

Excerpt from *Kilts & Courage, Vol. III, The Documentary History of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment in the American War for Independence, 1776 – 1783*, by Paul L. Pace

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Wrist Plate of Original 42nd Regt. Short Land Pattern Firelock

Picture Source: Courtesy Fort Ticonderoga Museum

Appendix K: 42nd Regt. Arms and Uniform Accounts

Enclosure K-4: Arms and Accoutrements

Introduction

This Enclosure collects known original documents applicable to the 42nd Highlanders which help to describe the arms and ancillary equipment (called Accoutrements) by the regiment in the American War for Independence from 1775 to 1783. Where limited regimental records exist, information from similar Highland regiments of the period can be used to obtain an understanding of the weapons of the Royal Highlanders as they engaged the rebels of Gen. George Washington in America.

The following excerpts from a manual prepared by a British officer describes many of the arms and practices of the British army during this period and serves as a good introduction to the subject.

**Arms and Accoutrement Articles from Capt. Bennet Cuthbertson's Popular
Manual for the Management of an Infantry Battalion, Bristol, England, 1776**

CHAP. XIII.

Of the Arms and Accoutrements, and the Methods for always keeping them in the best Condition.

ART. I.

IT must be obvious to every Officer, even of a few months experience, how necessary it is for the arms of a Company to be at all times kept in the most serviceable condition, which nothing will so much ensure, as a proper attention having been given, on their first delivery from the ordinance; the labour of the Soldier can always make them attract the eye, but it is on that alone, their real value will depend, and give the Captains of a Regiment, through succeeding years, great reason to be thankful, for the sums of money saved them in repairs.

II.

When arms, therefore, are to be issued to a Regiment, the Quarter-master, or some other Officer, should always attend to receive them from the Board of Ordinance: a Non-commission-officer, with an experienced Soldier, who is a perfect master of the gun-smith business, ought also to accompany him, that he may examine minutely into their state and goodness, by taking off the locks, and inspecting the screws, barrels, stocks, and every other part he thinks most necessary: if a defect appears in any article, the Officer should return the firelock which has it, and refuse giving a receipt, until he has received his compliment of arms entirely to his satisfaction, as nothing will be exchanged, after the receipt has once been given.

III.

As the Officer is supposed to be informed, before his application to the Ordinance, what number of firelocks and bayonets are designed for each Company, he should endeavour to get the * number of the Company and firelock properly marked, on the several articles designed for each, that the confusion, which must attend the Soldiers changing at any time with one another, may be totally avoided; and also, that the Regiment may not be at the expence of it, which there is an absolute necessity for, should it not be otherwise done, in order to prevent the men from putting private marks of distinction upon the arms, and thereby damaging the appearance of the stocks.

* All arms delivered from the Tower of London are marked as desired; but those from Dublin-Castle are not without paying for it. [The 42nd Regt. began the American war with 390 Short Land Model 0.75 caliber smoothbore flintlock muskets from Dublin Castle and the 822 from the Tower armories.]

IV.

Though it may be expected, that nothing is left unfinished, to render the arms delivered from his Majesty's stores compleat and fit for Service, yet as imperfections will occur from various causes, the Officer should direct his smith to try if all the hammers [*i.e.* frizzens] are steeled and hardened in a proper manner; those that are not, he must insist on being done, before he can receive them, else expence of that also will fall upon the Captains of his Regiment, as, without this precaution, half of them will be found so soft as not to make the smallest opposition to the flint.

V.

The iron-ramrods must be chosen straight, and free from flaws, with the pipes of the firelocks firm, to render the returning more secure and expeditious; the spring, below the tail-pipe, which confines the point, should be also strong, to prevent the weight of the ramrod from throwing itself forward, in the motion of presenting; and that the point of the ramrod may not stick at the swell of the firelock, and be thereby rendered difficult to draw, a plate of iron must be fixed there too oppose its entering the wood.

VI.

Care must be taken that the blades of the bayonets are well polished without notches, or the appearance of the smallest crack; that the sockets fit the firelocks they are designed for in a proper manner, neither too stiff or easy; that the scabbards are of good stout leather, not lined with wood; and that their hooks and chapes [protective fitting at the bottom of a scabbard] are firm and well secured: all these articles being thus inspected, and chosen agreeable to the most prudent caution, there can afterwards remain but very little excuse for the arms of every Company not being always in the compleatest order.

VII.

Every Soldier (and in a very particular manner a Recruit) should be, instructed, by the Serjeant or Corporal of the Squad of inspection he belongs to, in the proper methods of cleaning a firelock, how to take the lock asunder, and how to join the several parts again; making perfectly acquainted with the name and use of each, that nothing may ever be out of order, through his unskillfulness or ignorance.

VIII.

It should be insisted on, that a Soldier at all times keeps his arms in a state of perfection, as never to be ashamed to shew them; by having the inside of the lock well oiled, the outside of it (even to the smallest screw-pin) with the barrel, brasses and bayonet, not only clean and bright, but highly polished; the ramrod also must feel the attention of the Soldier, as the smoother and more polished it is kept; the easier will it return through the pipes; in the performance of the firings: the inside of the barrel, though not expected to be absolutely polished, should yet be bright, as must the inside of the socket of the bayonet, else it will be impossible either to fix or unfix it with the necessary quickness: to complete the whole, the stock (after scraping it extremely smooth must be brought to as clear a * polish as the nature of the wood will possibly allow; a little bee's wax, joined to the labour of the Soldier to rub it on, will, soon accomplish a point, which, if executed with due attention through the whole, will produce a molt pleasing effect, in the appearance of a battalion under arms: habituating Soldiers to such remarkable neatness, about every part of their appointments, not only gives employment for many of those idle hours they otherwise must have (a circumstance in itself alone quite worthy of consideration) but beyond all doubt, encourages in them a kind of liking for those arms, *Etc.* which they are taught to take such care of.

*By going to some little expence, it will not be difficult to bring the stocks of the firelock to one uniform colour, by staining them either black, red, or yellow; and then by laying on a varnish, to preserve them always in a glossy, shining condition.

IX.

When the firelocks are not in use, the cocks [*i.e.* hammers] should always be let down, as nothing more effectually weakens, the main springs, than constantly keeping them on the half-bend: and it will also be of consequence to the stocks, never to expose them on racks (during a Campaign) to the effects of the Sun; as the cracks, which they often get by that means, are never to be remedied; besides; the wood in general becomes so brittle by it, that the smallest violence frequently breaks off the buts.

XI.

The flints should always be screwed in firm, between a thin piece of lead, it having a more-certain hold, than leather, or any ether contrivance: besides a good one in his piece, a Soldier ought to have another in his pouch, and a small bit of wood, shaped like a flint, to use at exercise, in practising the firing motions, as the frequent striking up the hammers, must unavoidably break and spoil the flints, without answering any useful end.

XI.

When a Soldier breaks any part of his arms at exercise [*i.e.* drill], or by any other unavoidable accident which he can dearly prove, his captain is undoubtedly to be at the expence of the repair, as a certain number of contingent men (according to the establishment of the Company) are allowed him for that purpose, but should it appear to have been the consequence of neglect and carelessness, the Soldier, besides paying for it, ought to be punished.

XII.

It is absolutely necessary, that every Soldier should be furnished with a Worm and Turn-key, else it will be, impossible for him to clean the inside of the Barrel of his Firelock, in the manner which ought to be expected; or to manage the Screws about the Lock, without having recourse to his Bayonet: a

practice which must be forbidden, otherwise, the edges will be always full of notches, and by that means, have a most unsightly appearance: and to render matters ready and convenient to the Soldier, in the cleaning of his Firelock, Screws should be made to the points of all the Ramrods, to fix the Worms on.

XIII.

On Service, leather Hammer-stalls are undoubtedly an advantage to a Battalion, when loaded, and resting on their Arms, as accidents may be prevented, by, having them then fixed upon the hammers of the Firelocks but at other times they can certainly be of little use.

XIV.

Regiments being frequently so situated, as not to be able to get their Arms mended at any rate, and often in an indifferent manner, it would be a real benefit, and in the end a saving, if every Battalion was to furnish itself with a small, portable Forge, and all the necessary Tools for keeping the Arms in repair; and that a skilful gun-smith and stock-maker (to be enlisted at Birmingham, for Soldiers) were employed upon the Regiment's work, under proper regulations for their labour: by this method, every Captain must be enabled to keep his Company's Arms in a constant, serviceable state, whether in Quarters, Cantonments, or the * Field, and on much easier terms, than could otherwise be expected.

*In the Field, one horse with a small cart will carry all these implements, in same manner, as the Forges of the Cavalry.

XV.

Was every Soldier to have a painted linen case, to fit exactly upon the Lock of his Piece, and to be fastened by two small buttons, it would be of the utmost use and consequence, upon a march, in damp and rainy weather, and might in an instant (if occasion required it) be taken off, and carried in his Pouch.

XVI.

The great incumbrance of Swords upon a March, in point of weight, their well-known inconvenience in Acton, or at Exercise, and in general their answering no real end in Quarters, that a Bayonet could not supply, undoubtedly pointed out to all the Regiments employed in the late war, the necessity of taking them from the Battalion Companies, and as they have not since been restored, it is probable, they will forever be laid aside, as an useless weapon for a Foot Soldier; why they were continued to the Grenadiers of the Army, more than to the Hat-men; and why they are still expected to be kept up for them alone *, is something strange, as it is clear, that the very fame inconvenience, which arises to one in wearing of a sword; must of course, in every respect to the other: the difficulty of being able to fix a solid argument, in favour of this distinction, leaves room for supposing, that whim (as in many other things) supports the custom; therefore, when that has been gratified for a few years, the Grenadiers may, perhaps, be disencumbered from these unmeaning implements, as well as from the match-cases and cords, which are deemed by many, so essential a part of their appointments, although the use of Hand-Grenades has long since been discontinued in the British army; nor would it be an easy task to find a Grenadier existing, who was ever acquainted, or instructed, in the exercise of what first gave rise to the wearing of a match-case.

*Grenadier swords are ordered to be accounted for in the general Review Returns. [*The Royal Clothing Warrant for Regiments of Foot*, Dec. 19, 1768 specified "...All the Serjeants of the Regiment, and the whole Grenadier Company, to have swords. The Corporals and private men of the battalion companies (excepting the Regiment of Royal Highlanders) to have no swords. All the Drummers and Fifers to have a short sword with a scimitar blade..."]

XVII.

Drummers and Fifers require swords, as they have no other defensive weapon to wear at any time; the sort allotted for them should be short and light sabre blades; with a neat brass mounting, as that is easiest kept bright: the Serjeants also will require swords, but of a better kind, and considerably longer in proportion to their superior size; the mounting however, to be only brass or copper, the expence of which they can easily answer; if broken taken by the Enemy, or lost by any accident; a silver mounting on the contrary (even though at first given gratis to a Serjeant) is absolutely a hardship on him, as he is under the necessity of keeping it in repair, and being answerable for it (of lost or stolen), by an impoverishing stoppage of many months: the swords of the Grenadier Serjeants and Drummers should be distinguished by small additional bars upon the hilt; those of the Drum and Fife-Majors to be like the Battalion

Serjeants; and the whole to be ornamented with mohair sword-knots, of mixed, colours, which will contribute vastly to the smartness of the hilts.

XVIII.

The chapes and hooks of the swords and bayonets are at all times to be kept compleat and good; for which purpose, the Commanding-officers of Companies must have some spare ones constantly in store.

XIX.

Espositoons and Halberts should not be too heavy or exceed seven feet in length, as they will otherwise be very unhandy at exercise, and on many occasions; they must be made of seasoned ash, it being a serviceable wood, and not easily broken; the condition they are constantly to be kept in (particularly in point of polish) ought not to be inferior to that of the Firelocks, as it would be unpardonable for Officers and non-commission-ones to expect a greater degree of perfection in the Arms of the Private Men, than what they were inclined to shew in the care of their own; a good example from Superiors is of the utmost consequence, in influencing the actions of the vulgar, and often operates more strongly on their dispositions, than even the apprehensions of a punishment.

[Note: Twenty halberds for the same number of sergeants were listed in the 1775 42nd Regt. review returns in Ireland, and 8 were included in the list of captured equipment from the transports *Oxford* (carrying Capt. John Smith's Co. of the 42nd) and the *Crawford* (carrying Capt. Norman MacLeod's Co. of the 71st) taken by the rebel *Brig Andrew Doria*. Nine sergeants were captured on the two transports on May 29, 1776 while enroute to America. No record has been found of the officers of the 42nd Regt. carrying spontoons.]

XX.

The Accoutrements should be chosen of stout smooth Buff, as well for the service to be expected from it, as for its superior look above the spongy kind, which is always stretching and difficult to clean: belts, two inches and a quarter broad, answer every purpose of supporting the weight of the Ammunition in the Pouch, without the smallest distress to the Soldier's shoulder, and besides being lighter are by much less heating to the breast, than those of a greater breadth: two buckles for fixing the Pouch to the Belt, are to be preferred to those, which have an additional one on the breast, as it is chance, whether the buckles there can be brought to a level, in an entire rank of Men, owing, perhaps, to the stretching of one Belt more than another, and frequently, from the different shapes of those who wear them: this, of course, must destroy that exact uniformity, which ought to distinguish every part of the appointments of a well dressed Battalion: the ends of the Belts must be cut so as to fit close to the upper part of the Pouches; and in order to prevent their curling up; they should be tied down on the inside of the Belt, with small buff thongs, run through holes punched for that purpose.

[Note: The 42nd Regt. used black leather for its accoutrement belts.]

XXI.

The Pouches must be of the stoutest, blackened calf-skin, especially the outside flaps, which should be of such a substance, as to turn the severest rain; and as farther security to the Ammunition carried by a Soldier, against the effects of damp, the inside flaps, which immediately cover the Cartridges, should be lined with thick, well painted linen: the cartridge-boxes to be made as light as possible, with thirty-six holes in each, in order to prevent the additional weight of a second Box, to buckle round the waist, which besides its well known inconvenience at Exercise, has often, in quick Firing been productive of mischief and confusion, by blowing up: it will however be of use, to keep, two or three of these Cartouch-Boxes in each Company, for small Commands, in order to save the Accoutrements, which on such occasions, need not be worn.

[Note: The 42nd Regt. began the American war using Ordnance-issued 18-round Cartridge boxes and in May 1779 received Pouches with tin inserts.]

XXII.

The Pouches should be always buckled up so short, that the upper part of them, may, in general, rise to the hip-button of the coat, and thereby not only tighter, and more convenient for marching, but also readier for the Soldier to take out his Cartridges, without being obliged to bend his body to the right, which must be the case, were the Pouches fixed too low: to ensure a greater exactness, in the height of all the Pouches of the Battalion, than might be, if only guided by the situation of the hip-buttons, or the cast

of an Officer's eye along the ranks, a small cord should be drawn very tight in the Rear of each Rank (by Companies) and fastened to two Halberts, marked with the height intended for the Pouches, which must be raised or lowered in such a manner, that the upper part of the whole of each Rank may appear upon a level with the cord: they must also be worn so much back, that when the Soldier's right hand is hanging in its proper position down his side, the front corner of the Pouch may just touch the elbow, and by that means, be entirely out of the way, in the performance of his Exercise, at the same time, that it will hang sufficiently convenient for taking out his Cartridges, to load, with expedition: and to prevent their shifting forward, in the motions, of grounding the Firelock, and to keep them always steady in their proper place, a small leather loop must be fixed to the inside of the front Buckle of the Belt, to fasten on the right hip button of the coat.

XXIII.

The Bayonet-belt; if worn, round the waist, not only heats and confines a Soldier too much about the loins. but if buckled over his coat (a very favourite practice of many Veterans) shews whatever defects he may have in his shape, and in particular, a hollow back; on the contrary, if worn across the shoulder, those inconveniences are at once removed, as he becomes cool, free and unrestrained; at the same time, that he receives' an amendment, to his figure, by the ease with which his Accoutrements hang on him, besides, as every Soldier on a March, or on Service, pursues that method, if left to his own choice, it cannot be doubted, but he feels it pleasanter, and more to his satisfaction in that position, than round the waist; it therefore must be for the advantage of a Regiment, to be allowed to adopt so useful an * improvement, especially, as it will not be disputed, but be doing so, a Commanding-officer gives a considerable superiority to the appearance of his Men, over those whose Officers despite the change of military Fashions, let them be ever so useful or ornamental. One Buckle in front is sufficient for this Belt, to raise or lower it at discretion; its length should be, the upper part of the carriage for receiving the Bayonet, to ride just to the hip button of the coat; but for the greater exactness, it is recommended to use the cord, in the same manner, as directed for determining the height of the Pouches: the Bayonet to be thrown so back as not to interfere with the Firelock, when shouldered; and to keep in such a position; a loop should be fixed to the hook of the bayonet, to fasten on the left hip-button, for which purpose, the Bayonets are to be put in the belts, with the hooks downward: they not being able to draw the Bayonet, as readily as may be required, appears as first an objection to its being worn so far back, but will at one be obviated, by practising the Men to draw with their left hands, nimbly changing the Bayonet into the right, to fix: five minutes will make this method familiar to them, and as expeditious, as if the socket was close to the navel.

*A Bayonet shoulder-belt may be made from a waist-belt, without, any addition of leather, and at the expence of two-pence.

XXIV.

The Buckles of the Accoutrements, which are always to be extremely bright, should, have rounded corners to prevent their hurting the Men's fingers in any part of the Exercise, particularly, when preparing to take out their Cartridges: the tongues of them for the same reason, should always have their points turned downwards; and it will be an advantage to have them made of copper, that being more pliable to bend than brass, and easier to be kept clean, than iron, which always stains the buff.

XXV.

When the Accoutrements are crossed, both Belts should be of the same, breadth, which will produce a more pleasing effect, in the show of a Battalion, than if that exactness had been omitted; and to render them more striking, and fix the position of the cross, in such a manner, throughout the whole, that it will be impossible for either Belt, to rise or sink the smallest degree, beyond its proper place, a neat brass-rose, star, half-moon, or any other device, should be fixed upon it, with studs to run through both belts: in order to distinguish the Grenadiers, a Grenade may be fixed to theirs.

XXVI.

Slings without buckles are lightest, and most convenient to the men at exercise [drill]; they should be always drawn extremely tight, to add a greater sound and briskness to particular motions, which now seems to be the principal use of them, since the slinging of the Firelock has been abolished from the * British Army.

*The German Troops always march with their Firelocks slung.

XXVII.

Every Company should have an iron puncher for its Accoutrements, to prevent the Men from using the points of their Bayonets, to make holes, whenever it is necessary to raise or lower the Belts: this practice must be absolutely forbid, else the appearance of the Buff will be much injured by it, as it also must, if the mending of it, when out of repair, is left to the botching of every Soldier, who wears it: when repairs are requisite, the Colonel will feel the advantage of having a proper person employed upon the occasion, as the Accoutrements must last considerably the longer, for being mended with some degree of judgment.

XXVIII.

To prevent the confusion and trouble that might arise, by the men's changing their Accoutrements among each other, it is absolutely necessary, that the same figures, which are stamped on the Soldier's Firelock, be also lightly stamped, with a hot iron marker, upon the insides of both his Belts and sling.

XXIX.

It is not sufficient, that the outside flaps of the Pouches and Scabbards should always be well blackened; it must also be insisted on, that they shine, equal to japan or varnish, which can easily be done, by placing a piece of soft, brown paper on them, and with a hot iron held at a small distance, drawing the grease from one to the other; that being effectually removed, ivory-blackening and beeswax must be thinly spread over them, and rubbed on with a smooth stick or bottle, until they are brought to the highest polish.

XXX.

That the Buff may at all times be perfectly clean, and free from spots, every Soldier should be provided with a ball of white pipe-clay, to be scraped in water mixed with * allum, and laid on in a thin paste, which besides being a cheaper colouring, than that of whitening and ocher, is universally allowed, to be infinitely more showy in a Soldier's dress: another circumstance to recommend of it, is, its cleaning every part of his cloathing, almost as well as fuller's earth: when the right pipe-clay cannot be obtained, it is probable, that a kind of whitish clay may be found in most places, which when properly washed and bleached, and afterwards mixt with a little whitening, answers the same purpose: scraping the Buff (which soon destroys the substance of it) is scarcely ever necessary, as it must not be allowed to be any time so dirty, as to require such violent methods, to restore it to a proper appearance.

*Allum prevents the colouring from coming off.

XXXI.

A picker being often useful to a Soldier, for cleaning the touch-hole of his Firelock, in the firings, one of strong wire should be fixed, by a small chain, to the edge of his Pouch-belt, under the front Buckle, as close to the Pouch as possible, but never to hang in view, as it might be troublesome, in raising the flaps of the Pouch, to take out a Cartridge.

XXXII.

The Sword belts for Serjeants, Drummers and Fifers, should be of Buff, the same as the Accoutrements, for the sake of doing service, and because there can be no pretence, for their not being always as white and clean: hanging them from the shoulder on the outside of the coat, and at the same height as those for the Bayonets, will be found the most convenient method for wearing them also; for which purpose, they, as well as the Private-men, must have cloth straps on the right shoulder, to prevent their slipping off, on every motion of the arm.

XXXIII.

As it generally happens, that a Company has spare Arms and Accoutrements in store, by Non-effectives, Men on furlough, sick, or recruiting, a Soldier must be ordered to inspect them once per week, to keep them in serviceable condition, for which he is to be allowed a duty equivalent to his trouble, in the Company's Roster, besides receiving one penny *per week*, from every Man on furlough, whose Arms he takes care of: and to prevent such Arms and Accoutrements being spoiled on marches (which must be the case, if thrown loosely on the carriages) a Captain will find his account in always having a strong * chest to convey these matters for his Company.

*The expense of stocking one Firelock, will provide a Chest.

XXXIV.

As Pioniers are principally designed for clearing and mending roads, for the convenient and speedy march of a Battalion, the tools (consisting only of a saw and hatchet for each man) with which they are generally provided, Must often be found very tedious and insufficient for that purpose; it would therefore be an improvement, and answer every design of their institution, if three pick-axes, three spades, three hatchets, and two saws, with proper cases and white leather slings for each, were to be the established tools for the Pioniers of a Regiment, and to be distributed among them equally: *viz.* three men with axes, three with spades, two with hatchets and saws, and the Corporal with a hatchet only: they should be forbid to use these tools on any occasion, but the service of the Regiment, and ought to be made answerable for keeping them and their Aprons (which are best of thick brown leather) in as good a condition as their Arms and Accoutrements, which should only consist of a Firelock without a sling, and a small Cartouch-box for twelve Cartridges, to fix upon the belt which carries their tools: equipped in this manner, they can with ease perform the longest day's march, and in the progress of it, all the necessary duties that may be required from them: (which it is scarcely reasonable to expect, of loaded with Arms and Accoutrements, both of the Soldier and Pionier) and will besides find it a sufficient defence, if detached from the Battalion, on any work; that the only time when Arms can be useful to them.

XXXV.

When new Drums are issued, the Drum-major must be directed to take them entirely to pieces, in order to examine, if every part is formed in a proper manner, both for sound and service, that all defects (should there be any) may be made good, before they are delivered to the Drummers; and that they may be as little liable to damages as possible, and always in good repair, painted linen cases should be given with them, to be worn constantly, when off duty, or on a march: though brass Drums, engraved with the device or ornament of a Regiment, are at first double the expence of wooden ones, painted with the same, yet a few years will repay the difference, and afterwards produce a saving in favour of the former: a very trifling squeeze renders a wooden Drum entirely unfit for use, besides, it will at any rate require frequent painting, to keep it of a tolerable appearance; on the contrary, of a brass one gets a bulge; which is the only accident that can befall it, that easily is set to rights.

XXXVI.

The Braces of the Drums, which are to be of the same leather as the Men's Accoutrements, must be always kept as white, for which reason, every Drummer should be furnished with two good sets: and as Parchment fit for heads is not to be got in every place, it will be very proper to guard against the chance of such a disappointment, by the Companies having some spare ones constantly in store.

XXXVII.

The Drum carriages, instead of being made of scarlet cloth, with worsted lace, which is a constant annual expence to the Colonel, should be made of buff leather, the Breadth and colour of the Sword Belts, as that kind will last for years, besides being a pleasing contrast upon the Drummer's cloathing, which generally is composed of scarlet, in many parts of it: and as a carriage slung from the neck, places the Drum more conveniently for the performance of the beatings, than hanging it from the shoulder, that position should be observed, from the first instructing the Boys, it being a observation, that very few excel upon the Drum, who sling it otherwise; the Carriages being worn in this manner, two leather loops, about half an inch broad, should be stitched on each side of them, at the distance of a foot [inch?] asunder, to run the Drumsticks thro', which will be found the safest method of carrying them, when not in use, and particular on a March; the Loops on the Drum-major's Belt make a Cross of it with his Sword Belt, and carry his stocks constantly in the Loops, as a Badge of Office, when on Duty.

XXXVIII.

Instead of a plaited Cord, by which the Drummers usually sling the Drums upon a March, and thereby often gall the shoulders, it will be an advantage, to establish two white leather slings, about one inch broad, which, besides making a Carriage of the Drum more easy to them, will have a better effect in point of look, when suspended from the bottom of the Drum, om a Parade, than can be expected from a greasy cord, which must become so, by the frequent handling of it.

XXXIX.

Drumsticks should be made of Ebony or Brazil Wool, that being fittest for the purpose, and not easily broken in practice; but as that sort is not always to be purchased, the Drum-major must contrive to get some spare Sets, whenever he has the opportunity, that the Drummers may never be in want of them: the sticks of the Drum-major should be of Ebony, tipped with Silver, it being part of the Foppery to be shown in his appointments, for no other purpose but merely show.

XL.

If it is expected, that the Fifers should attain to any degree of perfection, care must be taken to provide them with a proper set of Instruments, approved by a judge of Music; after which, it will be necessary to guard against their being lost or spoiled, as the expence of making good such accidents, must fall upon the Fifer, to him more careful for the future: therefore a brass case with a hasp and padlock, should be given to each Boy, that there may be no pretence, for not keeping the Fifes in constant good condition: engraving upon these cases, will in the end be found much greater œconomy than painting them, as the latter wants such frequent renewals, to preserve them in tolerable repair; it will also be a savings, instead of a scarlet cloth-fife-belts, to give white leather ones, of the same breadth as the Sword-belts, with which they should be crossed.

[Note: The 42nd Regt. was authorized two bagpipers in lieu of the two fifers, normally assigned to English regiments.]

XLI.

Officer Sashes look neatest, when the Tags surround the Knot in such a manner, that it cannot be seen; also when they are tied so short, that the upper part of the Knot appears, just under the hip-button of the coat: uniformity is absolutely requisite in this point, and likewise, that the Tags of the Serjeant's Sashes be fixed to hang of an equal length with the Knots opposite the left knee, which will place them out of the way of the Halbert, in the motion of advancing.

XLII.

A Corps of Officers should be exceedingly exact and uniform, in all their different appointments, particularly their Swords, Gorgeats, Spontoons, Grenadier-fuzees and Accoutrements, all of which, though extremely neat, should never be too expensive, but rather calculated for real Service, than merely shew.

XLIII.

Notwithstanding the inspection, which ought to be made at every opportunity, by the Non-commission-officers, into the condition of the Arms and Accoutrements, belonging to their Squads, it will yet be necessary, that on the day, in every week, appointed for reviewing the linen of each Company, an exact inspection be also made by the same Officer, of all the Arms and Accoutrements, both in possession of the Men, and in the Stores; and that * return of their state be given immediately after, to the Commander of the regiment, that he may thereby be informed, whether these articles are kept in serviceable order: a copy of this Return should likewise be given to the Commanding-officer of the Company, (if the inspection was not made by him) that in case any repairs are wanting, for which either he or the men are answerable, he may direct them to be made forthwith.

*The weekly state of the Arms in each Company, to be annexed to that of the necessaries, for which see No. III, of the Appendix.

XLIV.

The Quarter-master is to take an account of all Arms and Accoutrements issued to a Battalion, remarking the time and place, when and where received: of which he ought to make a return to the Commanding-officer, and likewise one, of whatever he delivers out to the several Companies; a copy of which Returns should be entered in the Regimental book, that it may at any time be ascertained, for what number of Arms and Accoutrements in particular are answerable.

Source and Note: *Cuthbertson's System, for the Complete Interior Management and Economy of a Battalion of Infantry*, Capt. Bennet Cuthbertson, Printed by Rouths and Nelson, Bristol, 1776, Google Books, pp. 89-107. Capt. Bennet Cuthbertson served in the 5th Regt. as Adj. (Aug. 23, 1755), Lt. and Adj. (Oct. 2, 1755) and Capt., (Sept. 2, 1767). He retired from the Army around 1771-1772.

The generous assistance of Ed Brumby, Fred Lucas, Alexander Good, Todd Braisted, Don Hagist and members of the American Revolution reenactment community is gratefully acknowledged.

Documents



42nd Regt. Grenadier, c. 1751, by David Morier

Picture Source: Royal Collection (from britishempire.co.uk)

Order for Sword Belts for the 42nd Highland Regt., Glasgow, Mar. 10, 1755

Copy Letter M^r. [Robert] Dobson for Sword Belts for the Highland Regiment 1755
My Lord

Tho' I formerly Sent your Lordship an Acc^t. of Sword Belts I was Commissioned to prepare by Cap^t. [Duncan] Campbell of Inveraw, I thought it proper to Send another copy in Case [on binding] first might have fallen by, I have drawn on your Lordship today for the Amount.

I am My Lord

Glasgow March 10th. 1755

Your Lordships most Hum^{ble} [in binding]

/Signed/ Rob: Dobson

Glasgow March 10th. 1755

Acco^t. of Sword Belts for the Highland Regiment
 Cap^t. Campbell of Inveraw's orders. to Rob: Dobson
 To 93 Sword Belts 1/6 £6:19 [6^d ? in binding]
 To 10 D^o. Serj^{ts}. 2/ 1..
 To a Box for D^o .. [in binding]
 Carriage to Irvine .. [in binding]
 Exchange of my Bill to Dublin .. [in binding]

Source: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of private letters, page not marked.

**News Account of Order for Shoulder Belts for Swords for Highland Regiments,
 Glasgow, Jan. 24, 1757**

SCOTLAND.

Glasgow, Jan. 24. On Wednesday an order was received from London, to provide 2400 Pairs of Shoes, and also Shoulder-Belts for the two Highland Regiments now raising.

Source: *Leeds Intelligencer*, Feb. 8, 1759, p. 2



Williams Flintlocks' Reproduction of a British Officer's Fusil based on a James Barbar Fowler

Picture Source: Courtesy of *Williams Flintlocks*, Hedgesville, West Virginia (williamsflintlocks@gmail.com)

**Orders Issued for Officer Fusils, Cartridge Boxes, Belts and Backswords
 for the Three Additional Companies, 42nd Regt., London July 18, 1757**

M^r. [James] Barbar Gun Smith Dover Street [London]
 I do hereby promise to Provide for the Officers of the three Additional Companys of [Lt. Gen.] Lord John Murrays Reg^t. twelve Fuzeis by this day 3 Weeks Witness my hand – Signed Ja^s. Barbar
 July the 18th. 1757

at three Guineas the fuzie and Bayonet besides Slings and other incidental Charges to be paid
 Buff Cartridge boxes & buff Slings with 9 holes
 12 Broad leather Shoulder belts with Silver buckles in 3 Weeks, 12 Steel basket Sword Back blades by
 the Same time

Hilt		~.. 15.. ~
Blades Scabb ^{ds} . slockets hooks & Chap ^{es} .	}	~.. 10.. 6
and Mounting Compleat	}	
		<u>1.. 5.. 6</u>

Signed Matt^w. Feesey July 18th. 1757

Source and Note: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of letters and regimental orders concerning the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment (1756-7), p. 7. Matthew Feesey's 1769 Will is listed at TNA as "*Will of Matthew Feesey, Sword Cutter of Saint James Westminster, Middlesex.*" (Ref: TNA, PROB 11/951/405).



Reproduction 46-inch Barrel, 0.75-Caliber, Long Land Pattern Firelock, circa 1746

Picture Source: Courtesy of *Track of the Wolf* at trackofthewolf.com

Listing of Arms for the 2nd Battalion, 42nd or Royal Highland Regt., July 8, 1758

Arms for the 2^d. Batt. of the Royal Highland Reg^t. – 8 July 1758.

728 Wooden Ramrods

728 Firelocks and Bayonets

756 Side pistols and Straps

728 Cartouch Boxes & Straps

28 Halberts

14 Drums

NB. Buff Slings for the Firelock, & Buff Slings for the Drummers to be bespoke [ordered]...

Officers Fuzies [^]& Bayonets from M^r Barbar Dover S... [in binding] also Cartridge boxes.

Sword & Shoulder Belts to be bespoke in [in binding] and by Cap^t. Arch^d. Campbell...

Source: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of letters and regimental orders concerning the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment (1756-7), p. 32.



Richard Cox, Founder of Cox & Co., by Sir William Beechey

Picture Source: Wikipedia

**42nd Regt. Uniform Notes from Ledgers of Cox & Co., Army Agents,
London, Oct. 24, 1758 – Mar. 16, 1761**

1758, 24 Oct.	Engraving 758 muskets and 28 halberts,	at	6d.
1758, 5 Sept.	Hatchet men's caps, axes and saws,	£12	16s. 4d.
1758, 30 Dec.	Lieut. Ja ^s . Campbell: For a shoulder-belt,	19s.	
	34 pairs of shoes for Recruits,	at	3s. 6d.
	12 pairs of Privates' hose	7s.	6d.
1759, 14 March.	Making the men's old coats into waistcoats,	£48	19s.
1759, 14 March	To sundry blacksmiths, for cutting short the arms of the 42 nd Regiment, by Gen. [James] Abercrombie's order,	£48	13s.
1759, 18 April.	14 drums,	at	21s. 6d.
1759, 1 June.	Joseph Howell, for Grenadiers' caps,	£10	5s.;
	match-cases,	£9	9s. 8d.
1759, 15 June.	2 nd Batt ⁿ . 4 Caps, for the Grenadier Officers,	at	42s.
1759, 1 Nov.	2 nd Batt ⁿ . Buff slings, for the 7 Companies,	£57	15s,
1759, 24 Nov.	438 cartouch-boxes,	at	3s. 6d.
	270 sword-belts,	at	3s. 6d.
	cutting 24 firelocks, by Gen. Abercrombie's order, 9 June, 1758,	at	1s. . 9d. each
1759, 24 Nov.	Paid, in full, bill for 756 pistols, for the 7 companies (2 nd Batt ⁿ .),	£29	9s.
1759, 19 Dec.	Received, at the Tower, for 1,080 pistols, for 1 st Batt ⁿ .,	£891.	
1760, ____.	2 nd Batt ⁿ . 7 Companies, each consisting of 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 2 Drummers and 100 Privates, with 1 Piper to the Grenadier Company.		
1760; 13 June.	2 nd Batt ⁿ . Lieut. John Murray: To Cap ^t . [Francis] Maclean, for cost of your tent, fuzees, etc.,	£11	8s. 11d.
1760, 30 June.	Ensign [Neil] Maclean, for a set of regimental lace,	£4	7s.
1760, 8 Aug.	Matt. Feasey, for swords furnished the Officers of the 3 additional Companies (part payment),	£25	1s. 8d.
1760, 2 Sept.	necessaries furnished the Light Infantry Company,	£1	12s. 1d.
	2 nd Batt ⁿ . Officers' fusees,	£106	13s. 8d.
1760, 13 Sept.	1 st Batt ⁿ . 79 bonnets,	at	2s.
1761, 16 March.	Major Gordon Graham: for a suit of laced regimentals,	£8	8s.

Source and Note: "Cox & Co., Army Agents, Uniform items from Their Ledgers," Rev. Percy Sumner, in Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research, Vol. XVII, No. 67, Autumn, 1938, p. 149. Richard Cox was secretary to Field Marshal John, Viscount Ligonier, Colonel of the 1st Guards Regt., when appointed his regimental agent in 1758.

**42nd Regt. Arms and Accoutrement References in the Order Book of Capt. James Stewart's
Company During the French and Indian War, Mar. 13, 1759- Oct. 29, 1761**

New York 13th March 1759...

Reg^{tl}. Orders

The men to have wooden flints in their pieces at exercise untill farther orders.

New York 21st March 1759...

Reg^{tle} Orders Evening...

The spare arms in the stores of the different Companys to be repaired with the outmost expeditions.

New York 3rd April 1759...

R.O...

The Reg^t to be under arms at half an hour after 9 o'clock to morrow. Each man to have a good flint in his pocket as they are to fire at mark...

New York 9th April 1759

R. Orders...

The cartridges with ball to be taken from the men forth with and keep^d in store till further orders. 15 cartridges per man with powder only to be delivered out and made up today for the field on Wednesday morning...

New York 16th April 1759

The three Companys here of the 2nd Ba^{tn} to have their swords numbr^d and lettred as soon as possible beginning with the letter "L" the 1st Bⁿ having ended with the letter "K."

New York 18th April 1759...

Regt^l. Order.

The awkward men of the different companys to be put on the guards to morrow and to remain there till the review is over. The whole officers to be at the barracks at 4 o'clock this afternoon with their fusees.

The Regimt is to be review^d on Friday morning next.

The officers to be in Kelt, plain regimentall, hair Albemarl^d, powder^d, and buff colour^d gloves, with their cartridge boxes on and every thing else regim^{le}. The men to be powder^d, their hair well dress^d, well kelted, new shoes, new hoses and every thing else in perfect order.

New York 29th April 1759..

The arms of the three companies of the Second Battⁿ to be forthwith marked with the number of the Battⁿ Reg^t and the letter of the Comp^y.

Crown Point Camp 30th Sept. 1759

As there is a prospect of going upon immediate service, the Commanding Officers of companys to review their men & arms and ammunition and to be particularly carefull in examining the locks, and if anything is found out of order to be immediately put in repair – as its necessary that each man should have two sufficient flints, a return to be made of what will be requisite to compleat them in that number. Also of what ammunition may be wanting and it being a general complaint the locks are stiff for want of oyl the Commanding Officers are to cause their men to provide oyl for them if possible to be had. The firelocks to be made thoroughly clean in the inside, after which every man (except those on duty) to have their stoppers constantly in their pieces.

Crown Point 22nd November 1759...

The Light Infantry company of each battalion when ordered to join their corps is to remain as a company of the battalion. The men are to keep their carbines, powder boxes...

Half Way Brook 4th February 1760.

Gen. Orders given at Fort Edward 31st January 1760...

The mens arms to be in perfect repair and to be completed in stoppers, pickers, brushes and hammer caps, which ought to be of black leather... The officers of both battalions... If any of them should want shoulder belts they will also give orders to have them made...

Half Way Brook 30th April 1760 and so on to

Half Way Brook 31st May 1760...

The Serj^{ts} taking firelocks instead of Halberts...

Montreal 19th April 1761.

R.O.

The swords of the supernumerary Grenadiers drafted into the battalion to be lodged in the Regiment^l store and as the men are obliged to keep the scabbards in repair none to be received into the store but such as are sufficient – the supernumerary Tomihawks, powder horns and shot bags belonging to the Light Infantry company, also to be delivered to the store.

Montreal 3rd June 1761...

Reg^l Orders.

The Battalion intire to be under arms to morrow at 11 o'clock, the men to be in their new clothing, to be powdered and perfectly clean and well dressed; the arms to be as bright as possible and the brass to be well scoured...

Camp at Staten Island 28th July 1761

The Commanding Officers of Companys will compleat their men immediately the best and lightest swords, and as they are numbered observing as near as possible to deliver them to the men whose firelocks are numbered with the same mark; they are also to be compleated with the most sufficient slings, shoulder belts and cartridge boxes. The companys to give in separate returns this evening, of the firelocks only, distinguishing between the sufficient and unsufficient, those cut or not cut.

Camp at Staten Island 17th August 1761...

Reg^l Orders...

During the het of the day the arms are to be put in the Bells of Arms.

Camp at Watsons Ferry 28th August, 1761...

Reg^l Orders.

The battalion to be under arms to morrow at the usual time. Each man to have a flint in his piece, the cartridges to be equally distributed among the men of the different companys and a return to be given in according to the General order of the day...

Camp at Watsons Ferry 8th September 1761.

Reg^l Orders.

The Companys to have their slings cleaned immediately to be in readiness for the review if ordered...

Camp on Staten Island 10th September 1761...

Reg^l Orders.

The Commanding Officers of Companys, when they review their mens arms and accoutrements tomorrow...

Camp at Watsons Ferry 20th September 1761.

Reg^l Orders.

The Battalion to receive 10 cartridges of powder for each man this evening. The awkward men who cannot be trusted not to receive any, and the Officers to see them delivered and be careful that the mens cartridge boxes be emptied of their present ammunition and that no ball through mistake may be In the new cartridges.

That the battalion may appear to the best advantage at the review... No swords to be carried into the field; the Officer & Serjeants to have bayonets and such as cannot procure bayonets may carry durks. The arms to be perfectly clean without any grease, the brasses also to be well scoured and the firelocks to be rubbed again in the morning with a dry cloth... They are to carry their oil cloths for wiping their pans and bayonets... The ram-rods to be well fixed to prevent their flying out when the battalion secures their firelocks and shoulder – The men to use their best flints, which are to be well fixed, the touch holes right in the spring and inner part of the lock to be oiled.

Source and Note: *Extracts from the Order books of Capt. James Stewart's Company Royal Highland Regiment, 1759-61*, Transcribed by William B. Wilson from originals in The Black Watch Museum, Perth, Scotland, Dec. 23, 1947. Capt. James Stewart was of the Stewarts of Urrard.

**Reduced Highlanders Paid Three Shillings for Swords Turned into His Majesty's Stores,
New York, Jan. 7, 1764**

General Orders

Head Quarters at New York Jan^y 7th 1764...

The Supernumerary Arms and Swords of the 42nd Reg^t. to be delivered into his Majesty's Stores for which Receipts will be given –

The 77th [Montgomery's Highland] Reg^t. to deliver their Arms and Swords into the Store taking also proper Receipts.

The Discharged Men who deliver in their Swords, will be allowed Three Shillings Sword money which will be paid them, together with fourteen Days pay when they receive their Discharges.

Source and Note: "Orderly Book I of Colonel Henry Bouquet's Expedition Against the Ohio Indians, 1764 (Carlisle to Fort Pitt)," Ed. Edward G. Williams, *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, July 1973, pp. 297-299. This order is of interest in that it shows the individual soldiers were charged for their swords when issued.

**Excerpt of Letter from Lt. and Adj. Alexander Donaldson (Future Capt., Additional Company)
Detailing Poor Condition of the Arms of the 42nd Regt., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 6, 1766**

Extract of a Letter from L^t & Adjutant [and Acting Quartermaster] Alex^r. Donaldson of the 42. or R. H. R. to L^t. Colonel Gordon Gra^hame of the Said Reg^t. at London dated Philadelphia the 6th. of Oct^r. 1766.

In a few days Cap^{ts}. [John] Stewart & [William] Grant will arrive here from Lancaster with their detachment their return will show the Disposition of the Reg^t. as to Quarters...

A long while ago I represented the Situation of the Arms and accutrements & have only to add that they are in a most Shocking Situation the Arms, Some long [46-inch barrels] some Short [42-inch] of different kinds & Shapes insomuch that we can never dress with them, the Accutrements entirely wore out long ago, no [Sword] Shoulder belts no Slings not one Grenadier cap or Pioneer tool no Drums / I'm obliged to borrow one from a Townsman for the Common Duty of this Detachment/ nor any other necessary to make the Reg^t. appear tolerable, In a word we Seem to be entirely forgott, and going to Disolution not only in those respects, but from our being wore out, and of no Size much under that of other Reg^{ts}. dispirited with disappointment, & Disgusted with this their real Situation; I assure you it hurts me to expose to you So many Strong and Undoubtable facts of our Situation but it becomes absolutely necessary, as I sup^opose People in Power look upon us as a good Reg^t. fit for any Duty and properly appointed, which I'm very Sorry to Say is not the case...

NB. L^tCol^o. [John] Reids Letter & L^t. Alex^r. Donaldson was Sent Inclos'd in L^tCol^o. Grahams 27th Dec^r. 1766

Source: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of private letters, pp. 5-7.



Detail of Portrait of Gen. John Reid, 1806 by George Watson

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *University of Edinburgh*

**Report of the State of the Accoutrements from Brevet-Lt. Col. John Reid to
Lt. Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., New York, Oct. 17, 1767**

Copy Letter [Brevet] L'Col^o. [John] Reid [Maj., 42nd Regt.]

My Lord

This will be delivered to your Lordship if at London, by Captain William Murray, who has lately been relieved from his Command at Fort Pitt, and with Lieu^t. [Alexander] Makay and Ensign [Thomas] Hall, goes home to join their Regiment.

I have the honour to Send you herewith Copies of Returns of the Accutremments given by order of the Commanders in America, and at the Havannah to other Regiments which never have been returned. These Returns I have thought Necessary to have made out Seperately to avoid any Mistake or objection that might have been made otherways, and to prevent any delay in the payments, as your Lordship is equally Intitled to be reimbursed for both.

The form of these Returns together with the Estimate made of the Accutremments is agreable to those formerly Sent, on which your Lordship recovered payment. The Losses Sustain'd by the 2nd. Battⁿ: were returned when that Battⁿ. went home, which I Suppose your Lordship will recollect; The Returns therefore now Sent regard the first Battⁿ. as well as the 2nd. After it was Incorporated with the first, This I mention least it should require an Explanation

I shall be happy to Execute any Commands from your Lop: while I remain in this Country; And I have the honour to be with great respect & Regard

My Lord

New York 17th Oct^r. }
1767 }

Your Lop's: most Obed^t. & most humble Serv^t
/Signed/ John Reid

Source and Notes: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of private letters, p. 37. Accoutrements generally referred to the waist belt, cartridge box, and bayonet scabbard. On Aug. 24, 1767 the Main body of the 42nd Regt. arrived at Cork, Ireland after departing Philadelphia following service in the French & Indian War and garrisoning of frontier posts after the war. The remainder of the Regt. arrived at Cork on Oct. 5, 1767.



Detail of Portrait of Lt. Gen. Lord John Murray, circa 1759, by Allan Ramsay

Picture Source: *Tate Gallery, London*

**Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., to Lt. Col. Gordon Graham
Regarding Regimental Arms, Pitnacree Lodge, North of Perth, Scotland, Nov. 18, 1767**

Copy to L^tCol^o. [Gordon] Graham

Pitnacree Lodge 18th Nov^r. 1767

S^r.

I wrote you the 26th. last Month inclos'd to M^r. [William] Montgomery [Regimental Agent, Dublin], and one from Cap^t. John Graham, who was then here, and three or four days ago rec^d. yours by Serj^t. Andrew Smith in his way North, dated from Galway [Ireland] the 24th. last Month, and was glad to hear of your safe arrival there...

You know the Regim^t. never had any other Sho... [in binding], Belts, then black leather, which I think the most becoming for the Highland dress, nor never anything else then cartridges boxes for their Ammunition, but if you think a Black leather pouch with a narrow cross belt would look better, you may order a pattern one to be made, and let me know the price, and as soon as I hear from you shall return an Answer.

Please lett me know of the Arms the Regiment received at Cork were made at the Tower of London and whither Carrabines, or Muskets of the same length with other Regiments.
Cartridge boxes Drums & Halberds used to be delivered



Sergeant's Halberd from "An Officer & Serjeant of a Highland Regiment,"

Picture Source: *Military Antiquities*, Vol. I, Francis Grose, London, 1801, after p. 164.

at the Same time new Arms were Given, but if on Enquirey you find they are not to be given, you'le then please to order Drum, Halberts, and Slings, & acquaint me, & M^r. Montgomery of the Agreement, & when the Money is to be paid, and you may also lett me know the Difference lickwise the prices of Cartridge Boxes, & black leather pouches.

I believe it is usual in Ireland not to be given New Colours, till they are upon Dublin Duty, but if it is Expected, they are to be got Sooner, and that the present will not do toll then, you'le please order them also to be ~~made~~ got at Dublin... please make off of my Comp^{ts}: to the Corps, and believe me to be Sincerely

[John Murray]

Source and Note: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of private letters, pp. 25-29. Capt. John Graham (date of Commission Dec. 25, 1765), retired Jan. 28, 1771.



Detail of Portrait of King George III, 1771, by Johann Zoffany

Picture Source: Wikimedia, from the *Royal Collection*

Excerpts of Royal Clothing Warrant for Regiments of Foot, Dec. 19, 1768

Regulations for the Colours, Clothing, etc. of the Marching Regiments of Foot

George R.

Our will and pleasure is, that the following regulations for the Colours, clothing, etc. of Our marching Regiments of Foot, be duly observed and put in execution, at such times as the particulars are or shall be furnished...

Caps, Fuzils, and Pouches, for Grenadier Officers,

The Officers of the Grenadiers to wear black bear-skin caps; and to have fuzils, shoulder-belts, and pouches...

Shoulder Belts and Waist Belts.

The breadth of the shoulder-belts to be two inches and three quarters; that of the waist belt to be two inches... and those Regiments which have buff waistcoats, are to have buff-coloured accoutrements. Those which have white waistcoats, are to have white... [Black for the 42nd Regt.]

Swords.

All the Serjeants of the Regiment, and the whole Grenadier Company, to have swords. The Corporals and private men of the battalion companies (excepting the Regiment of Royal Highlanders) to have no swords. All the Drummers and Fifers to have a short sword with a scimitar blade...

Source: *TNA, War Office, Miscellaneous reports, Register of Warrants, 1768-1801 at WO 30/13B as printed in British Military Uniforms 1768-1796*, Hew Strachan, Arms and Armour Press, London, 1975, pp. 171-178. This warrant established the base regulation for the clothing of the foot regiments of the army. The articles of clothing which do not apply to the 42nd Regt. are not included in the above list.



Original 42nd Regt. Marked Short Land Pattern Firelock Issued from Dublin Castle

Picture Source and Note: Curtesy of Fort Ticonderoga. This original flintlock musket was converted back to flintlock from a percussion lock. The plate is original, but most of the working pieces are replacements.

Irish Parliament Lists Arms Issued to the 42nd Regt. While on That Establishment, Dublin, Ireland, 1769-1773

An Account of the Musquets and Carbines which have been bought for the Use if His Majesty's Forces in this Kingdom, since 1st *January* 1776, and how the same have been disposed of, and what Number remained in his Majesty's Stores on the 29th Day of *September* last

	Musquets	Carbines
Bought since 1st <i>January</i> , 1756	39202	4704
Delivered since 1st <i>January</i> , 1756...		
1769... the 42d ditto [Regiment of Foot]	2 ...	
1772... the 42d ditto	39	2
1773... the 42d ditto	351...	
Total delivered between 1st <i>January</i> 1756, and 29th <i>September</i> 1775	33577	2329
Remained in His Majesty's Stores on 29th <i>September</i> 1775.	5625	2375
R. Ward, Joseph Keen, Rob. Tighe.		

Office of Ordnance, Dublin Castle, 31st October 1775.

Source and Note: *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, pp. 81-83. The 1772 Issue of 39 muskets and two carbines applied to 20 regiments of foot and likely represented the arms for the new Lt. Infantry Companies added that year. The muskets cost the Ordnance about 1£ 15 *Sh* each.



Reproduction Cartridge Box Device with Arms of King George III

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

Col. (Later Maj. Gen.) David Stewart's Description of the Adoption of Royal Clothing Warrant of 1768, by the 42nd Regt., Ireland, May 1769

At this period [1767], the uniform of the corps had a very dark and sombre appearance... The sword-belts were of black leather, two inches and a half in breadth; and a small cartouch-box, fitted only for thirty-two [16] rounds of cartridges, was worn in front, above the purse, and fixed round the loins with a black belt, in which hung the bayonet...

The officers improved their dress, by having their jackets embroidered... Upon ordinary occasions, they wore light hangers, using the basket-hilted broad-sword only in full dress. They also carried fusils. The serjeants were furnished with carbines, instead of Lochaber axe or halbert, which they formerly carried. The soldiers were provided with new arms when on Dublin duty in 1774...

*Source: Sketches of the Character, Manners, and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland; with Details of the Military Service of the Highland Regiments, Second edition, Vol. I, by Col. David Stewart, Archibald Constable and Co. Edinburgh, 1822, Google Books, pp. 361-362. Although some errors have been identified in Gen. Stewart's account of the Highlanders, his descriptions were based on information he received from officers who had served during the period. In addition, Stewart, himself, served in the 77th Highland Regiment at the time of the American War and he joined the 42nd Regt. in 1787, while many of the officers from the American War still served in the regiment. The *Dublin Mercury* of May 27-30, 1769 reported "Yesterday Lord John Murray's regiment of Highlanders marched into town."*



Detail from *George Townshend, 1st Marquess Townshend*, 1792, by George Romney

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from California Palace of the Legion of Honor

**Letter from Dep. Adj. General Donald Grant to Lt. Col. Gordon Graham,
42nd Regt., Regarding Proposed Change to Accoutrements, Dublin, Sept. 14, 1769**

Copy of a Letter from the Deputy Adjutant General
To Lieu^t. Colonel [Gordon] Graham 14th. Sept^r. 1769 –

Dublin 14th Sept^r. 1769

Sir

I have laid your letter to me of the 12th. Instant [Sept.] Before Lieutenant General [Michael O'Brien] Dilkes: who has Directed me to Acquaint you, that he will lay it before the Lord Lieutenant [of Ireland; George, Viscount Townshend] in order to know his Excellencys pleasure Relative to the Alteration proposed in the Accoutrements of the Regiment under your Command.

In the meantime the Gen^l. desires you will prepare a Pattern of Accoutrements for his Inspection, which you Shall judge the Best Adapted to the Royal Highland Regiment

I am Sir

Your most Humble and most Obedient Servant

Lieu^t. Col^l. Graham } /Signed/
Commanding the 42nd }
Regiment }

Don^l. Grant
D: Adj^t. Gen^l.

Source and Note: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of private letters, p. 46. Based on other correspondence, Graham was recommending a change from an 18-hole waist cartridge box to a shoulder-slung cartridge pouch. No documentation has been found that Graham's recommendation was adopted by the regiment.

**Letter from Lt. Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., to Regimental Agent William
Montgomery, Dublin, Regarding the Poor State of the Accoutrements and Use of Black Leather,
Bannercross, near Sheffield, England, Oct. 31, 1769**

Copy Letter to [Agent] W^m. Montgomery Esq^r. [Dublin] dated

BannerCross 31st. Oct^r. 1769

S^r.

I rec^d. the favour of yours dated the 14th of August last inclosing the Acc^{ts}. but delayed Answering it, as [in binding] wrote you was to be from home for Some time...

I have a letter lately from my L^t. Colonel [Gordon Graham] inclosing copy of a letter from the Deputy Adjutant General to him of the [in binding] of September last, also copy of a Letter from him in Answer the 13th. September last, and one in Answer to his from the Deputy Adjutant General 14th. September which if you have not seen you'll please desire to have which will Save me repeating them, But am most Surprized the Accoutrements are so bad, and not two years wore, and the Black Shoulder Sword belts, are Sixpence more each then I used to pay at Glasgow for them, and Same price with the Serjeants Sword belts, and ever Since I ^{have} had the honour to be their Colonel near twenty five years never was found fault with before for any of these things and the black leather Accoutrements were Always Approved by the [Prince William] Duke of Cumberland and other Commanding officers, and Seems to suit best with the Highland Dress but if others are ordered its my Duty to obey, but you'll first please Represent this in the fullest manner to My Lord Lieu^t. [of Ireland; George, Viscount Townshend] and Lieu^t. General [Michael O'Brien] Dilkes,

The Black leather are certainly cheaper then what [in binding] Regiments have, but I pay more for other things such as 2 Pair Shoes, Hose, and the price of Plaids and ^{with} coats much exceeds the coats & Britchess of other Regiments... I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as you can conveniently & am Sincerely

S^r. your most Obed^t Serv^t

John Murray

I have left open my Letter to Col Graham for your perusal please seal & send him

Source: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of private letters, pp. 50-51.

Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Lt. Col. Gordon Graham Regarding Poor Accoutrements, Bannercross, near Sheffield, England, Oct. 31, 1769

Copy Letter to Lieu^t. Col^o. [Gordon] Graham dated

Bannercross 31st. Oct^r. 1769

D^r. S^r.

I rec^d. both yours the last dated the 30th [in binding] Month I did not get the other for some time after [in binding] and I have wrote this day to [Agent] M^r. [William] Montgomery concerning the Accoutrements, I am Surprized they are so bad, [in binding] am charged a sixpence for each Shoulder belt more [in binding] I used to pay at Glasgow, and the Same price with the [in binding] Serjeants belts which were always thought good, [in binding] I never had a complaint before Since I have comm... [in binding] the regiment. please Shew the cyps of the three [in binding] to M^r. Montgomery, and if you have rec^d. or wrote [in binding] others concerning the Accoutrements I desire you'll [in binding] me cyps of them as soon as you receive this and shew them my Agent to whome I have wrote concerning them...

D^r. S^r.

Your most Obed^t. Ser^t.

I rec^d. no Ans^r. to a former letter

I wrote about the Chaplain [James] MLagan

/Signed/ John Murray

Source: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of private letters, pp. 52-53.

Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Regimental Agent William Montgomery Regarding Black Leather Accoutrements, Bannercross, Undated, Likely Around Dec. 7-19, 1769

Copy Letter to W^m. Montgomery Esq^r. Agent at Dublin

S^r.

I wrote you the 5th. of this Ins^t. (Dec^r.) inclosing Extract of my letter to you of the 31st. ~~Nov^r.~~ ^{Octr.} last and to L^t. Col^o. [Gordon] Graham [42nd Regt.] lest it might have been in that mail was Robb'd, and not come to your hand...

As to the Accoutrements please lett me know how they were so bad [in binding] complained of, never before having had the least complaint of what I was to provide near Twenty five years, but if they must be altered it ~~must~~ ^{ought} be according to the [in binding] new Regulations dated the 19th. Dec^r. 1768. which I only rec^d. a few Months ago, and youle please inform me what they will ammount to, but I suppose ought to be narrower [in binding] the Regulations,...

If Major Gen^l. [Edward] Harvy [3rd Regt. of Horse and Adj. Gen. to the Forces] is still at Dublin it would be proper to apply to him [in binding] know if he thinks it absolutely Necessary to Alter the Accoutrements to the Kings [George III] Instructions, ~~as he~~ or have them black as he may ^{perhaps} know the Kings Intentions ^{and} what [Lt.] Colonel [Gordon] Graham [42nd Regt.] wrote ~~to~~ me of ^{by} the Correspondence he had w^t. L^t. Gen^l. [Michael O'Brien] Dilkes Deputy Adjutant Gen^l. concerning them, and lett me know of it is the L^d. Lieu^{ts}. orders they should be altered...

I am Sincerely

S^r.

Your most Obed^t. Serv^t...

Source: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of private letters. pp. 32-34.

Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., to Regimental Agent William Montgomery, Dublin, Regarding Accoutrement Leather Color, Bannercross, Near Sheffield, England, Jan. 1, 1770

Copy Letter to [Agent] W^m. Montgomery Esq^r. [Dublin] dated

S^r.

Bannercross 1st Jan^y. 1770

I am favoured with your this day of the 23^d Dec^r. and [in binding] at your return from The Country to have Answers to my Questions which it seems you had not seen them rec^d... The Reg^t. under my command never had any other Accoutrements then black Leather, which my L^t. Col^o. [Gordon Graham] can acquaint you of, he was an officer in the Regim^t. when I got it & believe he carried Arms as a volunteer in the Independent companys before they were Reg^{ted}. but if I am obliged to Alter them they must be the Same co^lour w^t. the Officers waistcoats according to the Kings late Regulations, which is white ...

I am Sincerely S^r. your most Obed^t [in binding]...

Source: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of private letters, p. 62.



Reproduction Cartridge Box and Straps

Picture Source: Courtesy of the website of the 62nd Regiment of Foot at <http://www.62ndregiment.org/index.htm>

Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., to Regimental Agent William Montgomery, Dublin, Requesting to See Examples of Accoutrements, London, July 21, 1770

Copy to [Agent] W^m. Montgomery Esq^r. [Dublin] dated London 21 July 1770

...Please also send me the box I desired to be Sent one of the Cartouch Boxes Straps & fires, and one of the Private mens Sword belt & buckles...

Source and Note: John Rylands University, Manchester University, *Bagshawe Muniments*, I-XI. Correspondence and Papers, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460. Correspondence, 1-408. Bound manuscript volume of copies of private letters, pp. 66-67. It is unclear what Lord Murray meant by the term “fires” in the above excerpt. Based on the context it would be expected he would have asked for a bayonet frog which would normally be a part of the cartridge box and belt. The frog was a short opened leather sheath for the bayonet scabbard to slide into and latch.



Detail of Portrait of General Sir John Mordaunt, 1740, by Allan Ramsay

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

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

Present.

General Sir John Mordaunt [10th Dragoon Regt.]

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

Lieut ^s Gen ^l .	{ Francis Leighton [32 nd Regt.]	Lieut ^s Gen ^l .	{ George Boscawen [23 rd Regt.]
	{ Sir Jeffery Amherst [3 rd Regt.]		{ Studholme Hodgson [4 th Regt.]
	{ Robert Monckton [17 th Regt.]		{ John Parslow [30 th Regt.]
Maj: Gen ^l .	{ John Gore [61 st Regt.]	Maj: Gen ^l .	{ James Murray [13 th Regt.]
	{ Cyrus Trapaud [70 th Regt.]		{ William Keppel [14 th Regt.]

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

Monday 4th March 1771

General Lord John Murray
Lieutenant General Sir Jeffery Amherst
Lieutenant General [Hon. Robert] Monckton
Major General [Hon. James] Murray
Major General [Hon. William] Keppel
Major General [Hon. Alexander] Mackay [Col., 21st Regt.]

It is Agreed...

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

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

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

Source and Note: TNA, *Judge Advocate General's Office, Proceedings of the Board of General Officers* at WO 71/10, pp. 297-298. Gen. Lord John Murray was the Col. of the 42nd Regt. Light Infantry Companies, popular during the French and Indian War, were added to British Regiments in 1771.



Reproduction Firelock Worm

Picture Source: Wikipedia

Listing of Required “Necessaries” by Capt. Lt. Walter Home, 7th or Royal Fuzileers Regt. (Future Maj., 42nd Regt.), Mar. 30, 1771

Establishment of Necessaries in Lord Rob^t. Bertie’s Company...
 one turnkey & worm [musket tools],
 one pick & brush [musket pan cleaning tools]...

“Establishment of Necessaries in Lord Robt. Bertie’s Company,” *Walter Home, Captain, Officer's Memorandum Book*, George Chalmers Collection, Peter Force Papers, Library of Congress. Transcribed by Don Hagist



Reproduction 10th Regt. Uniform Button

Button Picture curtesy of Roy and Debra Najecki's American Revolutionary War Reproductions at www.najecki.com.

Excerpts of Letters from Ens. Jeremy Lister, 10th Regt., Discussing Arms Expenses, London, Apr. 6, 1771

Queen’s Square, Westminster,
 April 6th 1771.

Honoured Father,

As I shall set off on my journey next Wednesday to Gravesend in order to take shipping there, the ship will be ready to sail from here today, therefore I take this opportunity of acquainting you with my expenses here...

The bills which I have collected here which is to pay is a Gun, which is about 4 Guineas, a Sword about as much, Pouch, Powder Horn and net about 22 or 23 Shillings...

Source: “Jeremy Lister, 10th Regiment, 1770 – 1783,” by R. A. Innes in *Journal of the Society of Army Historical Research*, London, 1963, pp. 31-33.



Basket-hilted Backsword with Blade Marked “Andria Farara”

Irish Parliament Document Listing Payment to 42nd Regt. Agent for Additional Broad Swords for the New Light Infantry Company, Dublin, Ireland, Sept. 24, 1771

Payments made in the Treasury Office under the Head of Military Contingencies, in Two Years from Lady-day [Mar. 25] 1773, to Lady-day 1775...

- The Agent to the 42d Foot, to complete for the Broad Swords for the additional Numbers upon the Augmentation in 1771, Warrant 12th March 1774 29 12 7

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, pp. 161-164. pp. 81-83.

Arms and Accoutrement Excerpts from the Order for Light Infantry Drill and Discipline for the Irish Establishment, Dublin, May 15, 1772

Townshend.

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

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

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

Each Man must have a sufficient Number of Cartridges made up, But as it may be necessary to have recourse to the Horn, The Men are to be taught to load from it. Every part of the Accoutrements must be kept in Constant repair, the Tomahawks Sharp, and fit for Use...

Given &c. the 15th Day of May 1772

George Macartney

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

Order from Thomas Townshend, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to the Ordnance Department to Issue "New Short Arms for Light Infantry," Dublin, Ireland, July 17, 1772

Townshend.

5th, 24th, 27th, 34th, 38th, 40th, 42nd, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 50th, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 57th, 63rd. "We do hereby direct and Require you to cause two Sergeants' Fuzils and thirty-nine of the New Short Arms for Light Infantry to be delivered to each of the Commanding Officers of the Regiments of Foot in the Margin mentioned for the use of the Light Companies of the said Regiments, etc."

Given &c. the 17th Day of July 1772

Tho^s Waite

To The Master General and Principal
Of His Ma'ty's Ordnance.

Source and Notes: *Historical Records of the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment, now 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment.) From its Formation, in 1717, to 1893.*, by Capt. Raymond Henry Smythies, 1st Bn. P.W.V., A. H. Swiss, Devonport, 1894, Google Books, p. 552. Capt. Smythies adds the following footnote: *There appears to be no specimen of a short musket for light infantry, catalogued as such, in the collection of ancient arms preserved at the Rotunda, Woolwich, earlier than 1825. There can be no doubt, however, that such muskets were in use before that date; and possibly some flintlock muskets of the reigns of George II and III., preserved in the above-mentioned museum, may be the ones referred to in the order. These muskets have barrels thirty-six and a half and thirty-nine inches long, with bores of 0.775 and 0.765 inches diameter, whereas the ordinary line musket of that period had a barrel forty-two inches in length (six feet three inches total length, with bayonet fixed), and a bore of 0.758 inches. This note may not, however, be correct. It is likely the "New Short Arms" being discussed are likely .75 caliber, 42-inch barrel, Short Land Pattern Firelocks with iron ramrods.*

42nd Regt. Arms Report for the Regimental Review, Waterford, Ireland, May 14, 1774

Major General [James] Gisbornes Report of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot Reviewed by him at Dublin on the 14th day of May 1774...

Arms – Clean – 190 Swords Wanting –
Accoutrements – Good– And agreeable to the Kings Regulation ...
Ja: Gisborne MGen^l...

Return of the Arms of His Majestys 42 ^d Or Royal Highland Reg ^t of Foot Commanded by General Lord John Murray Dublin 14 th May 1774						
	Halberts.	Drums.	Firelocks.	Bayonets.	Cartridge. Boxes.	When Received.
Good	20	12	390	390	390	The Firelocks & Bayonets for the } Establishment at Dublin 12 th July } 1773
Bad						
Wanting						
Complement	20	12	390	390	390	

Return of Accoutrements											
	Colours.	Serjeants Sashes	Grenadier Swords	Waist Belts	Pouches with Shoulder Belts	Slings	Grenadier Match Cases	Pioneers			When Received
								Axes	Saws	Aprons	
Good	2		232		422	390		9	9	9	
Bad											
Wanting			190					1	1	1	
Complement	2		422		422	390		10	10	10	

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office, Inspection returns, Irish, 1774* at WO 27/32. Maj. Gen. Gisborne was Col. of the 16th Regt. The "*Pouches with Shoulder Belts column*" likely was used to list sword shoulder belts (matching the number of required swords, but not firelocks) as pouches were not known to have been issued to the 42nd at this time.

Standing Orders to Maintain Required Number of Cartridges, Boston, Dec. 17, 1774

H, Q^{rs} Boston Saturday 17th. Dec^r. 1774

The Reg^{ts}. will give in Returns of what Ammunition they want to Compleat them, It is Given out as a Standing order & to be strictly obeyed that the Reg^{ts}. are constantly kept Compleat with the Number of Rounds ordered without any Repertition of Orders for that Purpose.

The Artillery will supply the Troops with good Cartridges at the rate of forty two *P* Pound.

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

General Order for Sentinels Not to Fix Bayonets During Frosty Weather, Boston, Dec. 24, 1774 and Mar. 10, 1775

H, Q^{rs}. Boston 24th. Dec^r. 1774.

During the Frosty weather to prevent any Accident from Bayonett by the Men falling they are not to be fixed on their Fir^elocks till further orders...

Head Quarters Boston 10th. March 1775...

The Guards for the future to parade with fixed Bayonets.

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



Late 18th Century Dirk

Picture Source: *Ethnographic Arms & Armour Forum*, posted Dec. 4, 2018

Extract of Letter from Ens. James Campbell, 42nd Regt., to his Father, Duncan Campbell of Glenure, Describing Wear of the Dirk, Waterford, Ireland, Feb. 25, 1775

D^r Father ...

I wish my Dirk could be sent over by the first recruits that Capⁿ [James] M^cPherson sends as a man can not (wilt) wear any other arms with the kilt ...

I am D^r Father with best duty to my Mother Brothers &^c

Your reclaimed Son

James Campbell

Source and Note: NRS, *Papers of the Campbell Family of Barcaldine* at GD 170/1127 p. 6. Campbell was commissioned Ens. on Apr. 24, 1774.

General Order Issued to Return Powder Barrels, Boston, Feb. 28, 1775.

Head Quarters Boston 28th. Jan^{ry}. 1775

The Several Corps to return their empty Powder Barrells to the Ordnance Store keeper –

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

General Order Issued for Regiments to Make their Own Cartridges, Boston, Mar. 23 and Apr. 22, 1775

Head Quarters Boston 23^d. March 1775 –

The Artillery not being able to make up Cartridges sufficient to supply the Several Reg^{ts}, such Corps as want Cartridges will Apply to L^t. Col^l. [Samuel] Cleaveland who will order that a proper proportion of Powder, Ball & Paper &c, is Delivered, & the Reg^{ts}. must make Cartridges for their immediate use themselves which they will do without delay.

Head Quarters Boston 22^d. April 1775 –

The Troops to be Compleated to Sixty Rounds a Man, And a Report to be given in every morning of the Number of Cartridges made by each Corps...

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

...

General Order Issued for Regiments to Provide Armorers to Repair Men's Firelocks, Boston, Mar. 28, 1775

Head Quarters Boston 28th. March 1775 –

Four Armourers of the Different Corps to be sent to the Artillery work shop Near the Neck Guard for the purpose of repairing the Mens Arms 2^d. Brigade will begin & send theirs to morrow morning at 7 O'Clock.

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

General Order Issued to Report Unserviceable Arms, Boston, Apr. 6, 1775

Head Quarters Boston 6th. April 1775

A Return to be given in to the Commanding Officer of the Artillery from every Reg^t. of the N^o. of Arms that wants Repairing, No Bayonetts or New Gun Stocks can be made –

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

General Order Issued for the Protection of Spare Ammunition, Boston, May 16 and 30, 1775

Head Quarters Boston Tuesday 16th. May 1775...

The Commanding Officers of Corps will take care that their Mens Ammunition is frequently inspected, & that the Cartridges which cannot be put in their Pouches or Cartridge Boxes, be carefully pack'd in Dozens & Wrapp'd up in Bladders, (if it is to be [illeg.]) or in Leather in the best manner they can; the Men to be carefull not to lay on their Cartridges at any time. The Officers of the Different Guards to be watchfull over their Man & see that they comply with this order. And the sane care will be taken in their Tents in Camp.

Head Quarters Boston Tuesday 30th. May 1775...

After orders 6 O'Clock –

As the Gen^l. finds proper care is not taken of the Ammunition, He directs the Commanding Officers of Corps to order the Mens Cartridges to be examined every Day, and for every Cartridge missing not Accounted for, such Soldier is to be charged a penny.

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

42nd Regt. Arms Return for the Regimental Review at Waterford, Ireland, May 30, 1775

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

Arms – In perfect good order. The Grenadiers had no Swords. 190 Wanting for the Battalion, which was ordered to be provided forthwith. Lieutenant Colonel Stirling says that the Highlanders on several occasions declined using Broad Swords in America; That they all prefer Bayonets; and that Swords for the Battalion Men tho' part of their dress and Establishment are incumbrances.

Accoutrements – Uniform and according to Regulation...

Robert Cuninghame

Maj^r Gen^l ...

Return of the Arms of His Majestys 42 ^d Or Royal Highland Reg ^t of Foot Commanded by The Right Honorable General Lord John Murray						
	Halberts.	Drums.	Firelocks.	Bayonets.	Cartridge. Boxes.	When Received.
Good	20	12	390	390	39	A Compleat Set of Firelocks and Bayonets Received at Dublin in 1773 N.B. The cartridge Boxes are in good Condition, But the Construction Bad, not being deep enough to Contain Cartridges with Ball
Bad					351	
Wanting						
Complement	20	12	390	390	390	

Return of Accoutrements											
	Colours.	Serjeants Sashes	Grenadier & Battalion Swords	Waist Belts	Pouches with Shoulder Belts	Slings	Grenadier Match Cases	Axes	Saws	Aprons	When Received
Good	2		232		422	390		9	9	9	Colours in 1774 Swords in 1773 Shoulder Belts in 1772 Slings in 1767 Pioneers Appointments 1772
Bad											
Wanting			190					1	1	1	
Complement	2		422		422	390		10	10	10	

Source and Notes: TNA, *Office of the Commander-in-Chief and War Office: Adjutant General and Army Council, Inspection Returns, Irish, 1775-1776* at WO 27/35 (page not marked and Sheet Nos. 1 and 4.). Maj. Gen. Cuninghame was Colonel of the 58th Regt. The "Pouches with Shoulder Belts column" likely was used to list sword shoulder belts

(matching the number of required swords, but not firelocks) as pouches were not known to have been issued to the 42nd at this time.

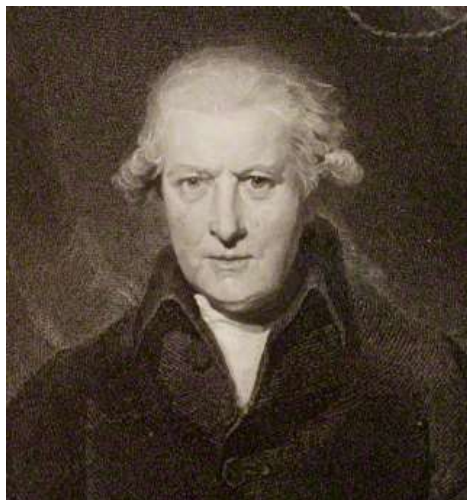
General Orders Require Cartridge Boxes to be Worn Over the Shoulder, Boston, Aug. 3, 1775

Gen^l After Orders dated Head Q^{rs} Boston

August 3rd 1775 ½ after 5 °Clock.

All Soldiers to wear their Cartouch Boxes Over their Shoulders and not round their waists.

Source and Note: *General Sir William Howe's Orderly Book at Charlestown, Boston and Halifax June 17 1775 to 1776 26 May*, Ed. and Pub. Benjamin Franklin Stevens, London, 1890, Google Books, p. 60. A letter from Capt. Patrick Ferguson, 70th Regt. to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton urging the use of Highlanders as Light Infantry notes that "...the Highland Corps might also be selected for Light Service, not only as having already Jackets & being freed of the Shoulder Belt and Pouch..." might suggest continued wear of waist cartridge boxes. [Ref.: "An Officer out of his Time," Ed. Hugh Rankin, in *Sources of American Independence. Selected manuscripts from the Collections of the William L. Clements Library*, Vol. 2, Ed. Howard H. Peckham, Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1978, p. 305.]



Detail of Portrait of William, 2nd Viscount Barrington, circa 1791, by Charles Knight, after Thomas Lawrence

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

Request from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to the Earl of Rochford, Secretary of State for the Southern Department, for Ordnance Dept. to Issue Arms to the Increased Establishment of the 42nd Regt., London, Aug. 8, 1775

War Office 8th August 1775

My Lord

His Majesty having been pleased to direct that the 42^d /or Royal Highland/ Reg^t of Foot should be forthwith augmented by an addition of 30 Serjeants, 10 Drummers and 620 Rank and File, and the Arms &c^a undermentioned being wanted for this Augmentation, I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship therewith, and am to desire you will be pleased to receive His Majesty's Command thereupon, & signify the same to the Master General of the Ordnance, that the said Arms &c^a may be delivered out of His Majesty's Stores for the use of the said Augmentation, and the Expence thereof charged to the Estimate of Ordnance for Parliament.

6 Serjeants Fuzils

24 Halberts

10 Drums & pairs of Sticks

620 Firelocks with wooden Ramrods

620 Cartouch Boxes with Straps
620 Bayonets & Scabbards
650 Side Pistols and Straps

NB The 62 Firelocks for the Light Infantry Comp^y are to be of
the Pattern last approved by the King.
Earl of Rochford &c^a &c^a &c^a

Source and Note: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters, General Letters, July 1755 – Nov. 1775* at WO 4/94, p. 118 (f. 118). The “*Earl of Rochford*” was William Henry Nassau de Zuylestein, 4th Earl of Rochford. He was Secretary of State for the Southern Department and supervised the Lt. Gen of Ordnance. The six “*Serjeants Fuzils*” were for the additional Sergeants in the Grenadier and Light Infantry Companies in lieu of Halberds. The “*Pattern last approved by the King*” means the 0.75 caliber, 42-inch barreled Short Land Pattern Firelocks with iron ramrods. Also interesting, is the order for issue of 42-inch muskets (with iron ramrods) to the light infantry company in lieu of .65 cal. light infantry carbines. The “*620 Firelocks with wooden Ramrods*” refers to the older 0.75 caliber, 46-inch barreled Long Land Pattern Firelock, now commonly called the 1st Model Brown Bess.

Minutes of Ordnance Board Authorizing Issue of Arms to 42nd Regt., London, Aug. 22, 1775

22 August 1775...

His Majesty having by his Warrant dated 3^d instant been pleased to order 93 Tents to be issued for use of the 26 Regiment of Foot and by 3 other Warrants bearing date the 14 instant to order Arms to be issued for the 41st, 42^d, 51st & 61st Regiments of Foot the same to be delivered to such persons as shall be duly authorized to receive them.

Ordered Proportions that the usual Indents be taken and the Charge inserted in the next Estimate to Parliament...

Source: TNA, *Ordnance Office: Board of Ordnance: Minutes* at WO 47/86, p. 109 (f. 146).

Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to George, Viscount Townshend, Master General of the Ordnance, to Issue Short Land Pattern Firelocks to the Increased Establishment of the 42nd Regt., London, Nov. 10, 1775

War Office 10th Nov^r 1775

My Lord

[Gen.] Lord John Murray, Colonel of the 42^d /or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot, having represented that in the year 1773, Arms were issued to that Corps in Ireland, agreeable to the pattern last approved by the King, I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship therewith, and that it seems to be most for the benefit of the Service, that the Arms for the Augmentation to the said Corps should be agreeable to the like Pattern. In case your Lordship has no objection, I shall apply to His Majesty's Secretary of State on this head.

Master General of the Ordnance

I have the hon^r to be My Lord &c
Barrington

Source and Note: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letter, General Letters, Nov. 1775 – Jan. 1776* at WO 4/95, p. 19. This letter corrects the War Office's Aug. 8, 1775 letter directing the issue of older style muskets with wooden ramrods. This order is based on a complaint from Gen. Lord Murray that the rest of the regiment was issued 42-inch barreled muskets with iron ramrods and it would be best for the regiments if all the muskets were of the same and newer version.



Reproduction Short Land Pattern Firelock, commonly called the 2nd Model Brown Bess Musket

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Antique Military Rifles*

Request from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, to Principal Secretary of State Thomas Thynne, Viscount Weymouth, to Direct the Ordnance Dept., to Issue Arms to the Increased Establishment of the 42nd Regt., London, Nov. 27, 1775

War Office 27th Novem^r 1775.

My Lord

His Majesty having been pleased to direct that the 42^d /or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot shall be forthwith augmented by an Addition of 40 Serjeants 14 Drummers, & 822 Rank & file, and the Arms &c^a. under mentioned being wanted for this Augmentation I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship therewith, and am to desire you will be pleased to receive His Majesty's Commands thereupon, and signify the same to the Master General of the Ordnance, that the said Arms &c^a may be delivered out of His Majesty's Stores for the use of the said Augmentation, and the Expense thereof be charged to the Estimate of Ordnance for Parliament.

I have the honor to be My Lords &c^a

6 Serjeants Fusils with Bayonets & Scabbards
34 Halberts
14 Drums, & pairs of Sticks
822 Firelocks
822 Cartouch Boxes with Straps
822 Bayonets and Scabbards
862 Side Pistols

The R^t Honble Lord Viscount Weymouth
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
&c – &c – &c –

Source and Note: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters General Letters, Nov. 1775 – Jan. 1776* at WO 4/95, p. 121. This letter looks to be a duplicate request of the one above dated Aug. 8, 1775 and likely fell out of Lord John Murray's demand that the soldiers of the increased establishment receive the same model 42-inch barrel Short Land Pattern Firelocks as the rest of the regiment had received while in Ireland.

Minutes of Ordnance Board Authorizing Issue of Arms to the 42nd Regt., London, Nov. 28, 1775

28 November 1775...

Lord Barrington Secretary at War having in his Letter of 27 instant signified that his Majesty's Warrant will be forthwith Obtained for the issuing of Arms, therein mentioned for the 2 Augmentations of the Royal Highland Regiment of Foot which are to be of the pattern last approved by the King being exactly the same as those issued in Ireland; And that the Arms prepared for the first Augmentation of the said Regiment, in Consequence of his Lordships Letter to the Secretary of State dated 8 August are to be returned into His Majesty's Stores at the Tower

Ordered that the Arms for the Augmentations be got ready

Source and Note: TNA, *Ordnance Office: Board of Ordnance: Minutes* at WO 47/86, p. 286. The phrase “*the pattern last approved by the King*” refers to the Short Land Pattern Firelock, commonly now called the 2nd Model Brown Bess.

Minutes of Ordnance Board to Order Payment in Lieu of Issuing 862 Side Pistols to the 42nd Regt., London, Dec. 15, 1775

15 December 1775...

Mess Anderson & Richardson [Regimental Agents of the 42nd Regt.] having represented in their letter of this date that in the King’s Warrant of 27th ult^o. for issuing Arms for the 2 Augmentations to the 42^d or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot there were included 862 side Pistols with Straps and as there are none in Store at the Tower fit for the Service they requested to be paid in money for them.

Ordered to be paid the same price as formerly

Source: TNA, *Ordnance Office: Board of Ordnance: Minutes* at WO 47/88, p. 326. The Ordnance Bill Books recorded that the 42nd Regt. was given an allowance of sixteen and a half shillings per pistol. (Ref: *British Military Firearms*, Howard L. Blackmore, 1961, p.66.) In 1762, these pistols could be obtained in Birmingham for about nine shillings a piece, making a profit for Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., of approximately seven and a half shillings per pistol.

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, Government Departments, 1770-1776* at WO 1/865, p. 113.

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

M^r Lewis presents his compliments to M^r Boddington, & acquaints him that the Augmentation made to the 42^d. Reg^t. consists of 40 Serjeants 30 Corporals, & 820 Private, in all 890. Deducting 28 contingent Men, 862 Side Pistols are to be provided.

W: O: 22^d. Dec^r. 1775
John Boddington, Esq^r.

Source: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters General Letters, Nov. 1775 – Jan. 1776* at WO 4/95, p. 267.

General Orders Issued to Provide Sergeants in America with Short Land Pattern Firelocks, Boston, Feb. 8 and 13, 1776

Head Quarters Boston 8th Feb. 1776...

The Commanding Officers of Corps to provide their Sergeants with firelocks if they have them to spare; if they have not a sufficient number for that purpose, they will Apply to the Commanding Officer of Artillery for Carbines to Complete them with fire arms...

Head Quarters Boston 13th Feb. 1776.

Those Corps that have given in Returns of Carbines for their Sergeants will receive short muskets in lieu of them...

Source and Note: "General Orders by Major General the Honourable William Howe," The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books. Contrary to the modern military definition of a corps to be a very large formation of several army divisions, in this period a corps was a common term used to describe any organization from regiment to battalion to special company. Carbines were lighter flintlock smoothbore muskets of .65 caliber compared to the standard army musket (also called firelocks) of .75 caliber. The short muskets in this order refer to the Short Land Pattern Firelock now often referred to as the "*2nd Model Brown Bess*" that had a barrel length of 42 inches versus the Long Land Pattern Firelock with a barrel length of 46 inches. The shorter muskets were easier and therefore faster to load, with no loss in accuracy.

**Request from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Principal Secretary of State
Thomas Thynne, Viscount Weymouth, to Direct the Ordnance Dept. to Issue
392 Cartridge Boxes, Belts and Frogs to the 42nd Regt., London, Feb. 20, 1776**

War Office 20th Febry 1776

My Lord

Three Hundred & Ninety two Cartridge Boxes, with Straps and Frogs, being wanted for the 42^d/ or Royal Highland/ Reg^t of Foot, Commanded by Lord John Murray, to replace to replace a like number worn out and rendered unserviceable, I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship therewith, and to desire you will be pleased to receive His Majesty's Commands thereupon, and signify the same to the Major General of the Ordnance, that the said Cartridge Boxes &c^a may be delivered out of His Majesty's Stores for the use of the said Regiment, and the Expence thereof charged to the estimate of Ordnance for Parliament.

The Lord Visc^t Weymouth
His Majesty's principal
Secretary of State

&c^a &c^a &c^a

I have the honor to be
My Lord &c^a
Barrington

Source: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters, General Letters, Jan. 1776 – Apr. 1776* at WO 4/96, p. 145. During the May 30, 1775 review of the 42nd Regt. on Ireland the cartridge boxes were marked deficient noting "*The cartridge Boxes are in good Condition, But the Construction Bad, not being deep enough to Contain Cartridges with Ball.*"

**Ordnance Department Directed to Issue Fusils to 71st Highland Regt.
(Fraser's) Sergeants in Lieu of Halberds, London, Feb. 29, 1776**

War Office 29th Feb^{ry} 1776

My Lord

The King having been pleased to order that all the Serjeants of the 71st Regiment of Foot, raising under the Command of Major General Fraser, shall have Fuzees, I am to desire you will be pleased to move the Board of Ordinance, that 64 Fuzees compleat, may be delivered out of the Stores, instead of a like number of Halberts as mentioned in my letter, to the Secretary of State of the 8th December last.

John Boddington Esq^r
Ordnance

I am Sir &c.
Barrington

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office: Secretary-at-War, Out letters, Jan. – Apr. 1776* at WO 4/96, p. 104 (f. 207). It is not known if this order was carried out as the combined weapons captured from one company of the 42nd on the transport *Oxford* and one company of the 71st on the transport *Crawford* by the Rebel Brig. Andrew Doria, listed eight halberds matching closely the nine captured sergeants on the two transports.



Original Paper Firelock Cartridge

Picture Source: Firearms History, Technology & Development Blog

General Orders Require Sixty Cartridges per Soldier, Boston, Mar. 4, 1776

Head Quarters Boston 4th March 1776.

Such Corps as have not sixty rounds of Cartridges, with what they have in store and in the men's possession, to Apply Immediately to Lieut. Col. [Samuel] Cleaveland [Royal Artillery] to Complete them to that number...

Source and Note: "General Orders by Major General the Honourable William Howe," The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books. Cartridges were made of a rolled piece of paper containing a measure of gunpowder and a musket ball.

Newspaper Account of British Troops Firing at Targets on Transport Ships While Enroute to America, Mar. 18, 1776

The transports which carry out the troops to America, are to have a target fixed to the end of the fore-yard-arm, which the troops are to be exercised every day in firing every day in firing at with a single ball, in order to perfect them in shooting.

Source: Reading Mercury (UK), Mar. 18, 1776. Transcribed by Don Hagist.

Request from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Lt. Gen. John, Duke of Argyll, Commander of His Majesty's Forces in North Britain, to Issue Ammunition to the 42nd and 71st Regiments, London, Apr. 2, 1776

War Office 2^d April 1776

My Lord,

I have the honor to acquaint Your Grace, that, to save time, Directions have been given to the Board of Ordnance for the Issue [margin note: See p. 433] of the following Ammunition &^{ca}, from His Majesty's Stores in N^o. Britain, for the use of the 42^d & 71st Regiments Viz:

For the 42^d Regim^t. 1010 Men –
 60 Rounds p^r Man w^t Flints &^{ca}
 12 Barrels of Powder with Ball,
 Fine paper & Twine in proportion.
 For the 71st Regim^t 2010 Men –
 60 Rounds p^r Man & 24 Barrels of
 Powder &^{ca} as above

Duke of Argyll
&c &c &c
Edinburgh

I have the honor &^{ca}
Barrington

Source: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters, General Letters, Jan. 1776 – Apr. 1776* at WO 4/96, p. 445.



Sir James Adolphus Oughton, 1778, by John Downman

Picture Source: *National Galleries of Scotland*: Given by Captain L.T. Ross 1957 (Creative Commons Lic.)

**Report from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, North Britain,
to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington Regarding Preparations for Embarkation of the
42nd and 71st Highland Regiments, Edinburgh, Apr. 4, 1776**

My Lord...

I have acquainted [Gen.] Lord John Murray and [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser that their Regiments are to sail together under convoy of the Flora Frigate... His Lordship complains that the Powder and Flints which his Regiment received from the stores here are extremely bad... I am so well acquainted with the [illeg] of the ordinance Flints that I bought 1,000 in London for the use of my Regiment. I have desired [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser to acquaint me as soon as ever his Regiment is assembled that I may lose no time in issuing them...

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: TNA, *War Office In-Letters, Government Departments* at WO 1/865, f.423.



Murdoch MacLaine, 19th of Lochbuie (in 114th Regt. Uniform) circa 1761-63

Picture Source: Art UK from *The Black Watch Castle & Museum*, Perth

Capt. Murdoch M^cLaine's Listing of Arms and Equipment Needed for the Regiment of Royal Highland Emigrants to be "...the Same as the 42 or Royall Highlanders," London, Apr. 8, 1776

Besides the articles Furnish'd in Scotland, and M^r Harley &c in London, The Following List of Arms & Accoutrements is yet to be Provided, for the Regiment of Royall Highland Emigrants –

For officers	64	Fuzils and Bayonets
	64	Pistols
	64	Broad swords...
	64	Cartouch Boxes & west [waist] Belts...
	64	Slings for y ^e Fuzils
	64	Pistol Belts
	64	sword Belts...
Serjants	60	Broad swords...
	60	west belts...
	60	pouches & shoulder Belts [not used by 42 nd Regt. at this period]
	60	Slings
	60	Pistol Belts
	60	Sword Belts...
For Drummers	40	Broad swords
	40	Pistol Belts
	40	Sword Belts...
For Corp ^l & Private	1000	Broad swords
	1000	West belts...
	1000	Pouches & shoulder Belts [not used by 42 nd Regt. at this period]
	1000	Slings
	1000	Pistol Bilts
	1000	Sword Bilts...
for Officers & Men	1124	Setts of screws [worms] & Turnkeys [musket tools]
	1124	Wires & Brushes [musket pan tools]

As M^r Harley hase Provided the proper Number of Coats & vests & as Colⁿ. [Allan] M^cLean's agents in Scotland hase Provided the Highland & other parts of the Cloathing, as P^r. acc^t. thereof in M^r

Robinsons hands, and as the war office Provides Tents & Camp Necessarys for the whole Officers & men, The above and foregoing articles are all that remain to be Contracted for or Provided, which I declare is absolutely necessary to Complete The Royall Regim^t of Highland Emigrants ^{Λbeing the Same as the 42nd or Royall Highlanders us} London 8th April 1776 –

Murdoch M^eLaine
Cap^t & Paym^r s^d Corps

Source and Note: TNA, *Board of Trade and Secretaries of State: America and West Indies, Original Correspondence – Military Dispatches 1775-1776* at CO 5/93, pp. 779-780. If this letter accurately described the 42nd Regt. equipment being matched by the RHE, it would indicate 42nd Regt. drummers did not carry the lighter weight drummer's hanger, but rather basket-hilted Highland broadswords/backwords.

**Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War
Viscount Barrington, Reporting 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... 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...

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.



Original British Firelock Flints from East India Company

Picture Source: *Sampson Historical, A Colonial Outfitter* at www.sampsonhistorical.com

General Orders Require Two Musket Flints per Soldier, Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 24, 1776

Head Quarters, Halifax, 24th May, 1776...

The Army to be Completed to two Flints per Man, besides which the Regiments will receive one Flint per Man for the Battalion Companies, and two for the Light Infantry and Grenadiers, from the Deputy Quarter Master General, which they are desired to take the greatest care of, as they are of a better Sort.

The Flints will be delivered to the Quarter Masters of Corps, from the Deputy Quarter Master General's Office, at 8 o'Clock on Monday morning...

Source: "The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789," in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books, p. 369.



0.79 Caliber, 46-inch barrel, Long land Pattern Firelock, c. 1761

Picture Source: NPS, *Shoulder Arms of the American Revolution*, George C. Neumann Collection, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Item VAFO 00000107

General Orders Require Grenadiers to Exchange Short Land Pattern Firelocks for Long Land Pattern, Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 29, 1776

Head Quarters, Halifax, 29th. May, 1776...

Those Grenadier Companies that have short Arms are to return them into the Ordnance Store and to receive long Arms in their room...

Source and Notes: "The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789" in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books, 374. This order was issued before the arrival of the 42nd Highlanders in America. The 42-inch barrel length "*short Arms*" mentioned are now commonly referred to as the "2nd Model Brown Bess." The 46-inch barrel length "*long Arms*" are now referred to as the "1st Model Brown Bess." It was thought the taller grenadiers could handle the additional barrel length, saving the shorter muskets for the smaller line troops.

General Order for Officers to Receive Carbines, Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 30, 1776

Head Quarters, Halifax, 30th. May, 1776...

Carbines will be delivered to-morrow morning at the Armory to Officers of the different Regiments that have not already received them. The Quarter Masters to carry returns signed by Commanding Officers of the number they want, and give Receipts for them...

Those Grenadier Companies that have short Arms to deliver them at the Armory to-morrow morning at 10 o'Clock, when they will receive long Arms in lieu of them...

Source and Note: "The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789," in the *Collections of the New York Historical Society for the year 1883*, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books, p. 375. This order was issued prior to the arrival of the 42nd Regt. in America. Officers normally obtained their own fusils from regimental sources. Sometimes both British and Rebel sources miss-used the term carbine (normally 0.65 caliber) to mean the 0.75 caliber, 42 inch-barreled Short Land Pattern Firelock.



Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

**Order from Rebel Gen. George Washington to Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward,
to Deliver Captured Highlanders' Arms, New York, June 26, 1776.**

New York June 26, 1776

Sir

Being in the greatest distress here for Arms without the most distant Prospect of obtaining a Supply, and as Several have been lately brought into Boston, belonging to the Highlanders that have been taken, I request that you will immediately forward the remaining two Hundred Carbines, which in my Letter of the 28 Ult^o. I directed to be kept at Boston to the person at Norwich to whose Care the others were Intrusted, with orders to send them here with all possible dispatch; together with the three hundred mentioned in your Letter of the 9 Ins^t, remaining part of my former order, which have not yet arrived here – You will direct him to send the whole by Land in Waggons without delay, if when they arrive there, there shall appear the least Risk in their coming by Water.

The places of these last Two hundred can be supplied out of the Arms lately taken, an exact return of which with the amount of the prisoners & Stores If any, I shall be glad to have transmitted me.

I am &c.

Gen^l. Ward

GW

Source and Note: George Washington to Artemas Ward, June 26, 1776, *The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799*, Series 2 Letterbooks, John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor, The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799. About 500 Highlanders had been captured by the rebel fleet while enroute to America. The weapons called carbines in this letter refer to 42-inch barrel, 0.75 caliber flintlock “Short Land” muskets and not to 0.65 caliber carbines. The use of the term carbine is likely because the weapons were lighter and shorter than the 46-inch barrel “Long Land Pattern” muskets.



Detail of Portrait of Gen. George Washington, 1776, by Charles Willson Peale

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Brooklyn Museum*

Excerpt of Order from Rebel Gen. George Washington to Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward to Send Captured “*Highlanders Musquets*,” New York, July 7, 1776

Nº. 140. B. fol: 300

New York 7th July 1776

...In my letter of the 1st. I desired you to send a Quantity of the Highlanders Musquets/ that were taken – I pray your Attention to my request and that they may Come with all possible Expedition, the deficiency here in this essential Article is Greatly Alarming... I am Sir with my best

Wishes for you Recovery

Your Most Obe^t. Serv^t.

G. W

Major Gen^l. Ward

Source: Library of Congress, *George Washington Papers*, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799: Letterbook 8, March 14 - July 14, 1776, Images 227-228.

Excerpt of Order from Rebel Gen. George Washington to Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward to Forward Captured Highland Muskets, New York, July 9, 1776

... You will also perceive that Congress have resolved that the Arms taken in the Scotch Transports should be sent here. The President [of Congress] Informs me he has wrote to the Agents respecting [them] but as I presume they are in your possession or in some of the Stores by your order, you will have the whole of them forwarded with all possible dispatch in the usual Rout [sic] and with necessary directions...

I am Sir very respectfully, Your Most Obe^t. Servant

...Maj^r Gen^l. Ward

G. W

Source: Library of Congress, *George Washington Papers*, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799: Letterbook 8, March 14 - July 14, 1776, Images: 231-233.



Fourteen-gun Continental Brig *Andrew Doria* receiving a salute from the Dutch fort at St. Eustatius, West Indies, Nov. 16, 1776, by Phillips Melville

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *United States Department of the Navy - Naval History and Heritage Command*

Claim Filed by Capt. Nicholas Biddle, Rebel Brigantine *Andrew Doria*, Against Arms and Equipment Captured on Highland Transports *Oxford* and *Crawford*, Providence, Rhode Island, July 13, 1776

Colony of Rhode-Island, &c.

Providence, ss.

A LIBEL is filed before me, in Behalf of Nicholas Beadle, Esq; his Officers and Men, belonging to the Brigantine Andrew Doria, a Continental Vessel of War, and one of the Fleet for the Protection and Defence of the United Colonies of America, under the Command of Esek Hopkins, Esq; Commander in Chief, against 191 Fire-Arms with Cartouch Boxes, 3 Fusees, 3 Hangers, 162 Bayonets, 80 Broad Swords, 8 Halberts... 273 Pounds of Gunpowder, and 2600 Musket Cartridges with Balls: said to have been captured and taken by the said Officers and Men, upon the high Seas, and brought into the Port of Providence, in the County of Providence, in said Colony, from on board two Transport Vessels, used and employed in the Service of his Britannic Majesty. All which said Fire-Arms, Ammunition, &c at and before the Time of said Capture, belonged to and were used by the British Army, acting against the said United Colonies; and for Trial of the Justice of said Captures, the Court erected in and for said Colony, for the Trial of Maritime Causes, will be holden at said Providence, on the Twenty second Day of July, A. D 1776, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon. This Notice is given, pursuant to the Law of said Colony, that the Owner or Owners, of said Fire-Arms, Ammunition &c of any Person concerned therein, may appear and shew Cause, if any they have, why the same shall not be condemned.

JOHN FOSTER, Judge of said Court

Source and Note: *Providence Gazette*, July 13, 1776. The transport *Oxford* had carried Capt. John Smith's company of the 42nd Regt. and transport *Crawford* had carried Capt. Norman MacLeod of MacLeod's company of the 71st Highland Regt. (Fraser's).

Invoice of Portion of the Arms Captured on the Highland transports *Oxford* and *Crawford* to be Sent to the American Army, Providence, Rhode Island, July 15-18, 1776

Providence 15th: July 1776

Agreeable to a resolve of Congress 6th: Ins^t: I yesterday forwarded your Excellency 3 Cases Fire Arms as P^r: Invoice Inclosed to the Care of Nath^l: Shaw Esq^r: of New London, who I requested Immediately on Rec^t: of the Same to Send you without Delay & which I wish Safe to your hands. – I expect in a few Days to be able to forward you a parcell more of the above which I an to have from Newport & you may depend I shall make no Delay in doing the same.

I am Your Excellencys most Obed^t: & very hble Serv^t:

Dan^l Tillinghast Cont Agent

[Enclosure]

Providence July 15th: 1776

Invoice of One hundred & Seventeen Small Arms, Eighty Nine Bayonets, Twenty Broad Swords & Three Fuzees, sent by William Browns Team from Daniel Tillinghast of Providence, to Nath^l: Shaw Esq^r: at New London who is Immediately to forward them to his Excellency General [George] Washington at New York. Viz^t:

S A 3 Cases q^t: Scotch Arms taken by the Andrew Doria at Sea } Viz^t

N^o 1 a Case q^t: 36 Small Arms
 36 Bayonets
 2 Broad Swords

2 a Case q^t: 42 Small Arms
 42 Bayonets

3 a Case q^t: 39 Small Arms
 3 Fuzees in Cases
 11 Bayonets –
 20 Broad Swords

Providence 15th: July 1776

(Copy Org^l: sent Errors Errors [Excepted]
(Nath^l Shaw Esq^r:) Dan^l Tillinghast Agent

N B N^o 6 & 7 a barrell & Cag q^t: 17 M Gun Flints sent in the above Team to M^r: Shaws Care by Clark & Nightingale & are to be forwarded his Excellency Gen^l: [George] Washington wth the above arms the first Opportunity –

Source: “Daniel Tillinghast to George Washington, July 15, 1776, with Invoice,” *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, Image 257-259.



Photo of Regimentally Marked 1st Battalion, 71st Highland Regt. (Fraser's) Firelock Butt Plate

Picture Source: Curtesy of Cathey Brimage and the *Heritage Arms Society*, South Australia

Invoice of Two Cases of Captured Highland Regt. Arms, Shipped to Rebel Gen. George Washington by Daniel Tillinghast, Agent, Providence, Rhode Island, July 17, 1776

Providence 17th: July 1776

Invoice of Two Cases q^t: Seventy Five Scotch Arms & sent by Jos: Bradford from Dan^l Tillinghast of Providence to Nath^l: Shaw Esq^r: at New London & by him to be forwarded his Excellency Gen^l [George] Washington at New York. Viz^t:

S A N^o 8 and 9 Cases Scotch Arms Viz^t:

N^o 8 a Case q^t:

39 Arms

39 Bayonets

11 Broad Swords

N^o 9 a d^o: 36 Arms

36 Bayonets

NB pack'd in N^o 9 – Thirteen brass mounted Hangers belonging to M^r Gasens Invoice }

Providence July 17th 1776

Errors Excepted

P^r: Dan^l Tillinghast Cont^l Agent

Source: "Daniel Tillinghast, July 17, 1776, Arms Invoice," *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, Image 343 of 1130.

Letter from Continental Agent Daniel Tillinghast to Rebel Gen. George Washington Shipping Additional Cases of Captured Highland Arms, Providence, Rhode Island, July 17, 1776

Providence 17th July 1776

By yesterdays Post I wrote your Excellency & therein Inclosed, Copy of an Invoice of SA N^o. 1 a 3 — 3 Cases Scotch Arms: — With this you will receive Via New London to the Care of Nath^l Shaw Esq^r: N^o. 8 & 9 — 2 Cases more Scotch Arms as P^r Inv^s: herewith, & likewise N^o. 4 & 5 a Chest & Barrell q^t: Arms & Flints from Tho^s Green Esq^r: being Cont^l: Property in his hands as P^r: Inv^o: herewith, all of w^{ch}: wish safe to your hands, & am with great respect

Your Excellencys most Obed^t & very humble Serv^t

Dan^l Tillinghast Cont^l Agent

Source: *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799.

Forwarding Letter for Shipment of Highland Regt. Arms to Rebel Gen. George Washington, New London, Rhode Island, July 18, 1776

New London July 18th. 1776

Sir

Inclos'd you have Cap^t. Jehiel Tinkers Receipt for three Chests of Arms and one barrel & One Kegg of Flints, as *P* Invoice Inclos'd, the Arms were Sent to me by Daniel Tillinghast Esq^r. the Flints by Mess^{rs}. Clerk & Nightingale Merch^{ts}. in Providence desiring I would forward them to you by the first Opportunity. hope they will com Safe to hand & am Sir —

Your very hum^e Serv^t

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

Source: "Nathaniel Shaw Jr. to George Washington, July 18, 1776," at *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, Image 370.



Detail of Miniature of Col. Samuel B. Webb, 1779 and modified in 1790, by Charles Wilson Peale

Picture Source, NY Historical Soc., Gift of Colonel G. Creighton Webb

Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Col. Samuel B. Webb, Aide-de-Camp to Gen. George Washington, to Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward to Forward Captured Arms, Clothing and Equipment of the 71st Highlanders, Headquarters, New York, July 18, 1776

Head-Quarters New-York July 18, 1776

Sir

His Excellency General Washington, having occasion to ride out early this morning, has dictated and ordered me to acknowledge and answer your two letters of the 11th instant, which came safe to hand by yesterday's post. He is not a little displeased at the Agent's taking the liberty of removing, or rather disposing of the cargoes of, the prizes, without your knowledge, and begs you immediately to forbid anything of the kind again. He is surprised that, out of upwards of four hundred prisoners, only seventy-three arms have been sent on, as he supposed every man must have had his arms with him. He begs your attention in collecting, from the Agents and others, all the arms that have been taken, and forward them immediately to this place, where they are much wanted. Enclosed is a list of articles he has taken from the invoices, and would have you send on as soon as may be...

I have the honour to be, with respect and esteem, your
Honour's most obedient, humble servant,
Samuel B. Webb, A. D. C.

To General Ward.

List of Articles taken in the Transports, which his Excellency General Washington requests General Ward to forward from Boston to New York as soon as possible:

From ship George: All the fuzees, small Arms and bayonets, shoulder-straps, gun-straps, leather bullet-pouches... flints...

From ship Anne...

From ship Lord Howe: All the small-arms, bayonets, and cartouch-boxes... cutlasses...

From brig Annabella: All the small-arms... shoes, sheet lead... cartouch-boxes, leather bullet-pouches, shoulder-straps, gun-straps, cutlasses, bayonets, and belts -

By Order of his Excellency General Washington:
Samuel B. Webb, A. D. C.

Source: *American Archives*, Fifth Series, pp. 413-414.

**Reply from Continental Agent John Bradford to Rebel Gen. George Washington
Explaining the Loss of Captured Highlander Muskets, Boston, July 29, 1776**

May it please Your Excellency

In Compliance with your order to [Maj.] General [Artemas] Ward to send forward all the Military [sic] stores taken in the Scotch Ships I have deliver'd them to him, tho forbid doing so by the Agent for Connecticut, it gives me great pain that I could not fully comply with your Excellencys requisition having dispos'd of Seventy Muskets & fifteen fuzees to the Independent Company of this Town before I knew a vote of Congress had pass'd Ordering All the Arms taken in them vessells to be sent forward to York, And not till Capⁿ. [Seth] Harding who Commands the Connecticut Brig. who was Concern'd in taking the vessells & Claims the Greatest Share of them, interested himself in the matter in favour of disposing of them to those Gentlemen.

Your Excellency will have a Return by this post from Gen. Ward of the number Rec^d. and how disposed off. it may be Supposed that each man had a Musket. I believe they had, but I Arrived only two hundred and five. I've Reason to believe the Rest were Embezz'd for the Captains as well as the men are too little impress'd with the hon^{ble}. Service they are employ'd in and Act the Part of Privateer men. it will give me the highest pleasure at all times to Comply with your Excellencys order being with great truth Your Excellencys

Much Oblig'd and Most Obedient humble Serv^t

JBradford

His Excell^y. General Washington

29th. July 1776

Source: *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4, General Correspondence. 1697-1799.

**General Orders Issued for Recently Arrived Regiments, Including the 42nd Highlanders,
to Prepare Sixty Cartridges per Soldier, Staten Island, New York, Aug. 6, 1776**

Dyker's ferry, 6th Aug^t 1776...

The Reg^{ts} that have lately join'd are to apply immediately to the Artillery Store for Materials to make up cartridges to complete them to the order of 60 p man.

Source: "*Orderly Book, 4th Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}, 4th Battalion Grenadiers*" in 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.

**Journal Entry of Lt. Thomas Glyn, 1st Regt. of Foot Guards, Describes Method
of Handling Spare Ammunition, Staten Island, New York, Aug. 17, 1776**

August 17, 1776

The Ammunition which can not be put in the Cartridge Boxes to be carried tied in small parcels in Bladders Canvas or other small bags with which the Companies must provide themselves forthwith. Sixty rounds of Powder and Ball to be delivered to each Man

Source and Note: *Journal of Ensign Thomas Glyn*, Princeton University Library, Manuscript Collection. Ens. Glyn was promoted to Lieutenant on June 15, 1776.

**Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward to Gen. George Washington
Discussing Captured Swords from the 71st Highland Regt. (Fraser's), Boston, Oct. 6, 1776**

Boston 6 October 1776

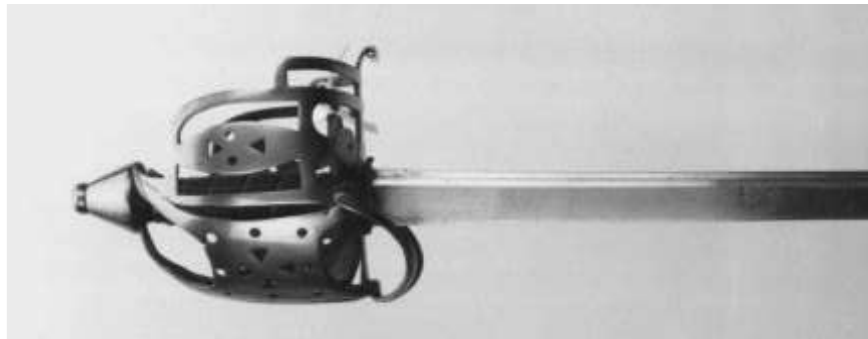
Sir –

Yesterday I received from Mr. Glover, Agent at Marblehead [Massachusetts], a Box of broad Swords, which he lately found in the Scotch ship Ann, that was taken some time since...

I am Your Excellency's &c
Artemas Ward

General Washington

Source: Artemas Ward to George Washington, Oct. 6, 1776, Appended Report on Stores, *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799: Series 4*, General Correspondence.



Regimental Backsword, 1770-1784, by Dru Drury

Picture Source: Royal Collection Trust

**Pension Account for Rebel Pvt. Thomas Craige Describing Highlanders Using
Broadsword at the Battle of White Plains, New York, Oct. 28, 1776**

“At Northampton, in the state of Massachusetts, on some day (not recollected) in the month of June, 1776, there came a requisition for men of the militia to join the army near New York...At this time a guard was every [day] detailed in charge of General Washington's quarters...In this duty the declarant remained until the enemy made preparations to march to White Plains...The British came up to the opposite side of the ravine and in the afternoon opened a cannonade...General Washington ...ordered the men to dig a new entrenchment...Then the British sent infantry forward, down into the ravine, or hollow way, who then turned to their left and came up to storm the entrenchment last mentioned. The Americans twice repulsed the enemy's infantry back into the hollow. While they were rallying, the Highlanders came down, stacked their arms, drew their broadswords, and formed in the rear of the infantry. Then they all came up. Our men opened their fire as before, and soon the enemy's infantry opened, and the Highlanders marched into our entrenchments, and the Americans retreated down the hill westwardly...”

Source and Note: *The Revolution Remembered, Eyewitness Accounts of the War for Independence*, John C. Dann, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1980, pp. 53-54. This report is suspect as the two Highland regiments are not known to have been involved in the battle.

**Surgeon Thompson Forster, British General Hospital, Describes Use of
Basket-Hilted Swords by 42nd Highlanders, Fort Washington, New York, Nov. 16, 1776**

Our Army advanced regularly on, taking many Forts, and different Works of the Enemy with scarcely any opposition, till we arrived at their strongest Hold, which they thought impregnable, on which the Hope of

all America seemed to rest, this was Kings Bridge and Fort Washington... as they had six Months Provisions in it, they thought they had nothing immediately to fear, when to their great surprise they found themselves surrounded all of a sudden by the Hessians with two large Howitzers, the Highlanders and several British Regiment with [Maj. Gen. Hugh] Lord Piercy and [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis at their Head, they were astonished beyond the Powers of Discription not knowing how we came there... the besiegers waiting with eager impatience for the Word of Command – which might have been heard a mile off so profound a Silence reigned – had any word been given to have rushed on upon their Enemy – the Hessians slung their Muskets at their Backs and each man drew his trusty Sword – the Highlanders brandished the Basket hilted Ferrara, our Light Dragoons with their long Sabers kept in the Plain below – the sturdy English formed an impenetrable half Moon enclosing half the Fort – gripping with impatient Ardour their discharged Muskets armed with the grinning Bayonet, which hemmed in the Enemy with an Iron Frize – in this awful moment the Hessian Trumpet summoned the Fort to surrender, a Flag was immediately sent to General Howe and the Fort with all its contents surrendered to His Excellency – thus the strongest Hold in all America fell into our Hands with upwards of three Thousand Prisoners, one Hundred and Fifty Pieces of Cannon, Mortars, Howitzers, Cohorns, Muskets, and Rifle Barrels out of number, a large Quantity of Ammunition, six months Provisions and clothing for six Thousand Men – the Prisoners were conducted to York the next Day.

Source and Note: *Diary of Thompson Forster, Staff Surgeon to His Majesty's Detached Hospital on North America, October 19th 1775 to October 23rd 1777*, transcribed in 1938 from the original in the possession of Robert Ethelstone Thompson Forster, pp. 110-114. “Ferrara” refers to Andrea Ferrara, a 16th century Spanish or Italian swordsmith who produced high quality blades for Highland swords. Based on the limited role the 71st played at Fort Washington, the reference to Highlanders likely refers to the 42nd who were in the center of the action.

**Extract of a Letter from Officer of the 49th Regt. Discussing Highlanders with Broadwords,
New York, Nov. 29, 1776**

An anonymous Correspondent has sent us the following Extract of Part of a Letter from an Officer of the 49th Regiment, dated at New York the 29th of November 1776, to his Father in London:

‘It is truly amazing as it is singular, that our Success I may say is without Interruption. The Rebels are not disposed to look us in the Face... The Highlanders with their broad Swords have not their Equals in doing ready Business: They are brave Fellows, and unacquainted with Fear, especially if they have their broad Swords. I saw one of those breechless Boys kill four Rebels all within the Space of half an Hour. The last of them begged hard for Quarter; upon which the Highlander told him, he was not so the Butcher as to quarter him, but that he intended to bring him back to his Allegiance to King George the Third.’

Source: *Public Advertiser* (London), Jan. 4, 1777, p. 2.

**Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Sir William Howe to Maj. Gen. James Grant Discussing
a Fusil for an Officer of the 49th Grenadier Company, New York, Dec. 23, 1776**

N. York Monday Decr. 23rd [1776]

My D^r. Sir...

Pray make my Comp^{ts}. to Lieu^t. [Joseph] Bunbury of ye 49th Grend^{rs}. I have got a Fusee here made after ye pattern of those in ye Company, which I beg to present to him to replace that he lost at Boston, or will send it by any opportunity I may hear of.

Adieu my D^r. Gen^l. & honor me with ye acceptance of a pair of warm gloves to wear over another pair.

Y^{rs} &c

W Howe...

M.G. Grant

Source: *James Grant Papers of Ballindalloch Castle, Scotland*; Library of Congress Microcopy, Reel 36, Army Career Series, Correspondence, December, 1776.

General Orders Issued for Recently Exchanged Lt. Harry Munro, 42nd Regt., to Draw Arms and Ammunition for Released POWs, Newport, Rhode Island, Feb. 8, 1777

8th February

The men who arrived in the Cartel yesterday are during their stay to be under the Command of the Officers, who came with them. Lieu^t [Harry] Munro 42^d regiment will apply to Major [John] Innes [Royal Artillery], for Arms, cartridge boxes and Ammunition...

Source: *General Orders Rhode Island December 1776 – January 1778*, Ed. Don Hagist, Heritage Books, Westminster (MD) 2007, pp. 29-30.

Lt. John Peebles' Accounts of Arms and Ammunition for the 42nd Grenadier Company on the Transport *Eagle* off Amboy, New Jersey, Feb. 17, 1777

Monday 17th Feb^y ...Reviewed the mens arms & ammunition, they are compleated to 60 rounds *P* man & two spare flints. 4 firelocks want some mending...

Source and Notes: *Peebles' Journal* Entry for February 18 and 22, 1777. On Jan 28, 1777, the 3rd British Grenadier Bn., including the 42nd Grenadier Co., sailed from Rhode Island for Amboy, New Jersey.

Excerpt of Exaggerated Account of Skirmish Mentions 42nd Regiment's Use of Swords to Attack Rebel Outpost, Drake's Farm, Near Metuchen, New Jersey, Feb. 1, 1777

HOME NEWS.

Extract of a letter from Glasgow, March 9.

"I received a letter by an acquaintance this day, who has just now come from Greenock, and he brings along with him an extract of a letter from New-York, dated February 3, brought by one of the transports yesterday morning returned to Clyde .

This letter says, "The rebels after their successes on December 26 [Trenton, N. J.], and January 3 [Princeton, N. J.], turned forward, secure and slighted every danger they were in of being attacked.

" The weather turned very cold, and the rebels being obliged to lie in tents, (their camp being six miles from Brunswick) some few of their private men, and one serjeant, deserted to our army. General [Sir William] Howe got information from them of the strength, number, and exact arrangement of their army.

"He called a council of war on the 28th of January, and it was agreed that the attack should be made on the 29th. [See note]

"The whole army having taken a refreshment, set out at five in the morning, and the 42d regiment [see note] attacked one of their out-posts by day-break. This regiment made more use of their swords than their firearms in this skirmish; they killed many, and took almost the whole of the rest prisoners. The rebels did not yet perceive the strength of those who came against them, and sent an advanced party to support the attack; and, by this time, the general alarm was beating through their camp.

While the 42d regiment were thus engaged, two British regiments passed them on either side, and these two regiments made the enemy's breast-works, unperceived, while their camp was secure, and the 42d regiment destroying and securing the party they had passed....

Source and Note: *Lady's Magazine for March, 1777*, Printed for G. Robinson, London, 1777, p. 165. Based on the location of the General Orders issued during the period Jan. 28-Feb. 1, Gen. Sir William Howe's headquarters was in New York, and he was not likely to have held a council of war there for a New Jersey attack. Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis was in command in New Jersey with his headquarters at Brunswick. If the letter writer is actually referring

to the skirmish at Benjamin Drake's Farm (near Metuchen, N. J. on Feb. 1), only about 200 men of the 42nd Highlanders under Brevet-Maj. Duncan McPherson were engaged in the foraging expedition under Brig. Gen. Sir William Erskine.

Letter from Adj. General Edward Harvey to Brevet-Col. Robert Skene, Regarding Arms for Recruits, London, Apr. 12, 1777

D. S...

Thank you for y^r L^{rs} of 3^d & 5th of this Month. I see y^t we fall Short in the N^{os} of the 42^d Reg^t. They will of Course Compleat, by y^e Opp^{ty} of y^e Ships w^{ch} Convoy the 71st.

It is necess^y to furnish y^e Recruits w^{ch} may be sent from y^e Add^l Comp^y with Arms. The C^y [Commanding] Off^r must have orders, on his Arrival in Am^a., to report to y^e Com^{dr} of y^e Reg^t or Adj^t Gen^l, that he has rec^d these Arms, extra to y^e Estab^{mt} of y^e regiment.

If the Reg^t has suff^t Arms in Store to give to these Men, those w^{ch} they take from Britⁿ, are to be deliv^d to y^e gen^l Magazine.

I y^e Reg^t has not suff^t in Store of Course, those w^{ch} they take with them will be kept, & y^e p^rp^r [proper] orders will be given in America as y^e Circum^{cs} may make necessary...

Col^o Skene C.C. 12th April 1777.

I am &c^a E. H.

Source: TNA, *War Office: Office of the Commander-in-Chief, General Letters Jan. 1776-Mar. 1778* at WO 3/6.

Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., Making Pistol Arrangements and Denying Payment for Broadwords, London, May 17, 1777

W: O: 17th May 1777

My Lord...

Upon receiving a Certificate of the Number of Pistols wanted for the 42^d Reg^t I shall make the usual application for the issue of a new Sett.

With respect to what your Lordship has been pleased to represent concerning the Broad Swords; I am to observe that they have always been supplied by the Colonels of Highland Corps, without Charge being brought on that Account against the Public.

I have the honor to be

R^t Honble

My Lord &c

Lord John Murray

Barrington

Bannercross, near
Sheffield

Source: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters, General Letters, May 1777 – Nov. 1777* at WO 4/100, p.65.

News Account of Removal of Backswords from Highland Troops, New York, May 27, 1777

The swords of the Highlanders, serving in North-America, have been taken away from them by order of gen. [Sir William] Howe, and their arms are now the same as those of other regiments.

Source: *Saunders News-Letter* (Dublin), May 27, 1777, p. 1.

Request from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Principal Secretary of State Thomas Thynne, Viscount Weymouth, to Direct the Ordnance Dept. to Issue 442 Side Pistols to the 42nd Regt., London, June 6, 1777

War Office 6th June 1777

My Lord

The Pistols undermentioned being wanted for the old Numbers of the 42^d /or Royal Highland/ Regim^t of Foot, to replace a like number worn out, and render'd unserviceable, I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship therewith, and am to desire you will be pleased to receive His Majesty's Commands hereupon, and signify the same to the Master General of the Ordnance, that the said Pistols may be delivered out of His Majesty's Stores for the use of the said Regiment, and the Expence thereof charged to the Estimate of Ordnance for Parliament.

I have the hon^r to be

My Lord &c

Barrington

442 Side Pistols

Lord Visc^t Weymouth
&c &c &c

Source and Note: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters, General Letters, May 1777 – Nov. 1777* at WO 4/100, p. 153. The 442 pistols represent the number needed to replace about 200 pistols taken from the additional companies for the battalion going to America and the remaining shortage for the increased augmentation of the regiment.



Photo of Original, Regimentally Marked, Isaac Bissell Steel Hilted Pistol

Picture Source: Courtesy of *Ancestry Guns* at ancestryguns.com.

Excerpt of Letter from Anderson & Richardson, Regimental Agents, to Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt., Regarding Order for Isaac Bissell Steel Pistols, London, June 27, 1777

London 27th June 1777

My Lord

We have the Honor of Your Lordships favors of the 21st & 24th and we have got over the Difficulty at the Board of Ordinance in this warrant for the 442 Pistols and expect next Board an order to be paid for these by Debenture at the usual price allowed.

We have wrote to M^r Bissel to forward 230 to go with the Clothing to America as soon as possible, as the other 212 are for the Add^l Company to replace the same Number of theirs sent to the Battalion last year, he may have more time given him to release them & get them proved &c at the Government which it may be proper Your Lordship also give him Instructions...

We have the Honor to be My Lord

Your Lordships Most Obed^t & most hu^{le} Serv^{ts}

Anderson & Richardson

Right Hon^{ble} Gen^l Lord John Murray

Source and Note: Cover sheet title "*Mess^{rs} Anderson & Richⁿ will not pay Stevenson Bill – London 27 June 1777 Rec^d Sunday 29th*" in the Lord John Murray Papers, Item B 5/2/27. "*Mr. Bissel*" is Isaac Bissell, a pistol manufacturer from Birmingham, England.

Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Colo., 42nd Regt., to the Principal Officers of

His Majesty's Ordnance Regarding Payment for 442 Side Pistols, London, July 14, 1777

Right Hon^{ble} Sirs

You will be pleased to pay to my Agents Mess^{rs} Anderson and Richardson the Amount of the Debenture for 442 Side Pistols for 42^d or Royal Highland Reg^t of Foot under my Command, Amounting to £364..13.– dated the 2nd Ins^t when the same shall become payable in the course of the Office.

I have the honor to be right Hon^{ble} Sirs

Your most obedient & most humble Serv^t

The R^t Hon^{ble} The Principal
Officers of His Majestys Ordnance

(Copy Inclosed in Mess^{rs} Anderson & Richardson's letter 14th July 1777)

Source and Note: *Lord John Murray Papers*. Based on the total amount, the allowed amount for each pistol was 16 shillings, 6 pence.

Letter from William Knox, Under Secretary of State, American Department, to John Boddington, Ordnance Office, Requesting the Shipment of Clothing and Pistols to the 42nd Regt., London, Aug. 27, 1777

Whitehall 27th Aug^t. 1777

Sir

Mess^{rs}. Anderson & Richardson Agents for the 42^d. Regiment having provided the Highland Cloathing & two Chests of Pistols for the said Regiment, I am directed by Lord George Germain to desire you will move the Board of Ordnance to give Directions, that the said Cloathing consisting of 16 Bales and the two Chests of Pistols, be received on board one of the Armed Ships now taking in Ordnance Stores for New York.

I am &c.

W. Knox

John Boddington Esq^r

Source: TNA, Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Letters to War Office and Ordnance Office at CO5/261, p. 116 (f. 58). Transcribed by Todd Braisted. The report of 42nd Regt. clothing shipped to America on *H.M.A.S. Tortoise* on Aug. 10, 1778 shows the regiment's bonnets and hose took up 2 bundles. Accordingly the remaining fourteen bundles represent the every other year issue of belted plaids to the regiment.

Letter from John Boddington, Ordnance Office, to William Knox, Under Secretary of State, American Department, Denying Request for Shipment of Highland Clothing and Pistols to the 42nd Regt., London, Aug. 29, 1777

Office of Ordnance
29th. Aug^t. 1777

Sir

Having this day received Your Letter of the 27th. Instant desiring that 16 Bales of Cloathing and Two Chests of Pistols be received on board one of the Armed Ships now taking in Ordnance Stores for New York

I am Commanded to acquaint You that the Superintendent of Shipping is of opinion there will not be room in either of the Ships without taking out what is already on board.

I am

Sir

Your Most Obedient Humble Servant
John Boddington

W^m. Knox Esq^r.

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Ordnance Office* at CO 5/163, p. 431 (f. 214). A shipment of sixteen bales does not represent the full clothing issue for the 42nd Regt. A Return of 42nd Regt. Clothing Shipped to America on HMS *Tortoise* on Aug. 10, 1778, which had all the “*English Cloathing*” and bonnets and hose, but no plaids, took 25 bales. Accordingly, these sixteen bales likely represent the Highland clothing for the regiment. A request from Knox dated Aug. 29, 1777 to ship eight bales of Highland clothing for the 71st (Fraser’s) Highland Regt. provided by Ross & Gray (regimental agents) was also denied by Boddington on Sept. 3, 1777.

**British Light Infantry Using American Cartridge Boxes at the Rained-Out
“Battle of the Clouds,” Malvern, Pennsylvania, 16 Sept. 16, 1777**

... the Violence of the Rain was so lasting that it was afterwards known the Rebels had not a single Cartridge in their Pouches but was Wet, the [British] Light Inf.^y Accoutrements being mostly Rebel were in the same Situation

Source: “1st Battalion Light Infantry, anonymous journal, 12 February 1776 to 30 December 1777 (possibly kept by the adjutant of the 28th Regiment, as per Stephen Gilbert),” document #409, Sol Feinstone Collection, David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, Pa. as documented in “Necessaries ... to be Properly Packd: & Slung in their Blanketts” Partial Transcription of 40th Regiment Order Book, Transcribed by John U. Rees and James Kochan.

**Newspaper Account of Gen. Lord John Murray’s Expression of
Importance of Swords for Highlanders, London, Jan. 14, 1778**

LONDON...

We hear that a humble Address is to be presented by a Number of the Highlanders, Volunteers in the regiments now raising, praying his Majesty to permit them to wear Tartan Plaids and Fillabegs during the War. The familiarity of their own Dress to them, the ancient Respect they have for it, and the Pride they take in preserving its Dignity unsullied, ought certainly to induce Government to make it their Uniform. It was the usual Expression of Lord John Murray, “Strip a Highlander of his Andrew-Farrara, and you *strip him of his Spirit*.”

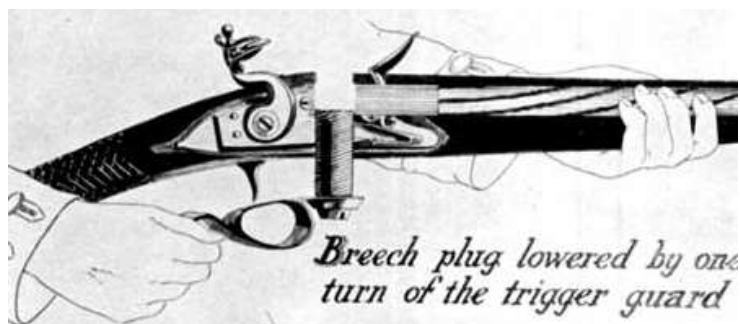
Source and Note: *Public Advertiser* (London), Jan. 14, 1778, p. 3. The 1785 *Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, by Capt. Francis Grose (p. 62) provides the following definition: “*FERRARA, Andrea Ferrara, the name of a famous sword cutlet; most of the Highland broad swords are marked with his name, whence an Andrea Ferrara has become the common name for the glaymore or highland broad sword. See glaymore.*”

**Capt. Lt. John Peebles’ Account of the Arms Inspection of 1st (Provisional) Battalion, 42nd Regt.,
Philadelphia, Jan. 30, 1778**

Philad^a Jan^{ry} 30th 1778 – fine mild weather & sunshine today [Lt.] Col^l [Thomas] Stirling inspected the 1st Battⁿ with respect to arms accoutrem^{ts} & necessities, – The arms in general not in good order & wanting some repair. the accoutrements bad and some deficient... The Inspection began at one & continued till 4 less strict towards the end being dinner time

Necessary Rolls & Returns of arms given in by each Company accounting for deficiencies & the mens assignment for y^r [their] clearance to 24 Dec^r

Source: *Peebles’ Journal* Entry for Jan. 30, 1778.



Detail of Illustration of Operating Screw of a Breech-loading Ferguson Rifle

Source: National Park Service, *The American Rifle at the Battle of Kings Mountain*

Sword and Fusil Purchases for the 77th Highland Regt. (Atholl) from Alexander Lowe, London, Mar. 21, 1778

London, March 21st 1778

Work Done for the Atholl Highlanders [77th Regt.]

P^r Alex^r Lowe

	£	s	d			
35 best Brass mounted Fuzees	@ 3.	13.	6 each	133.	12.	6
35 Slings for D ^o	@ 0.	2.	0	3.	10.	0
53 Swords for Serj ^{ts}	@ 1.	2.	0	58.	6..	0
20 Short hangers [swords] for Drummers	@ 0.	10.	0	10.	0..	0
101 Plain Swords for Privates	@ 0.	15.	0	75.	15.	0
4 Steel mounted Rifle Barrel fuzees with a multiplying Screw	@ 8.	8.	0	33.	12.	0
4 Slings for D ^o	@ 0.	2.	0	0.	8.	0
200 Plain Swords for Private		15		150		
Packing Cases for the Above goods				3	5	

Source: NRAS, *Stewart-Murray Papers*, Blair Atholl Castle at NRA 11000 Bundle 341. Obtained by Alexander Good and transcribed by Paul Pace. Another example of a “multiplying Screw” has been found in an 1823 description of garroting in the Penal Code of Spain where a “multiplying screw” is used to tighten the garrote. (*The Mirror*, May 24, 1823, p. 79.) This mechanism seems similar to the operating screw used to open and close the breech of a Ferguson Rifle.

Capt. Lt. John Peebles’ Account of Inspection of the Arms of the General’s Company, 1st (Provisional) Battalion, 42nd Regt. Philadelphia, Mar. 23, 1778

Monday 23^d ... saw the Comp^{ys} arms & necessities today a good many things wanting...

Source: *Peebles’ Journal* Entries for Mar. 18 and 23, 1778.

78th Highland Regt. (Seaforth) Arms Purchases from Bray & Fraser, Brewer Street, London, Mar. 28 – Aug. 18, 1778

1778, From 28 March to the 18 Aug

Officers of the 78th Reg^t To Bray & Fraser

		[£ / s /d]
TO 40 officers Half Hilt Broad Swords finely Polished	30/	60/0/0

“ 40 Very neat officers Pistols Complete	53/6	117/0/0...
“ 40 Broadsword Belts for officers with neat silver buckles, Runners, & ornaments neatly engraved.	28/	56/0/0
“ 40 Pistol Belts for officers with Plated buckles	1/2	2/8/4...
“ 40 officers fusee Slings	1/3	2/10/0
“ 40 officers Cartouch Boxes & Belts complete	6/1	12/3/4...
“ 4 [Lt. Inf.] officers powder horns with slings & plated buckles.	11/	2/4/0
“ 4 Ball bags for ditto.	1/3	0/5/0...
“ 2 Boxes with officers pistols	2/	0/4/0
“ 1 Large Case with officers swords		0/8/0...

1778 From 28 March to the 18 Aug

78th Reg^t Lord Seaforth Col To Bray & Fraser...

		[£ / s / d]
“ 1061 Gun Slings	11/4	49/14/ 8/4
“ 909 Strong Ammunition Bags with Buttons	2/6	113/12/6
“ 949 Belts for ditto 4 1/2 feet long inch & 5/8 wide	1/1	51/8/1
“ 1081 Pistol Belts	0/5/½	24/15/6
“ 1000 Turn Screws	/3½	14/11/8
“ 1000 Weirs & Brushes	/3	12/10/0
“ 107 Half Hilt Broad Swords	9/4	49/18/6
“ 1081 neat pistols for private	13/6	729/18/6
“ 105 Broadsword Belts for Private	4/10/2 ½	25/11/10 ½...
“ 101 Powder Horns with Leather Slings to ditto	3/3	16/8/3
“ 101 Ball Bags for ditto.	1/3	6/6/3...
“ 3 Cases with Swords		1/10/6
“ 7 ditto with Pistols		2/4/3...
“ 2 ditto with Weirs and Brushes		0/3/0...
“ 53 Serjeants Broadsword Belts	4/	10/12/0
“ 53 Setts of Plated Buckles, Runners & Ornaments for ditto	7/0	18/11/0
“ 52 Serjeants Half Hilt Broadwords	18/0	46/16/0...
“ 5 ditto Powder Horns & slings with spring charges & brass bottoms.	9/	2/5/0
“ 5 ditto Ball Bags for ditto.	1/3	0/6/3...

Source and Note: *Amherst Papers*, Reel 128, pp. 182-183, Stanford Univ., from TNA, WO 34/157. Transcribed by Alexander Good. Location of “Bray & Fraser” from *Territorial Soldiering in the North-East of Scotland during 1759-1814*, John Malcolm Bulloch (1914), p. 112.

Excerpt Letter from Col. Robert Skene, Adjutant Gen., Scotland, to Deputy Secretary at War Mathew Lewis, Regarding Missing Cartridge Boxes, Edinburgh, Apr. 20, 1778

Edinburgh April 20th. 1778.

Dear Sir...

By some very unaccountable mistake [Lt.] Colonel [Commandant John] Campbells [74th Highland] Regim^t. when it received Arms from the Tower did not as is always usuall get Cartouch boxes along with them so at the Inspection I found them / as their Accoutrements are not arrived/ without anything to carry one Cartridge: immediately I sent an Express to Edin^h Castle, and with great difficulty has mustered up Cartridge boxes sufficient for them & are now delivered...

I am with much Sincerity, Dear Sir,

Pray how do my Reports
of the New Gentlemen please

Your faithfull Ser^t
Rob^t Skene

you great people

Mathew Lewis Esq^r

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: R-Z, 1778* at WO 1/999.
Although this letter excerpt deals with the 74th Highlanders, it is included to illustrate the standard practice of issuing a cartridge box with each musket.



Detail of Gordon Castle, 1804

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Scotia Depicta*, Plate 18

Accoutrement and Equipment Purchases for Col. Alexander, Duke of Gordon's Northern Regiment of Fencible Men, Gordon Castle, Fochabers, Scotland, May 23 – Nov. 12, 1778

1778 from May the 23 to the 12 th . Nov ^r .	North Fencible Highlanders	To Bray & Fraser			
		[Sh./d]	[£]	[Sh.]	[d]
	1010 best Pouches & Shoulder Belts	8/6	429	5	~
	1010 Tin Boxes for d ^o	/6 ^d	25	5	
	1082 Kilt Belts	/11½ ^d	51	16	11
	1020 Gun Slings	/11¾ ^d	49	18	9
	1080 Knapsacks w ^t Buff Straps	4/10	261	~	~
	1030 Black Velvet Stocks	8½	36	9	7
	1030 Buckles for d ^o	/5 ^d	21	9	2
	1030 P ^{rs} best white Mettal Shoe Buckles	/8¾	37	11	½
	1010 Bayonet Frogs	/6 ^d	25	5	~
	1010 Belts for d ^o	/8 ^d	33	13	4
	202 Broad Sword Belts	3/7½	36	12	3
	202 Town made Buckles Runners & Ornaments for d ^o	1/3	12	12	6
	202 Half Basket Broad Swords Complete	8/9	88	7	6
	1030 Plume Feathers	/6½	27	17	11
	1 Cap Front Dye Complete		10	10	~
	101 Grenadier Caps w ^t Silver Plated fronts }				
	Scarlet Tassels Cockades w ^t . Buttons & }		74	1	4
	loops w ^t . a light yellow round the }				
	Cockades Complete w ^t . Grenades }	14/8			

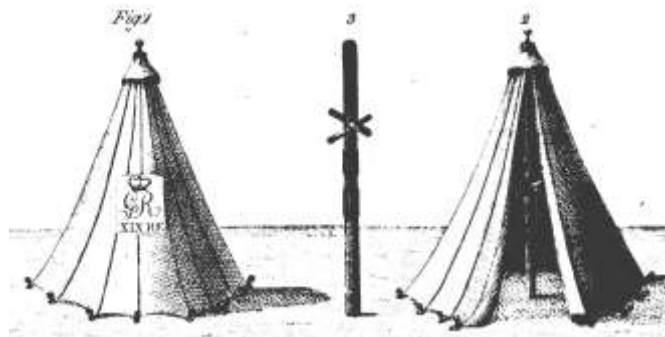
101	Light Infantry Caps w ^t . Sword Proof	}			
	Crowns & Fur around Silver Plated	}			
	front, Cockade w ^t . Button & loops	}			
	& a light yellow Cloth round & Feathers	}			
	Complete	}	14/7	73	12
10	Pioniers Caps w ^t . Silver Plated front	}			11
	Sword proof Crowns w ^t Helmets &	}			~
	Hair Crests to d ^o . Complete	}	15/6	7	15
10	Ornaments for d ^o .	}	1/	~	10
		}			~
20	Drum Caps w ^t . Silver Plated front Tassels	}			
	w ^t Buttons & loops & Drum Ornaments	}			
	Complete	}	14/ 2	14	3
20	feathers for d ^o	}	/ 6 ^d		10
10	best Spring Steel Hand Saws	}	4/ 6		2
10	Strong Leather Cases for d ^o	}	4/	2	5
10	best Town made Felling Axes	}	3/ 6	1	15
10	Strong Leather Cases for d ^o	}	2/ 3	1	2
10	Aprons	}	1/ 10		18
20	Belts for Axes & Saws	}	1/	1	4
1	Box w ^t Shoe Buckles	}			3
1	D ^o w ^t . Feathers	}			2
1	D ^o w ^t . Serjeants Caps	}			3
3	Large cases w ^t . Private & Serjeants Swords	}	10/ 8	1	12
	Cartage of the above to the Packers	}	26/	1	6
			£	1330	15
					½

Source: NRS, Military Papers of the Gordon Family, Dukes of Gordon (Gordon Castle Muniments), Military Papers, 1775-1820 at GD44/47.

Excerpt of Letter from Capt. Patrick Ferguson, 70th Regt., to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Suggesting Use of Highland Regiments as Light Infantry and Describing Them as “*freed of the Shoulder Belt & Pouch...*”, New York, Aug. 1, 1778

The advantages of an Augmentation of Light Infantry being admitted...2/3^{ds} of the most active & vigorous of the Highland Corps might also be selected for Light Service, not only as having already Jackets & being freed of the Shoulder Belt & Pouch, but also as being much inured to much fatigue on foot & not in any degree liable to desertion...

Source: “An Officer out of his Time,” Ed. Hugh Rankin in *Sources of American Independence. Selected Manuscripts from the Collection of the William L. Clements Library*, Vol. II, Ed. Howard H. Peckham, Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1978, p. 305.



Bell of Arms

Source: *Military Antiquities Respecting a History of the English Army from the Conquest to the Present Time*, Vol. II, Francis Grose, Printed for S. Hooper, London, 1778, Google Books, Plates following p. 206.

Excerpt of Court Martial of 71st Highlander Discusses Storing Musket and Cartridge Box in the Bell of Arms Tent, Brooklyn, Aug. 4-10, 1778

Duncan Robinson, private Soldier in the 71st Regiment of Foot was brought prisoner before the Court and accused of having deserted from said Regiment...

[Witness] Serjeant John M^cCullum...

Q. [Question] Did he carry off his Arms and Accoutrements?

A. He carried off his Bayonet, but left his Firelock and Cartouch Box in the Bell Tent and also left his Blanket...

Source: TNA, Judge Advocate General's Office: Courts Martial Proceedings Minutes. Marching Regiments at WO 71/86, pp. 393-396.

Sword Purchase Order for the 77th Highland Regt. (Atholl) from Alexander Wilson, London, Aug. 14, 1778

The Hon^{ble} Col^l [James] Murray London 14 Aug^t. 1778

Bo^t: of Alex^r: Wilson

600 Full basket Swords Lined	}	£ 450. _ . _
with Buff & Black Cloth &c @ 15[Sh.]/	}	
Packing Cases for D ^o		<u>4. 10.</u>
		£ 454. 10. _

25 Nov^r } Rec^d. the Contents in full of this Bill
1778 }

Alex^r. Wilson

N.B. The draft given being £ 400 is in full

Source and Note: NRAS, *Stewart-Murray Papers*, Blair Atholl Castle at NRA 11000 Bundle 341. Obtained by Alexander Good and transcribed by Paul Pace. Letter provides rare discussion of basket-hilt lining.

Capt. John Peebles' Account of the Inspection of the 42nd Grenadier Company, Jamaica, Long Island, Dec. 14, 1778

Monday 14th [Dec.] ...a review of the Comp^{ys} arms and Necessarys, some Shoes & Shirts want^g the arms in pretty good order

Source: *Peebles' Journal* Entry for Dec. 14, 1778.

**Capt. John Peebles' Account of Inspecting Arms of the 42nd Grenadier Company,
Long Island, New York, Mar. 15, 1779**

Monday 15th March ...Reviewed the Comp^ys arms...

Source: *Peebles' Journal* Entry for Mar. 15, 1779 at Long Island.

Capt. John Peebles' Account of the Company Arms Chest, New York, Mar. 24, 1779

Wednesday 24th ...Went to New York to look at the Company's ...Arms Chest... the arms chest full but the Serj^t could not get at it, some new arms belonging to the Comp^y Standing at the Corner next to the door in bad condition, on account of their damp situation strange management to put Arms in a cellar

Source: *Peebles' Journal* Entry for Mar. 24, 1779.

**Capt. John Peebles' Account of Status of Grenadier Company Arms, Jamaica, Long Island,
Mar. 27, 1779**

Saturday 27th ...went to the parade & look at the Company arms & dress which I believe rather neglected by the Sub^s ...

Source and Note: *Peebles' Journal* Entry for Mar. 27, 1779. "Sub^s" is an abbreviation for Subalterns, meaning junior officers *i.e.* Ensigns and Lieutenants.



Tin box from "British 29 Hole Cartridge Pouch Attributed to the Royal Fencible Americans Found in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia"

Picture Source: Kerry DeLory Collection

**Capt. John Peebles' Account of Getting a Set of Tin Cartridge Trays for the
42nd Grenadier Company, Jamaica, Long Island, Apr. 6, 1779**

Tuesday 6th [Apr.] ...Went to town to ... bespeak for a set of Tin Cartridge boxes for the Comp^y.

Source and Notes: *Peebles' Journal* Entry for Apr. 6, 1779. The "Tin Cartridge boxes" reference is confusing. A "cartridge box" usually meant a leather-flapped curved block of wood worn on a belt around the waist, drilled to hold 18 cartridges and covered with a leather flap. This item was normally part of the standard set of equipment issued with muskets from government stores. A Cartridge Pouch was the normal method of carrying ammunition by most regiments and consisted of a leather pouch carried on a wide leather strap across the shoulder. Inside the pouch was a

block of wood drilled for cartridges and wooden trays to carry additional cartridges. Late in the war, some pouches substituted light tin boxes for the wooden components in the pouch. Historian Don Hagist noted in an on-line forum in Aug. 2017 that the agent's ledgers for the 22nd Regt. have a 1781 record for payment for "269 Tins for the old Pouches at 10½ each – 11.15.4½."

**Capt. John Peebles' Account of Receiving Cartridge Pouches with Tin
Trays for the Grenadier Company, Jamaica, Long Island, May 5, 1779**

Wednesday 5th. May...got a set of tin Cartridge boxes for the Co^y. from N. York – Smith Kings Street...

Source and Note: *Peebles' Journal* Entry for May 5, 1779. "Smith Kings Street" is likely the firm of Richard Smith, No. 11, Queen-Street, New York. See above discussion for the possible meanings of "tin Cartridge boxes." Peebles was most likely discussing tin trays to fit in cartridge pouches.

**Capt. John Peebles' Account of Preparing part of his Arms for Storage,
Jamaica, Long Island, May 23, 1779**

Sunday 23^d...sent our heavy baggage to [42nd] Regt^{al} Store in [New] York. – my two trunks & box with the bedsted – sent my Cap, Bonnet, broad sword, Rifle, & little Arthur case to Doc^r. M^cLeans. – for the field, Fly tent, bedding, Portmanteau, & canteen box – The whole Battⁿ. sent theirs to their respective stores...

Source and Note: *Peebles' Journal* Entry for May 23, 1779. Capt. Peebles is again unclear if the items sent to Dr. M^cLean are also to be taken to the field. It would be odd not to take his Grenadier Cap or Bonnet and his canteen (officer's mess box) to the field.

**Request from Anderson & Richardson, Regimental Agents of the 42nd Regt., to Secretary
at War Charles Jenkinson for Warrant to Replace Lost Cartridge Boxes and Drums,
Lothbury, Oct. 12, 1779**

Lothbury 12th October 1779

Sirs

We beg the favour of a Letter to the Secretary of States Office, for a Warrant for Three Hundred & Eighty Six Cartouch Boxes & four Drums with Sticks & Cases to replace the like Number lost on Service against the Rebels in America by the 42nd. (or Royal Highland) Regiment of Foot Commanded by General Lord John Murray, as per Certificate & Estimate produced, at Your office but deducted from the other Accoutrements lost (for which a Warrant has been granted) as being ordnance Stores. We have the honor to be

Sirs

Your most Obed^t & most humble Servants
[Alexander] Anderson & [George] Richardson

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters: 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: A-D, 1779* at WO 1/1002 p. 135. Lothbury, London is located about three miles east north-east of Buckingham Palace.

**Letter from Secretary at War Charles Jenkinson to Principal Secretary of State Thomas Thynne,
Viscount Weymouth to Direct the Ordnance Dept. to Replace Lost Cartridge Boxes and Drums,
London, Oct. 12, 1779**

War Office 12th Oct^r 1779.

My Lord,

Three Hundred and eighty six Cartouch Boxes, and four Drums with sticks, being wanted for the 42^d /or Royal Highland/ Regiment of Foot, to replace a like number lost on Service in America, I have the honor to acquaint Your Lordship therewith, and am to desire you will be

pleased to receive His Majesty's Commands thereupon and signify the same to the Master General of the Ordnance, that the said Cartouch Boxes and Drums, may be issued out of His Majesty's Stores for the use of the said Regiment, and the Expence thereof charged to the Estimate of Ordnance for Parliament.

I have the honor to be
My Lord &c
C. Jenkinson

Visc^t Weymouth
&c &c &c

Source: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters, General Letters, Aug. 1779-Oct. 1779* at WO 4/107, p. 455 (f. 229).



Original .65 caliber, 42-inch barrel British Light Infantry Carbine circa 1757

Picture Source: NPS, *Shoulder Arms of the American Revolution*, George C. Neumann Collection, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Item VAFO 00000159

Listing of Transactions of the Ordnance Stores, Including the Return and Issuance of Firelocks from the 42nd Regt., New York, Nov. 30, 1779 – May 8, 1781

Return of Small Arms remaining in Store 30 th : Novem ^r 1779										
Date		Receipts and Returns	Musquets					Wallpieces	Pistols Horse pairs	
			Longland		Shortland		of Sorts			
			S	R	S	R	U	R	R	U
1779 Novem ^r :	30	State	44	413	6,202	5,595	6740	12	6	13½
December	15	From 42 ^d Regiment	7							
			..	..	..	..	128	..	..	..
			44	41	6202	5595	6868	12	6	13½
			7	3						

Return of Small Arms issued by the Commissary of Artillery										
Date		Issues	Musquets					Wallpieces	Pistols Horse pairs	
			Longland		Shortland		of Sorts			
			S	R	S	R	U	R	R	U
1779	the									

December	8	To the British Lt Infantry	..	..	47	..	..	..	..	..
	..	To the Corps of Guides	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..
	9	To the Invalids going to Engl:	..	..	120	..	..	..	..	..
	13	To the Refugees	..	..	37	..	..	..	..	..
	14	To England p ^r Ship Houghton	..	..	..	5.475	6.464	..	..	6
	17	To 1 st Batt ⁿ of British Grenad ^s	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	To 2 ^d Ditto	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	18	To the 42 ^d Regiment	..	..	95	..	..	..	..	..
	19	To Grenadier Comp ^y 64 th Reg ^t :	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	To the 71 st : Regiment	..	..	50	..	..	..	..	..
	20	To the 7 th Regiment	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	..
	21	To the 23 ^d Regiment	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
	22	To the 64 th Regiment	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..
	24	To M ^r : Jon ⁿ : Barns Conduct ^r:	..	..	5.000	..	..	..	..	..
	31	To the 37 th Regiment	..	..	106	..	..	..	..	..
	..	To the 22 ^d Regiment	..	..	66	..	..	..	..	..
January			25	..	5575	5475	6464	..	..	6
		To Francis Stephens Esq ^r :	42	41	627	120	404	12	6	7½
			2	3						
			44	41	6202	5595	6868	12	6	13½
			7	3						
Ordnance Office } Errors			Thomas Man							
8 th : of May 1781 } Excepted			Commissary of Artillery							

Return of Small Arms remaining in Store 30 th November 1779														
Date		Receipts and Returns	Carbines											
			Artillery		Light Infantry			Horse			French	Rifles		
								Long		Short				
1779	the	State From 42 ^d Regiment	R	U	S	R	S	R	U	R	R	S	R	U
Novem ^r	30		44	13	296	25	56	12	52	61	3	247	210	43
Decem ^r :	15		..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
			44	13	296	25	56	12	54	61	3	247	210	43

Return of Small Arms issued by the Commissary of Artillery														
Date		Issues	Carbines											
			Artillery		Light Infantry			Horse			French	Rifles		
								Long		Short				
1779	the	To England p ^r Ship Houghton	R	U	S	R	S	R	U	R	R	S	R	U
Decem ^r .	14		..	..	..	..	..	..	43	..	..	..	..	22
	16		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200	..	..
	17		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	..	..
	20	To the Royal Artillery	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

January	1 st	..	To 1 st Batt ⁿ British Grenad ^s	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		..	To 42 ^d Regiment	..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		..	To 7 th Regiment	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		10	To Francis Stephens Esq ^r	34	13	30	25	56	12	43	11	61	3	231
		44		13	296	25	56	12	54	61	3	247	210	43

Errors }

Excepted }

Thomas Man

Commissary of Artillery

Ordnance Office }

8th May 1781 }

Source and Note: *Sir Henry Clinton Papers* 155:7, W. L. Clements Lib., Univ. of Michigan. Transcribed by Paul Pace. The abbreviations, S, R and U mean Serviceable, Repairable and Unrepairable, respectively. Francis Stephens was the Ordnance Storekeeper.

Capt. John Peebles' Account of Preparing the 42nd Grenadier Company's Arms for the Charleston, South Carolina Expedition, Jamaica, Dec. 3-14, 1779

Friday 3d Dec^r... Battⁿ orders to be in readiness to Embark on the shortest notice...

Monday 13th [Dec.] ... a Comp^y Review. The arms not in good order, desir'd to see them again tomorrow – they are completed to 50 rounds of ammunition....

Tuesday 14th Dec^r... The Comp^{ys} arms in better order today...

Source: *Peebles' Journal* Entries for Dec. 3, 13 and 14, 1779.

Sergeant's Sword and Shoulder Belt Described in Newspaper Advertisement for 2nd Battalion, 42nd Regt. Deserter, Ayr, Scotland, Dec. 10, 1779

DESERTED

From Ayr, about the 10th day of December, from a recruiting party of Captain John Grant's second battalion, 42d, or Royal Highland regiment,

ALEXANDER MACALISTER, born in the parish of South Knapdale, in the shire of Argyle, had learned the business of a Hatter at Glasgow, but since been employed in driving cattle to some Argyle drover to Carlisle, aged 27 years, 5 feet 8 inches high, brown hair, brown complexion, grey eyes, had on when he left Ayr the full regimentals of the regiment as a serjeant, had a beating order as a serjeant, which he thinks to screen himself by. He carried with him, when he deserted, a small handsome broad sword, and silver-mounted shoulder-belt. Whoever shall apprehend the above Alexander Macalister, and lodge him in any of his Majesty's jails in Scotland, shall have THREE GUINEAS reward, over and above what is allowed by act of Parliament, by applying to Capt. John Grant [of Glenmoriston] at Inverness, or Captain [John Mac]Grigor, paymaster of the regiment at Perth.

N. B. If the above Alexander Macalister will surrender himself against the first day of March, he will be pardoned.

Source and Note: *Caledonian Mercury* (Edinburgh), Feb. 7, 1780, p. 1. Ayr is located on the Forth of Clyde, 37 miles southwest of Glasgow.

Letter from Clerk Leonard Morse, War Office, to William Knox, Under Secretary of State, American Department, with List of Camp and Clothing Necessaries Needed by Troops in America, London, Feb. 7, 1780

Whitehall, 7th February 1780

Sir...

[Commander-in-Chief Gen.] Lord [Jeffrey] Amherst wishes to see...one of the Tin Cartridge Boxes which are likewise to be made to a Pattern.

I am Sir, etc, Leo Morse

Source and Note: TNA, *Baron Jeffrey Amherst, Commander-in-Chief Papers, Miscellaneous Letters from Lord Amherst* at WO 34/232, pp. 365-370. Transcribed by Alexander Good. Mr. Morse is likely talking about a tin-tray Cartridge Pouch.

Copy of Letter from Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42nd Regt. to Secretary at War Charles Jenkinson, Requesting Additional Arms for the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Regt., Pitnacree Lodge, Perthshire, Feb. 29, 1780

Extract of Letter from Lord John Murray
Dated Pitnacree Lodge 29 Febry 1780

Inclosed I send you a Return of the Two Additional Companys Arms by which You will please to observe that with the Arms sent to Spithead, by the Q^r Master to America and Deserters that there is 34 Firelocks, Bayonets, Cartouch Boxes & Slings wanting to Compleat the Additional, and five more at Newfoundland than the Number of Men, besides the 62 Slings, and when Examining the arms at Perth last sent there there is only 70 in a Company in place of 71. there is but 30 Contingent Men, and there is 40 Corporals which will make the Effective Rank & file 71 per Company it will therefore be absolutely Necessary that application be made as soon as You can to have the whole of the numbers got from the Tower

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office In-Letters, 3. General Correspondence: b. Series II: H-M, 1780* at WO1/1008, p.985. The page is annotated in the margin as from "*Col: Mordaunt.*"

Response from Dep. Secretary at War Matthew Lewis to Anderson & Richardson, Regimental Agents, 42nd Regt., Regarding Arms for the Two 1st Battalion Additional Companies Assigned to the 2nd Battalion, London, Mar. 13, 1780

W.O. 13 Mar 1780

Gentlemen.

I am directed by the S[ecretary] at W[ar] to acknowledge the receipt of Your letter of the 10th ins^t enclosing a Return of Arms &c wanting for 2 Companies of the Royal Highland Reg^t of Foot, to which you are Agent as also an Extract from [Gen.] L^d Jn^o Murray [Col., 42nd Regt.] on the Subject.

I am to acquaint You it is thought more expedient that a new Sett of Arms &^{ca} for the 2 Companies should be applied for; you will therefore take care that the remainder of the Old Arms &^{ca} be returned into his Majesty's Stores of Ordnance.

I am &^{ca}

Mess^{rs} Anderson & Richardson

M. Lewis

Source and Note: TNA, *War Office: Baron Jeffrey Amherst, Commander in Chief: Papers* at WO 4/109, p. 334 (f.168). The subject two companies are the Additional of the 1st Battalion assigned to fill up the 2nd Battalion. However one of the companies was serving in Nova Scotia, and thus not likely able to turn in their arms to the Ordnance stores. Those soldiers, excluding the officers, later joined the 1st Battalion in New York.

Request for Arms for the Two 1st Battalion, 42nd Regt., Additional Companies Transferred to the 2nd Battalion, from Secretary at War Charles Jenkinson to Secretary

of State for the Southern Department Wills Hill, Earl of Hillsborough, London, Mar. 13, 1780

W.O. 13th Mar 1780

My Lord

6 Halberts
4 Drums with p^{rs}
of Sticks & Cases
142 Firelocks,
Bayonets
Cartouch Boxes
& Straps

The undermentioned Arms & Accoutrements being wanted for 2 Companies of the 42^d (Or Royal Highland) Reg^t of Foot to replace a like Number rendered unfit for Service; and also three Trumpets for the 10th Reg^t of Dragoons; I have the honor to acquaint Your Lordship therewith & to desire You will be pleased to receive His Majesty's Commands therefore & signify the same to the Master General of the Ordnance that the said Arms &^{ca} may be delivered out of His Majesty's Stores for the use of the said Regiments & the Expense charged to the Estimate of Ordnance for Parliament.

I have &^{ca}

C. Jenkinson

Earl of Hillsborough

&^{ca} &^{ca}

Source and Note: TNA, *Secretary at War, Out-Letters, General Letters, Jan. 1780 – Apr. 1780* at WO 4/109, p. 341. Unlike the 1st Bn., whose companies initially consisted of 100 private men, the companies of the 2nd Bn. were authorized 70 privates.

**Court Martial Testimony Records “Broad Sword” Use by Sgt. Donald
McCraw, 42nd Grenadier Company, Jamaica, Long Island, May 8, 1780**

William Creed Jun^r. Farmer at Jamaica being duly Sworn deposed that on the Eighth May last, about 1 o’Clock in the Morning, some people endeavoured to break open the door, but as it did not give way, they went to the Kitchen door & burst it open, & immediately rush’d in, and went to his (the Witness) Father, & demanded his Watch, & purse; at the same time threatening, that if he did not give them up, that they would kill him, and ask’d him to give them a Candle, & he got up & got them two, after which they order’d him to Bed, & to Cover himself with the Bed Cloaths; in the mean time, as some of them were going to light them, Serj^t. McCraw of the 42^d Reg^t. who was a safe Guard at the house, came out of his Room, & one of the men made a push at him with a fix’d Bayonet which he parry’d off with his hand; that he (the Serj^t.) then made a Stroke at the man with his Broad Sword and took the firelock from him; and as one of the men were lighting the Candle at the fire, he ran him thro’ the body with the Sword; upon which (he the man) took hold of his Father but they rescued him; and while some of the People were Engaged with the Serj^t. the rest took the man that was wounded out of the House, and they immediately after all ran away...

Source and Notes: TNA, Court Martial of Sergeant Henry Norris, Privates Peter Christian, Jonathon Ogden, Stephen Ogden, Adam Ringsdorff, Luman Pringle, Enos Fluellon, John Merritt and Frederick Fisher of the King’s American Regiment, *War Office: Judge Adjutant General’s Office: Courts Martial Proceedings, Marching Regiments*, Apr. – Dec. 1780 at WO 71/92, pp. 227-238. Transcribed by Don Hagist. The soldier run through with the sword was Private John Yeomans of the same regiment, who died the same day. At this time the rest of Capt. John Peebles’ 42nd Grenadier Company was serving in the Charleston South Carolina Siege. Sgt. McCraw was also wounded in the attack and medically discharged as recorded by Capt. Peebles on his journal dated July 3, 1780. Peebles noted “*presented Serj^t. McCraw to the board of Physicians & got him Invalided. he fought well last winter in suppressing a gang of Robbers at Jamaica, he killed one & wounded two, & rec^d. two wounds*” (Gruber, *Peebles’ American War*, p. 392.) Most authorities indicate the 42nd Regt. was issued a later variation of the tradition Highland Basket Hilted Broadsword, termed a “*backsword*” where only one edge of the sword was sharpened and the back strengthened.

**General Order Issued to Apply for Forty Rounds of Fresh Ammunition per Man,
New York, June 14, 1782**

Head Quarters New York 14th June 1782...

The Commanding Officers of Corps will make application immediately for 40 Rounds of Fresh ammunition per man for their Effectives present. They will make use of 20 Rounds per Man of their old Ammunition for practice and will deliver the remainder into the ordnance Stores.

Source: TNA, *Entry Book of General Orders, Orders Issued by His Excellency General Sir Guy Carleton at New York*, at WO 28/9/215-216, ff. 286 – 482.

**General After-Order Issued Requiring Arms and Clothing Condition Reports,
New York, July 5, 1783**

Head Quarters New York 5th July 1783...

After Orders Yesterday

The British and British American Reg^{ts} are to give in to the Adj^t Gen^l on the 15th instant the Spring Returns of Arms & Accoutrements specifying the Good, bad and wanting of each Article and marking how the Deficiencies have arisen; They will likewise give in a State of their Clothing specifying what Year it has been delivered out to the Men & what they have in Store; These Inspection & Returns to be made by the Senior Officers of the Regiments who is within the District...

Source: TNA, *Entry Book of General Orders, Orders Issued by His Excellency General Sir Guy Carleton at New York*, at WO 28/9/215-216, ff. 286 – 482.

**Extract of Letters from Maj. Simon Fraser and Maj. Colin Campbell to Maj. Gen. Thomas Stirling,
Col., 71st Highland Regt. (Former Lt. Col., 42nd Regt.) Explaining Loss of Arms and Accoutrements,
Kingston, Jamaica, Nov. 1782 and Perth, Mar. 21, 1784**

[Cover]

N^o 4

Extract of Letters from Major Fraser and Major Campbell to Major General Stirling
rec^d. with the State of M. Gen^l. Stirling's Claim:

[Letter Extract]

Extract of a Letter from Major Fraser commanding the 71st Regiment, to Major General Stirling,
dated Kingston, Novem^r. 1782

“I wrote you before, that the few Accoutrements we have remaining are unfit for Service; and if you would approve of it, I wish we had, besides the Cartridge Box, a neat small white Pouch for the Ammunition, and that our Shoulder Belts and Pouch Belts were likewise White. Our Grenadier and Light Infantry Caps are all Lost.”

Extract of a Letter from Major Colin Campbell to Major General Stirling, dated Perth, 21st of March 1784.

“All the Accoutrements and Arms the New York Detachment has, are Firelocks, Bayonets, Cartouch Boxes and Belts, which were delivered them on their coming into New York from being Prisoners with Lord Cornwallis, out of the Ordnance Stores at New York. There are no Accoutrements that were originally given them on their first going to America brought Home, excepting the few Swords and Pistols come with the Jamaica Detachment; and all the spare Arms that might have been in the Arm Chest at Charlestown, on the Evacuation of that Place, went with them there, and delivered, on their leaving the island into the Stores at Jamaica.”

Source and Note: TNA, *Judge Advocate General's Office: courts martial correspondence and papers* at WO 72/10 (no page no. shown). Maj. Gen. Thomas Stirling, on taking command of the 71st Highlanders in 1782, made a claim against the former colonel's estate for the large amount of missing accoutrements.

Request from Secretary at War George Yonge to Secretary of State Thomas Townshend, Lord Sydney, to Direct the Ordnance Dept. to Issue a Complete Replacement of Drums and Cartridge Boxes to the 42nd Regt., London, May 1, 1784

W.O. 1st May 1784

My Lord

The undermentioned Drums, Cartouch Boxes &ca being wanted for the 1st Battⁿ of the 42^d /or Royal Highland/ Reg^t of Foot, to replace a like number worn out & unfit for Service, I have the honor to acquaint your Ldp [Lordship] therewith , & to desire you will be pleased to receive & transmit H.M's [His Majesty's] Commands to the Master General of the Ordnance that the said Drums Cartouch Boxes &c may be issued out of H. M's Stores for the use of the said Battⁿ & the expence thereof charged in the Estimate of Ordnance for Parliament.

16 Drums Complete
16 Serj^{ts}. Cartouch
Boxes with Straps
& Frogs
408 Private do. with do.

Geo. Yonge
I have &ca

Right Hon^{ble} Lord Sydney
&c &c &c

Source and Note: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters* at WO 4/125, p. 878. The numbers of drums and cartridge boxes match the new establishment for the regiment discussed above in the letter dated June 14, 1783. At this time, the 42nd Regt. was serving at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Arms and Accoutrement Comments in Review of 42nd or Royal Highland Regt., Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 17, 1784

Head Q^{rs} Halifax 17th June 1784

Report of a General Review of His Majestys Forces that compose the Garrison of Halifax by Major General [John] Campbell commanding all His Majesty's Troops in Nova Scotia &^c &^c &^c on the 9th June 1784 Consisting of a Detachment of the Royal Artillery the 17th, 33rd & 42nd Regiments...

Their Arms clean and in good firing Order.

The Accoutrements made according to the Regulation...

John Campbell
MGen^l ...

Return of the Arms, Accoutrements and Cloathing of His Majestys 42 ^d Or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot Commanded by General Lord John Murray Reviewed by Major General John Campbell Halifax 9 th June 1784						
	Carabines.	Drums.	Firelocks.	Bayonets.	Cartridge Boxes.	When Received.
Good.....			68	68		The Firelocks and Bayonets for the Irish Establishment at Dublin 12 th July 1773. Ditto....ditto..for the Augmentation at Glasgow 23 ^d January 1776. The 13
Bad.....	13	6	333	333	417	

Wanting.....	3	10	7	7	7	Carabines, 6 drums, 333 Firelocks, 333 Bayonets and 417 Cartridge Boxes Returned bad wore out on Actual Service and unrepairable. The 7 Firelocks, Bayonets and Cartridge Boxes were lost on Service.
Complement.....	16	16	408	408	424	

Accoutrements								
	Colours.	Swords	Shoulder Belts	Slings	Pioneers			When Received
					Axes	Saws	Aprons	
Good								The Colours at Dublin 12 th May 1774. Totally wore out. The Cartridge Boxes for the Establishment at Glasgow 23 ^d January 1776. All unserviceable. The 442 Swords wanting Returned to the Ordnance Store at Halifax 8 th December 1783. The 442 Shoulder Belts, 442 Slings, 8 Pioneer Axes, 8 Saws and 8 Aprons totally wore out and unserviceable.
Bad	2							
Wanting		442	442	442	8	8	8	
Complement	2	422	442	442	8	8	8	

Source: TNA, *Office of the Commander-in-Chief and War Office: Adjutant General and Army Council, Inspection Returns, Foreign, 1783-1784* at WO 27/52.



Detail from Portrait of Lt. Col. Norman MacLeod of Macleod, 2nd Bn., 42nd Regt., Jan. 1787 by Johann Zoffany

Picture Source: *Dunvegan Castle Collection*

Excerpt of Letter from Brevet-Maj. Gen. Norman MacLeod of MacLeod to Maj. Gen. Sir George Osborn, Regarding the Accoutrements Required for the Transition of the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Regt. to the 73rd Highland Regt., India, 1787

Sir,

By Lord Cornwallis I received the first intelligence that his Majesty has been pleased to change the second Battalion of the Fourty Second Reg't to the 73rd, and that it has now the honour to be

commanded by you. I embrace this opportunity of sending you a Return of it, and of giving you a full account of its present state...

I have now to mention a circumstance which very highly concerns the Regiment, and your interest as Colonel. It has now been raised near seven years, and never has received any accoutrements but those which were first delivered to the men, of which not an article now remains, being fairly expended by time and hard service. We have from time to time been supplied from the Company's stores with belts and pouches, which will be charged by the Company to the King, and of course by Government, on the Colonel.

This will cost the Colonel infinitely more money than if he supplied the Regt at once with a complete set, which might be kept up at a small expence, and besides the Company's accoutrements are wretchedly bad.

As you, Sir, have received the Regt from his Majesty as a new Corps, and as it is really as unprovided of these articles as if it was just raised, from the severity of the service and length of time since it was first furnished, I should hope you might justly be allowed to demand a new and complete set of pouches and crossbelts. It would be still better if instead of receiving them from the Tower, the Colonel was allowed a sum of money to provide them, because they might by that means be furnished of a superior quality. At all events, Sir, it is extremely necessary to send out soon a set of good pouches with buff belts and crossbelts for the bayonets.

We have likewise received arms from the Company's stores, which will all be charged to the account of Government at a high price. They are extremely bad. It would therefore be a great advantage to the service, and a saving to the public, to send out a complete set of good arms from the tower... The officers when under arms wear fusees and bayonets, but they are also desirous of having elegant uniform swords. As their pay in this Country is higher than at home, they are willing to pay more than usual for handsome sidearms. We therefore, Sir, request you to be pleased to chuse handsome swords for us, and will cheerfully go to the expence of five guineas for them. For this money, the Agent may draw on me payable at Calcutta. As small swords would not suit short coats, I imagine you will chuse something of the saber or cut and thrust kind, and that the hilts be gilt, to agree with the gold lace on the coats...

Source: Norman MacLeod of MacLeod to Sir George Osborn, India, 1787, *Gen. Sir John Burgoyne Correspondence with Norman Macleod* at NRAS 2950, Dunvegan Castle, Section 4, #752, Transcribed by Alexander J. Good, Aug. 24, 2006.