

# LOUIS XV's ARMY (3) FOREIGN INFANTRY



RENE CHARTRAND

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## Author's Note

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This third volume in a series of five devoted to the organisation, uniforms and weapons of Louis XV's army, the largest military force in 18th century western Europe, examines the large and colourful establishment of mercenary 'foreign' infantry. Another important segment of the French army was its artillery, which saw considerable technical change during Louis XV's reign. Special note has been given to metropolitan detachments serving overseas, as they were nearly always pitted against British or colonial American forces.

The fourth volume will cover the light troops including hussars and legions, and auxiliary corps such as engineers, staff officers and local militias. The final volume will examine the colonial troops and militias in New France, the West Indies, Africa and India, as well as marines and other naval troops based in France. Illustrated by a wealth of contemporary illustrations, portraits and colour plates, it is hoped this collection of volumes will form the most complete account on the organisation and material culture of Louis XV's army published for a century.

The measures used in 'Ancien Régime' France were slightly different from those used in Britain and its colonies, an important factor, especially when dealing with artillery. The French 12-inch foot was 12.789 British (or imperial) inches. Thus the French 12-inch mortar was commonly labelled a 13-inch mortar by the British.

The metric equivalents of the old French measures are:

1 French inch = 27.07 mm,

1 French foot (12 inches) = 324.864 mm,

1 French toise (6 feet) = 1949.184 mm.

1 French pound = 489.4 g (1 imperial pound = 453.6 g),

1 tonneau = 489.4 kg (1 imperial ten hundredweight = 500.8 kg)

## Publisher's Note

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Readers may wish to study this title in conjunction with the following Osprey publications:

MAA 296 *Louis XV's Army (1) Cavalry and Dragoons*

MAA 302 *Louis XV's Army (2) French Infantry*

MAA 285 *King George's Army 1740-93 (1)*

MAA 289 *King George's Army 1740-93 (2)*

MAA 292 *King George's Army 1740-93 (3)*

MAA 236 *Frederick the Great's Army (1) Cavalry*

MAA 240 *Frederick the Great's Army (2) Infantry*

MAA 248 *Frederick the Great's Army (3) Specialist*

MAA 271 *The Austrian Army 1740-80 (1) Cavalry*

MAA 276 *The Austrian Army 1740-80 (2) Infantry*

MAA 280 *The Austrian Army 1740-80 (3) Specialist*

MAA 203 *Louis XIV's Army*

## Artist's Note

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# LOUIS XV's ARMY (3)

## FOREIGN INFANTRY AND ARTILLERY

### INTRODUCTION

BELOW **Marshal Maurice de Saxe.** Certainly the most distinguished of the 'foreign' soldiers in the service of France and one of the great captains of 18th century warfare, the German-born de Saxe brought Louis XV the greatest victories of the reign: Fontenoy and Lawfeld. Part of his genius lay in his deep understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the French soldier: brave to excess, but liable to be unstable in battle. He skilfully exploited these features by vigorous opening attacks, shrewdly followed by lessening the intensity of the fighting, while maintaining the tactical pressure on the enemy with constant manoeuvres. (Print after a 1748 portrait by Quentin de la Tour)



**B**y long-standing tradition, as well as by sheer numbers, the importance of foreign regiments in the French army was considerable. Since the Middle Ages, the rulers of France had called upon mercenaries from various neighbouring nations to form units which were often among the finest in the army. Indeed, this tradition is still very much alive today in the form of the French Foreign Legion, arguably one of the world's finest fighting units. Marshal Maurice de Saxe, himself a foreigner, defined rather strikingly the value of foreign troops in 1748: 'A German' [or other foreign soldier in French pay], he wrote, 'counts for three men: he saves one in the kingdom, he takes one away from our enemies and he serves us'.

Foreign regiments were meant to compensate for some of the perceived weaknesses of French-born soldiers who sometimes lacked steadiness and manoeuvred indifferently, although they were exceedingly brave when charging. By contrast, the Swiss and Germans were renowned for their steadiness under heavy fire and for their precision drills.

The foreign infantry regiments numbered about 20,000 men between 1716 and 1733; around 34,000 during the Polish War of Succession of 1734-1735; some 22,600 until 1741-1748, when their establishment jumped to 58,000; it went down to about 31,000 until the Seven Years' War, when it went up to 48,000 and was reduced by 20,000 men at war's end.

### SWISS TROOPS OF THE ROYAL GUARD

The Swiss, renowned for their bravery and fidelity throughout Europe, had been part of the French royal guard for centuries by the time Louis XV became king. Apart from the nominally Scottish, but actually French, company of the Gardes du Corps, the Swiss units were the only truly foreign units in the guard.

#### **Cent-Suisses**

The Cent-Suisses ('hundred-Swiss') palace guards originated in 1480, when King Louis XI first retained a company of Swiss soldiers for his personal guard. The company served for over three centuries as guards of the French royal family.

Their uniform was Swiss costume 'after an antique manner' which, in time, became its full ceremonial dress. It consisted of a 16th century-style slashed jacket and baggy breeches, both being red on the right side and blue on the left side, and almost covered with the royal livery lace colours of red and white; white stockings with red and white garters, white gloves with red, white and blue fringes and shoe bows. A stiff white embroidered collar was worn around the neck. The cap was black velvet with a white plume. They were armed with 'a halberd made in the shape of a partisan, upon which is the king's arms in gold', and gold-hilted straight swords, according to Zur-Lauben's 1751 *Histoire Militaire des Suisses*.

For ordinary duties, they wore a blue coat with red velvet cuffs, red lining, gold buttons and crimson ribbons on the right shoulder; a blue waistcoat with gold buttons, edged with gold lace, and further ornamented with the king's 'grand' livery lace; blue breeches and stockings; a gold-laced tricorne; a white bandoleer covered with 'grand' livery lace and edged with red, white and blue fringes. In 1759 the uniform changed to a blue coat with red cuffs and red lining, gold-laced buttonholes and broad gold lace edging; a red waistcoat, breeches and stockings, and a gold-laced tricorne.

By the late 1730s, a campaign dress had also been added, consisting of a bearskin grenadier cap, a blue coat with red cuffs, red waistcoat and breeches, and gold lace on the coat and waistcoat. Arms consisted of muskets with bayonets. On campaign, the Cent-Suisses served with the grenadiers of the Swiss Guards.

Officers of the Cent-Suisses did not have the Swiss style 'antique' ceremonial uniform, but wore scarlet coats, waistcoats, breeches and stockings, with gold buttons and gold lace. Drummers appear only to have added a drum belt covered with livery lace (and apparently gold lace at the centre) for the ceremonial order of dress. Other uniforms would have been trimmed with livery lace. The drums were blue with the royal arms and other devices in gold.

### **Gardes-Suisses**

The Swiss Guards originated in the 16th century, but only became part of the royal guard in 1616. By the 18th century there were 12 companies of 200 men each in wartime; the war service of this regiment was frequent and always outstanding.

The uniform was a red coat with blue lining and cuffs; a blue waistcoat, breeches and stockings; white metal buttons, white pointed lace on the coat and waistcoat, and silver lace on the hat. The lace was set in threes, in the same style as the Gardes-Françaises. Gaiters came into use during the 1730s, and the blue linings were turned back during the 1740s. From 1763, the blue cuffs, lapels and collar were edged with white lace, and linings, waistcoats and breeches were white. The bastion-shaped buttonhole lace was

**Guardsman of the 'Cent-Suisses' (Hundred-Swiss), c.1750, wearing the 'antique' ceremonial dress. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University)**



white from 1767. Accoutrements were buff, edged with white leather until 1763, when they became white. The cartridge box was of reddish brown Russian leather, stamped with the royal arms which were highlighted by a silver wash.

Sergeants of the Gardes-Suisses had the same uniform as the men, but their lace was silver, and they had additional silver lace edging the cuffs and pocket flaps. They also had silver-laced belts and were armed with halberds and silver-hilted swords. Drummers of the Swiss Guards wore the same king's livery lace described (see MAA 302 *Louis XV's Army (2) French Infantry*) for the French Guards, but with blue waistcoat, breeches and stockings, silver-laced hats. Their drums were blue with the king's arms painted in gold. The *trabans*, peculiar to Swiss units, ranked as non-commissioned officers and wore the colonel's livery, which, in the Swiss Guards, was the king's livery. They are shown in 1721 with livery lace on the coat and red waistcoat, but this may not have been always followed to the letter. They were armed with a halberd.

The officers had red coats with red (not blue) cuffs and lining, silver buttons, wide lace on the seams; blue waistcoat with silver buttons and lace; blue breeches and blue, later white, stockings and gaiters. Red coats with blue cuffs and lining with silver lace and buttons, could also be worn as an undress. The hats were laced with silver and had white plumes. Swiss officers had a silver gorget. They were armed with a silver-hilted sword and a spontoon.

### **Garde Suisse de Monsieur, Garde Suisse du Comte d'Artois**

Louis XV authorised personal Swiss palace guards for each of his two grandsons, Monsieur le Comte de Provence and the Comte d'Artois. The Garde Suisse de Monsieur was raised in April 1771, consisting of 47 officers and men, and wore a red coat with blue collar, lapels, cuffs and lining, a blue waistcoat, red breeches and stockings, gold and silver mixed lace and silver buttons, a silver-laced hat with white plumes, and a



**Powder horn marked 'Cent-Suisses' with brass furnishings, c.1730. This type of powder horn, holding about a pound of black powder, was the standard model used by infantry. (Musée de l'Armée, Paris)**



**Guardsmen of the 'Cent-Suisses' in 1760. At left, the ceremonial dress; at centre, the ordinary duty dress; at right, campaign dress. (Royal Library, Madrid)**

white and gold bandoleer. The Garde Suisse du Comte d'Artois were raised from November 1773, and wore a green coat with crimson collar, lapels, cuffs, lining, a crimson waistcoat, breeches and stockings, silver and gold mixed lace, silver buttons, a silver-laced hat with a white plume, and a white and gold bandoleer. Arms consisted of swords and muskets. Both units were disbanded in 1792.

## FOREIGN LINE INFANTRY ORGANISATION

The Swiss formed the largest contingent and probably the most reliable body of foreign troops in the line infantry. A French saying stated: '*pas d'argent, pas de Suisses*' – no money, no Swiss. It echoed popular grumbling at the high cost of foreign soldiers, but as far as the Swiss were concerned, it was misplaced, as their pay remained the same from 1672 to 1763. Considered among the finest and bravest troops in the army, they were especially steady in battle, but often suffered heavy losses. Thus, when a French courtier remarked that the gold paid to the Swiss would pave a wide road from Paris to Basle, a Swiss colonel replied that the blood of Swiss soldiers would fill an equally wide canal from Basle to Paris.

Swiss regiments were raised according to 'capitulations', agreements between the French Crown and Swiss cantons or officers. Swiss line infantry regiments were usually the most numerous of the foreign troops in the French army. By 1740, the ten Swiss regiments numbered 12,550 officers and men. Nine battalions were added during the Austrian War of Succession, which raised numbers to 20,000. Following peace in 1748, the Swiss establishment went down to 14,000, but was up again to over 18,200 by the end of the Seven Years' War, and down to 12,300 from 1763. Swiss regiments consisted of large companies of 175 officers and men until 1748, and of 120 until 1763. Regiments had eight companies until 1743, when four companies were added.

A feature peculiar to Swiss units was the inclusion of about four *trabans* armed with halberds in each company. *Trabans* were a remnant of medieval practices which allowed the company captain an escort of men. Although not included in the official establishment, except in the Swiss Guards, they could be seen dressed in the colonel's livery. Before 1763, Swiss line regiments had no grenadiers on the official establishment but, especially after the Seven Years' War, a few senior men in each company were identified as such and given bearskin caps.

There were only five German regiments during the first decades of Louis XV's reign with a total establishment of 3,760 men in 1740. During

**Traban of the Swiss Guards, c.1724, wearing the colonel's livery (in this case the king's). (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University)**





**Colour bearer of the Swiss Guards, c.1724. The colours had quarters with wavy flames, typical for Swiss regiments, with the white cross of France. The flames were blue, yellow and red. The officer's dress coat was completely scarlet, laced with silver. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University)**

the War of Austrian Succession, however, the numbers were doubled to 7,040 by 1743, with more German regiments raised by recruiting mostly in the Rhineland and the Palatinate. They were joined by French-speaking Walloon units from Belgium and other regiments from Lorraine and Barrois. By 1748, there were 14 regiments totalling some 26,270 men. This was reduced to 9,520 men in 12 regiments by 1750; raised to 16 regiments with 19,040 men by 1758; numbers went down to ten regiments with 18,360 men by 1762; and after the Seven Years' War, eight regiments with a peacetime strength of 9,272. These German, Walloon, Lorraine and Barrois units all had the same organisation, each having battalions of eight companies. Each company had 40 men in peacetime, and 80 to 85 in wartime. Grenadiers did not form a distinct company, but were a six-man squad in each company.

The establishment of Italian regiments, relatively numerous in previous reigns, was very moderate under Louis XV. By then, most recruits were actually French or Corsican. There was only one regiment, Royal-Italien, until 1739 when Royal-Corse was raised, consisting of battalions of

12 companies of 50 men each in peacetime, and 90 in war.

From 1715 there were a few Irish regiments totalling only about 3,000 officers and men in five regiments by 1740. But their numbers shot up to nearly 7,000 during the Austrian War of Succession with the formation of another Irish regiment, Lally's, and by the addition of three Scottish regiments. Numbers were reduced to some 5,200 by 1750, up to 6,300 in 1757, and down to 2,930 in 1763. The composition of the companies and battalions of the Irish and Scottish regiments was the same as the 'French' regiments, with the addition of distinct grenadier companies. Scottish regiments also had pipers.

Officers and men in the Swiss and German units of foreign infantry were often Protestants, but only Catholics could enlist in Italian, Scots or Irish regiments. Protestant ministers were attached to regiments that required them.

At first glance, the foreign regiments appeared to have been recruited along strict national lines, but this was not actually the case. There were exemptions for some nationalities and the language spoken and understood in the unit was a prime consideration. For example, men from Alsace and Lorraine could choose to enlist in either French, German or Swiss units. From 1696, Swiss recruiters could also enlist Germans, Poles, Danes and Swedes in their regiments, although Germans were distrusted because of their tendency to desert.

The German regiments were not defined by nationality as such, but rather by the language of command used in the unit. Alsations, although technically French subjects, usually understood both German and French, and were eagerly sought by both German and Swiss recruiters as they had an excellent reputation as dependable soldiers. German-

speaking recruits from Austria or further east were also enlisted. In reality, as one observer noted with some irony in 1763, one third of the men in German regiments came from Alsace and Lorraine, a third were Frenchmen using false identities, and another third were all sorts of foreigners whose daily desertions were almost routine. Other units were actually francophones recruited in the nominally foreign areas, such as Walloons from the then Austrian Flanders, or men from Lorraine and Barrois.

Irish units had originally been raised from refugees in France in the late 17th century, but as years went by, recruiting became more difficult in spite of the fact that soldiers' sons often joined the regiments. In the first half of the 18th century, there was some discreet recruiting in the southern Irish counties of Clare, Kerry and Connaught, and men were smuggled away to France. This was carried out with tentative British approval in the 1720s and 1730s. During wartime, English deserters claiming to be Roman Catholics could also be incorporated in the Irish regiments. From 1745, recruiting in Ireland became far more difficult as Britain was now totally opposed to the practice. So, as the years went by, increasing numbers of Frenchmen enlisted in units which gradually became Irish in name only.

Scottish regiments were raised from Jacobite Scots in France and those who later escaped to France after Culloden in 1746. There was also some quiet recruiting among Catholics in the Scottish Highlands, but



FAR LEFT Fusilier of the Swiss Guards, c.1724. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University)

LEFT Back view of a fusilier of the Swiss Guards, c.1724. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University)

this was frowned upon by the British. There were enough Scottish officers, but as the years passed, providing new Scots recruits was an even greater challenge than for Irish units, so these regiments had also lost much of their national character by the end of 1762, when the last were disbanded.

Many foreign regiments were disbanded or amalgamated at the end of the Seven Years' War, but the army still maintained a sizeable contingent. The reforms made in the army reached the foreign regiments in a series of regulations issued during 1763. The organisation was streamlined to two battalions of eight companies each; companies of Swiss regiments were pared down to 66 officers and men, the other nationalities to 58 officers and men. Uniforms were now furnished by the government, and captains were no longer expected to run the interior economy of companies.

In addition to the official foreign regiments, there were thousands of other foreigners in French pay serving in the light troops and in the colonial troops which will be covered in volumes 4 and 5.

Drummer of the Swiss Guards, c.1724. He wears the blue-lined-red coat of the king's livery with the grand livery lace. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University)



## UNIFORMS

What has already been described for the French line infantry uniforms in the previous volume remains largely true for foreign infantry regiments. (See MAA 302.) The 1729, 1736, 1747, 1762 and 1767 orders, for instance, also applied to foreign regiments. The coat colour, however, was red for Swiss and Irish regiments, blue for most German and Scottish units and grey-white or blue for the others. The cut was generally the same as the French infantry, but some details were different: some units had lapels much earlier than French infantry regiments, for example, and many had laced buttonholes.

The rank distinctions of officers of foreign infantry were the same as in the French infantry. They were to wear the same uniform as the men, but made of better materials, with gold or silver buttons and lace. However, some portraits show that deviations were more common with foreign officers. Until the 1750s Swiss and German officers favoured a row of buttons on both sides of the coat front, for example. In some cases, the buttonholes of Swiss officers had blue twist cord when on red. Regiments that had laced buttonholes on the men's coats would have the same feature on the officers' uniform. The waistcoat was laced with gold or silver, sometimes with richly embroidered buttonholes. Hats could also be seen with white plumes edging the brim.

On duty, the Swiss officers wore silvered gorgets; those of German units were of polished steel and those of other nationalities were gilded like the French infantry. Foreign officers' spontoons were generally as in the French regiments, although Germans tended to have the wide-bladed spontoon typical of their nation.

Sergeants, corporals and *anspessades* (lance corporals) generally had the same rank distinctions as the French infantry but there could be exceptions on details. A Royal-Barrois clothing bill of 1759 mentions black lace edging the white cuffs of the corporals and *anspessades*.



**Fusilier of the Swiss Guards, 1735, by Gudenus. The uniform colours remained the same, but the evolution in fashion in the preceding decade was considerable. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)**

Liveries of drummers are given below when known. Drummers of Alsace and regiments with the 'Royal' prefix had the French king's blue livery, except for Lorraine and Barrois units, who wore the yellow livery of their duke, the exiled king of Poland. It should be noted that foreign colonels were not subject to the rule forbidding a blue livery to all except the king. Thus, several non-royal foreign regiments are known to have had blue liveries for their drummers. The drum cases were of wood, painted in various ways in the livery colours, sometimes with the colonel's coat of arms, until 1767 when they became brass.

From 1763, the uniforms of some units, especially German, remained the same for several years. Others, notably the Swiss, were substantially changed; the Swiss regiments adopted different facing colours. In general, lapels were added to most units that did not have them. Foreign infantry officers had their rank identified by epaulettes in silver or gold, similar to officers of French infantry.

### **Regimental descriptions**

The list below attempts to describe the main changes in uniforms which occurred in each infantry regiment from the 1720s to the late 1760s. Foreign regiments were known by the name of their colonel or by titles denoting

nationality, such as Royal-Écossais. We have used the 1740 and 1758 registers as the main guides to precedence. The uniform descriptions are given from the earliest complete sources in the 1720s and 1730s, with changes chronicled up to the 1760s from the official army registers. For the sake of clarity, the basic description is given again for 1758 and 1763.<sup>1</sup> These are supplemented by descriptions from the *Buchsweiler Inventar* referred to as *BI* in brackets with the entry number. Generally, the coat cuffs and pockets each had three buttons and the pocket flaps were horizontal unless otherwise indicated.

**Alsace (German):** Blue coat with five buttons on pocket (Gudenus shows three in 1735), red cuffs (no buttons, but Gudenus shows three) and lining, blue waistcoat (Gudenus also shows white buttonholes) and breeches changed to white in later 1730s, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. From 1753: red collar and narrow lapels. From 1758: blue coat, red collar, cuffs (without buttons), lapels (12 buttons on each) and lining, white waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (five on pocket, two below lapel), silver hat lace.

Grenadiers of c.1760 had bearskin caps. One example was reported with a blue bag trimmed with three narrow white laces and a tassel, the other with a red bag similarly trimmed, and with a tall white plume (*BI*, 36, 143). From 1763 they wore a blue coat, with red collars, cuffs (no

<sup>1</sup> The dates 1748, 1750, 1753, 1758 to 1763 indicate features listed in the registers of those years. The changes listed in the 1758 to 1762 registers were almost certainly introduced the previous year.

buttons), lapels (ten buttons each and two below) and lining, white waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, five buttons to pockets, hat laced silver. Officers had a row of buttons on each side which evolved into narrow lapels in the 1740s and 1750s. They apparently wore a white sash around the waist, a German fashion, until the 1740s. Drummers wore the king's livery. A drum was described painted with red, blue and white flames and the royal coat of arms in front with regimental flags and scroll below bearing the title '*Grenadiers von Elsass*' (BI, 47).

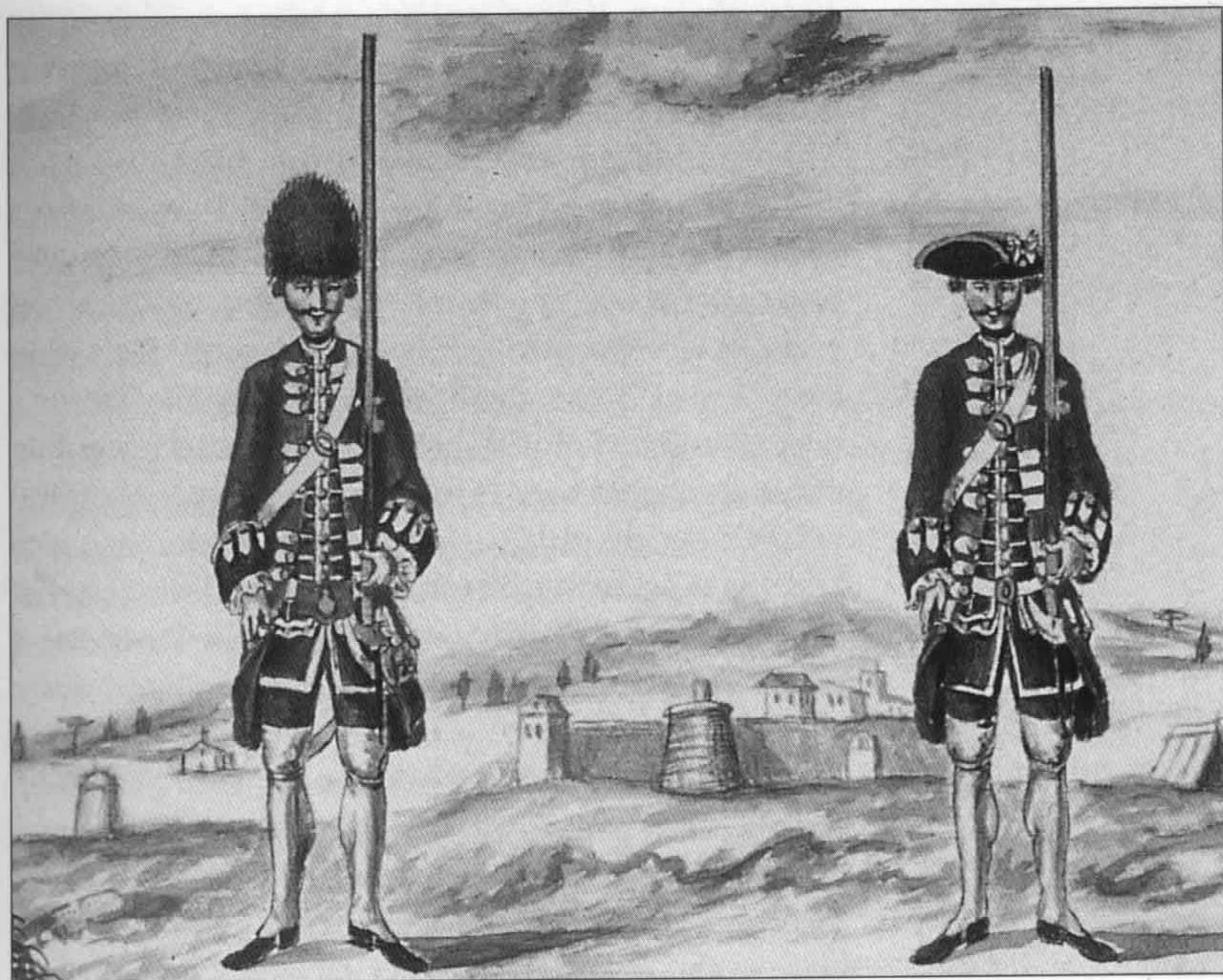
**Greder (German), 1716 Sparre, 1734 Saxe, 1751 Bentheim, 1759 Anhalt:** Blue coat with double vertical pockets, yellow cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. From 1735: yellow collar (Gudenus), blue collar from later 1730s. From 1753: yellow collar and lapels, red cravat. From 1758: blue coat, yellow collar, cuffs, lapels (eight buttons on each) and lining, double vertical pockets, white waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (four below lapel), silver hat lace. There was no change after 1763.

**Royal-Italien (Italian):** Brown coat, red cuffs, collar, lining, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, gold hat lace. From 1753: red lapels. The uniform changed to a grey-white coat faced sky blue in about 1755. From 1758: grey-white coat, sky blue cuffs, lapels (eight buttons), lining, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons (four below lapel), yellow buttonhole lace, gold hat lace. From 1763: white coat, lining, waistcoat and breeches, sky blue collar, cuffs and lapels, brass buttons (three at pocket and cuffs in pairs, six on lapel and three below), hat laced white.

**Villars-Chandieu (Swiss), 1728 May, 1739 Bettens, 1751 Jenner, 1762 Erlacht:** Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, buttonholes on coat stitched blue, silver hat lace. From 1758: red coat, blue cuffs, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, buttonholes on coat stitched blue, silver hat lace, white edging and buttonhole lace on waistcoat. Until 1763, NCOs wore blue coats with red cuffs and lining.



ABOVE **Fusilier, Swiss Guards, 1766.** Red coat, blue collar, cuffs and lapels, white lining, waistcoat, breeches, gaiters and lace, pewter buttons. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University)



**Grenadier and fusilier of the Swiss Guards, 1760.** Note the grenadier's bearskin cap. The accoutrements are shown white. (Royal Library, Madrid)

From 1763: red coat, black collar, cuffs and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (six on lapel, three below, three on horizontal pocket and cuff), black stock, white hat lace. Drummers of Erlacht: red coat, black collar, cuffs, lapels and wings, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, black and white livery lace at coat seams and edging the facings and wings (drum major had silver lace).

**Brendlé (Swiss), 1738 Seedorf, 1752 Boccard:** Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, buttonholes on coat stitched blue, silver hat lace. From 1758: red coat, blue cuffs, collar, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, buttonholes on coat stitched blue, silver hat lace. 12 waistcoat buttons set in pairs. 1763: red coat, white collar, cuffs, lapels, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (seven on lapel, three below, three on vertical pocket and cuff), black stock, white hat lace. In 1770 facings changed to yellow. From 1763 drummers of Boccard wore a blue coat with white collar, cuffs, lapels, wings, lining, waistcoat and breeches, blue livery lace with a white chain and blue diamonds edged yellow at centre of chain edging coat facings and on the sleeves. The drum case was blue with white and blue hoops and the arms of the Boccard family.

**Castella (Swiss), 1722 Bettens, 1739 Monnin, 1756 Reding, 1763 Pfyffer:** Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, buttonholes on coat stitched blue, silver hat lace. From 1758: red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (five buttons to pocket), buttonholes on coat stitched blue, silver hat lace. From 1763: red coat, sky blue collar, cuffs and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (seven on lapel, three below, three on vertical pocket and cuff), red stock, white hat lace.

**Hessy (Swiss), 1729 Burky, 1737 Tschoudy, 1740 Vigier, 1756 Castella:** Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, buttonholes on coat stitched blue, silver hat lace. This remained the same until 1763, when it altered to: a red coat, blue collar, cuffs and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (seven on lapel, three below, three on vertical pocket and cuff), black stock, white hat lace. From 1763 drummers of Castella wore: a blue coat, red cuffs, lapels and standing collar, white lining, pewter buttons (seven on lapel, three below, four on cuff), trimmed with white lace with blue, yellow and crimson (*BI*, 1073). The drum of Castella in the Musée de l'Armée in Paris has a case covered with white and red flames, and white and red diagonal stripes on hoops.

**Affry (Swiss), 1734 Wittemer, 1757 Waldner:** Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, buttonholes on coat stitched blue, silver hat lace. From 1758: red coat, blue cuffs, collar, lining, waistcoat and breeches,

**Private, Appelgrehn (German) Regiment, 1735, by Gudenus. Blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, red cuffs and lining, white lace at buttonholes and edging cuffs, white gaiters, black cravat, silver hat lace. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)**



pewter buttons (set in threes), buttonholes on coat stitched blue, silver hat lace, white buttonhole lace on waistcoat. 1763: red coat, collar, and lapels, red cuffs, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (seven on lapel, three below, three on vertical pocket and cuff), black stock, white hat lace. Drummers of Waldner carried drums which had blue, white, red and black flames with the Waldner coat of arms, and had hoops striped blue, red and black (*BI*, 23).

**Hemel (Swiss), 1729 Bezenwald, 1738 La Cour-au-Chantre, 1748 Grands-Villars, 1749 Balthazar, 1754 Planta, 1760 d'Arbonnier, 1763 Jenner, 1774 Aulbonne:** Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, buttonholes on coat stitched blue, silver hat lace. This was unchanged in 1758 apart from white lace buttonholes and edging on the waistcoat. From 1763: red coat, yellow collar, cuffs and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (seven on lapel, three below, three on vertical pocket and cuff), black stock, white hat lace.

**La Mark (German):** Blue coat, collar, waistcoat and breeches, yellow cuffs and lining, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. From c.1750, white waistcoat and breeches. 1753: yellow collar, blue waistcoat and breeches, white buttonhole lace on coat and waistcoat. 1758: blue coat, lining, waistcoat and breeches, yellow collar and cuffs, white buttonhole lace, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. According to *BI* 640, the white lace was set in pairs (ten in front, four at pockets and cuffs), shoulder straps were blue; and white lace was on the waistcoat. From 1763: blue coat and collar, yellow cuffs and lapels (seven buttons each and two below), white lining, white waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, white lace at buttonholes, hat laced silver. Drummers: white with black cuffs, chequered black and white silk livery lace. From 1763, white coat with same lace edging and regimental facings.

**Du Buisson (Swiss), 1721 Diesbach:** Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. Gudenus shows white edging and buttonholes on waistcoat in 1735, but this is not mentioned until the 1758 register. From 1758: red coat, blue collar, cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (four buttons on pocket), blue buttonhole stitch, waistcoat trimmed with white lace, silver hat lace. From 1763: red coat, sky blue collar, cuffs and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (seven on lapel, three below, three on horizontal pocket and cuff), black stock, white hat lace. Diesbach drummers wore red livery. Drum cases and hoops were red, and painted with the coat of arms of the Diesbach family, and flags displaying red, black and yellow flames with a white cross bearing the words *Fidelity and Honour* (*BI*, 23).

**Courten (Swiss):** Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, silver hat

**Private, Clare (Irish) Regiment, 1735, by Gudenus. Red coat, yellow cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, white gaiters, silver hat lace. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)**



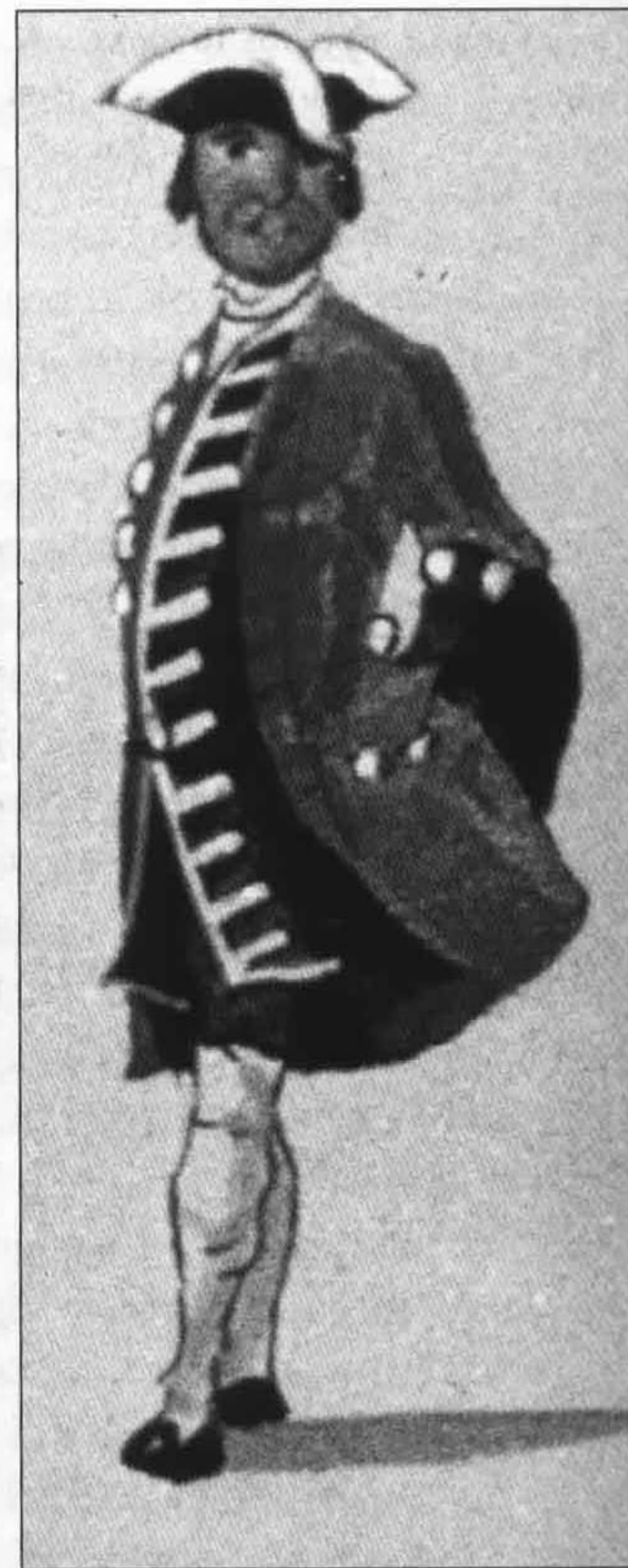
lace. From 1758: red coat and collar, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, silver hat lace, waistcoat with two rows of buttons, blue buttonhole stitches on coat. From 1763: red coat, 'Saxon' green collar, cuffs and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (seven on lapel, three below, three on horizontal pocket and cuff), black stock, white hat lace. Drummers had a blue livery. The drum now in the Musée de l'Armée in Paris has blue case sprinkled with large yellow fleurs de lis, the royal arms of France and Navarre, with flags of Courten with yellow, black and red flames, and natural wood hoops.

**Lee (Irish), 1733 Bulkeley:** Red coat, green cuffs, collar, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, white buttonhole lace, silver hat lace. From 1758: red coat, green cuffs and waistcoat, white breeches, white buttonhole lace, buttons in pairs down the front of the coat, silver hat lace. A green collar is shown on a 1760 manuscript. From 1763: red coat and waistcoat, white lining and waistcoat, green collar, cuffs and lapels, pewter buttons (four at pocket and cuffs in pairs, five on lapel including four in pairs and three below), hat laced silver.

**Clare (Irish):** Red coat, yellow cuffs (Gudenus shows in 1735 a pointed cuff held by a button), lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. 1753, yellow collar. From 1758: red coat, collar and waistcoat, yellow cuffs and lining, white buttonholes in pairs, white breeches, pewter buttons (four at cuff and pocket), silver hat lace. 1763: red coat and waistcoat, white lining and waistcoat, yellow collar, cuffs and lapels, pewter buttons (four at pocket and cuffs in pairs, five on lapel and three below), hat laced silver.

**Dillon (Irish):** Red coat, black cuffs, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, gold hat lace. In 1735, Gudenus shows what may be a black collar and red buttonholes between two rows of buttons on the waistcoat. From 1753: black collar, red waistcoat. From 1758: red coat and collar, black cuffs, white lining and breeches, red waistcoat with black lapels (12 small buttons each), brass buttons, gold hat lace. From 1763: red coat, collar and waistcoat, white lining and waistcoat, black cuffs and lapels, brass buttons (three at pocket and cuffs, five on lapel and three below), hat laced gold. From 1767: white waistcoat, white hat lace. Drummers wore red livery, and crimson lace with a white chain.

**Lenck (German), 1734 Appelgrehn, 1742 Royal-Suèdois:** (The regiment was still classed as German after 1742, but officers had to be Swedish.) Blue coat and waistcoat, red cuffs, lining and breeches, dark grey stockings, pewter buttons (four to each cuff and pocket), silver hat lace. From c.1734, cuffs have no buttons, but are edged with white lace, pewter buttons, white buttonhole lace on coat and waistcoat, blue breeches. Red collar edged white adopted c.1738. In c.1745, blue coat with red collar and 'Swedish' cuffs with three laced buttonholes, 12 white buttonhole laces in front, blue shoulder strap, 'large, fashionable' pewter/tin buttons, blue waistcoat with laced buttonholes, blue breeches (*BI*, 232). From c. 1750: buff collar and cuffs, brass buttons, gold hat lace. From 1753: buff lapels, yellow buttonhole lace (officers did not have lapels, but had buff waistcoats and breeches). From 1758: blue coat and waistcoat, buff cuffs, lining and buttonhole lace, white breeches, brass buttons set in pairs on lapels and waistcoat, no buttons on cuffs, gold hat lace. From 1763: blue coat, buff collar, cuffs (no buttons), lapels



LEFT Private, Bettens (Swiss) Regiment, 1735, by Gudenus. Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat, breeches, pewter buttons, waistcoat buttonholes laced white, white gaiters, white cravat, silver hat lace. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)



Officer, Bettens (Swiss) Regiment, c.1745. Red coat, blue cuffs and lining, silver buttons, St Louis cross hung on a scarlet ribbon, steel breast plate with red velvet belts and lining edged silver. (Unterlinden Museum, Colmar. Photo courtesy A. U. Koch)

LEFT Private, Diesbach (Swiss) Regiment, 1735, by Gudenus. Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, white gaiters, pewter buttons, buttonholes stitched with blue, black cravat, silver hat lace. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)

(six buttons each in pairs and three below) and lining, blue waistcoat, white breeches, brass buttons, buff buttonhole lace, hat laced gold. Drummers of Lenck wore yellow coats with red lining and breeches, grey stockings, blue lace with white chain, pewter buttons and silver hat lace. They wore the king's livery when they became the Royal-Suèdois.

**Dorrington (Irish), 1733 Roth, 1766 Roscommon, 1770 Walsh-Serrent:** Red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, gold hat lace. From 1758, the uniform altered slightly to include orange buttonholes on the waistcoat between two rows of buttons. From 1763: red coat, lapels and waistcoat, white collar, cuffs, lining and waistcoat, pewter buttons (three at pocket and cuffs, five on lapel and three below), hat laced silver.

**Berwick (Irish):** Red coat, white cuffs (no buttons), lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. From 1753: double vertical pockets on coat, each with six buttons set in pairs, black collar and cuffs, red waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, gold hat lace. From 1758; red coat and waistcoat, black collar and cuffs, white lining and breeches, brass buttons (coat pocket has six buttons set in pairs, four on each cuff, 12 in pairs down the front), yellow buttonhole lace on one side only of coat and waistcoat, gold hat lace. From 1763: red coat, cuffs and waistcoat, white lining and waistcoat, green collar and lapels, brass buttons (six in pairs at double vertical pockets, six on lapel in pairs and four below in pairs, three at cuffs), gold hat lace.

**Royal-Bavière (German):** Blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, black cuffs and collar edged with white lace, white coat lining, pewter buttons, white buttonhole lace, silver hat lace. The 1758 uniform was the same as before except for the addition of black lapels; there seems to be no more edging lace on collar and cuffs, pewter buttons set in pairs, four on each cuff and pocket flap. A c.1760 uniform was described as blue, with black lapels (six buttons each set in threes, and three below), black cuffs 'edged and open above' with blue three-button flaps edged with white lace, laced buttonholes, pocket flaps edged with white lace, no collar mentioned, white shoulder strap, blue waistcoat with white buttonhole lace, blue breeches, pewter buttons, the buttonhole lace loops were 'three-cornered' probably meaning with pointed ends (*BI*, 231). From 1767: sky blue coat and cuffs (no buttons), black collar and lapels (ten buttons in pairs, four below), white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, white hat lace.

**Karrer (Swiss):** Raised in 1719, transferred from the Ministry of War to the Ministry of the Navy in 1721 to supply colonial garrisons. (See Vol. 5.)

**Travers (Swiss), raised 1734, 1744 Salis:** Red coat, waistcoat and breeches, blue cuffs and lining, double vertical pockets with six buttons each, coat buttonholes stitched blue, pewter buttons, silver hat lace.

From 1758: same as before, but with a blue collar added, buttons set in pairs, double vertical pockets with four buttons each. From 1763: red coat with blue collar, cuffs and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (seven on each lapel, three below lapel, three on horizontal pocket and cuff), red stock, white hat lace.

**Royal-Corse (Italian/Corsican):** Raised in 1739, the regiment was incorporated into Royal-Italien in 1763. Uniforms were a grey-white coat, lining and breeches, green cuffs and waistcoat, brass buttons, gold hat lace; collars and breeches were green from 1753. From 1758: grey-white coat, lining and breeches, green collar and cuffs, brass buttons (four on cuff), red waistcoat with white buttonhole lace set in pairs but brass buttons, gold hat lace. Another **Royal-Corse** organised from November 1765 wore a grey-blue coat and cuffs, black collar and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (six on lapel), white hat lace. From 1767: blue coat and cuffs, yellow collar and lapels (seven buttons to each lapel, three below), white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons.

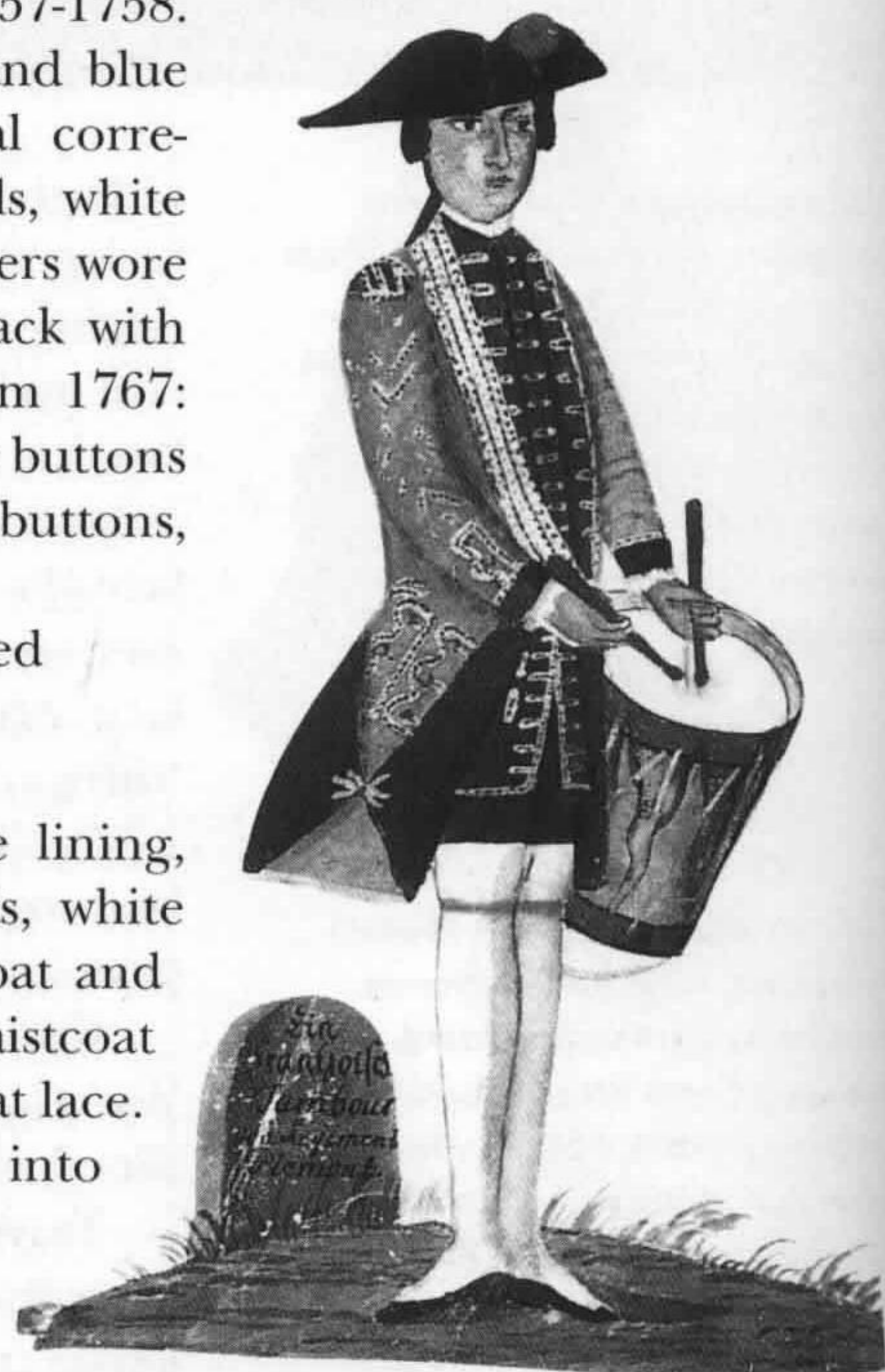
**Gardes-Lorraines (Lorraine and Barrois):** Raised in 1740, it became the Lorraine French Infantry Regiment in 1766 when the duchy was incorporated into France. Uniforms were: yellow coat, black cuffs, pewter buttons probably with white buttonhole lace, hat laced silver. From c.1751: blue coat, collar, cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons and white buttonhole lace, silver hat lace. From c.1755, white waistcoat and breeches. Coat linings became white in 1757-1758. From 1759: blue coat lining, blue waistcoat with white lace and blue breeches re-allowed on 10 February according to regimental correspondence. From 1763: blue coat, blue collar, cuffs and lapels, white waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. Drummers wore yellow livery, black cuffs, the king of Poland's livery lace (black with yellow chain edged white and black), and silver hat lace. From 1767: white coat, lining, waistcoat and breeches, black collar, cuffs (six buttons under) and lapels (six buttons to each and three below), brass buttons, white hat lace. Drummers had the king's livery from 1767.

**Loewendahl (German):** Raised in 1743, it was incorporated into Anhalt and La Mark in 1760. Blue coat, double vertical pockets, white collar, cuffs (with three buttons under), lining and waistcoat, brass buttons, gold hat lace. From 1753: blue lining, waistcoat and breeches (officers had four buttons at pockets, white lining, waistcoat and breeches). From 1758: blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, white collar and cuffs, double vertical coat pockets, waistcoat with white buttonhole lace set in pairs and brass buttons, gold hat lace.

**Royal-Écossais (Scottish):** Raised in 1744 and incorporated into Bulkeley in December 1762. The uniform was described in 1745 during the campaign in Flanders as blue faced red (probably meaning red cuffs, collar, lining, waistcoat and



ABOVE Major de Dehlingen, Alsace (German) Regiment, c.1740. Blue coat, scarlet collar, cuffs and lining, silver buttons, steel breast plate with a white sash, buff waistcoat, white cravat. Note the buttons on both sides of the coat. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)





**Christian Brüderpaar, officer in the Alsace (German) Regiment. Portrait by J.W. Hauwiller in Strasbourg during April 1757. Blue coat, red collar, cuffs and lapels, silver buttons, white waistcoat and breeches, black cravat. Note the evolution of the hair style and the cut of the coat from the previous portrait. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)**

**LEFT Drummer of a Swiss regiment, 1757-1760. Hat laced silver with white plumes. Red coat with blue collar, cuffs, lapels, turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches, white metal buttons, multi-coloured lace, white gaiters. Blue and red flames on the drum case, blue and red hoops. (Watercolour by C. Becker, Weimar Library)**

breeches). Privates of fusiliers and grenadiers had white mohair buttonhole lace, and the sergeants had silver lace. Officers with the detachment sent to Scotland in 1745-1746 were described as wearing 'short blue coats, red vest laced, with bonnets and white cockades', which may imply that coat tails were shortened and flat blue bonnets adopted in the Highlands. From 1753: blue coat, red collar, cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, white buttonhole lace, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. From 1758: blue coat, red collar and 'Scottish style' cuffs (meaning with a blue cuff flap), red waistcoat, white breeches, white buttonhole lace (12 on both sides of the coat front, 12 on one side of the waistcoat, three to each cuff flap), pewter buttons, silver hat lace. Manuscripts of 1757 and 1760 show white coat lining.

**Royal-Lorraine (Lorraine and Barrois):** Raised in 1744 and disbanded in 1748, the regiment wore a yellow coat, black cuffs, pewter buttons, hat laced silver. This changed c.1746-1747 to grey-white uniform, yellow cuffs. The new **Royal-Lorraine** raised in 1757 wore a grey-white coat, lining, waistcoat and breeches, yellow collar

and cuffs, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. From 1761: grey-white cuffs, black lapels, brass buttons, gold hat lace. Drummers wore yellow livery, black cuffs, and the king of Poland's livery lace (black with yellow chain edged white and black).

**Bergh (German):** Raised in 1744 and incorporated into Alsace in 1760. Blue coat, red cuffs, collar, lining, waistcoat and breeches, double vertical pockets, brass buttons, gold hat lace. From 1758: same as before, except for red lapels (each six buttons in pairs), white waistcoat and breeches.

**Lally (Irish):** Raised in 1744 and incorporated into Dillon in December 1762. Red coat, green cuffs, collar, lining, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, yellow buttonhole lace, gold hat lace. From 1758: red coat, light green cuffs, white lining and breeches, green waistcoat, brass buttons, gold hat lace.

**Royal-Wallon (Walloon):** Raised in 1744 and disbanded in 1748. Blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, red cuffs and lining, brass buttons, yellow buttonhole lace on coat and waistcoat, gold hat lace.

**Bouffler-Wallon (Walloon):** Raised in 1744 and disbanded in 1748. Grey-white coat, green collar and cuffs, red waistcoat and breeches, pewter and brass buttons mixed, silver and gold hat lace.

**Royal-Barrois (Lorraine and Barrois):** Raised in 1745 and disbanded 1749. Uniform 'about the same' as Royal-Lorraine. Another **Royal-Barrois** regiment was raised in 1757 but disbanded in December 1762. Uniforms were a grey-white coat, lining, waistcoat and breeches, yellow collar and cuffs, brass buttons, gold hat lace. From 1759: grey-white cuffs, black collar and lapels, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. Drummers wore from 1759 a yellow 'cassock', yellow cuffs, lining, yellow waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, the king of Poland's livery lace (black



ABOVE LEFT **Grenadier, Diesbach (Swiss) Regiment, 1757-1760.** Black bearskin with blue front plate edged white with white grenade, blue bag laced white. Red coat with blue collar, cuffs, turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches, white metal buttons and white lace, white gaiters. (Watercolour by C. Becker, Weimar Library)

ABOVE RIGHT **Drummer, Royal-Lorraine (Lorraine and Barrois) Regiment, 1757-1760.** Hat laced silver, yellow coat, black cuffs, livery lace white with black and yellow, yellow breeches, white gaiters. Drum belt, drum case and hoops black, yellow and white. (Watercolour by C. Becker, Weimar Library)

with yellow chain edged white and black), and silver hat lace (Brest Archives, 2S1, 3).

**Fersen (German) Raised 1745, 1754 Nassau-Unsinghen:** Amalgamated in March 1758 into Nassau. Sky blue coat, red cuffs and lapels, pewter buttons, white buttonhole lace, silver hat lace. 1753: red lining, no lapels. Drummers of Fersen, had wings with four white laces (*BI*, 238).

**Nassau-Saarbruck (German) Raised 1745, 1758 Nassau:** Blue coat, buff cuffs and lapels, red waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, white pointed buttonhole lace, silver hat lace. 1757-1758: blue coat, red cuffs and lapels, white waistcoat and breeches, two white laces below lapels, pewter buttons, white cord or knot on shoulder, silver hat lace. From 1763: blue coat and collar, red cuffs and lapels, two white laces below on each side, white epaulettes, white lining, white waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, hat laced silver. Grenadier bearskin cap with blue bag trimmed with buff narrow lace with blue and orange (or buff?) tassel (*BI*, 36, 143). Before 1758, drummers wore a blue coat, buff cuffs and lapels, pewter buttons, [buff?] wings with three laces, white lace edged with wide yellow stripe (lace at buttonholes six per lapel, three to each cuff and pocket), red waistcoat and breeches (*BI*, 241). From 1758-1762 lapels and cuffs were red (*BI*, 243). The fife case was brass, with a yellow leather strap, and orange and white braid and tassel (*BI*, 28).

**Ogilvy (Jacobite Scottish):** A clan regiment raised in Scotland from September 1745, and disbanded about May 1746. It was taken into French pay by a royal ordinance of 15 February 1746 which wished 'created two Scottish infantry regiments' of one battalion each, but actually concerned the existing battalions raised by Lord David Ogilvy, formerly of Royal-Écossais and well connected at Louis XV's court, and his father Lord Airlie. The unit was known as Ogilvy's Regiment which, from the time of the ordinance, made it a regiment of Scottish soldiers in Scotland paid by France while also being part of the Jacobite army. It took part in the siege of Stirling and the battle of Falkirk in January 1746, and fought at Culloden in April. The regiment retreated safely and disbanded thereafter.<sup>2</sup> Many escaped to France. Jacobite units wore 'Highland clothes' as a uniform of sorts, consisting of a kilt or trews, short jackets made of plaid, and blue bonnets with white cockades. The men had muskets and bayonets, mostly French; relatively few had broadswords and 'targets' (the small Scottish-style round shields). Officers had broadswords, dirks, Highland pistols and were ordered to procure themselves 'targets' in October 1745.

**Ogilvy (Scottish):** Raised in 1747 from Scottish refugees, nearly all the officers, including the colonel, were veterans of Ogilvy's Jacobite Scottish. It was incorporated into Clare in December 1762. Uniforms were a blue coat, red cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, yellow buttonhole lace, and gold hat lace. From 1758: blue coat, red collar, cuffs ('small, square and without buttons'), lining, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons (four buttons to coat pockets, three to waistcoat pocket), yellow buttonhole lace, gold hat lace.

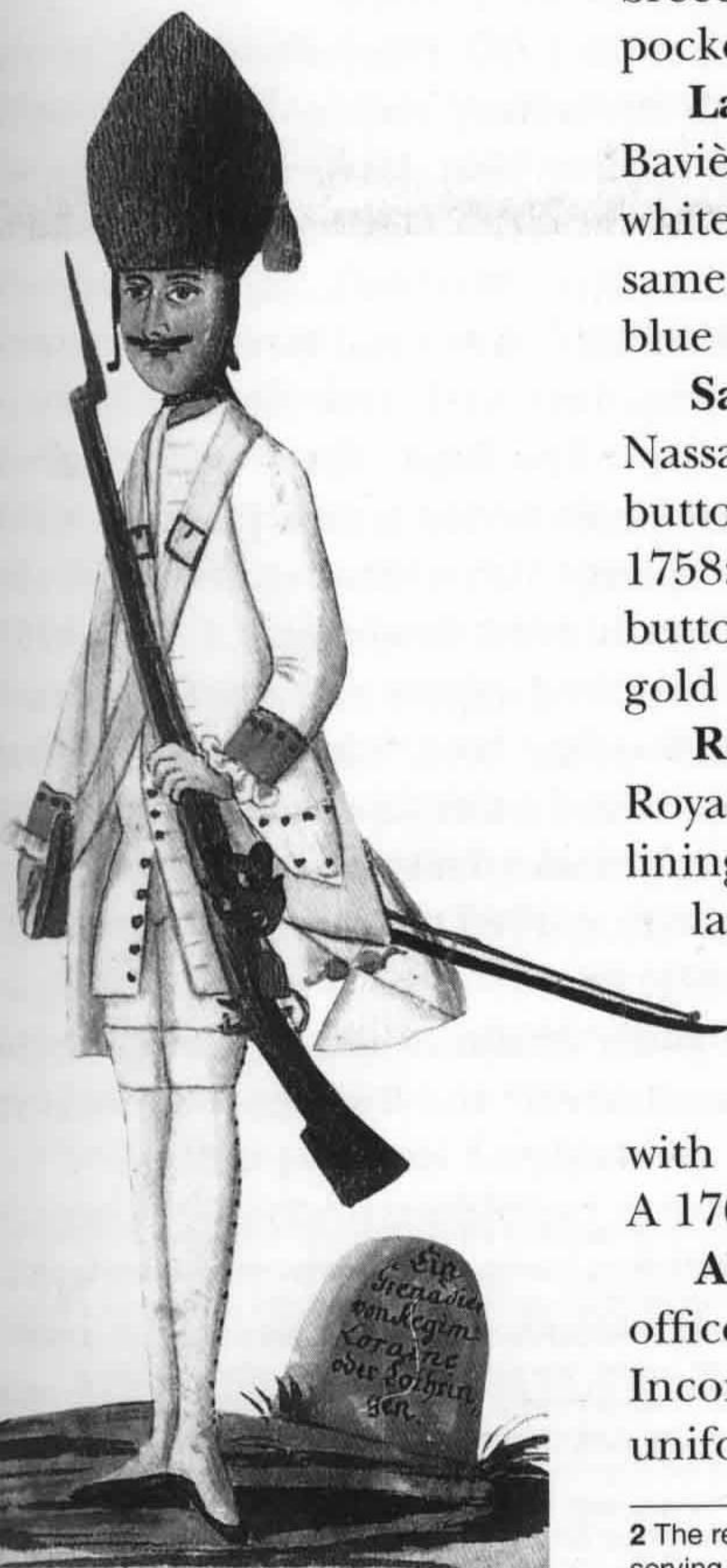
**La Dauphine (German):** Raised in 1747 and incorporated into Royal-Bavière in 1760. Blue coat, red collar, cuffs, lapels, lining and cravat, white waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, gold hat lace. From 1758, same as above, but lapels had six buttons in pairs, three below lapel. A blue shoulder strap was also mentioned (*BI*, 643).

**Saint-Germain (German):** Raised in 1747 and incorporated into Nassau in 1760. Blue coat and cuffs, yellow collar and waistcoat, brass buttons, gold hat lace. From 1753: yellow cuffs, blue waistcoat. From 1758: blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, yellow collar and lining, brass buttons (on both sides of coat, four to a pocket), yellow buttonhole lace, gold hat lace. A blue shoulder strap was also mentioned (*BI*, 646 [sic]).

**Royal-Pologne (German):** Raised in 1747 and incorporated into Royal-Suèdois in 1760. Blue coat and waistcoat, red collar, cuffs and lining, white waistcoat, pewter buttons, white buttonhole lace, silver hat lace. Officers had red waistcoats. A 1757 manuscript shows white tassels on the hat, which seems unique in the infantry, red cuffs with no buttons edged with white lace, red collar edged with white lace. From 1758: same as above, but red cuffs edged with blue, red epaulette. Blue shoulder strap also mentioned (*BI*, 646). A 1760 manuscript shows a blue waistcoat and breeches.

**Albanie or Albany (Scottish):** Raised from October 1747. All the officers were Scottish, but most of the enlisted men were German. Incorporated into Royal-Écossais and Ogilvy in December 1748. The uniform is not given in the French registers, but is mentioned in

**Grenadier, Royal-Lorraine (Lorraine and Barrois) Regiment, 1757-1760. Bearskin cap with yellow tassel, white coat with yellow cuffs, white metal buttons, white waistcoat, breeches and gaiters. (Watercolour by C. Becker, Weimar Library)**



<sup>2</sup> The regiment is not listed in the French sources, probably because of its very short life and for never actually serving in France.

Lord Elcho's journal as a red coat with white facings, waistcoat and breeches.<sup>3</sup>

**Lochman (Swiss):** Raised in 1752. Uniforms were: a red coat, blue cuffs, lining and waistcoat, coat buttonholes stitched blue, waistcoat buttonholes stitched white, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. From 1758: same as above, with slash cuffs and pockets with two buttons, buttons on both sides of coat, coat and waistcoat had white buttonhole lace. From 1763: red coat, blue collar, cuffs and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (six placed 1-2-3 on lapel, three below, three on horizontal pocket and cuff), white hat lace.

**Volontaires-étrangers (German):** Three infantry battalions of 'Foreign Volunteers' were raised in 1756. They wore a grey-white coat and breeches, green collar, cuffs and waistcoat, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. Reorganised as light infantry in January 1759 and named **Volontaires-étrangers de Vignoles** (see Vol. 4).

**Bouillon (Duchy of Bouillon):** Raised in 1757. Grey-white coat, lining, waistcoat and breeches, black collar (edged with narrow white lace), cuffs and lapels, pewter buttons, white buttonhole lace (eight on lapel, four below, four on cuff and pockets, all set in pairs), silver hat lace. Black shoulder strap also mentioned (*BI*, 674). From 1763: white coat, black collar, cuffs (five buttons), lapels (eight buttons and four below set in pairs), white lining, white waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, white buttonhole lace on lapels and edging collar, hat laced silver. Drummers wore white livery with black, the coat garnished with 'Brandebourg' lace of black and white silk with tassels

**Royal-Deux-Ponts (German):** Raised in 1757. Grey-white coat, lining, waistcoat and breeches, red collar and cuffs, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. From 1761: sky blue coat, crimson-red collar and cuffs, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons, white buttonhole lace, silver hat lace. Two coats of c.1761-1766 described with ten and 12 laces in front, four on pocket flaps, three and four on cuffs, crimson-red shoulder straps (*BI*, 636, 676). 1767, facings changed to yellow collar, cuffs and lapels, plain buttonholes. Drummers, c.1763-1767, wore a blue coat, red lapels (six buttons), cuffs (four buttons,) collar and wings, white lining, pewter buttons (two below lapel and on pocket), white tape at coat seams and on wings, red heart on turnback. After 1767 they wore the king's livery. (*BI*, 1047).

**Vierzet-Liégeois (Walloon):** Raised in 1757, the unit was transferred to Austrian service in

**Grenadier, Royal-Deux-Pont (German) Regiment, 1757-1760.** Bearskin cap with brass plate, white coat with red cuffs, white metal buttons, white waistcoat, breeches and gaiters. (Drawing by C. Becker, Weimar Library)



<sup>3</sup> Elcho as per McCorry. This seems to be the only contemporary reference to its uniform. The French 1748 register has no information. Authors writing 150-200 years later have suggested it was like Ogilvy's but cite no sources. Albany was an honorific name and one of Prince Charles-Edward's titles. The colonel was Donald Cameron of Lochiel, the 19th clan chief who died in 1748. A portrait said to be of him (reproduced in Wood, p. 84 and Reid, p. 78) is probably his son James, the 20th chief, who was in Royal-Écossais from 1749. On his right shoulder is an epaulette with fringes, an item officially introduced in December 1762 which would date the portrait at about 1763 or later. The uniform is blue with a red collar and cuffs, blue cuff flaps, silver edging lace and buttons, and a black and red plaid is visible.



November 1762. Grey-white coat, lining, waistcoat and breeches, blue lapels and cuffs, brass buttons (seven on lapel, four on cuff, pocket and below lapel), gold hat lace.

**Horion-Liégeois (Walloon):** Raised in 1757 and disbanded in November 1762. Blue coat, red collar, cuffs, lapels, lining and waistcoat, brass buttons and yellow buttonhole lace, gold hat lace.

**Eptingen (Swiss):** Raised in 1758. Uniforms were: a red coat, yellow collar, cuffs, lapels, turnbacks and waistcoat, white lace, red breeches, silver hat lace. The uniform may have changed c.1761-1762 to blue cuffs, shoulder strap, turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches, no lapels, no lace, pewter buttons on both sides of coat and waistcoat.<sup>4</sup> From 1763: red coat, white collar, cuffs and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (seven on lapel, three below, three on horizontal pocket and cuff), red stock, white hat lace.

**Buttafuoco (Corsican):** Raised 1769, it did not serve in Corsica, but in Antibes and later Marseilles. It was converted to a provincial militia regiment in 1772. Uniforms were a blue coat and cuffs, black collar and lapels, white lining, waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons (six on lapel set by threes), and white hat lace.

**Swiss Independent Companies:** Three garrison companies, the first posted at Honfleur and later Louyon, the two others at Fort Barrault and Bouillon. Known by their captains' names: D'Affry's, Paravicini's and Reynolds' in the 1720s and 30s; Heuberger's, Reynolds' and Travers' in the 1740s and 50s. All had the same uniform: red coat, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat, breeches and stockings, pewter buttons, and silver hat lace.

ABOVE LEFT **Corporal, Royal-Deux-Pont (German) Regiment, 1757-1760. Hat laced silver, white coat with red cuffs, white metal buttons, white waistcoat, breeches and gaiters. The white lace on the cuffs and the sword indicate the rank of corporal. (Drawing by C. Becker, Weimar Library)**

ABOVE RIGHT **Fusilier, Saint-Germain (German) Regiment, 1757-1760. Hat laced gold, blue coat with yellow cuffs and collar, blue waistcoat and breeches, yellow buttonhole lace, brass buttons. (Drawing by C. Becker, Weimar Library)**

<sup>4</sup> Yellow facings according to the 1760 Ms in the Royal Library, Madrid. Blue facings according to 1762 Ms in Musée de l'Armée, Paris. The *États Militaires* of 1758-1763 does not describe the uniform.

## OTHER 'FOREIGN' UNITS

During the Ancien Régime, the realm of France included a few small semi-independent fiefdoms and principalities, often relics of medieval times, that were not completely or directly ruled by the French Crown. They were really little puppet states, generally populated by people of French extraction, but nevertheless considered somewhat foreign. These areas often had their own very small guard units and armed forces. But they did not belong to the Crown, nor were they officially listed in the foreign troops of the French Army. A few examples are given below.

The most extensive of these areas were the duchies of Lorraine and of Barrois, ruled by Duke Leopold until his death in 1737. He had two units of horse guards, one dressed in scarlet laced gold, the other in green laced silver. After his death, Louis XV installed his father-in-law, the exiled king of Poland, as duke, who ruled from 1737 until his death in 1766. He had a horse guard in Lunneville (see Vol. 1), contributed several regiments (described

above) and also had his own *maréchaussée*, military school and bourgeois militias (see Vol. 4). There were also nine bat-

talions of drafted militia, equivalent to the royal militia in France, used to provide recruits, notably for Gardes-Lorraine in 1744 and Royal-Barrois in 1757. After his death in 1766, Lorraine and Barrois were formally amalgamated into France along with its units.

The city of Avignon and its surrounding area, the Comtat, had belonged officially to the pope since 1309, and in the 18th century still had 20 Papal Swiss Guards. They wore the peculiar antique dress of this corps, consisting of a half red and half yellow jacket, baggy trousers with blue cuffs and slashes, red stockings, a tricorne with white edging plume and yellow standing feather, a yellow-buff shoulder sword belt, and a halberd with a red tassel. The company of cavalry had red coats, possibly with blue cuffs and housings laced gold. A company of 100 infantrymen had blue coats with red cuffs, waistcoat breeches, white stockings, pewter buttons and white hat lace; the drummers had red coats with blue cuffs, waistcoat and breeches.

In the principality of Monaco was a small prince's guard which also served as the constabulary, wearing an all-red coat, waistcoat and breeches, silver buttons, silver lace on the coat and waistcoat, hat with silver lace, red bandoleer edged silver.

Corsica had periods of French occupation before the island, which technically belonged to the Republic of Genoa, was ceded to France in 1769. The Corsican units in French pay (see above and Vol. 4) were then taken into the French establishment but retained their distinctive character and uniforms.



**Baron Franz Benedikt Jacob von Reinach-Werth, Nassau-Saarbruck (German) Regiment, c.1758. Blue coat, scarlet lapels, cuffs and lining, silver buttons and aiguillette, scarlet waistcoat, silver sword hilt, black breast plate with blue belts and lining edged gold. The sitter wears the white cross edged gold with gold crowns and lilies on the French version of the Order of Malta suspended on a black ribbon. That, and the naval scene in the background indicates previous training and service in the Order's navy. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)**



### Detachments sent to Scotland

During the '45' Jacobite uprising in Scotland, detachments from the Irish and Scots regiments in the French army went to Scotland.<sup>5</sup> About 250 men from Royal-Écossais landed on the Scottish east coast on 22 November 1745, while some 300 soldiers, divided into six piquets of about 50 men each from Roth's, Dillon's, Clare's, Bulkeley's, Berwick's and Lally's Irish regiments, landed at Montrose on 25 November 1745. The Fitz-James Cavalry Regiment (see Vol. 1) was sent later, but most of it was captured at sea, only a squadron of about 130 troopers landing at Aberdeen on 22 February 1746. All detachments joined the Pretenders' army and rendered good service until the Jacobites were crushed at Culloden on 16 April 1746.

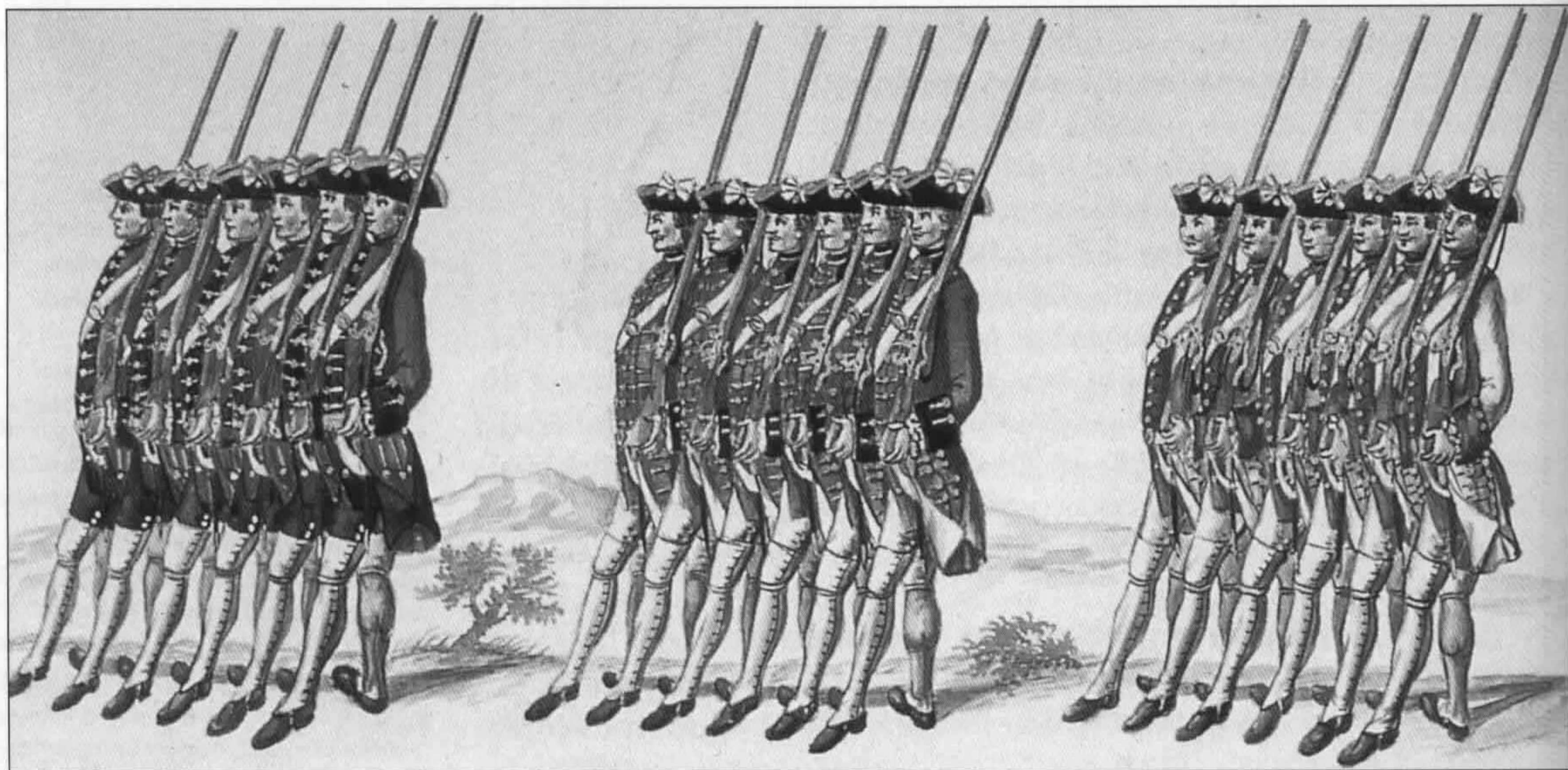
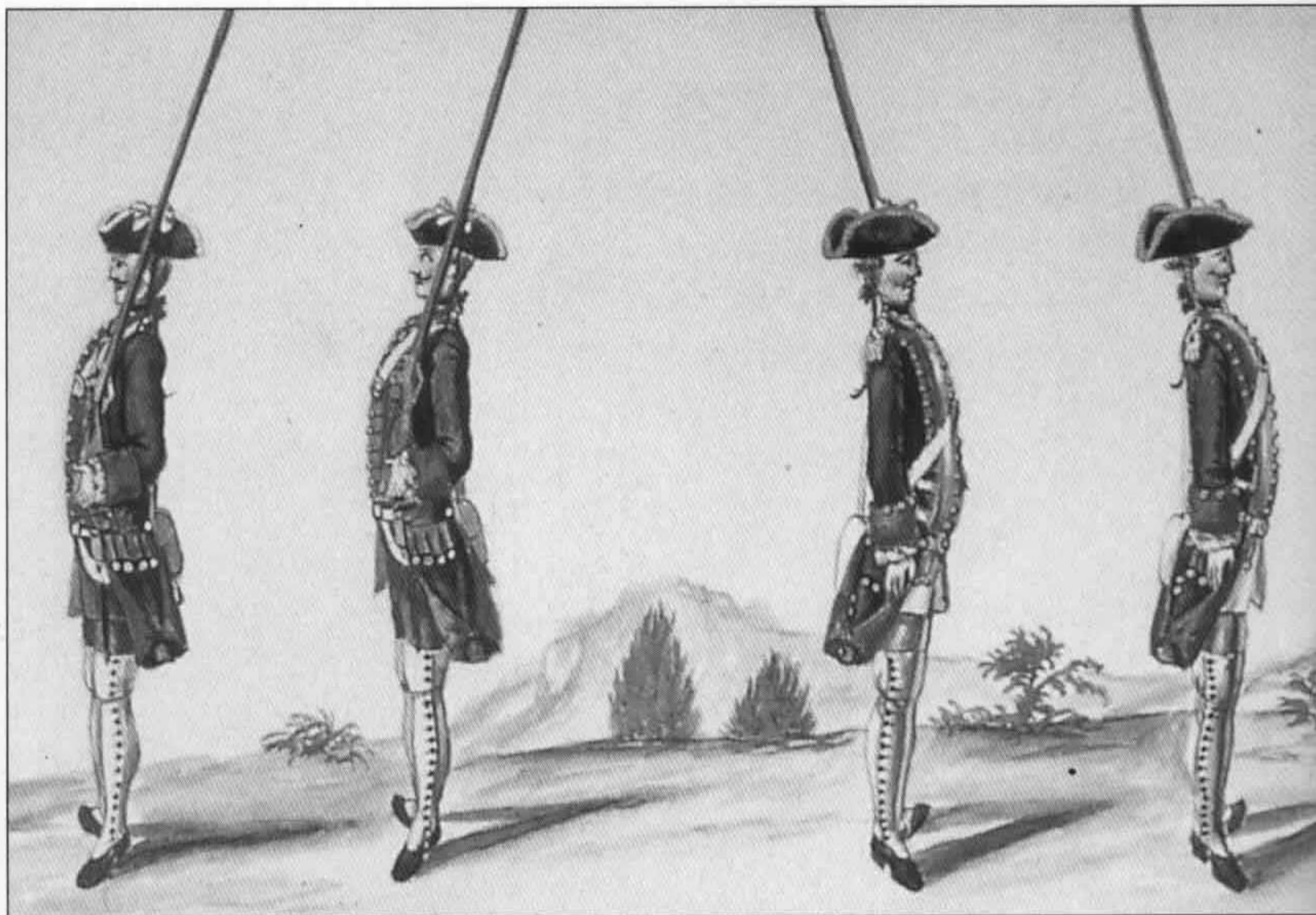
### Foreign units sent overseas

Like the French line infantry regiments, the foreign regiments in the metropolitan army were not posted to overseas garrisons. However, this policy began to change during the Seven Years' War. A detachment of 170 men from *Volontaires-étrangers* was sent to Canada in 1757 and incorporated into the colonial troops. In 1758, the 2nd battalion of *Volontaires-étrangers* went to the fortress of Louisbourg (North America) which fell to the British after a hard-fought siege. In November 1756, Lally's Irish Regiment was ordered to India, reorganised into two battalions of nine companies each including one of grenadiers, each company having 60 men. It left France in May 1757, from Lorient and Brest, arriving in India from February to April 1758, the last contingent with its colonel, General Lally-Tollendal, who was made commander in chief of French India. Lally's regiment saw action in India until early

**Grenadiers, Royal-Italien (Italian), Jenner (Swiss) and Bocard (Swiss) regiments, 1760. Royal-Italien: grey-white coat, blue collar, cuffs, lapels, turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons. Jenner: red coat, blue collar, cuffs, turnbacks and waistcoat, red breeches, pewter buttons, white lace on waistcoat. Bocard: same as Jenner, but waistcoat has two rows of buttons set in pairs instead of lace. All have bearskin caps and blue bags edged with yellow for Royal-Italien and white for the others. White accoutrements, brown ventral box. (Royal Library, Madrid)**

<sup>5</sup> Another obscure unit of 60 to 100 men is mentioned in James Ray's *Compleat History of the Rebellion (1752)* as raised by a French Navy officer 'under the pretence that they were for the East India Company's service...styled Grassins de Mer, and were handsomely cloathed in blue faced with red'. It came out of France with 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' but the ship it was on, *L'Élisabeth*, went back to Brest after a fight with HMS *Lyon* while the prince sailed on to land in Scotland with seven companions on 25 July 1745. This unit was not a detachment of French marines as is often believed. It may well have been a somewhat private unit of Scots and French volunteers.

Privates, Ogilvy (Scottish) and Nassau (German) regiments, 1760. Ogilvy: blue coat, red collar, cuffs, turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches, yellow lace on coat, brass buttons, gold hat lace. Nassau: blue coat, red collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, white epaulette, pewter buttons, white waistcoat and breeches, silver hat lace. White accoutrements. (Royal Library, Madrid)



Privates, Rooth (Irish), Berwick (Irish) and Enghien (French) regiments, 1760. Rooth: red coat, blue collar, cuffs, turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches, narrow yellow buttonhole lace, brass buttons, gold hat lace. Berwick: red coat and waistcoat, black collar and cuffs, white turnbacks and breeches, yellow lace, brass buttons, gold hat lace. Enghien had grey-white, red facings, pewter buttons. White accoutrements. (Royal Library, Madrid)

1761, when the remnants surrendered at Pondicherry. Royal-Barrois served in Saint-Domingue (Haiti) during 1762-1763. Bouillon was in Martinique in 1769-1771. Clare's Irish Regiment was posted to Mauritius in 1771-1772. These relatively rare overseas postings for foreign regiments became more common during the next reign (see MAA 244 *The French Army in the American War of Independence 1778-1783*).

The Swiss units in the pay of the metropolitan army were never deployed outside Europe. However, Swiss units in the pay of the Navy or of the 'Compagnie des Indes' (the French East India Company) were sent to America and the East Indies.

### Colours

The Swiss regiments had one colour per company, the colonel's having the white colour and the other companies having the regimental



colours. This scheme lasted until 1764, when two colours per battalion were carried. The design of Swiss regimental colours featured a white cross with the quarters having flames in the colours of the colonel's livery. The white colonel's colours often had gold mottoes and lilies.

German regiments in the French army had a colour for each company, the colonel's company having the white colour and the other companies having the regimental colours. From 1753, the French practice of two colours per battalion was adopted. In some German regiments such as Lenck's, the design of the regimental colours could be quite 'French', with a white cross, coloured quarters and lilies. Others had no crosses at all, but a blue background with three fleurs de lis, and a crown and wreath edged with a wide border, or else a white St Andrew's cross with backgrounds in red, yellow and blue.

Other foreign regiments had the same number of colours as the French infantry regiments. Irish regimental colours featured a red St George's cross edged white, most with coloured quarters bearing the British crown, while others had white quarters and the British lion on the cross. Scottish regimental colours were blue with a white St Andrew's cross ornamented with thistles or lilies.

### **Royal-Artillerie**

There were several artillery units in the army at the beginning of Louis XV's reign, as well as a distinct corps of artillery officers. On 5 February 1720, the Royal-Artillerie regiment, the Royal-Bombardiers regiment, the *Canonnières des côtes de l'Océan* (Gunnery of the Ocean Coasts) company, the various independent companies of miners and *ouvriers* (artisans), as well as the corps of artillery officers, were all merged into the new Corps Royal de l'Artillerie, usually simply called Royal-Artillerie.

It consisted of a regiment of five battalions, each battalion having eight companies, and the companies each having squads of gunners, bombardiers, miners and artisans plus officers. The battalions were based at La Fère, Metz, Strasbourg, Grenoble and Perpignan, where artillery schools were established. Recruits were to be native-born

**Privates, Vierzet (Walloon), Horion (Walloon) and Eptingen (Swiss) regiments, 1760. Vierzet: all grey-white, except for blue lapels and cuffs, brass buttons, gold hat lace. Horion: blue coat and breeches, red collar, cuffs, lapels, turnbacks and waistcoat, white lace, pewter buttons, silver lace. Eptingen: red coat and breeches, yellow collar, cuffs, lapels, turnbacks and waistcoat, white lace, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. White accoutrements. (Royal Library, Madrid)**

GARDES SUISSES (SWISS GUARDS), 1740s AND 1750s

- 1: Officer, undress
- 2: Officer, full dress
- 3: Traban
- 4: Drummer
- 5: Private
- 6: Sergeant





FOREIGN INFANTRY, 1720s

- 1: Hesse's (Swiss) Regiment, officer
- 2: Hesse's (Swiss) Regiment, private and colour
- 3: Lenck's (German) Regiment, drummer
- 4: Lenck's (German) Regiment, officer with colour and private

POLISH SUCCESSION WAR, 1734-35

- 1: Dillon's (Irish) Regiment, fusilier
- 2: La Mark's (German) Regiment, fusilier
- 3: Alsace (German) Regiment, fusilier
- 4: Saxe's (German) Regiment, fusilier



AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION WAR, 1740s

1: Royal-Écossais (Scottish) Regiment, officer, 1745-46

2: Royal Écossais (Scottish) Regiment, fusilier

3: Royal-Écossais (Scottish) Regiment, officer with colour

4: Clare's (Irish) Regiment, fusilier

5: Royal-Corse (Italian/Corsican) Regiment, fusilier

6: Royal-Italien (Italian) Regiment, fusilier





SEVEN YEARS WAR

- 1: Ogilvy's (Scottish) Regiment, fusilier
- 2: Gardes Lorraine (Lorraine and Barrois) Regiment, fusilier, c.1757-58
- 3: Gardes Lorraine (Lorraine and Barrois) Regiment, drummer/fifer, c.1757-60
- 4: Bulkeley's (Irish) Regiment, fusilier
- 5: Horion's (Walloon) Regiment, fusilier
- 6: Planta's (Swiss) Regiment, fusilier

FOREIGN INFANTRY OVERSEAS 1757-63

1: Royal-Barrois (Lorraine and Barrois) Regiment, fusilier, Haiti, 1762-1763

2: Volontaires-étrangers (German) Regiment, fusilier,  
New France, 1757-58

3: Lally's (Irish) Regiment, fusiliers and colour,  
India, 1758-61



1

3

2



ROYAL-ARTILLERIE 1740s

- 1: Gunner
- 2: Miner
- 3: Ouvrier
- 4: Officer and sergeant with gunners

COAST GUARD MILITIA, 1750s

- 1: Coast Guard Dragoons, trooper
- 2: Detached Companies, gunner
- 3: Detached Companies, drummer
- 4: Belle-Île Battalion, officers
- 5: Watch Companies, militiaman



Frenchmen. Besides the regiment with its own officers, the corps also included over 300 artillery officers, technical experts who supervised foundries, stores, etc., in all provinces, as well as serving as cadres during sieges and campaigns.

At the top of the structure of the Corps Royal was the king, who was colonel-in-chief, and the duke of Maine, the honorary Grand Master of the Artillery, a post abolished in 1755. Actual command was exercised by the Inspector of Artillery. From 1720, this was Jean-Florent de Vallière, succeeded in 1755 by his son, Joseph-Florent, and by Jean-Baptiste de Gribeauval from 1764.

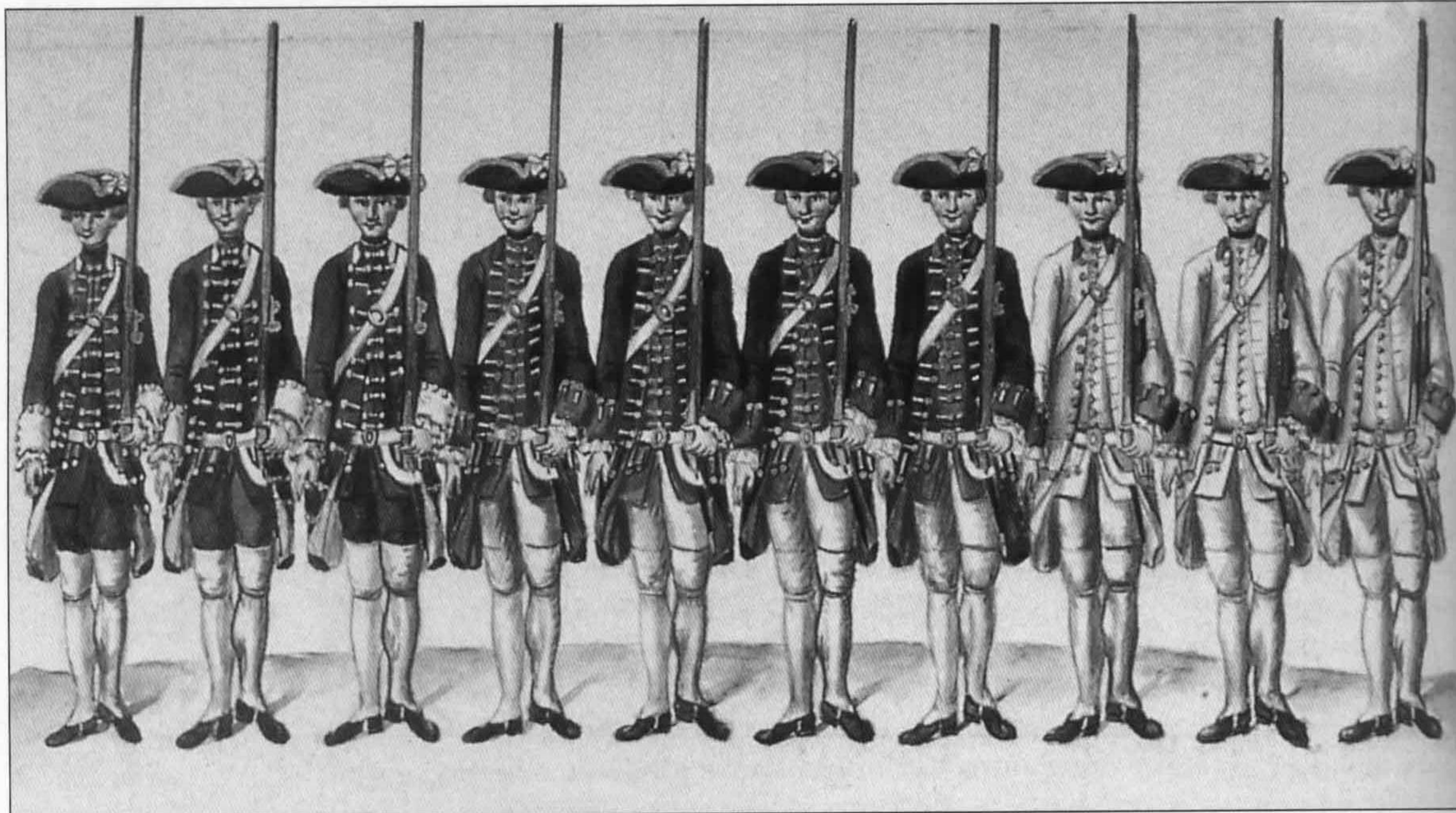
Artillery officers did not purchase commissions but had to be technically qualified. Along with engineers, they were among the best educated in the army. If they passed the examinations, gentlemen-cadets, usually two per company and often the sons of officers, obtained three quarters of the available commissions of second lieutenant. However, a quarter of the commissions were reserved for the best and brightest NCOs. Qualification was therefore based on excellence rather than birth and money and good men could come up through the ranks.

From 1 July 1729, the battalions each had five companies of gunners, two of bombardiers and one of sappers. The five companies of miners and five companies of *ouvriers* were separated from the battalions and made distinct. A sixth company of *ouvriers* was raised in 1734 and disbanded in August 1736.

The Seven Years' War heralded an unprecedented series of reorganisations, most of them apparently unsuccessful, which was yet another sign of the crisis within the army during a period of successive defeats. On 8 December 1755, the Army engineers were united with the artillery to form a *Corps Royal de l'Artillerie et du Génie* (Royal Corps of Artillery and Engineers). This proved to be a most unhappy union for the engineers, who spent the following years trying to get out of it. On 1 December

**Privates, Lowendhal (German), Royal-Écossais (Scottish) and Royal-Lorraine (Lorraine and Barrois) regiments, 1760.**

**Lowendhal: blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, white collar, cuffs and turnbacks, white buttonhole lace, brass buttons, gold hat lace. Royal-Écossais: blue coat, red collar, cuffs, turnbacks and waistcoat, white breeches, white lace, pewter buttons, gold hat lace. Royal-Lorraine: all grey-white except for yellow collar and cuffs, brass buttons, gold hat lace. White accoutrements. (Royal Library, Madrid)**

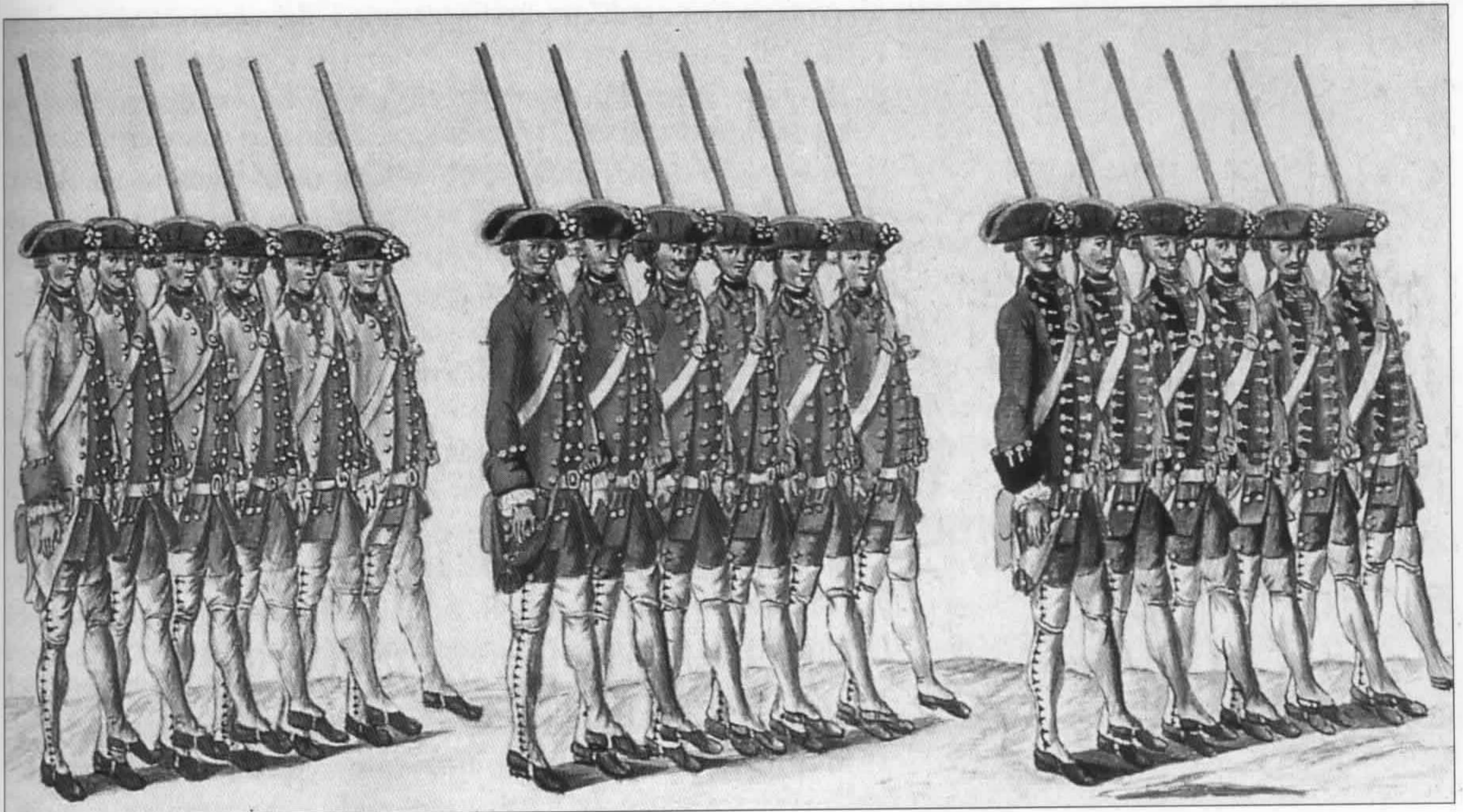


1756, a sixth battalion was raised and each battalion had 16 companies (nine of gunners, five of bombardiers, two of sappers), and the miners and *ouvriers* each had a sixth company. On 5 May 1758, the engineers were finally taken out of unworkable union with the artillery to form their own corps. From 5 November 1758, the artillery battalions were renamed 'brigades', and each one had 11 companies (eight of gunners, two of bombardiers, one of *ouvriers*). The *ouvriers* companies were integrated into the artillery brigades from 5 November 1758 to 21 February 1760, when they reassumed their independence. On 10 March 1759, the companies of miners were detached from the artillery and attached to the engineers until returning to the artillery on 21 December 1761.

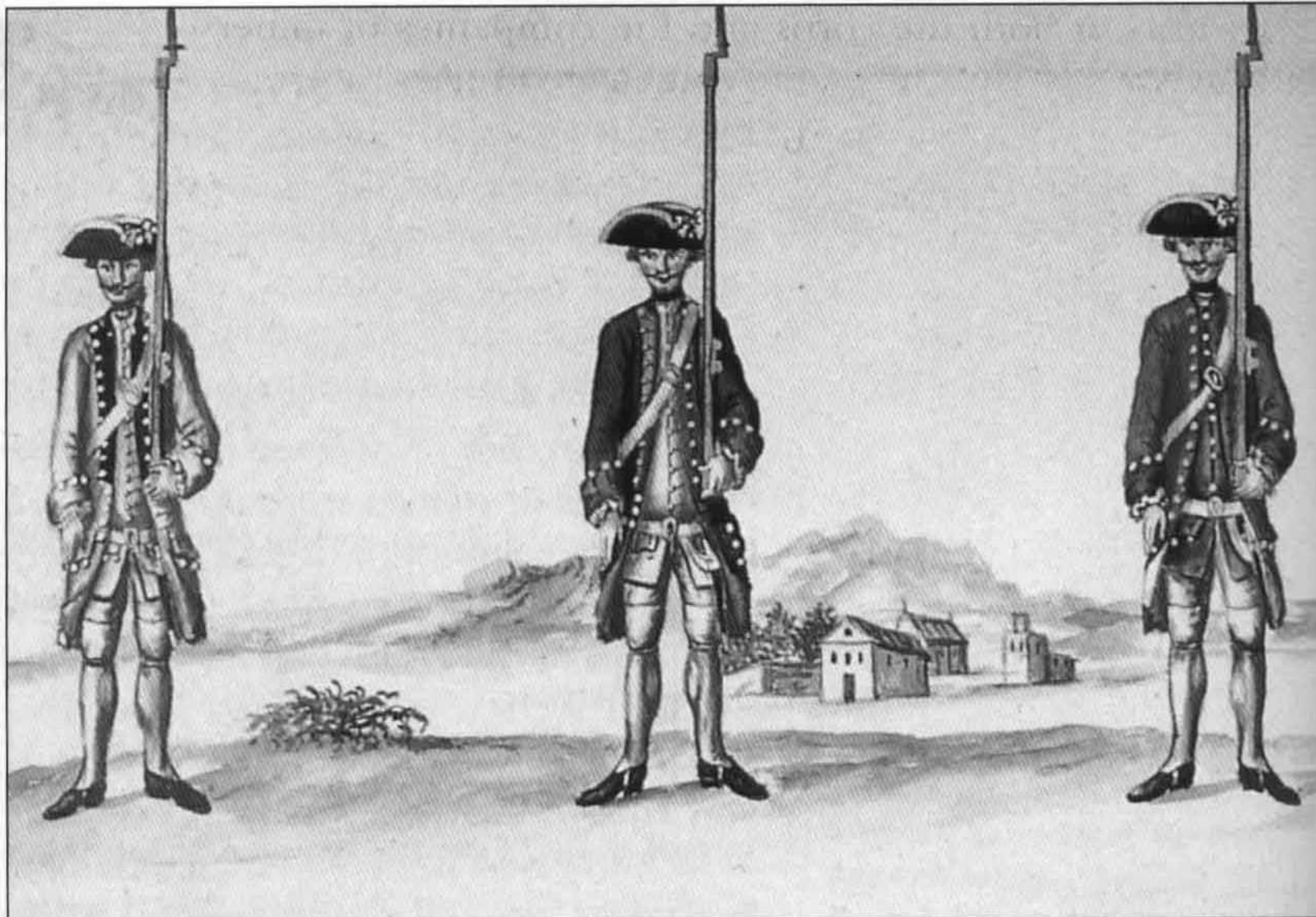
On 15 November 1761, a general reorganisation of all artillery corps and units in the French services incorporated the naval artillery into the Royal-Artillerie, which added three brigades (each having seven companies of gunners and one of bombardiers) based in Brest, Rochefort and Toulon. A tenth brigade was added on 5 December 1762 to provide detachments to the colonies. These new brigades proved awkward. The Rochefort brigade was disbanded in March 1764, and the other naval brigades went back to the Navy in March 1765 and were amalgamated into it in 1769. Meanwhile, the first seven brigades were transformed into seven regiments of two battalions each on 13 August 1765. The regiments were named after the cities which served as their headquarters: La Fère, Metz, Strasbourg, Grenoble, Besançon, Auxonne and Toul. In addition, there were six companies of miners and nine of artisans. Finally, from 1758, four companies of artillery invalids were organised, and four more were raised in May 1766.

It must be stressed here that the Corps Royal de l'Artillerie was for land service. The Navy, except for a short period between 1761 and 1769, also had its own, completely separate, corps of *Artillerie de la Marine* with its own personnel, uniforms and cannon (see Vol. 5).

Privates, Royal-Corse (Italian/Corsican), Salis (Swiss) and Royal-Bavière (German) regiments, 1760. Royal-Corse: grey-white coat, turnbacks and breeches, green collar and cuffs, red waistcoat, brass buttons, gold hat lace. Salis: all red, except for blue collar, cuffs and turnbacks, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. Royal-Bavière: blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, black collar, cuffs and lapels, white lace, pewter buttons, silver hat lace. White accoutrements. (Royal Library, Madrid)



Privates, Royal-Barrois (Lorraine and Barrois), Bergh (German) and Lally (Irish) regiments, 1760. Royal-Barrois: all grey-white except for black collar and lapels, brass buttons, gold hat lace. Bergh: blue coat, red lapels, cuffs and turnbacks, grey-white waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, gold hat lace. Lally: red coat, green collar, cuffs and waistcoat, white turnbacks and breeches, brass buttons, gold hat lace. White accoutrements. (Royal Library, Madrid)



### Artillery Battalions

Gunner, Royal-Artillerie, 1735, by Gudenus. Blue coat, red cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, black cravat, gold hat lace. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)



The units that made up Royal-Artillerie had various uniforms (see MAA 203 *Louis XIV's Army*) but from 22 May 1722, all were ordered into a common dress consisting of a blue coat with red cuffs, lining, waistcoat, breeches and stockings, brass buttons, and false gold hat lace. The 1753 register mentioned that a red collar was also worn. From 1757-1758, there were three buttons to each coat cuff and six to each pocket, two rows of buttons set in pairs on waistcoat, and three to each waistcoat pocket. From 27 February 1760: there were four buttons to each coat cuff, and a yellow or orange fringed epaulette on each shoulder. From 1761: there was a blue fleur de lis edged orange on turnbacks, four buttons to each waistcoat pocket, a blue forage cap with a red turn-up edged with orange lace, and orange piping on all seams with an orange tassel.

Orange hat lace was introduced on 24 July 1762. From 24 February 1764, shoulder straps were blue, and there was a single row of buttons on waistcoats. From 13 August 1765, there were four buttons to each coat cuff and pocket, red epaulettes, blue waistcoat and breeches, and hats had white lace edging. From 23 August 1772, red waistcoats and breeches were ordered, but probably little worn as, on 3 October 1774, the blue waistcoat and breeches were restored. Accoutrements were buff until 1765, then officially changed to white, with a black cartridge box bearing a brass badge with the king's arms. Artillery muskets were the same as the line infantry, but with brass furnishing. All carried brass-hilted swords until 1764 when they were abolished for private gunners, but all other ranks retained them.

Sergeants initially had orange buttonhole lace in the 1720s, but thereafter, probably from about 1729, were distinguished by a gold lace edging the cuffs only, as in the infantry. They had gold hat lace until 1765, when it became silver. They were armed with swords and halberds, the latter being replaced by muskets in 1766. Corporals had the same as privates with two aurore laces edging the cuffs, 'Appointés' had one, and were armed as privates.

Officers of both the corps and the companies of miners and *ouvriers* wore the same blue-faced-red uniform described above, but of better quality with gold buttons and gold hat lace. It appears that gold lace buttonholes were added to the coat until the late 1720s. Broad gold lace was sometimes seen on the waistcoat of senior officers until the middle of the 18th century. From 1761, they wore gold epaulettes with fringes, and there was gold edging on the blue fleurs de lis on the turnbacks. From 1765, epaulettes denoted rank by various mixtures of gold and blue silk on the straps and fringes, hat lace was silver. Officers of gunner and bombardier companies were armed with swords, and spontoons, with muskets for sapper companies. Gilt gorgets were worn on duty.

Drummers of the gunner battalions (later brigades and regiments) and the *ouvriers* and miners companies all wore the king's small livery described in earlier volumes. Drum-majors had gold lace and buttons.



**Junior officer, Royal-Artillerie, c.1735. Blue coat, red cuffs, lining and waistcoat, gold buttons, gold lace edging the cuffs. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)**

### **Companies of Ouvriers**

From 1729, the artisan worker companies had a grey-blue coat and waistcoat, blue coat cuffs and lining, blue breeches, brass buttons, gold hat lace and from 1732, a blue waistcoat. In 1741, the uniform changed to grey-blue coat, red cuff, lining, waistcoat and breeches, with a red collar introduced in 1753. From 1 January 1759, they were to have the same blue and red uniform as brigade gunners. From 17 February 1760: fairly small red lapels (five buttons each) on coat and yellow laced buttonholes on waistcoat for distinction. Laced buttonholes were abolished in 1763, and small red cuff flaps were introduced on the waistcoat in 1765. They were armed with a short musket and bayonet, a short sabre with a wide blade; buff accoutrements changed to white in 1765.

### **Companies of Miners**

(Compagnies de mineurs.) Miners initially had a grey coat cuffed and lined with red. They changed to the same blue and red gunner's uniform as the artillery battalions from 1722 until July 1729. The miners then wore the same uniform as gunners, except for a grey-blue waistcoat and breeches. The 1758-1760 unit had a blue coat, black cuffs (velvet for officers), red lining, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, five buttons to each cuff and horizontal pocket; headgear was not specified, but bearskin caps are noted in a 1760 manuscript. Following their reunion into the artillery brigades, the miners wore, from 1 January 1762, blue coat with red cuffs and lining, grey-blue waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons, orange epaulettes and hat lace.

### **Artillery employees**

The *employés de l'Artillerie* were usually former sergeants of the corps who took care of various storekeeping and clerical functions associated with an artillery park. They were assigned distinctive uniforms from 13 August 1765, consisting of a blue coat lined red, sky blue collar and cuffs (in

velvet for artificers and storekeepers, of cloth for wagoners), red waistcoat and breeches, gold buttons. Employees that had never served in the artillery wore a blue collar instead of sky blue. The *ouvrier's* employees had a grey-blue coat instead of blue.

### Artillery matériel

During the early years of Louis XV's reign, the varied and heavy land artillery *matériel* of the previous reign continued in use. Army artillery officers, however, sought to create a simplified system. In October 1732, a royal ordinance introduced a new uniform system designed by M. de la Vallière. The new cannon were long and heavy, even the smaller calibres, and were cast in brass to fire 24, 16, 12, 8 and 4 pound balls respectively. The new brass mortars were to fire a 12-in. and an 8 in. bomb. There was also a large 15-in. brass stone mortar. While a noted improvement, Vallière's system made no distinction between siege and heavy field artillery, and all cannon required a considerable train to be moved, which made them awkward on campaign. As in the previous reign, the carriages' wood was painted red and the ironwork in black.

In the early 1700s, Swedish-style light cannon which were easier to move and of higher calibre than the French pieces, became popular, especially with the Prussians. To match the new Prussian guns, in 1740 the French introduced a light, rapid-firing, Swedish-style, 4-pdr. which was only 4 feet long and could be moved with ease. Until 1757, only gunners from the Royal-Artillerie served these guns, even when they were deployed with infantry regiments. On 20 January a royal order allowed one Swedish-style gun per infantry battalion to be served by a sergeant and 16 infantrymen trained in artillery.

Another experiment of the 1740s was the Rostaing gun, named after the Comte de Rostaing, a French artillery officer in India who had designed an exceptionally light piece with a simple carriage, easy to dismantle, which could be carried by a single horse or dragged by four men. It weighed only 200 pounds, fired up to 20 shots a minute; the ball was 2 pounds. Marshal de Saxe liked it so much he insisted that two be

**Royal-Artillerie at the battle of Dettingen, 1743. This detail from a large painting shows many gunners with gold laced tricorues with white cockades, blue coats with red cuffs and lining, gold buttons, buff belts. The mounted artillery officer waving a cane wears black cavalry boots and has red housings laced gold. The man in a grey or white coat is a civilian contractor hired to move the guns. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)**



attached to each infantry battalion with his army in Flanders, although they were later considered to be too light and were withdrawn from the line infantry in 1748. In 1757, they were again attached to battalions as 4-pdrs with the Swedish-style guns, but their calibre was actually much lighter and they were eventually withdrawn.

In spite of these innovations, the problems of the French system remained unsolved. The distinction between the siege and the heavier field guns was clear in other armies, especially in Prussia and Austria. Caught at a disadvantage because there was hardly any distinction between field and siege guns in the Vallière system, which made for a cumbersome and heavy train of artillery on campaign, the French resorted to boring out their 4 ins. to 6 ins., and the 8 ins. to obtain light 12 ins. But this weakened the gun barrels, while the carriages remained ponderous and heavy.

Finally, howitzers, which other armies had used since the end of the 17th century, were nowhere to be seen in French artillery parks, except for a few captured pieces. Again, the French artillery officers felt this disadvantage during the War of Austrian Succession, and Vallière designed an 8-in. howitzer which was first cast at Douai in 1749.

The problems were finally squarely addressed by Artillery Inspector Jean-Baptiste de Gribeauval, a brilliant officer who had served in Austria during the Seven Years' War and noted its excellent artillery. In 1765, he introduced a new system which featured a revolutionary advance in artillery science. The field and siege artillery were separated, with the heavy calibre guns of 24- and 18-pdrs. used for siege trains, and 12-, 8- and 4-pdrs employed by the field artillery. The new field pieces were shorter and considerably lighter. The 12-pdr., for instance, weighed 1,800 pounds instead of 3,200. A 6-in. howitzer was also introduced. The old 12-in. mortars were joined by the newer, lighter 10-in. models and the design of the new artillery was simpler than its ornate predecessors.

The field and siege carriages were redesigned for better performance and there were many other small, but useful innovations. Wheels were made bigger; there were two pairs of slots for gun trunions, one pair for shooting and the other to better spread the weight when travelling; and a small ammunition box was carried. The carriages gradually changed colour from red to a light blue-grey with the ironwork in black as before. Field artillerymen were issued belts with ropes and hooks called *bricole* which enabled them to drag the piece in the field if necessary. Perhaps the greatest changes were directed at the old and heavy guns of the garrisons and the coastal artillery, for which Gribeauval invented the elevated traversing carriages. They considerably increased the efficiency of these guns as they now could 'follow' a moving target such as a ship over a wide angle.

Gribeauval's innovations, as good as they were, had their flaws which caused much exaggerated opposition from a jealous Vallière. In 1772, thanks to influence at court, Vallière had his father's 1732 artillery



**Senior officer, Royal-Artillerie, c.1748. Blue coat, red cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, gold buttons, gold lace on the waistcoat, steel breast plate with red velvet lining edged gold. (Private collection; photo courtesy A.U. Koch)**



**Gunner, Royal-Artillerie, 1757-1760. Hat with false gold lace, blue coat with red collar, cuffs, turnbacks and waistcoat, brass buttons, white breeches, black gaiters. (Watercolour by C. Becker, Weimar Library)**

brought back as the official system, and Gribeauval dismissed. But this had little effect as the reforms had taken hold and Gribeauval and his system were reinstated for good in 1774.

### **Royal-Artillerie detachments overseas**

Few detachments of Royal-Artillerie were sent overseas until the middle of the 18th century. In 1721, a detachment of ten miners and a sergeant was sent to Martinique for a year. In April 1722, nine miners and a sergeant were sent to Fortress Louisbourg and were back in France by December except for one miner who remained until 1728. They were employed in blowing up obstacles in construction work. Five miners were sent to Louisiana to participate in an expedition against Chickasaw Indians in 1739-1740.

The Seven Years' War took increasing numbers of Royal-Artillerie personnel overseas. A detachment of 150 men left for India in December 1756, landing at Pondicherry in July 1757 where they were to train 150 men to form a 300-strong artillery unit. Another 50 gunners arrived in September and campaigned in India until the surrender of Pondicherry in January 1761. In June 1757, 20 gunners with six officers arrived in Canada. In May 1759, 40 gunners, miners and *ouvriers* arrived at Quebec, 25 gunners

with two sergeants being incorporated into the colonial *Canonniers-Bombardiers* companies. In 1759, five gunners and two sergeants arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, to be cadres of a new colonial artillery company. In 1760, two sergeants and 20 gunners were sent to Mauritius with the Cambrésis infantry regiment. In 1762, 20 more gunners were sent to Louisiana, but sources do not mention whether they actually arrived. A detachment of 16 gunners and 10 *ouvriers* took part in the expedition which captured St John's, Newfoundland, in June 1762 and later surrendered to the British in September.

From 1763, following the abolition of the various colonial artillery companies, the Royal-Artillerie provided 200 men in Haiti, 70 in Martinique, 70 in Guadeloupe, 36 in St Lucia and 18 at Cayenne in French Guyana. The detachment in Cayenne was replaced by new colonial artillery companies in 1765, those in Haiti from 1768, the rest in Martinique, Guadeloupe and adjacent islands from 1774. A 50-man detachment was posted to Pondicherry, India, from about 1771 to 1776.

## **MILICE GARDE-CÔTE**

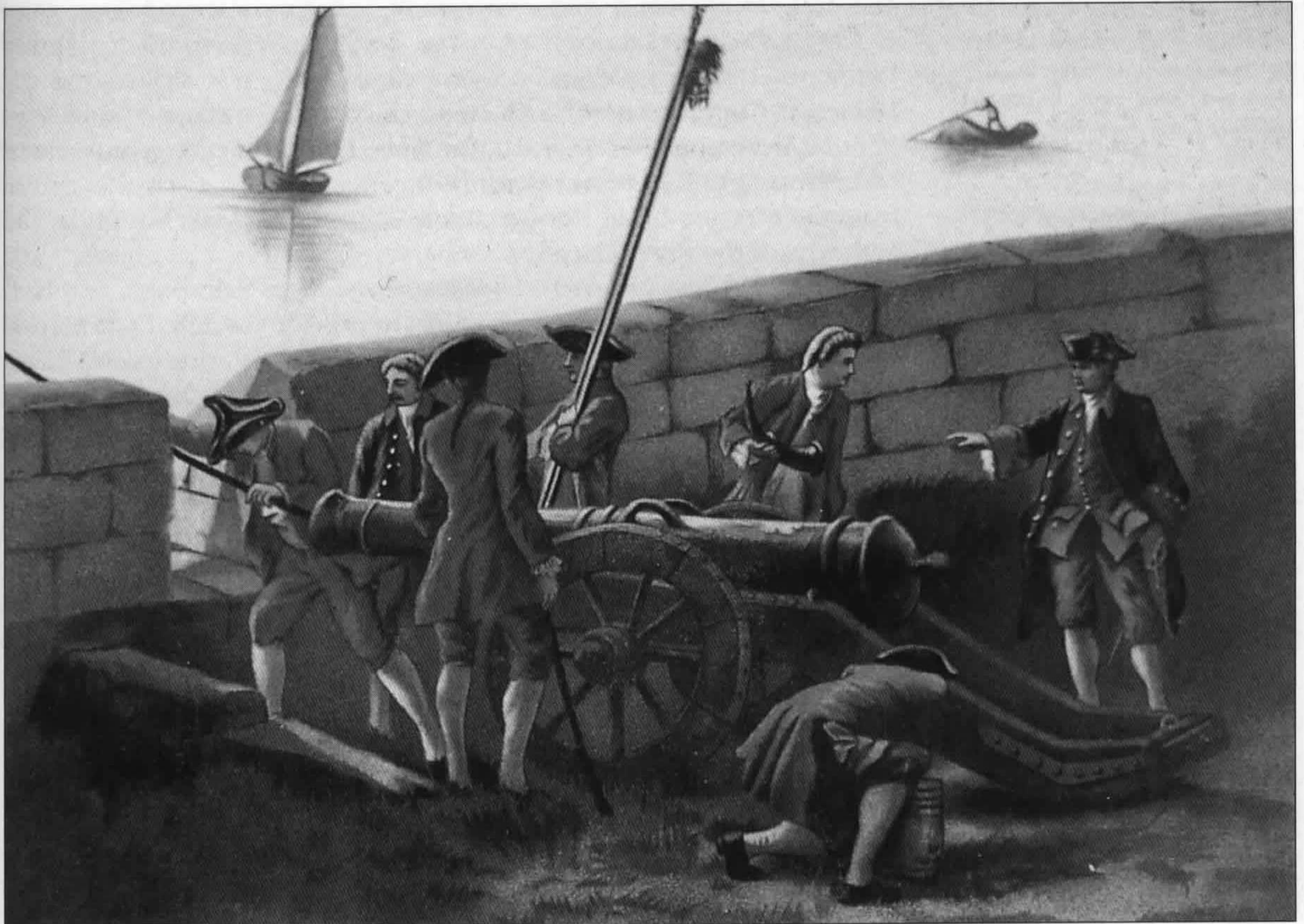
(Coast Guard Militia.) As the name implies, this militia was devoted to watching and defending the coasts of France against naval raiders. It was an ancient institution which mobilised the inhabitants in the countryside of coastal provinces. It was organised into parish companies, gathering

all able-bodied men from 18 to 60 years old living within two leagues of the coast into *Compagnies de guet* ('Watch Companies'). Each man was supposed to have a musket, a bayonet and ammunition. They were not liable to be drafted into the royal militia or to be sent far away from their homes.

The local gentry and squires acted as officers and were expected to drill their men once a month, generally after Sunday mass, but these drills appear to have often been at best informal, if performed at all. From 1716, *Compagnies détachées* ('Detached companies') were organised by drafting unmarried men aged from 18 to 45. These Detached Companies were meant to defend the coast from attackers rather than just watch it, and could be called for active service for up to five years in wartime, serving in batteries and guard posts dotted along the coast. They were paid when on service, furnished with arms and equipment by the government, and eventually with uniforms. A number of companies would be grouped into *Capitaineries* (captaincies) and each province had a variable number of captaincies. Occasionally, Detached Companies might be formed into temporary battalions. By mid-century, about 36,000 men were enlisted in the Detached Companies.

Detached Companies came to have a sizeable complement of gunners to serve coast batteries. As a result, artillery in the coast guard militia increased in importance to such a degree that, in 1747, detailed instructions were published concerning service in the batteries, large and small, that dotted the coast, especially in Normandy and Brittany.

**A detachment of Royal-Artillerie gunners manoeuvring a brass gun on the ramparts of Bordeaux in 1762. The men have taken off their coats for ease of movement. (Print after Joseph Vernet)**





**Grenadier, Anhalt (German) Regiment; bombardier, Royal-Artillerie; private, Companies of Sappers and Miners, 1760. Anhalt: blue coat, yellow lapels, cuffs and turnbacks, white waistcoat and breeches, pewter buttons. Royal-Artillerie: blue coat, red collar, cuffs, turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons. Sappers and Miners: blue coat, black cuffs, red turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches, brass buttons. All wear bearskin caps with yellow or red bags trimmed with white lace. Brown ventral box, white accoutrements. (Royal Library, Madrid)**

There were to be ten gunners to each mortar or 48-pdr. cannon, nine for a 36-pdr., eight for a 24-pdr., seven for an 18-pdr., six for a 12-pdr. five for an 8-pdr., four for a 6-pdr. and three for a 4-pdr. Gunners were not to be called away with companies, but were to remain with their batteries. The mortars and cannon employed were usually iron naval models, rather than those used by the Royal-Artillerie in the land army. While no precise number of gunners was ordered, it is obvious that the Detached Companies had a gradually increasing artillery role as time went by. During the Seven Years' War, up to half the men in a coast guard battalion might be artillerymen. Thus, when the corps was transferred from the Ministry of the Navy to the Army in 1759, it was put under the authority of the Royal Corps of Artillery.

From 1748, the provinces of Aunis, Poitou and Saintonge, and later Guyenne, also had *Dragons Gardes Côtes* to provide mounted patrols and courier services, as well as to act as mounted infantry. These coast guard dragoons were recruited from men able to provide themselves with horses, saddlery and uniforms, the weapons being furnished by the government.

In 1755, a special coast guard battalion of 1,200 men divided into 12 companies, including five of gunners, was organised for the defence of Belle-Île. In 1756 various regulations appointed inspector-generals to all the coastal provinces. In Brittany, the companies were further grouped into 20 battalions of 500 men divided into ten companies, each company having 25 fusiliers and 25 gunners, some of which would go on active service in turn. From March 1759, the gunners in Aunis, Poitou, Saintonge and the adjacent islands (Ré, Oléron, etc.) were grouped into artillery companies of 100 men each.

Coast guard militias do not generally seem to have had uniforms until the middle of the 18th century, but officers were to have gorgets and swords. However, there are occasional references to uniform dress. In 1745, 200 militiamen sent from Port-Louis to serve at Isle de Groix, off

the coast of Brittany, were reported 'in uniform and well armed', but there are no further details. The uniform of the marines was probably favoured (see Vol. 5). For instance, the officers of the Belle-Île battalion in 1755 wore grey-white coats, blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat, breeches and stockings, gilt buttons and a gold hat lace, the same as the *Compagnies Franches de la Marine*.

By a regulation of 5 June 1757, a uniform was assigned to the embodied *Compagnies détachées* which was to be: 'white with a small blue cuff and collar, with flat brass buttons. No buttons on the cuffs, and the hat had to be edged with white lace. The coat of the sergeants to have the cuff edged with yellow lace, with a second lace in the middle [of the cuff]. The corporals and lance-corporals to only have the cuff edged. The gunners to have a lace that covers the stitching of the cuff. The drummers to be dressed in the king's small livery.'

The uniform of the companies of gunners formed in 1759 in Aunis, Poitou, and Saintonge was the same as above, but with yellow hat lace and yellow lace edging the cuffs.

The uniform of the officers and troopers of the coast guard dragoons was completely red with brass or gold buttons, and the hat was laced with yellow or gold. Their drummers had the laced blue coats lined and cuffed with red of the king's small livery.

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# THE PLATES

## A: SWISS GUARDS, 1740s AND 1750s

**A1 and A2: Officers** Swiss Guard officers had two types of uniforms. Their 'small' undress uniform was red with blue cuffs, lining, waistcoat and breeches, the coat and waistcoat having silver embroidery, tassels and lace. The only 'undress' aspect of this order of dress was the white gaiters. The 'grand' uniform was completely red and richly ornamented with broad silver lace. Mounted senior officers had red housings laced silver. Officers had hats laced with silver and ornamented with white plumes edging the brim. On duty, they wore the silver gorgets worn in Swiss units.

**A3: Traban** The *trabans* who escorted the senior officers wore the colonel's livery. In the Swiss Guards, the king was the colonel-in-chief and the *trabans* thus wore a blue coat with red cuffs ornamented with the king's livery lace, and were armed with a halberd featuring an axe head blade.

**A4: Drummer** The drummers also wore the king's blue and red livery with 'grand livery' lace.



**Royal-Artillerie in 1763. Miner in blue coat with red collar, cuffs and turnbacks, grey-blue waistcoat and breeches. Ouvrier in grey-blue coat with red collar, cuffs, lapels, turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches. Gunner in blue coat with red collar, cuffs, turnbacks, waistcoat and breeches. All have white accoutrements with black cartridge box, white gaiters, black cravat, red piping, brass buttons, orange epaulettes and hat lace. Being elite troops like grenadiers, gunners often had moustaches. (Print after Philipoteaux. National Archives of Canada, C33796)**

**A5: Private** The men had a similar uniform to the French Guards but with the colour reversed, red instead of blue and blue instead of red. The men's lace, however, was the same for all, being white, set in threes with pointed ends. The accoutrements featured plain buff belts in the Swiss Guards. The cartridge box flap was reddish-brown edged with white leather; the badge at the centre was the crowned royal arms surrounded by trophies in yellow.

**A6: Sergeant** The sergeant's uniform was distinguished by silver lace edging the cuffs and pockets. They were armed with halberds. (All figures based on battle paintings at the Musée de Versailles, the 1757 manuscript at the Musée de l'Armée and a painting of review of Swiss Guards, c.1755, in a private collection)

## B: FOREIGN INFANTRY, 1720s

**B1 and B2: Hussy's (Swiss) Regiment, officer, private and colour** From December 1689 to 1729, Gabriel Hussy was colonel of the regiment. In 1719, Hussy's campaigned in the Pyrenees during the short war with Spain and was afterwards posted in Provence. During the plague epidemic in Marseilles, it formed part of the *cordons sanitaires* of troops around the city. Swiss regiments all wore red and blue uniforms at this time, and Hussy's colours had the quarters with wavy flames peculiar to Swiss units.

**B3 Lenck's (German) Regiment, drummer** He wears the yellow livery of Jacques-Gustave de Lenck, colonel of the regiment from 1714 until his death from illness in December 1734 while campaigning in the Palatinate.

**B4 Lenck's (German) Regiment, officer with colour and private** Like most German regiments, Lenck's wore blue coats. Its regimental colour was very French in design, with the white cross and large fleurs de lis. (All figures based on the Delaistre and the Hermand Manuscripts at the Musée de l'Armée, Paris)

## C: POLISH WAR OF SUCCESSION, 1734-1735

**C1: Dillon's (Irish) Regiment, fusilier** This Irish regiment under Colonel Arthur, Count Dillon, came into the French army on 18 June 1690, the colonelcy being passed to his son, Viscount Charles, in May 1730 and subsequently to other Dillon family members. It was part of the French army besieging Phillipsbourg in 1734. Irish regiments in the French army wore red, as it was the livery of the exiled 'legitimate' Stuart royal family; each regiment had distinctive facings, in this case, black.

**C2: La Mark's (German) Regiment, fusilier** Raised in 1680, the regiment belonged to successive counts of La Mark from 1697. It participated in the sieges of Kehl and Phillipsbourg in 1733-1734.

**C3 Alsace (German) Regiment, fusilier** Raised in 1656, Alsace was the senior foreign infantry regiment in Louis XV's army. It was a large unit, raised to three battalions in November 1733 and four in July 1734. It participated in the sieges of Kehl and Phillipsbourg in 1733-1734 and at the battle of Klausen in 1735.

**C4: Saxe's (German) Regiment, fusilier** Raised in 1670, this regiment belonged to Maurice de Saxe, the famous marshal, from 1720 to 1751. He used the regiment to experiment with drill and shooting, and it soon became a model unit. At the siege of Phillipsbourg, it successfully stormed several redoubts and, in 1735, prevented a superior enemy force

from crossing the Rhine at Mannheim. (All figures based on the Gudenus Ms)

### D: AUSTRIAN WAR OF SUCCESSION, 1740s

D1: Royal-Écossais (Scottish) Regiment, officer, 1745-1746

When raised in 1744, Royal-Écossais adopted a standard uniform of the usual cut with tricornes. From late November 1745, part of the regiment served in Scotland with Prince Charles-Edward's Jacobite army until its defeat at Culloden in April 1746. While in Scotland, some alterations were made. Officers were described wearing 'short blue coats, red vest laced, with bonnets and white cockades', with the coats being laced. These changes were probably also made to the men's uniforms. Certainly, cutting the coat tails and wearing of blue bonnets was in keeping with the style of jackets and headgear worn by the prince's Jacobite army, which was largely composed of Highlanders. It is said that the grenadiers of Royal-Écossais even had kilts, but there seems to be no contemporary evidence to confirm it. The regiment had at least one piper, who was certainly considered an important man as he had his own servant.

D2: Royal-Écossais (Scottish) Regiment, fusilier This uniform was worn until the beginning of the Seven Years' War, when the coat lining and breeches were changed to

white. The small cuff flap is shown as in the 1757 manuscript, but it may also have been the standard three-button round cuff in the 1740s.

D3: Royal-Écossais (Scottish) Regiment, officer with colour The regimental colours of Scottish regiments in the French army were very Scottish. The basic design was the white St Andrew's cross on a blue field ornamented by large thistles. Being a 'royal' regiment, the white cross of Royal-Écossais was strewn with gold fleurs de lis. The colonel's colour was similar, save for the field which was white instead of blue. Royal-Écossais and Ogilvy had the motto of all Scottish regiments, *Nemo me impune lacessit* ('No-one provokes me with impunity') across the top.

**Coast Guard Militia, c.1770. At left, a private of a 'detached' infantry company in a white uniform with blue cuffs and collar, brass buttons and white hat lace. At centre, an artilleryman in the same dress except for yellow cuff and hat lace. At right, a dragoon in an all red coat, brass buttons, buff waistcoat and breeches, yellow hat lace. These uniforms were much the same as ordered in the 1750s but now had lapels in the same colour as the coat. (Print after Marbot)**



**D4: Clare's (Irish) Regiment, fusilier** Raised in 1690, Clare was in Flanders in 1741-1742, then went to Germany and was at Dettingen in 1743. Returning to Flanders with the army, it besieged Menin in 1744, fought at Fontenoy in 1745, Raucoux in 1746, and Lawfeld in 1747 where the Irish distinguished themselves against their British foes. A piquet of this regiment also fought in Scotland in 1745-1746.

**D5: Royal-Corse (Italian/Corsican) Regiment, fusilier** Raised in Corsica, the regiment was deployed in Flanders with Marshal Saxe's army, where it distinguished itself in many battles and sieges such as Ypres, Fontenoy, Tournai, Lawfeld and Berg-op-Zoom.

**D6: Royal-Italien (Italian) Regiment, fusilier** Brown uniforms had been worn by this and other Italian regiments in the French army from the time of Louis XIV. By Louis XV's reign, only Royal-Italien was left and it changed from the less fashionable brown to grey-white in the mid-1750s. After campaigning in Flanders and south-eastern Germany, Royal-Italien was sent to Provence in 1747 where it helped drive back the Austro-Sardinians, and later fought in northern Italy.

### **E: SEVEN YEARS' WAR**

**E1: Ogilvy's (Scottish) Regiment, fusilier** This regiment's uniform remained generally the same during the period of its existence, from 1747 to 1762, except for the addition of a red collar sometime before 1757. It was deployed in Flanders and Germany in 1758-1762.

**E2: Gardes Lorraine (Lorraine and Barrois) Regiment, fusilier c.1757-1758** After wearing yellow during the 1740s, this regiment changed to a more muted blue laced white uniform. The blue collar is shown edged white in the 1757 manuscript, the source for this figure.

**E3: Gardes Lorraine (Lorraine and Barrois) Regiment, drummer/fifer, c.1757-1760** This figure is based on a drawing by C. Becker showing the yellow and black livery worn by Lorraine and Barrois units.

**E4: Bulkeley's (Irish) Regiment, fusilier** This soldier is based on the 1757 and 1760 illustrated manuscripts. In the 1757 manuscript the collar is not visible because of a raised arm and, curiously, is not mentioned in the 1758 and subsequent army registers. This was probably an oversight, as it is shown in the 1760 manuscript and was mentioned in the previous 1753 register. Bulkeley's served in Germany from 1760 and distinguished itself at the successful defence of Marburg in February 1761.

**E5: Horion's (Walloon) Regiment, fusilier** Raised in Liège in March 1757 by the Count d'Horion, the regiment served in Germany. The regiment wore blue coats but Walloon units, raised in present-day Belgium, also had grey-white uniforms as there was no traditional colour for them.

**E6: Planta's (Swiss) Regiment, fusilier** This regiment served in Germany during the war and was, with Diesbach's, the subject of a famous incident at the end of the battle of Rossbach on 3 November 1757. The regiments were the last on the field covering the French army's retreat. Their outstanding resistance under Prussian artillery fire drew Frederick the Great's attention. He asked an aide: 'What is this red wall that resists my artillery?' 'The Swiss, sire', was the reply, upon which the king raised his hat saluting their bravery.

A lesser-known incident occurred on the French side when its general, the Prince de Soubise, certainly not a great tactician but nevertheless a brave soldier, went among the

two Swiss regiments under withering Prussian fire and successfully managed their orderly withdrawal. (All figures, except E3, are based on the 1757 manuscript at the Musée de l'Armée, Paris)

### **F: FOREIGN INFANTRY OVERSEAS, 1757-1763**

**F1: Royal-Barrois (Lorraine and Barrois) Regiment, fusilier, Haiti, 1762-1763** After serving in Germany, this single battalion regiment was sent with other regiments to reinforce Saint-Domingue (Haiti), the largest of the French colonies in the West Indies, and the only one not attacked by the British. The feared British assault never came, and in early 1763, the news that peace had been signed arrived with instructions for Royal-Barrois to return to France to be disbanded. Besides the cloth regimental uniform shown here, army battalions sent to Haiti were issued linen frocks, said to be somewhat like smocks used by wagoners, but badly made with cheap material which wore out fast. Collars and lapels of facing colours were added around 1765 to improve them, but to no avail. The men preferred cloth uniforms and the smocks were apparently discontinued in the later 1760s. (Arch. Guerre, A1, Vol. 3674)

**F2: Volontaires-étrangers (German) Regiment, fusilier, New France, 1757-1758** J.-C. Fischer, famous for his daring raids with his chasseurs, recruited three battalions of Germans. In June 1757, a detachment of 170 men, wearing white coats with green cuffs and waistcoats (according to General Montcalm's journal) landed at Quebec and were soon drafted into the colonial troops. The 2nd battalion, 660 officers and men in 17 companies, was sent to Fortress Louisbourg in 1758. It was said that, following the surrender of the fortress, many of its men joined the British 60th Foot. The 1st and 3rd battalions were posted to Brittany and helped repulse the British raid on Brest at Saint-Cast in September 1758.

**F3: Lally's (Irish) Regiment, fusilier, India, 1758-1761** The colonel of the regiment, Thomas-Arthur, Marquis de Lally-Tollendal, was named general commanding in French India where he landed with his unit in 1758. His controversial command was beset by many defeats, ending in the surrender of the French forces to the British in Pondicherry in January 1761. Back in France, he was made a scapegoat for the loss of India, tried and executed. The dress of the regiment while in India seems to have been the same pattern and colours as in Europe, but some elements, especially waistcoats and breeches, were probably made from lightweight Indian material. (All figures based on the 1757 and 1762 manuscripts at the Musée de l'Armée, Paris)

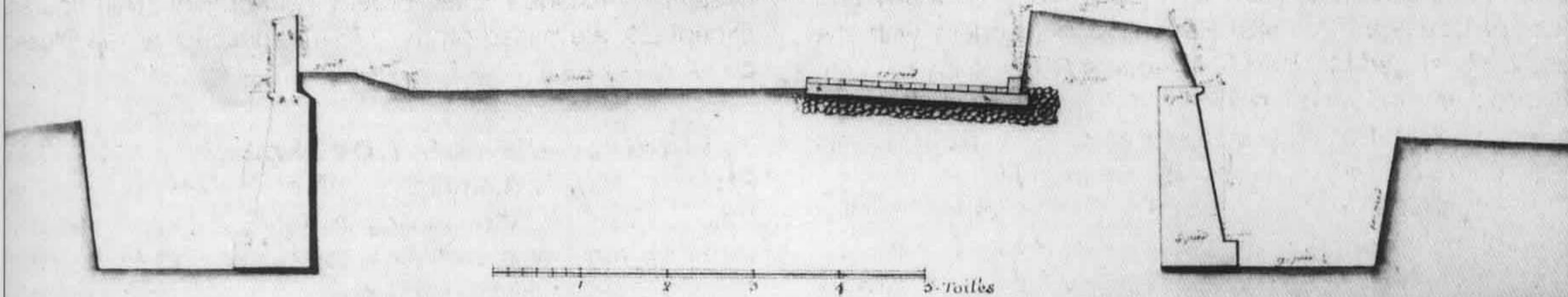
### **G: ROYAL-ARTILLERIE, 1740s**

**G1: Gunner** The uniform of the gunners changed little from the 1720s to the 1760s. The skirts were worn turned back by the early 1740s, no doubt for ease of movement. A red collar was added in the 1750s. Gunners were considered elite soldiers, were fully armed and equipped as grenadiers. As a result, some sported moustaches.

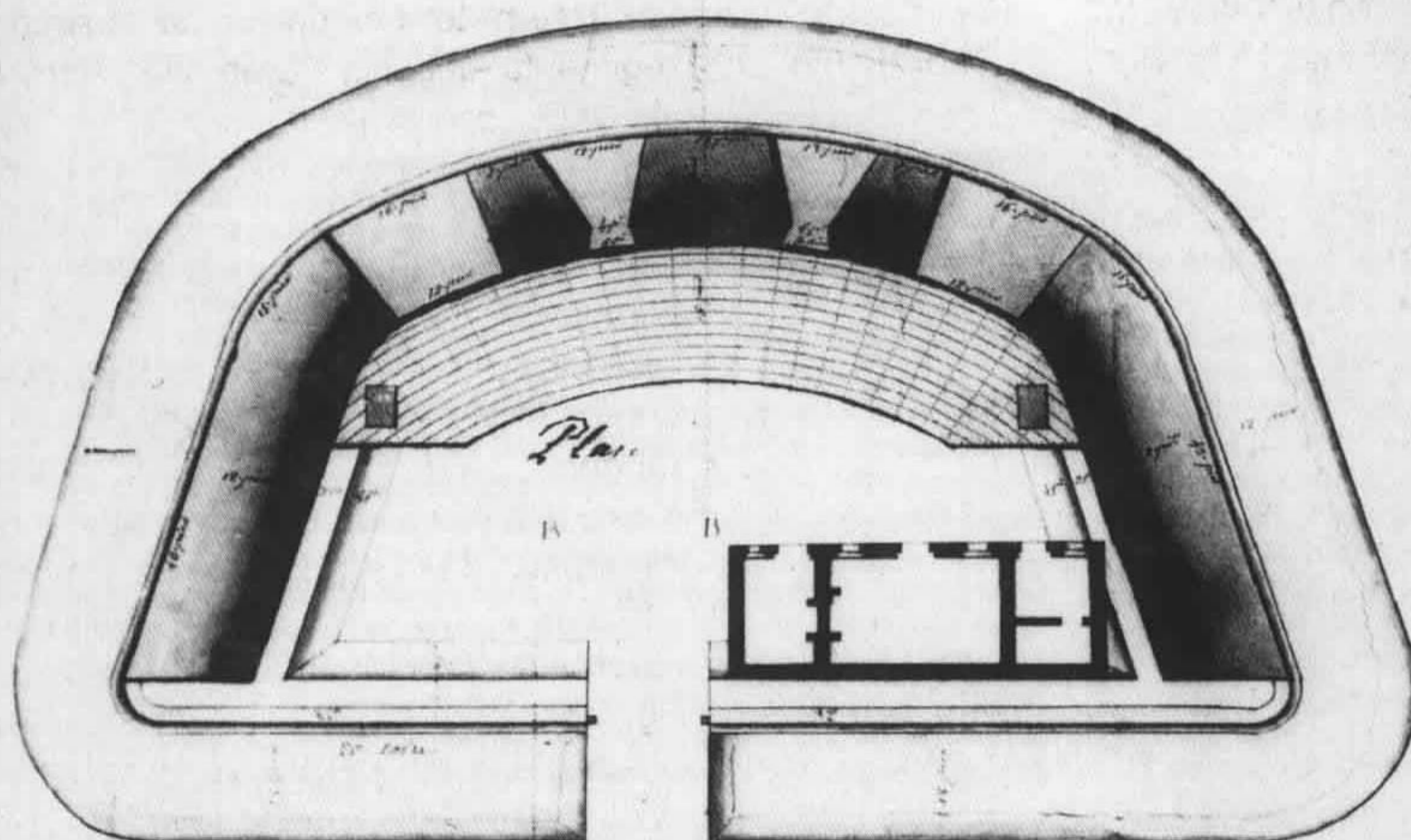
**G2: Miner** These skilled specialists used tunnels, called 'saps', to mine the walls of enemy towns during sieges, or dug counter saps when besieged. Their skill with explosives was also used for construction or demolition.

**G3: Ouvrier** Artisans belonging to Royal-Artillerie had a distinct grey-blue coat instead of the usual blue.

PROFIL PRIS SUR L'ALIGNE A. B. B. C.



C



**COSTE DE POITOU 1747**  
 PLAN et profil de la Redoute a  
 faire a l'isle de Noirmoutier et a la  
 pointe de l'égillon relatif au p<sup>re</sup> et  
 2<sup>e</sup> article du Projet *e. Anou.*

**G4: Officer and sergeant with gunners** All Royal-Artillerie officers wore the corps blue and red uniform. Sergeants had gold lace edging the cuffs. For ease of movement, the men often laid their coats aside when manoeuvring and serving the guns. (Figures based on battle paintings at the Musée de Versailles, period prints, and the 1757 manuscript at the Musée de l'Armée, Paris)

**The Coast Guard Militia often served in small coastal batteries such as the one shown on this 1747 plan for the coast of Poitou and Noirmoutier island. They had a platform for a few guns and a guard house surrounded by a moat. They were built by drafting the local inhabitants for a compulsory public works *corvée*. (Archives Nationales)**

**H: COAST GUARD MILITIA, 1750s**

**H1: Coast Guard Dragoons, trooper** Regular dragoons were used for coast patrols until the end of the Austrian War of Succession. Thereafter the Coast Guard Militia Dragoons were increasingly deployed for such duties. They all wore the plain red coat, except for drummers in the blue-lined-red king's livery. Housings and saddlery must have been varied, as they were supplied, like the horses, by the dragoon militiamen.

**H3: Detached Companies, drummer** By the royal orders of 1757, drummers of the infantry and artillery Detached Companies had the blue-lined-red coat of the king's livery with the small livery lace.

**H2: Detached Companies, gunner** In May 1757, the Detached Companies of the Coast Guard Militia were assigned, by royal order, a common uniform. The gunners were distinguished by a yellow lace covering the stitching of the cuffs. Detached Companies were often formed into battalions. In September 1758, five battalions – some 2,500 men – formed a quarter of the force that repulsed and inflicted heavy losses on the British at Saint-Cast. However, the Coast Guard Militia were mostly involved in small engagements against Corsair raiders on isolated coastal villages.

**H4: Belle-Île Battalion, officers** The officers of the Coast Guard Militia battalion on the island of Belle-Île were assigned, in 1755, a grey-white and blue uniform reminiscent of the marines. All militia officers were to wear gilt gorgets on duty. Some battalions had colours, but their designs are unknown or uncertain. In Normandy, for instance, the Coast Guard Militia colours had a white cross with all blue, or blue and white quarters, but details are hazy.

**H5: Watch Companies, militiaman** The Watch Companies gathered all able-bodied men in coastal communities who were not enlisted into Detached Companies or the dragoons. In emergencies they were to muster armed with a musket with bayonet, powder and ball. They wore their own civilian clothing. The militiaman shown wears regional costume typical of coastal areas of Brittany and Vendée. (Figures based on royal ordinances and Henet)

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- 154 ARTHUR & THE ANGLO-SAXON WARS
- 295 IMPERIAL CHINESE ARMIES (2) 590-1260AD
- 255 ARMIES OF THE MUSLIM CONQUEST  
125 ARMIES OF ISLAM, 7TH-11TH C.
- 150 THE AGE OF CHARLEMAGNE
- 89 BYZANTINE ARMIES 886-1118
- 85 SAXON, VIKING & NORMAN
- 231 FRENCH MEDIEVAL ARMIES 1000-1300
- 71 ARMIES OF THE CRUSADES
- 171 SALADIN & THE SARACENS
- 155 THE KNIGHTS OF CHRIST
- 200 EL CID & RECONQUISTA 1050-1492
- 105 THE MONGOLS
- 287 BYZANTINE ARMIES 1118-1461
- 222 THE AGE OF TAMERLANE
- 251 MEDIEVAL CHINESE ARMIES
- 50 MEDIEVAL EUROPEAN ARMIES

- 151 THE SCOTTISH AND WELSH WARS  
1250-1400
- 94 THE SWISS AT WAR 1300-1500
- 136 ITALIAN MEDIEVAL ARMIES 1300-1500
- 166 MEDIEVAL GERMAN ARMIES 1300-1500
- 195 HUNGARY & THE FALL OF E. EUROPE  
1000-1568
- 259 THE MAMLUKS
- 140 OTTOMAN TURKS 1300-1774
- 210 VENETIAN EMPIRE 1200-1670
- 111 ARMIES OF CRECY AND POITIERS
- 144 MEDIEVAL BURGUNDY 1364-1477
- 113 ARMIES OF AGINCOURT
- 145 WARS OF THE ROSES
- 99 MEDIEVAL HERALDRY

Titles continued on inside back cover

Avec annotations en français sur les planches en couleur  
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