



## *Kilts & Courage*

*Volume II*

*The Officers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment  
in the American War for Independence, 1776 - 1783*

**Paul Pace**



Wrist Plate 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Short Land Musket  
Courtesy Fort Ticonderoga

“The Forty-second Regiment was ordered, in the spring of 1776, on Service to North America, where, during the whole course of the War which followed, it may with truth be averred, that no one Regiment was more constantly employed, serving chiefly with one or other of the Flank Corps, and that no Regiment was more exposed to danger, – underwent more fatigue, – or suffered more from both.”

Lt. Col. Charles Graham,  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.  
June 6, 1785

The National Archives, London, *War Office: Proceedings of a Board of General Officers* at WO71/11, pp. 272-9.

The second of three volumes on the heroic service of the Royal Highlanders in the American War for Independence. This famous regiment, now known as the Black Watch or 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland, served in the New York/New Jersey Campaigns of 1776 – 1777, the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777 – 1778, the raids on Bedford and Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts in 1778, and the raid on Portsmouth, Virginia and the Occupation of Stoney Point, New York in 1779. In 1780 they reinforced Gen. Sir Henry Clinton’s siege of Charleston, South Carolina and they were part of Gen. Clinton’s attempt to rescue Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia in 1781.

In his 1822 book *Sketches of the Character, Manners, and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland; with Details of the Military Service of the Highland Regiments*, Col. David Stewart explained the difficulties in documenting the history of the Highland regiments due to the loss of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. records. Stewart explained that “...when the army, under the Earl of Moira, landed at Ostend in June 1794. The transports were ordered round to Helvoetsluys, with orders to wait the further movements of the troops. But the vessels had not been long there, when the enemy invaded Holland in great force, and, entering Helvoetsluys, seized on the transports in the harbour. Among the number of vessels taken were those which had conveyed the Forty-second to Flanders, having on board every article of regimental baggage, except the knapsacks with which the Officers and soldiers had landed at Ostend in light marching order. Along with the baggage, a well-selected library, and, what was more to be regretted, all that remained of the historical records of the regiment, from the period of its formation till the year 1793, fell into the hands of the enemy.”

The purpose of this Volume is to reassemble, replace and reconstruct the records of the Officers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders during the period of the American War for Independence, 1776-1783.



Miniature Portrait of Capt. James Campbell, 42<sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment, courtesy of *Historical Antique Arms*

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***Devonshire Press  
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*Kilts & Courage, The Story of the 42<sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment  
in the American War for Independence, 1776-1783*

Volume Two of Three Volumes

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**Cover Art:**

Miniature Portrait of Capt. James Campbell, 42<sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regiment, courtesy of *Historical Antique Arms*

For Laura, Heather and Brian who got dragged to far too many Revolutionary War sites

## Table of Contents, *Kilts & Courage*, Volume II

	Page No.
<u>Introduction</u>	i
<u>Appendices</u>	
A. Biographies of the Officers	A-1
B. Commanders, Staff Officers, and Volunteers	B-1
C. Capt. John Rutherford's Pre-war Captivity by the Chippewa Tribe, 1763	C-1
D. Lt. Charles Grant and Smith's Rebellion, 1765	D-1
E. Capt. James Campbell, Hostage of the Spanish Army	E-1
F. Excerpts from the Autobiography of Lt. John Macdonald	F-1
G. Court Martial of Ens. David Sutherland, 1781	G-1
H. Lt. John Young's Application to the Loyalist Claims Commission	H-1
I. Lt. Lord William Murray in Debtors' Prison, 1792-1796	I-1
J. Correspondence, Orders and Contemporary News Articles	J-1
K. Annual Army Lists 1755-1784	K-1
L. Succession and Commission Books	L-1

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