

42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Foot

The most famous of the highland Regiments saw its first service in America during the years 1756-1767. It won particular distinction for its desperate though unsuccessful attacks at Fort Ticonderoga in 1758.

When it arrived in North America, the regiment wore Highland Dress---short red jackets trimmed with regimental lace(white with two red lines),with cuffs and collars of buff, red waistcoats, blue bonnets, belted plaids of "Government Tartan"; with red-and-white checked hose. Grenadiers wore bearskin caps with a red flap edged with white and bearing the initials "GR" in white below a white crown. Officers wore gold lace, sergeants, silver. Belts were made of black leather. The sporran was of plain tan leather with long tassels.

On July 3rd,1758, King George II conferred the title "Royal" on the regiment. This honor was not given as often thought, for the distinction at Ticonderoga. That battle was fought five days later. After receiving the Royal designation, the Regiments facings were changed to blue.

By 1761, the officers were wearing white waistcoats for ceremonial occasions. As the great kilt proved unsuited to the forests of North America, it was used primarily for dress reviews and guard mount. The Feilidh beag or "little kilt" was worn for general service. The Grenadier Company had a distinctive red stripe on its belted plaid, as well as the Feilidh beag.

Officers wore linen breeches and boots for duty and the kilt for full dress. The "little kilt" was the normal service dress for enlisted men. During hot weather, coats might be worn without the waistcoat for drill and guard duty. Waistcoats and the "little kilts" were worn in the field. Checkered shirts were preferred for field service since they did not show dirt.

A strip of black bearskin...not to exceed 5ins.....was worn on the bonnet. The enlisted men were issued muskets, bayonets and broadswords. Those that could afford them, carried dirks. The sergeants carried halberds for parade, but often replaced them with muskets for campaigning. The light infantry company was issued "tomahawks", powder horns and shot bags. Officers had fusels.

[My apologies—I found this article years ago on the web but I can't locate the address of the site.]