Transport which was as an Hospital Ship for the 42^d & 71st Regiments embarked at Greenwich for America – April 26th 1776

Sugar –	2 hundred w ^t or 224 pounds at 46/ <i>pCw</i> ^t	46/	4..12.	
	1 Barrel for d ^o Cost	1/	<u>1</u>	4..13.
Barley –	5 Cw ^t fine pearl Barley at 16/ <i>pCw</i> ^t	16/	4...	
	5 Cw ^t common D ^o a 11/6	11/6	2..17.6	
	6 Barrels for D ^o Cost	1/ 2	<u>7</u>	7..4.6
Oatmeal –	40 Bushels or 1760 lbs a 3/10 <i>p</i> ^r Bus.	3/10	7..13.4	
	8 Barrels for D ^o Cost	2/9	<u>1..2</u>	8..15.4
Rice –	2 Cw ^t or 224 lbs – at 20/ <i>pCw</i> ^t	20/	2..	
	2 Barrels for D ^o – Cost	2/	<u>.. 4.</u>	2..4.
Raisins –	5 hundred Suttlepounds best			
	Smyrna Raisins at 4 ^d <i>p</i> lb	4 ^d	8..16.8	
	1 Hogshead for D ^o	7/6	<u>7.6</u>	9..4.2
Wine {	3 Doz. white portugal Wine at 18 <i>p</i> doz.	18/	2..14.	
{	3 Doz. red d ^o at 18 <i>p</i> doz.	18/	2..14.	
	2 barrels for D ^o	2/	<u>.. 4</u>	5..12.
Vinegar	63 Gallons Vinegar at 1 /3 <i>p</i> Gall.	1 /3	3..18.9	
	1 hhd for D ^o with iron hoops		<u>10.</u>	4..8.9
				42..1.9
	Charges of Shipping, packing & Agency		9.4.	
	Commission at 2 ½ <i>p</i> Cent		<u>1..1.</u>	1..10.4
	Glasgow 26 th April 1776			£ <u>43..12.1</u>

Edin^r June 7th 1776
The above Stores were ship'd
by order of
Rob^t Skene
Adj^t Gen^l

Errors Excepted
Pat Colquhoun

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters* at WO 4/99 pp. 403-404. "Suttlepounds" was the weight minus the container.

**Letter from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department
to Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Reporting
on the Pending Embarkation of the 42nd and 71st Regts., London, Apr. 27, 1776**

Whitehall 27th April 1776

General Howe...

I have already acquainted you in my letter of the 26th of March, of which I now inclose a Duplicate that the 42^d and 71st Regiments would probably embark about the 20th inst. They are certainly by this time all on board, and I hope ready to sail from the Clyde, and inclosed I send you a copy of my letter of Orders to [Lt. Col.] Sir William Erskine [1st Bn., 71st Regt.] the commanding Officer of those Corps (who H.M. [His Majesty] has been pleased to give the Rank of Colonel in America to him, that he may be employed by you as Commanding the Brigade of Highlanders, you can be no stranger to his Character as an Officer tho' you may not have served in the Army with him, you may depend upon his answering your Expectations in whatever service you may Employ him...

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office, Original Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches* at CO 5/93 ff. 80-81d.

Report by Brevet-Col. Robert Skene, Adj. General, Scotland, to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, that the 42nd and 71st Regiments are Ready to Sail, Greenock, Apr. 28, 1776

Greenock April 28th 1776
6 o'clock in the morning of

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that with no small difficulty every thing belonging to the 71st Regiment of foot fitt to take the field is now on board the transports & all are ready to sail when ever the wind permitts, complete in every thing; a few Officers of the 71st Regiment in America & not joined only excepted as will appear by the Embarkation return when made out.

Lieu^t. [William] Rose of the 42^d Regiment who lately joined that corps has been obliged to come on shore sick & the Surgeon informs me he can that he can not possibly go with the Regiment he is so bad –

As everything in my department is now finished I shall this day sett out for Edinburgh after giving a few directions about providing the Sick with fresh provisions in case the wind continues contrary.

I have the honour to be with the utmost respect

My Lord, Your Lordships Most obedient & most humble Servant
Rob^t Skene

To the R^t Hon^{ble} Lord Viscount Barrington

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters, Government Depts.* at WO 1/865, pp. 479-480.

**Journal of Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, Records the Sailing
of the 42nd and 71st Regiments, Greenock, Scotland, Apr. 28 – 29. 1776**

Sunday 28th. The Blue Squadron that is the 42^d weighed anchor and turn'd down to Gourrock Road, from the tail of the Bank.

Monday 29th. The White Squadron (Fraser's) with [32-gun *HMS*] Flora weighed & came down to us on which we all got under Sail & turn's the Clough about 2 P. M. a fine fleet in all 35 sail, a steady breeze N.N.W. at 10 abreast with Elsa, made the Copland light.

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry for Apr. 28, 1776 also published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa.), 1998, p. 25. The "tail of the Bank" was a large bay near the mouth of the River Clyde where a large number of ships could safely anchor and troops could embark.



Similar Transport Ships as the Highland Fleet from "25th June 1776," by Archibald Robertson

Picture Source: New York Public Lib., Spencer Collection

List Transports Carrying the Individual Companies of 42nd Regt., Greenock, 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 ^t . [the Hon. George] M ^c Kenzie [Lt. Infantry]	Houston
Cap ^t . [Charles] Graham	Peggie
Cap ^t . [Archibald] Erskine	Bowman
[Brevet] Major [Duncan] M ^c Pherson	Minerva
Cap ^t . [John] Smith	Oxford
Cap ^t . [Lt. John] M ^c Intosh	Neptune
Cap ^t . [Charles] Grant	Glasgow

[Adj. and QM]
[Shared Hospital Ship]

[*Joseph & Henry*]
[*Globe*]

Convoy the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* Cap^t. [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 and Note: *The Gen. Sir Thomas Stirling Papers*, Item 0398/6, Black Watch Regiment Archives, Perth. According to the journal of Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Regt., an eleventh ship, the *Joseph & Henry* was assigned to carry additional men as well as the Adjutant and Quartermaster. An additional transport, *Globe*, was shared by the two regiments as a hospital ship.

Excerpt of Chap. James M^cLagan's Description of Departure of 42nd Regt., Greenock, Apr. 29, 1776

Dated Piscataway 31st May. 1777

My Lord.

Tho I was always determined to do myself the honour of writing to Your Lordship Yet when I viewed the Subject more nearly, I could Scarce find anything of importance to Say but what you could have from better authority, and better expressed then I was capable of, but least your [Lordship] should imagine that my Silence proceeds from a worse cause, I am now Set down to write you in my Tent and upon a Rough rebellious plank.

Our Fleet Sailed from the Clyde the 29 April 1776...

I have the honor to be with the highest Esteem. My Lord

Your Lops: most obe^d & most humble Servant

James M^cLagan

the R^t Hon^{ble} Lord John Murray

Source: Lord John Murray Papers; *Bagshawe Family Muniments*, GB 0133 BAG; John Rylands University Library of Manchester; Manchester; UK (hereafter the *Lord John Murray Papers*). M^cLagan was the Chaplain of the 42nd Regt. and sailed with the regiment for America.

Report from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington that the 42nd and 71st Regts. Sailed for America, Caroline Park, Edinburgh, Apr. 29, 1776

My Lord

I have the Pleasure of informing your Lordship that, after the most troublesome Piece of Business we have ever had to conduct since I belonged to this Establishment, the two Highland Regiments sailed yesterday Morning with a fair Wind, compleat in Men, Cloathing, Camp necessities &c.

I have the Honour to be My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant

Ja^s Adol^s Oughton

Caroline Park, April 30th, 1776

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 2. Government Departments: f. Various Departments*, 1770 - 1776 at WO 1/865, p. 487.

News Account of Departure of 42nd and 71st Highlanders, Greenock, Apr. 25-May 2, 1776

SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH, MAY 1. – 8...

Extrack of a letter from Greenock, April 30.

“Thursday last [Apr. 25], the first and second battalions of [Maj.] Gen. [Simon] Fraser’s Highlanders came down here from Glasgow, consisting of upwards of 2000 men, who immediately embarked on board their respective transports at the tail of the bank. Sunday morning [Apr. 28], ten sail, having the 42d regiment (or Royal Highlanders) on board, fell down to Gourock Road, and yesterday [Apr. 29] the whole fleet, consisting of thirty-three sail, under the convoy of the [32-gun *HMS*] Flora frigate, a King’s ship of 36 guns, and several of the transports mounting 10 to 16 guns, sailed with a favourable wind, all in high spirits, for America.”

Letters were received on Friday last [May 2] from Glasgow, that the fleet of transports, having on board the 42d, or Royal Regiment of Highlanders, which sailed from Greenock on Monday last [Apr. 29], was put back to Lamlash, in the Isle of Arran.

Sources: *North British Intelligencer; or Constitutional Miscellany*, Wednesday, May 8. 1776. Printed by William Auld, Edinburgh, Google Books, pp. 190-191. A similar report was published in the *Edinburgh Advertiser*, May 3, 1776, p. 285. The Isle of Arran in the Firth of Clyde is located about 40 miles southwest of Greenock.

**Letter from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American
Department to Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America,
Reporting the Sailing of the 42nd and 71st Regts., London, May 3, 1776**

Whitehall 3^d May 1776

General Howe,

... You will also see that the Highland Corps amounting to near 3500 Men, are sailed from the Clyde within these few days...

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches* at CO 5/93 ff. 247-258.

**Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lord George Germain,
Secretary of State Reporting the Sailing of the Highland Fleet, London, May 3, 1776**

War Office 3^d May 1776

My Lord

I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship that [Brevet] Colonel [Robert] Skene, Adjutant General in North Britain has informed me that all the Transports under convoy of the [32-gun *HMS*] Flora Frigate, sailed with a Fair Wind from Greenock on the 29th. of last Month.

I have the honor to be &c
Barrington

Hon^{ble} George Germain

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State. Secretary at War* at CO 5/168, p. 301.