WASHINGTON'S ARMY
1779-1783 : (2)

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Dedication
To the memory of Robert L. Klinger and Captain Ernest W. Peterkin, USNR (Ret.), pioneers in the movement to authentically and accurately re-create the military life and appearance of General Washington’s Army.

Publisher’s note
Readers may wish to study this title in conjunction with the following Osprey publications:

- MAA 39 *The British Army in North America 1775–83*
- MAA 273 *General Washington’s Army (1): 1775–78*

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INTRODUCTION

General Washington's armies of 1775–78 were clothed in a variety of uniforms (see MAA 273, General Washington's Army 1: 1775–1778). With the receipt in late 1778 of over 25,000 uniforms imported from France this miscellaneous clothing began to disappear; thereafter much of the Continental Army was uniformly clothed in blue or brown coats faced with red. Similar difficulties with procuring uniforms confronted the state and local armed forces not under Washington's direct command. During the phase of the war covered by this volume the hitherto pre-eminent role of Congress in procuring clothing for the Continental Army shifted to the individual states. As a consequence of their uneven performance the Board of War and subsequently the Commander in Chief were compelled to guide the states and local commanders by issuing written orders prescribing Continental uniforms. How this came about, and the specifics of some of these uniforms, form the subject of the present volume.

CONTINENTAL UNIFORMS 1779–1782

Even with most (though not all) of the Continental regiments north of South Carolina wearing the imported clothing, complete uniformity for all troops remained an elusive goal. Not only were these uniforms issued to the infantry only, but they lacked hats, shoes and other accessories. In its resolution of 23 March 1779 regulating the Clothing Department, the Continental Congress deplored that the... discretionary changes of the uniforms of regiments have proved inconvenient and expensive; the Commander in Chief is therefore hereby authorized and directed... to fix and prescribe the uniform, as well with regard to the colour and facings, as the cut or fashions of the clothes to be worn by the troops of the respective States and regiments... At the same time the Board of War proposed a single ground colour for all uniforms, with differences only in the facings to distinguish between the Continental regiments of geographically contiguous groups of states.
Board of War Estimate for Campaign of 1780

A single uniform was the basis of the Board of War Estimate of Stores to be Imported for the Campaign of 1780, submitted to the Continental Congress on 11 June 1779. This estimate, for 104,040 suits of uniform, specified dark blue uniform coats for all combat arms, with buff, white, red, and blue facings for infantry; red facings with yellow button holes for artillery, and white facings for light dragoons. Specifications included:

**Coats:** full cut, skirts to mid-thigh, to button over the stomach and the capes to close over the neck in winter, reinforced elbows, extra cloth for alterations, to come in three different sizes; trumpeters, drummers and fifers reversed the facing colours, except those of blue facings to be laced white; light dragoons shorter than infantry; waggoners grey or brown. **Buttons:** white of block tin, yellow of brass, USA in Roman letters on each, hat and cap stamped with state abbreviation or USA cypher. **Hats:** four inches deep crown; cocked; infantry bound white, artillery yellow; waggoners round and flat. **Stable jackets:** green. **Leather caps:** light dragoons, crested with green horse hair, light infantry, drummers and fifers. **Waistcoats:** white wool, waggoners grey or brown. **Breeches:** white wool for winter and linen for summer. **Shirts:** body 1 to 1½ yards long, sleeves ¾ yard long to ¾ long, two buttons on collar, one on underpart of each sleeve. **Stocks:** black velveteen line with linen, ends of black fustian, buckles white metal. **Regimental colours:** silk cloth of crimson, blue, white and buff with gold fringe, gold and blue cords and tassels.

General Order 2 October 1779

At a time when the Continental Army was suffering from want of clothing the office of Clothier General was vacated by its first incumbent, James Mease. The Resolution of 23 March 1779 specified how the Clothier General, each Sub- or State Clothier and the Regimental Clothiers were to discharge the distribution function of their respective responsibilities; but neglected to deal with procurement. General Washington tried to fill the void with instructions to George Measam, Agent Clothier at Springfield, Massachusetts, to forward to Headquarters at Fishkill, NY, all shirts, overalls, hunting shirts, shoes and stockings that were available at Boston and other Eastern ports.

After a number of worthy civilians and officers turned down the honour of being named Clothier General, Colonel James Wilkinson accepted on 25 July 1779. Wilkinson took over a Department run by Measam and others which, by 16 August 1779, had assembled in Philadelphia 10,000 coats, 8,000 waistcoats, 7,000 breeches and overalls, and had 30,000 shirts being made; at Springfield about 6,000 suits, 4,100 blankets, 7,000 linen overalls plus 20,000 more already sent on, and about 4,000 hats.

Notwithstanding this supply, the Continental Board of War assigned Wilkinson to request the individual states to take on the clothing of their own Continental Lines. To this end Wilkinson sent a circular letter to each state governor informing them to purchase shirts, shoes, hats and blankets as the most urgently required items. States inclined to purchase woollen clothing need not procure breeches, but were instead to obtain overalls lined to

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*Epaulette of Major Jacob Morris, silver gilt strap, crescent and bullion. (Morris Collection, Smithsonian Institution)*
the knee with linen; and were to ensure that their purchases conformed to the uniform agreed on for the whole army, which was to have a blue ground with facings of different colours for each group of states:

**White**
- New Hampshire
- Massachusetts
- Connecticut
- Rhode Island

**Buff**
- New York
- New Jersey

**Scarlet***
- Pennsylvania
- Maryland
- Delaware
- Virginia

*Blue, button holes trimmed with white tape or worsted lace:*
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Georgia

General Washington passed this decision on to the Continental Army in the form of his General Order of 2 October 1779, which added:

**Scarlet facing and lining; yellow buttons, button hole and hat binding, and coat edged with narrow lace or tape:**
- Artillery and Artillery Artificers
- Light Dragoons

(*Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia were to assume red, rather than scarlet facings. With the exception of the replacement Continental battal-

**Vests and overalls of the whole to be white**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coats</th>
<th>Vests</th>
<th>Breeches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue and red</td>
<td>1,787</td>
<td>white 450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown and red</td>
<td>1,743</td>
<td>brown 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown and buff</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>blue 1,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green and red</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>green 420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light coloured</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>red 405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and red</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black and red</td>
<td>700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light blue</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and red</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overseas procurement**
During 1779 Continental agents in France and Spain continued their attempts to acquire military clothing and stores. In August 1779 the Continental Frigate *Deane* and the supply ship *Duchesse de Grammont* between them carried 16,709 each of soldiers' coats, waistcoats and breeches. On 28 December 1779 Jonathan Williams wrote to Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Continental Commissioner in Paris, that he was able to obtain cloth of royal blue and red-brown suitable for coats and white tricot for waistcoats and breeches. By February 1780 Williams was busy fulfilling an order for 10,000 suits of clothing based on a Congressional specification of blue coats faced white and

Pair of holsters owned by Maj. Gen. Charles Lee who presented them to Maj. Jacob Morris after the battle of Monmouth. Made of dark leather, overall length is 30 inches, each holster is 13½ inches long.
cocked hats with white lace; unfortunately, lack of shipping space seriously delayed this consignment.

Better fortune attended the Continental cause when, on 9 August 1780, a combined French and Spanish fleet captured a large stock of British clothing, which was obtained in Cadiz, Spain, by Richard Harrison, the Congressional representative to the Court of His Most Catholic Majesty. Shipped on 12 March 1781 in 123 bales, 56 casks and a trunk, it comprised: 3,683 coats, 2,714 breeches, 737 waistcoats, 3,781 shirts, 3,752 stocks, 7,495 pairs of hose, 3,312 plain and laced privates' and 217 sergeants' hats, 6 silver laced sergeants' caps, and 2,271 pairs of shoes. The arrival in September of this clothing, along with the cloth contained in the cargoes of the store ships Cibell, Olimpe, and Duque de Trouin, made up for the capture in April 1781 of the Continental frigate Confederacy, and in June of the Marquis de Lafayette, with 20,000 suits of uniform.

While the store ships carried blue, white and buff cloth for coats and facings, tunic for overalls, ready-made shirts, hats, hose and shoes, sergeants' and cavalry swords, calfskin haversacks, and other accoutrements, the British uniforms were immediately sent to the care of Major General William Heath at Continental Headquarters, Newburgh, where, on General Washington's orders, the red coats were dyed brown. The lines of New Hampshire, New York, and New Jersey and the 10th Massachusetts Continental Regiment received the brown coats in early 1782, thus changing the ground, but not the facing colour.

During 1782 Thomas Barclay, the Congressional agent for procuring clothing abroad, shipped 92 bales and 1 trunk containing blue, white and scarlet cloth, along with hats, buttons and officers' quality cloth. With the war winding down and American credit abroad suffering an ever greater deflation, only three Continental cargoes were received in 1783: on 14 May, 26 September and 9 December. Consisting mainly of arms and accoutrements, these shipments also included 530 horseman's caps, 2,000 worsted epaulettes, 767 silver epaulettes, 3,594 linen haversacks and 1,394 swords and scabbards.

**Uniform of Lt. Col. Tench Tilghman, aide-de-camp to General Washington.**
Dark blue coat; buff cape, lapels, cuffs and breeches; gilt epaulettes and buttons. The waistcoat is not original. (Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore)
Generals, staff and officers' uniforms
At Short Hills, New Jersey, on 18 June 1780, General Washington issued a General Order prescribing, for the first time, the uniforms of general officers and staff and a new system for distinguishing rank:

**Major Generals** Blue coats, buff facings and linings, yellow buttons, white or buff small clothes, two epaulettes with two stars on each, a black and white feather.

**Brigadier Generals** Same uniform as Major Generals, one star on each epaulette, white feather.

**Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels, Majors** Uniform of their regiments and two epaulettes.

**Captains** Same, epaulette on right shoulder.

**Subalterns** Same, epaulette on left shoulder.

**Aides-de-camp** Uniform of ranks and corps of of their general officers. ADCs to Commander-in-Chief, white and green feather; to Majors and Brigadier Generals, green feather.

**Inspectors** Blue feather.

**Corps of Engineers** Blue faced with buff, red linings, buff small clothes.

**Other officers** Plain uniforms and swords.

All officers, GO of 19 July 1780: Cockades emblematic of the expected union with France, black ground with white relief.

John Moylan, Assistant Clothier General, reported the total clothing issued through February 1780 to the Continental Army under General Washington’s direct command: 14,911 coats, 14,619 vests, 11,220 breeches and overalls, 11,558 pair woollen hose, 30,317 pair shoes, 11,920 shirts, 10,590 hats, 4,935 blankets, 70 pair boots, 43 cloaks and watch coats, 438 pair leather breeches, 2,715 woollen caps, 3,138 pair mitts, 20 hunting frocks, 216 canvas and linen overalls, 60 shoe buckles, 3,206 pair woollen socks, and 2,583 stocks.

Following the reduction of the Continental Line infantry to 49 regiments or battalions, General Washington, in General Orders of 15 November 1780, allowed, within the limits of the established uniform, the newly arranged officers to agree upon a fashion for their regimentals.

Estimates for 1781
Among the military stores needed for the campaign of 1781 were: 29,447 coats of the same quality and colours as those estimated in 1780; white stable jackets with sleeves and collars; and 600 yards of blue silk, yard wide, for regimental colours.

On 6 May John Moylan was appointed Clothier General by Congress. According to a French officer who witnessed the American army passing in review at Dobbs Ferry, NY, on 9 July 1781, some regiments wore white cotton clothing consisting of coat, jacket, vest, trousers buttoned from the bottom to the calves, and black caps with white plumes. Another French observer was struck by the ragged and barefoot condition of the Americans, except for the artillery, the only troops in uniform.

At Yorktown, September–October 1781, General Washington’s army consisted of relatively well-uniformed Continental units: the Light Infantry Division, two battalions each from Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York and New Jersey, Hazen’s 2nd Canadian Regiment, the Rhode Island Regiment, Gaskin’s Virginia Continentals, 2nd and 3rd Continental Artillery Regiments, 4th Continental Light Dragoons, and Armand’s Legion.
Changes of 1782

With part of the Main Army in brown uniforms, General Washington strove to improve the uniformity of his troops. On 14 May 1782 he ordered the non-commissioned officers to obtain worsted shoulder knots: sergeants, one on each shoulder, and corporals, one on the right, or a piece of white cloth substituted. Chevrons, in a herring-bone form, extending from seam to seam three inches from and parallel with the shoulder seam, on the left arm of rank and file for each three years of faithful service, were ordered on 7 July 1782; on 11 August they were ordered to be of the colour of the facings. On 2 December Major General Benjamin Lincoln, Secretary at War, informed General Washington that the lack of financial resources militated against further substantial purchases of cloth for 1783; therefore, it was the decision of the Continental War Office that all coats of all arms would be faced with red, with white lining and buttons.

Washington’s General Order of 6 December

Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman at Yorktown, by Charles Willson Peale, 1784. All foreground figures in blue coats, with buff lapels, capes, cuffs, waistcoats and breeches. Note difference between lapels. (Maryland Commission on Artistic Property of the Maryland State Archives, Special Collection 1545–1120)
1782 accordingly specified this uniform for cavalry and infantry, while the Corps of Artillery and the Sappers and Miners retained their current uniforms. This order was expanded upon by Washington on 15 December, to advise the officers that the regimental coats need not all be made in the 'samed mode' but that each line or corps could agree among themselves on any distinctions they wished to adopt as to the fashion of the lapels, cuffs, buttons, and the like.

The Southern Army 1782–83

During 1782 the Southern Army under Major General Nathanael Greene, still actively campaigning in South Carolina and Georgia, received the following clothing from the Clothier General:

*April 30* sergeants’ hats, silver laced; soldiers’ hats, small fan-tailed worsted tassels; caps for pioneers; sergeants’ shirts ruffled at bosom and wrists.

*May 6* Enough linen to make coatees.

*November 15* Continental and captured Hessian clothing, consisting of 889 overalls and 860 pair breeches as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coats</th>
<th>Facings</th>
<th>Lining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continental clothing:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 cavalry—</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>short skirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>341 infantry—</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>white</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>305 ditto</td>
<td>red</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Captured Hessian clothing:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 sergeants’—</td>
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<td>blue</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>red</td>
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<td>8 sergeants’—</td>
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<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>red</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 sergeants’—</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>red</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 sergeants’—</td>
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<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>yellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 drummers’—</td>
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<tr>
<td>yellow</td>
<td></td>
<td>white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 privates’—</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 privates’—</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109 privates’—</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>red</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Detail of Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman at Yorktown. The foreground figure is an American officer in blue coat with scarlet cape, cuffs, lapels and lining. The flag has red and white stripes and a blue canton with eagle seal, gilt finial and cords. (Maryland Commission on Artistic Property of the Maryland State Archives, Special Collection 1545–1120, Smithsonian Photograph)*

Changes of 1783

Notwithstanding the change in facings, the non-arrival of sufficient amounts of scarlet cloth necessitated the issue of further orders to maintain a degree of uniformity among those (mostly Northern) regiments directly under General Washington. On 14 February 1783 Washington had to explain that the coats issued the previous year would have to be turned and worn again, but that their length must be shortened, and that scarlet only sufficient for the capes, cuffs, and perhaps half-facings would be furnished. Scarlet cloth remained so scarce that when a small supply did arrive in camp, General Washington held a lottery among the regiments.

The intentions of the Continental Congress with regard to the Army’s uniforms are best illustrated by
the estimate prepared on 5 June 1783 by Samuel Caldwell, a former assistant Continental Clothier. This pattern constitutes the first and most detailed specification of Army uniform surviving in the papers of the Continental Congress:

**Coat:** of an average size, 1 ¼ yards blue ¾ cloth for outside, ½ yard scarlet cloth for facing, 1 ½ yards oznabrigs for pockets, staying and sleeve linings, 1 ½ yards white shallon for skirt lining and facing the forepart, 32 large buttons, 2 small buttons, 4 hooks and eyes. *Vest:* skirts ¾ yard white ¾ cloth, ¾ yard oznabrigs for pockets and staying, 1 ¼ yards flannel for lining, 11 small buttons. *Breeches:* ¾ yard white ¾ cloth, 1 ¾ yards dowlas or best oznabrigs for lining and pockets, 2 large buttons, 12 small buttons. *Woollen overalls:* 1 ½ yards blue ¾ duffil, ¾ yard oznabrigs for pockets and stays, 2 large and 5 small buttons. *Linen overalls:* 2¼ yards ravens duck, ¼ yard oznabrigs for pockets. *Hunting shirt:* 2 yards brown Russia sheeting, thread and fringe. *Body shirt:* 3½ yards white Irish linen. *Shoes:* one pair. *Stockings:* one pair, of white yarn. *Hat:* felt, finished with metal button, white looping. *Stock:* black leather lined with white jean.

**Continental Corps**

Uniforms of these units of foot not belonging to a particular state Continental Line, as well as of the light horse and artillery, which differed from, or were not mentioned in, the General Orders of 2 October 1779 and 6 December 1782, are described in this section:

**Artillery**

The Brigade of Artillery received its new uniforms on 6 January 1780, consisting of 887 coats, 1,320 vests, 1,209 breeches and overalls, 2,837 pair woollen hose, 1,611 pair shoes, 831 shirts, 96 blankets, 60
ton, loop and cocking cords; for sergeant’s uniform, see Plate D2.
3rd In May 1781 a deserter was described as wearing a short blue coat, red cuffs and cape, pewter buttons and red watchcoat; for regimental band uniform, see Plate D1.
4th In 1779–80, General Sullivan’s campaign, a small blue regimental standard; for officers’ uniform see Plate D3. In January 1782 a deserter was described in a light blue coat faced red, round hat with broad gold lace band, and striped tichen trousers.
Colonel Jeduthan Baldwin’s Regiment of Artificers Officers’ regimentals blue and red, yellow buttons. In September 1780 a deserter was described in short white sleeved jacket and overalls, large round hat and silver shoe buckles.
Colonel Benjamin Flower’s Regiment of Artillery and Artificers In 1779, coats dark faced red, red jackets, white tichen breeches; in March and June 1780 deserters were described in blue regimental coats faced red; portrait of Benjamin Flower by James Peale (private collection, Baltimore, MD) shows blue regimental coat, red narrow cape, lapels, angular cuffs, waistcoat and breeches, gold-bound button holes, inch-wide lace on waistcoat edge and pockets, gold epaulettes and bound shoulder wings, black feather and gold hat loop and band.

**Independent Corps**

Commander-in-Chief’s Guard June 1782 inspection return, clothing in use: 64 coats, 66 vests, 66 breeches, 66 linen overalls, 132 shirts, 66 stocks, 132 stockings, 66 shoes, 61 buckles, 66 hats and 66 blankets.

German Battalion Brown coats and green waistcoats and breeches provided by Maryland.

Continental Rifle Corps 24 September 1779, effects of deceased Captain Livingham include one regimental coat of black turned up with red, and red plush breeches.

Corps of Invalids For Philadelphia Detachment, see Plate B1. Boston Detachment, August 1781, wore British uniforms of the 5th Foot, scarlet faced with green.

1st Canadian Regiment In January 1781 received 114 each of coats, vests, woollen overalls, shirts and hose, 123 shoes, 100 hats, 100 blankets, and 114 pair woollen socks.
Legions

Armand’s See Plate F1.
Henry Lee’s See Plate F2. In 1782 Lee presented each officer with 1½ yards of blue cloth, 36 coat buttons, and one gold epaulette.
Pulaski’s See illustrations for Legion standard. In February 1779 a deserter was described in brown short coat, large beaver hat, leather breeches, shoes and stockings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light Dragoons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regiment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1780–81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1782–83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidon, see illustration p 13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard, blue 25½ x 38½ inches, union of 7 red alternating with 6 light blue stripes, gold scrolls, rest same as Guidon Sword, see illustration p 14.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1780–81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1782–83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer, see Plate A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trumpeter, blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troopers</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>1779–80</td>
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<td>1778</td>
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<tr>
<td>1781–82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trumpeter, see Plate A1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Light infantry

In the reorganization of 1779 each of the infantry regiments was to designate one or more companies as eligible for drafting into a temporary detachment of light infantry. On 15 June 1779 a total of 16 companies were organized into four battalions of four companies each. Since they were considered as drafts, General Washington refused the request of the Light Corps Commander, Brigadier General Anthony Wayne, for a separate uniform for his troops; Wayne nonetheless authorized the use of caps ornamented with hair as a Corps distinction. When re-formed in July 1780 the Continental Lines could field a Light Corps of 12 battalions of 48 companies.

Additional continental regiments of foot

The following table includes only those additional regiments which had new uniforms between 1779 and 1781, when they were merged into the Continental Line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regiment</th>
<th>Coat</th>
<th>Facing</th>
<th>Other items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Hartley’s</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Jackson’s</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>buff</td>
<td>blue overalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses Rawling’s</td>
<td>brown</td>
<td></td>
<td>brown jacket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Sherburn’s</td>
<td>See Plate F3</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel B. Webb’s</td>
<td>scarlet</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standard of Pulaski’s Legion – crimson silk with gilt embellishments. (Maryland Historical Society)
and 2,400 rank and file. This Corps was placed under the command of the Marquis de Lafayette, who immediately prescribed a uniform of linen hunting shirts and overalls and small round hats cocked up on one side.

Colours presented to the corps by the Marquis were made in France, of white silk with fleurs de lys and a striped canton. As a further mark of his esteem the Marquis presented each officer with a gilt smallsword, epaulette, cockade, red and black feathers, blue cloth and trimmings for a regimental coat, and leather caps with white horsehair crests. The privates had two black feathers, one tipped with red; corporals, drummers and fifers received a piece of silver lace for a ‘right line’ on the front of their caps. For the sergeants, see Plate G2.

In September 1782 the Corps of Light Infantry was in brown with green cuffs and lapels, and white overalls tucked into black gaiters. In 1783 General Washington ordered the Light Corps to retain uniforms of blue faced white.

Service departments

Hospital Department October 1780, hospital stewards received clothing left behind by deceased patients. Officers of the department were allowed by the Continental Congress to draw clothing in the same manner as line officers. See also the portrait of Doctor Barnabas Binney.

Corps of Sappers and Miners Blue faced with buff lined red, buff smallclothes; for officer, see Plate B2.

Quartermaster General’s: Company of Ferrymen Brown coats, white vests and breeches. Corps of Waggoners 1779, deserter described in cloth coloured coat, red cuffs and cape, white jacket, brown breeches; 1780, issues of blue greatcoats, brown coats, jackets and breeches; see also Plate B3.

Commissary General of Military Stores Deputy-Commissary John Collins, who broke gaol on 1 May 1781, wore a suit of ‘good brown clothes, French lapelled’.

Flags and colours

13 May 1779 Brigadier General Henry Knox proposed two standards for each regiment: a Continental Colour, and a Regimental or State Colour of the colour of the uniform with the number of each regiment.

Guidon, 2nd Continental Regiment of Light Dragoons – silk, 24 inches hoist, 28 inches fly, 9 1/4 inch square union, seven silver 1/4-inch-wide stripes alternating with six pink stripes, pink field, blue ball, gilt arrows and bolts, silver wings, black letters, on green scrolls, 14-inch-long scroll. (Smithsonian Institution)

14 September 1779 General Washington agreed with the proposal of the Continental Board of War for a standard with a union and with emblems in the middle, with the addition of the number of the regiment and the name of the state to which it belongs inserted within the curve of a serpent.

28 February 1780 Plan approved for two colours, one the standard of the United States, the other the regimental standard of the colour of the facings.

November 1780 Military stores on hand at Philadelphia included 11 new standards, 42 new division colours, 40 sets of tassels.

Military stores

Camp kettles 26 June 1782: 9 1/4 inches wide and hold 9 1/2 quarts each, with covers that could be used as frying pans.

Drums 16 September 1780: each included 25 brass nails, 75 iron tacks, 1 gill varnish, 1/2 ounce Spanish brown paint, 2 drum heads, 1 snare, 1 chord, 10 drum ears, 3 coards of fir wood.

Haversacks 1781: 15 inches high, 6 inches in the bottom, 7 inches in the flat, 16 inches broad, belt 27 inches long and 3 wide.

Knapsacks 1782: 180 pounds Spanish brown paint, one yard of linen each.
Lt. Col. Benjamin A. Tallmadge, 2nd Continental Light Dragoons, by John Ramage, c. 1785. Dark blue coat, scarlet cape and lapels; silver epaulettes, buttons, and lace; white waistcoat, stock and frills. This uniform represents the fulfilment of the 1783 regulations for cavalry. (Litchfield Historical Society)

Sword associated with Lt. Col. Benjamin A. Tallmadge, 2nd Continental Light Dragoons. 'POTTER' stamped on ricasso of blade, black leather wrappings, overall length 43 3/4 inches. (Smithsonian Institution)
Tents: Allocated for each Line regiment, 27 May 1779: field officers, one markee and one horsemam’s; company officers, one horsemam’s each; adjutant, quartermaster, surgeon and mate, one walled tent; sergeant-major and quartermaster sergeant, drum and fife major, company non-commissioned officers, one common shared; every six privates, including drums and fifes, one common shared.

STATE UNIFORMS

Massachusetts

In spite of the Royal Navy’s blockade of its coasts, Massachusetts sent its Brigantine Nanis, Captain Williams, on 13 January 1779 to Messrs. Joseph Gardoqui and Sons of Spain with an order for 5,000 blankets, 50 pieces of blue cloth with appropriate amounts of white shalloons and trimmings, 30 pieces of buff or white cloth, 1,000 pair thread hose for officers, and 2,000 pair white hose for soldiers. By combining the proceeds of such imports with donations collected in the countryside, Messrs. Wales and Davis, the state commissaries to the Massachusetts Line, amassed by 2 June 1779: 11,718 shirts, 14,401 pairs of shoes, 14,570 pairs of stockings and 1,956 blankets. Supplementing these supplies, in September 1779 the Massachusetts Board of War ordered from Boston hatters 700 strong and well-made felt hats properly cocked and trimmed. By 27 November 1779 the Line had received 2,802 coats, 2802 vests, 1,868 breeches or overalls, 1,245 hose, 1,245 shirts, 300 shoes, 2,000 hats and 792 blankets.

During 1780 the Massachusetts Line drew 670 coats, 669 vests, 341 hose, 888 shirts, 3,167 shoes, 1,262 hats, 2 blankets, and 3,380 linen overalls.

On 5 January 1781 a committee of officers appointed to fix the Massachusetts officers’ uniform reported the colour of the coats, waistcoats, linings and buttons to be agreeable to the General Orders of 2 October 1779:

Coat: Length to upper part of knee pan, cut high in the neck, with 5/8 above the waist and 3/8 for skirts, 4 hooks and eyes on the breast, to button or hook as low as the 4th button, no edging, vellum lace or other

Officer in uniform of 3rd Continental Light Dragoons, unattributed. White coat, waistcoat, shirt and frills; light blue lapels and collar; silver epaulettes, buttons and button holes; black stock. (Private collection, Smithsonian Photograph)
ornamentation. **Collar or cape** Peaked behind and in proportion to lapels. **Lapels** Three inches at top tapering to $\frac{3}{10}$ as low as the waist, wing to button within an inch of the shoulder seam to small button on the cape, 10 large buttons and open worked button holes each. **Epaulettes** Directly on top of the shoulder joint on the same button with the lapels. **Cuffs** Round and close, 3 inches deep, 4 large buttons and close worked button holes. **Pocket flaps** Scalloped, set on a curved line from bottom of the lapel to the bottom on the hip, 4 button holes, 2 inner close worked, 2 outer open. **Skirts** Hook up with a blue heart at each corner, bottom cut square, fold on each with one button on hip, one at bottom and 2 in centre, at equal distance with those of lapels. **Waistcoat** Single breasted, 12 buttons on the breast, pocket flaps 4 close worked buttons and 4 buttons below flaps. **Breeches** Half fall, 4 buttons on each knee.

**Hats** Military cock, small silver regimental button and loop. **Buttons** Number of the regiment in centre with such devices as directed by field officers. **Stocks** Black.

Ezra Lunt, State Clothier to the Commonwealth, reported delivering on 16 January 1781: 14,255 pair hose, 14,223 pair shoes, 11,224 shirts, 3,740 blankets, 2,659 felt hats, 360 epaulettes, 3,508 coats, 2,660 frocks, 3,446 overalls, 2,018 vests and 2,000 breeches. In order to finance this great effort the state engaged in some creative fund-raising by announcing in the 2 July 1781 issue of the Boston Gazette a state lottery for the ‘SOLE Purpose of Cloathing the ARMY’, issuing 120,000 tickets at 3 Spanish milled dollars each.

The results of the lottery and imports from Holland allowed Wales and Davis to forward on 21 December 1781: 1,540 pair shoes, 1,310 blankets, 1,335 shirts, 1,489 pair hose and 900 hats, with the expectation that 2,000 suits of uniform clothing would soon follow. When the uniform clothing arrived at Newburgh on 27 January 1782 it was sufficient to clothe all Massachusetts Line regiments except the 10th, which had to settle for brown-dyed captured British uniforms. As a final distinction for its troops, the Commonwealth in April 1782 delivered 2,000 pairs of buff-coloured breeches. No doubt, as the best uniformed component of the Northern Continental Army, it was the royal blue coats with white lapels and cuffs of the Massachusetts Line that impressed the reviewing French officers at Ver Plank’s Point on 22 September 1782.

**Regimental distinctions:**

2nd 21 January 1779: 4 yards of grey cloth and $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards milled flannel for a greatcoat for Captain Judah Alden. 5 October 1779: Lieutenant Colonel Ezra Badlam requested the Massachusetts Board of War for scarlet broadcloth for a close bodied coat and the uniform ‘of our Regiment is Blue Turn’d up with white’. 22 August 1780: brigade order, to bind hats with old tent cloth.

3rd 14 October 1779: report of a stolen blue lapelled coat edged red and lined blue, Continental buttons.
set in wood, resembling silver, a silver epaulet, lined red. March 1783: inspection return includes 2 colours, 9 swords, but no espontoons.

4th 20 January 1779: Colonel William Shephard drew 4 yards brown cloth for an outer coat. 5 March 1779: deserter described in blue faced white, white jacket, brown overalls and cocked hat bound white. 10 June 1779: a drummer, and the drum- and fifemajors, deserted in white faced blue, white breeches and white stockings. 19 May 1780: two deserters described in regimental coats faced green. August 1781: caps. May and July 1782: light infantry uniform included white wings and cords on the arms and pockets, half boots, cap with cockade on one side and red tipped plume on the other and white turban around the crown; drummers, fifers and sergeants wear a black plume in addition to the white regimental feather, see Plate H1 for private’s uniform.

5th 11 January 1779; 12 yards gray cloth for officers’ greatcoats. 22 July 1779: deserter described in blue coat faced white, lined red, and small brimmed hat. 6th 5 January 1780: Colonel Thomas Nixon bought a scarlet coat. 13 January 1782: drew 402 yards blue cloth for 257 coats at 1¾ yards cloth per coat, 71 yards white cloth for facings at ¾ yard per coat, 449¾ yards serge for lining, 289 yards linen for pockets and trimmings at 1½ per coat. 29 March 1782: 31½ yards white cloth for 21 Music coats at 1½ yards per coat, 3½ yards blue cloth for facings, 88½ yards serge for linings, pockets, etc.

7th 16 January 1779: two officers drew 5¼ yards claret cloth for greatcoats. 19 April 1781; regimental order that skirts of coats to come within two inches of the knee pan. 24 March 1783: deserter described with both a new greencoat faced red, and a blue coat with green cuffs and collar, white tape button holes, leather breeches.

8th 22 August 1780: brigade order to bind hats with old tent cloth. 21 September 1780: hats to be cut into caps; uniform of the rank and file to be altered to that of the Massachusetts Line. March 1782: inspection return, in hand: 1 colour, 21 espontoons, 11 swords, 387 muskets, 386 bayonets, 393 cartridge boxes, 9 drums, 9 fifes, 403 coats, 419 vests, 398 breeches, 290 woollen overalls, 346 linen ditto, 389 hats, 555 stockings, 337 shoes, 99 buckles, 4 socks, 6 watch coats,
1783: Inspector of the Northern Army recommends to General Washington that since the men of the regiment were distributed into other regiments it was time to exchange their brown coats for blue ones.

11th See portrait of Captain Stephen Abbott.

Massachusetts State Train of Artillery July 1779: deserter described in new regimentals, blue faced blue, trimmed with white edging. 11 December 1779: Colonel Paul Revere received 12 sergeants’, 6 drummers’ and 147 privates’ coats. October 1780: a Pine Tree flag made for Castle Island in Boston Harbour. Militia of Essex and Suffolk Counties See portrait of Jacob Herrick.

Company of Indians, Machias Blue coats, white shirts, hats.

New Hampshire

In March 1779 the New Hampshire Board of War sent to its Continental troops 909 black stocks, 2,846 pairs of shoes, 1,086 leather knee garters, 20 pairs of boots, and 243½ yards of linen. As of 10 March 1780 Joseph Leigh, State Clothier, had issued to the three New Hampshire Continental regiments: 636 coats, 596 vests, 333 breeches, 22 linen overalls, 151 woolen overalls, 170 shirts, 673 stockings, 1,679 shoes, 1,128 hats, and 8 hunting shirts. Due to a severe shortage of cloth in New Hampshire these articles were supplied by the Continental Clothier. Nevertheless, Colonel Henry Dearborn reported to the State Board of War on 30 June 1780 that one fifth of the troops were totally destitute of a shirt, except for old jackets without sleeves with old stockings drawn over the arms. So bad had the situation become for the New Hampshire troops that in December 1781 they were the first line to be designated by Major General William Heath to receive the captured British uniforms.

Completely outfitted in these uniforms, hats, waistcoats and breeches, the two remaining regiments decided at some time before September 1782 to embellish their coats with stars resembling French decorations. In January 1783 General Washington ordered the Continental Clothier at Newburgh, New York, to immediately issue new uniforms to the two regiments.

Regimental distinctions:

1st 20 July 1779: bill for 2½ yards of green taffeta for regimental colours. 1781: blue coat binding.
2nd March 1781, specifications for officers’ uniform: Coat To extend to the middle of the knee joint, middling waist, edged or bound with ¾ inch wide white lace, all buttons set in pairs, 2 inches between each, 2¼ between pairs, white lining. Collar or cope 2½ inches front, 2 on top of shoulder, 3½ at point behind, edges bound. Lapels Short, bound edges 2½ inches wide at top, 2¼ middle, 2½ bottom, ‘frog’ or wing 2½ inches at joint with top of lapel, 1½ middle, 2 top attached to epaulette button, one pair buttons set below facings on each side in line with vest, false button holes. Pocket flaps Surrounded by lace, 9 inches wide, 4 inches deep at the end and centre points. Cuffs Round, 2½ inches deep, 4 large buttons, 2 small buttons on the underside of the cuff slit. Skirts Folds bound, two buttons on upper part of each fold with false button holes, the upper one ranging with upper part of pocket flap, one button on middle and one on lower end of each fold, small narrow lace bound blue diamonds on corners of the folds. Waistcoat or jacket Pocket flaps like those of the coat with laced button holes and lace on the opposite breast. 1782: see Plate G1 for a private’s uniform. 3rd 1781: brown coat binding.

New Hampshire Battalion March 1783: inspection return lists 167 rank and file, in use 1 colour, 210 muskets, 210 bayonets, 210 cartridge boxes, 1 drum, 3 fifes, 224 coats, 223 vests, 224 breeches, 84 hose, 176 shoes, 289 shirts, 148 hats, 114 blankets, 3 watch coats, 78 knapsacks, 6 canteens, 12 axes, 1 pick, and 9 portmanteaus.

Connecticut

The Connecticut Continentals began 1779 with a reputation for having more clothing than any other line. Accordingly, when the previous year’s supply proved inadequate by mid-year, no further issues were made by Continental Clothiers without specific orders from the Commander-in-Chief. To come to the aid of its troops, Connecticut accelerated the gathering of donated clothing from its constituent counties and attempted to provide new recruits with complete uniforms before they joined their regiments. In order to justify their requirements, the Connecticut Division was ordered on 11 April 1779 to carefully distinguish in their returns as ‘jackets’ those garments which were with folds such as were worn by the British Light Infantry. Brigadier General Huntington’s Brigade of the 1st, 2nd, 5th and 7th Regiments received a ‘goodly supply’ of French clothing in June; Brigadier General Samuel Holden Parson’s Brigade of the 3rd, 4th, and 6th Regiments had to wait until November. At Stoney Point, New York, on 24 November 1779 the seven regiments

*Portion of marquee dining tent used by General Washington. (Smithsonian Institution)*
received 1,401 French and 654 Philadelphia-made coats, 1,314 French and 741 Philadelphia-made vests, 692 French breeches, 678 woollen overalls and 700 blankets, for 2,854 rank and file. From the state came 1,555 shirts, 1,749 shoes and 128 pair linen overalls.

Division orders of 25 August 1780 recommended that hats be cut into the form of light infantry caps, with black hair.

Regimental colours of the Connecticut Line were each of a different ground colour with the number of the regiment in large characters, the device on one side the Connecticut Arms and on the other the motto and device of the 30 Dollar Bill.

By December 1780 Elias Hubbard, the State Clothier, could report to Governor Trumbull that the officers of the Connecticut Line were clothed, but would need new uniforms for the campaign of 1781. A complete supply was required for the five regiments in the newly consolidated Line. In order to finance the procurement of clothing or, in lieu thereof, to induce the citizenry to donate the necessary articles, in May 1781 the General Assembly passed a law requiring a poll tax to be paid either in specie or silver or in actual cloth: whitened yard wide tow cloth suitable for shirts, white ¾ yard wide woollen plain cloth for vests and overalls, plain blue wool for coats, and white woollen stockings. When offered captured British coats in December 1781 the Connecticut officers declined to receive them, opting to retain their blue regiments. At a meeting of the officers in the three Connecticut regiments remaining in December 1782, a uniform for the Line was finally agreed upon:

*Coat* Reaching to the knee band, skirts hooked up, 4 buttons on folds. *Facings* 10 buttons; soldiers’ to lap sufficiently to cover edge of cape; officers’ lap 4 inches on cape. *Cuffs* Round, 4 buttons on each, soldiers’ slit on underside 3 inches and hooked. *Pocket flaps* 4 buttons. *Hats* Bound white, cocked.

**Regimental distinctions:**


3rd 1779: Samuel Richards, Regimental Clothier, received from both the state and Continental clothiers 1,018 linen overalls, 1,108 shirts, 1,354 pair shoes, 445 frocks, 463 black stocks as a gratuity from the state, 349 coats, 345 vests, 351 pair woollen overalls, and 136 hats. 1782–83: see Plate H4 for a sergeant’s uniform. 12 February 1782: Nathan Beers drew from Continental Clothier cloth for 20 ‘Musicks coats 30½ yards white cloth, 37½ yards blue for facings, 36½ yards serge for lining’.

4th 1782–83: complete with leather caps and short regimental coats.

5th 2 March 1782: butternut coloured watchcoat lost by Captain Bates. 1782: lapels to be 2½ inches wide.

6th 20 July 1780: a receipt submitted by Wensley Hobby of Middletown, Connecticut, for painting
and gilding 27 officers’ and painting 401 privates’ leather caps; see also illustrations of uniform.

7th 22 September 1779: Regimental order to supply rank and file with sailors’ jackets and overalls.

8th March, April 1779: deserters described in new red regimental coats faced white, brown vests and leather breeches, old cartridge boxes.

Connecticut State Regiment of Guards 1782–83: 710 pair shoes, 355 pair woollen overalls, 355 shirts, and white and blue cloth for coats, vests and other garments for officers and men.

11th Regiment of Militia July 1780: deserter described in blue coat faced white, white buttons, belted striped jacket, white shirt and overalls.

24th Regiment of Militia July 1782: inventory of Ensign John Jameson’s estate listed a blue coat and jacket, pair of boots and silver stock buckle.

State Garrison Artillery Regiment 1779–80: Captain Adam Shapley’s Company lost deserters in brown jackets and straight bodied coats, round hats, buff under jackets and overalls, a grey overcoat.

Yale Students’ Company See portrait of George Welles.

Rhode Island

In order to reinforce the two Rhode Island battalions, the June 1780 session of the General Assembly voted to allow each new enlistee one pair of overalls, one linen frock or hunting shirt and one pair of stockings. The men raised under this act were to be considered a separate battalion, while the two existing Continental battalions were to be merged under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Greene. Once the regiments comprising the line had been discharged in 1780, the state was in a position to furnish its now consolidated single Continental battalion with clothing of every description.

Regimental distinctions:

1st May 1779: received regimental coats, waistcoats and breeches. 12 April 1780: deserter described in red faced white. 1780: clothing received from the state amounted to 1,269 shoes, 315 coats, 287 vests, 407 woollen overalls, 299 hats, 803 shirts, 65 stockings, 6 hunting shirts, and 524 linen overalls.

2nd 4 January 1779: new bound hats. February 1779: blue and scarlet cloth sufficient for a suit of uniform issued to each officer. September 1779: two men deserted in rifle frocks, small felt hats and overalls, one in a white coat, jacket and overalls. October 1779: received distribution of coats, waistcoats and breeches. November 1779: corporal deserted in blue coat faced white and lined yellow, private in blue coat faced red, lined white. February 1780: inspection return – ‘This Regiment is Well Disciplined & well Clad, their Arms are in very good order’, with 226 coats, 225 waistcoats, 6 pair breeches, 225 pair woollen overalls, 213 shirts, 193 stocks, 270 pair shoes, 235 hats, and 25 epaulettes good.

Gen. Stephen Abbott, as a captain in the 11th Massachusetts Continental Regiment, after a copy of an original lately in the collections of the Essex Institute, Salem, MA. Note the angular cuffs and double-breasted waistcoat. (Peter F. Copeland)
Rhode Island Regiment See Plate H2 and H3.

State Regiment of Artillery 2 June 1779: memorandum signed by Colonel Robert Elliott, to the Council of War, of clothing wanting for the 27 officers for the 1779 campaign specified blue broadcloth for coats, buff for waistcoats and breeches, scarlet for coat facings, and beaver hats; rank and file, round hats bound yellow, blue regimental coats faced red, green or white waistcoats and breeches.

Bristol County Militia August 1780: deserter described in a dark jacket lined in yellow, beaver hat, striped flannel trousers, striped shirt, and a black and white striped blanket marked in two places JP.

Providence County Militia September 1781: deserter described in a blue sailor’s jacket, red and white overalls and grey felt hat.

New York

An order of late 1779 or early 1780 specifies the uniform of the troops raised by New York as conforming to Continental specifications, but adds that sergeants’ coats had to be made of better cloth and with worsted epaulettes; for uniforms of drums and fifes, see Plate G3. On 26 December 1779 James Black, New York Clothing, issued to the line of 988 rank and file a total of 693 coats, 690 waistcoats, 520 breeches, 61 linen overalls, 317 shirts, 529 hats, 7 bundles of worsted epaulettes, and 260 blankets. At state expense, the non-commissioned officers and privates were to receive 1,800 regimental coats, 1,800 woollen vests, 1,800 woollen overalls, 3,600 pair shoes, 1,800 blankets and 1,800 hats, while the officers were to be granted 200 dollars to defray the cost of making up a suit of regimental clothing.

In July 1780 the troops received coats of blue faced with white, which could be changed to buff by applying clay to the facings. Brigade orders of 6 September 1780 specified that the New York brigade’s hats should be cut down to caps and covered with white hair. On 21 December 1780 the regiments were sent some 40 hogsheads of clothing amounting to 944 coats, 1,349 vests, 1,577 woollen breeches or overalls, 2,095 shirts, 3,519 shoes, 657 hats, 57 light infantry caps, and 28 watch coats.

According to General Washington’s Order of 31 December 1781, the New York and New Jersey lines were to receive complete issues of the brown-dyed captured British uniforms.

Regimental distinctions:

New York Brigade standard, 1779–80 Blue canton with white stars, white field with 8 horizontal red stripes.

1st June 1782: inspection reports regiment in exceeding good order, clothing extremely well attended to, in use 522 coats, 513 vests, 515 breeches, 494 woollen overalls, 510 linen ditto, 929 shirts, 443 shoes, 505 hats, 355 blankets, 942 hose, and 219 socks.

2nd ca. 1780–81: Uniform order – the colour to be agreeable to the General [order of 2 October 1779]: Coat To the upper part of the knee pan, 5ths to the waist, 3ths below. Collar Three inches broad at the button hole, point behind. Lapels Three inches at the
tapered to 2½ at bottom, 10 large equidistant buttons and button holes. **Cuffs** Round, 4 large buttons and close worked button holes. **Pocket flaps** Across, 4 button holes, 2 interior open, 2 exterior close worked and suited to the button holes. **Skirts** Behind to be cut full, 2 button holes where skirts and waist unite, 2 large buttons on hips, 2 in centre of each skirt, at equal distance with lapel buttons and one at bottom. **Waistcoat** High in neck, 12 buttons, small flaring skirt with 4 buttons and holes as coat. **Breeches** Small fall, 4 buttons on each knee, 1½ inch wide band. **Hat** Large and fashionable, waistcoat button, small silver cored loop. **Buttons** To have the number of the regiment on it – see illustration. See also portrait of Colonel Van Cortlandt.

June 1782: inspection, regiment in superior order, clothing incomparably well made and consisted of 535 coats, 534 hats, 532 vests, 525 woollen overalls, 2 breeches, 656 shirts, 245 stockings, 530 shoes and 377 blankets.


**State Regiment in Continental Service** January 1783: received from David Brooks, Deputy Continental Clothier General, 383 coats, 383 vests, 153 woollen breeches, 230 woollen overalls, 670 shirts, 383 hose, 320 hats, and 250 caps for 383 rank and file. February 1783: received 300 pair moccasins; portrait of Colonel Marinus Willett by Ralph Earl (Collections of Metropolitan Museum of Art) shows a blue regimental coat with white cape, lapels and round cuffs, white waistcoat and breeches, silver buttons and epaulettes.

**New Jersey**

The four New Jersey Line regiments returned 1,076 rank and file fit for duty, who drew from the Continent 852 coats, 856 vests, 854 breeches, 856 shirts, 337 pair hose, 274 blankets and 842 shoes. To make up for the shortfall of Continental clothing the state appointed Enos Kelsey as Clothier for the State. In October 1779 Kelsey presented an estimate for 720 yards blue cloth to make 415 coats (which on later
At the end of December 1780 the three regiments remaining in the New Jersey Line reported only 61 coats good, 628 bad, and 763 wanting; 65 waistcoats good, 627 bad, 759 wanting; 72 breeches good, 268 bad, 742 wanting; and hats 19 good, 799 bad, 805 wanting.

_Regimental distinctions:

_1st_ 1782. 24 January 1783: inspection report, coats turned, facings changed to the established uniform, hats neatly bound and a cockade in each.

_2nd_ January 1781: blue overalls.

_Pennsylvania_

The Pennsylvania Continental Line retained the uniform prescribed for it in August 1779. However, because the uniform colours – blue faced with red – were the most sought-after in America, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Continental authorities were in continual competition to obtain cloth of these colours and to have it made up into regimental uniform. Based on estimates submitted by a committee of Pennsylvania officers in January 1779, the General Assembly resolved on 13 March 1779 that every officer receive from the state a complete suit of regimental uniform at prices current at the beginning of the war. Because of the uncertainty of Continental supplies Governor Joseph Reed ordered the purchase of a large quantity of flour for export, to be returned in the form of cloth and other military stores. The appointment of Francis Swain as State Clothier on 30 July 1779 required him to post a surety bond of £20,000.

When the Pennsylvania Division, excluding the 4th and 8th Regiments, was inspected on 1 September 1779 Lieutenant Colonel Josiah Harmar of the 6th Regiment reported that the officers were armed with swords and espontoons, arms in shining order and almost complete with bayonets, tolerable accoutrements, uniform (received in the fall of 1778) was blue and red, but not a good hat in the division. In November 1779 the state sent red coats to camp for the drummers and fifers, and tried to obtain silver hat bands and epaulettes for the sergeants.

Later distributions and details of uniforms include: 1780, January: hats round and bound. 27 February: Swain delivered 2,194 coats of which 691

_Drummer, 6th Connecticut Continental Regiment, 1780–82. White coat, waistcoat, breeches, and stockings; blue lapels, wings, cuffs, cape, and drum body. (Peter F. Copeland, Smithsonian Photograph)_
1: Trumpeter, 4th Regiment Continental Light Dragoons, 1779-81
2: Trooper, 2nd Regiment Continental Light Dragoons, 1782
3: Officer, 3rd Regiment Continental Light Dragoons, 1781
4: Trooper, 1st Regiment Continental Light Dragoons, 1781-83
1. Sergeant, Philadelphia Department, Continental Corps of Invalids, 1781
2. Officer, Corps of Sappers and Miners, 1782-83
3. Waggoner, Quartermaster General's Department, 1779
1: Private, Illinois Regiment, Virginia State Forces, 1780
2: Dragoon, Captain John Rogers’ Company of Illinois Light Dragoons, Virginia State Forces, 1780
3: Volunteer, North Carolina Militia, 1780
4: Trooper, South Carolina Regiment of Militia Light Horse, 1782
1: Bandsman, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment, 1782-83
2: Sergeant, 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment, 1780-82
3: Officer, 4th Continental Artillery Regiment, 1779
1: Officer, Major Henry Lee's Partisan Legion, 1782
2: Dragoon, Armand's Legion, 1780-83
3: Private, Lt. Col. Charles Dabney's 3rd Virginia State Legion, 1783
4: Officer, Henry Sherburne's Additional Continental Regiment, 1779
1: Private, 2nd New Hampshire Regiment, 1782
2: Sergeant, Light Infantry Company, 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment, 1780
3: Drummer, 2nd New York Regiment, 1779-80
4: Private, 1st New Jersey Regiment, 1782
1: Private, 4th Massachusetts Regiment, 1782
2: Ensign, Rhode Island Regiment, 1782-83
3: Drummer, Rhode Island Regiment, 1782-83
4: Sergeant, 3rd Connecticut Regiment, 1782-83
blue and red, 69 red, and 84 blue and white; 1,409 vests, 872 pair overalls, 1,983 shirts, 6 pair leather breeches, 639 hats and 9 caps; 295 suits of officers’ clothing, 259 officers’ hats, 49 pair boots, 259 pair silk stockings, 259 pair worsted stockings, 137 pair shoes, and 768 stocks. 8 July: Extracts from an invoice of articles to be purchased on behalf of the State of Pennsylvania by James Searle for 350 officers and 6,000 privates: 30,000 yards deep blue coating for privates, 875 yards blue broadcloth for coats for officers, 24,000 pair white yarn stockings for privates, 6,000 pair plain steel shoe buckles for soldiers, 4,000 shoulder knots for corporals, 350 beaver hats for officers and 12,000 felt regimental hats for soldiers, 1,750 yards of Russia drilling for officers’ overalls and 30,000 yards coarse Russia drilling for soldiers. 26 July: soldiers’ coats recently received are blue faced white, while officers in blue faced scarlet. August: hats to be cut down to caps ornamented with red hair; trousers to be altered into overalls. 1781, 25 March: the Music furnished with scarlet. 6 October: Colonel Farmer issued 485 coats, 1,395 linen vests, 3,576 linen overalls, 1,000 stocks, 100 pieces white binding, 1,078 yards drummers’ lace, and 110 hats. Regimental distinctions: 1st 1783: black cloth gaiters to be altered for wear with overalls.

2nd 1780: Colonel Walter Stewart ordered leather caps bound white for grenadier, light infantry and battalion companies, drummers and fifers. 1782: See Plate G2 for light infantry sergeant’s uniform. 7th 1780: white hunting shirts and overalls. 8th 1779–80: Captain Samuel Brady’s Company have faces painted red with three black stripes across cheeks, raccoon skin caps with hawk feathers painted red fastened to the top of the cap, legs and thighs dyed with wild cherry and white oak bark, breechcloth, leather leggings and moccasins. 10 August 1783: Deputy Clothier General sends 320 uniform coats, blue faced red; 20 white faced blue for music. 10th July 1780: two sergeants, deserted, one in blue regimental coat faced red with buff edging, round hats.

State Regulars In February 1779 the Continental Congress authorized the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania to raise five companies of Rangers on the Western frontier. Each man was to receive a hunting shirt, pair of leggings and shoes, or money in lieu thereof. The parties of white men and Indians employed as scouts needed 60 watch coats, 120 Indian shirts, and 60 small silk handkerchiefs. Company uniforms were: Captain Thomas Robinson’s All riflemen, officers blue coats faced red, rank and file short coats or coatees of blue trimmed white. Captain Spaulding’s Wyoming Valley Company December 1780: blue coat with buff lapels, gilt buttons, and cocked hat.

Philadelphia County Militia Horse Lieutenant colonel: two epaulettes, green turned up with buff.

1st Philadelphia City Troop 1779: leather caps, blue coats.
clothing from George Craighead, Clothier General of Delaware, who also provided when possible for the rank and file.

*Distinctions and distributions:*


**Maryland**

Between 1779 and 1782 Maryland's clothiers – Abraham Faw at Frederick, George P. Keepers at Baltimore, John Muir at Annapolis, and John Randall with the Maryland Line in the field – issued to the Line the following totals: 2,746 regimental coats, 119 linen coats, 3,695 regimental vests, 778 woollen and leather breeches, 10,791 pairs linen overalls, 2,022 pair woollen overalls, 4,522 hats, 13,654 shirts, 6 hunting shirts, and proportional quantities of shoes, stockings, blankets, and socks. During this period no change occurred in the basic uniform of blue coat faced with red and lined white, white ‘vest’ and breeches, white metal buttons. The scheme of military goods to be shipped to Maryland by Richard Harrison and Company, Merchants at Cadiz, in 1780 also specified: 3,000 pair white yarn hose, 2,000 pair copper buckles, 2,000 castor hats, 14,000 yards white linen for soldiers’ shirts, and 600 yards white sheeting for lining. A similar order placed with Jean Holker, France’s Consul in Philadelphia, in February 1781 added buff belts and large blankets to the list of specifications.

Dimensions and particulars of clothing supplied by Maryland include:


*State Officers* Portrait of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Knox, see illustration.

**Delaware**

From 12 May 1779, when ordered by General Washington to join the 2nd Maryland Brigade, the Delaware Continental Regiment received clothing from both its home state and from Maryland. The Delaware uniform remained as ordered by the Continental Board of War in 1779. Regimental staff received
Regimental distinctions:  
Maryland Regiment Extraordinary, raised for Continental service in 1780 for one year, was clothed in brown faced with red, acquired from Continental stocks in New Jersey by Lieutenant Colonel Edward Giles.

4th Regiment May 1780: deserter described in blue coat edged yellow, lined white.

Militia Light Horse Volunteers Put into the field in 1781 to face General Arnold’s forces operating in Virginia, and clothed at their own expense. Members of these county-based troops requested horse equipment and arms, ‘according to the English model at present used by their Horse . . .’. The appearance of one of these troops is shown in an illustration here-with.

Virginia

The Virginia Line regiments with General Washington were, in 1779, well supported by John Moss, Virginia’s Clothier at Philadelphia, who, that July, reported on hand 550 suits of ready-made soldiers’ clothing, and brown linen for overalls, but needed additional hats, cloth, shirts, shoes and stockings to complete the 3,550 rank and file under his care. Moss ordered James Irwin of Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, to make 1,540 soldiers’ hats of the following dimensions: 5 inches behind, 4 inches before on the brim, quite before to be 3½ inches, the sides 3 inches. Captain John Peyton, the State Clothier who succeeded Moss, ordered in February 1780 768 soldiers’ hats and 12 silver-laced for sergeants.

From 1779 onwards the prescribed uniform for the Virginia Line was worn by all its Continental regiments except the 9th, stationed in Pittsburgh, which had blue coats cuffed white, striped overalls and waistcoats. The Virginia Board of Trade imported superfine blue and scarlet cloth for regimental coats for the officers, with white or buff for one waistcoat and a pair of breeches for each. In 1780 Governor Thomas Jefferson changed the state uniform to blue coats with blue waistcoats and breeches. When Virginia became the major site of the war in 1781 the state’s imports failed just as the need became most critical. Nevertheless, the state carried on

Commission of Jonathan Childs as a sergeant in the 5th Company of Infantry, 3rd Regiment, 2nd Brigade, Vermont Militia, dated 10 November 1780.

The figure wears a cocked hat bound red, brown coat and waistcoat, black breeches, and white stockings. (Smithsonian Institution)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Coats</th>
<th>Facings</th>
<th>Headgear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention Guards Rgt.*, 1779–81</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>leather caps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontrier Indep’l. Companies*, 1779</td>
<td>brown</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>blue kilmarnocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Regiment: 1779</td>
<td>white shirts, blue leggings and breech clouts</td>
<td></td>
<td>bandannas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See Plate C2</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>red</td>
<td></td>
<td>hats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocket’s Western Battalion:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>brown</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>hats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank and file</td>
<td>brown</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>flapped hats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaughter’s Western Corps</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Garrison Rgt.</td>
<td>state uniform</td>
<td>red</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drums/Fifes</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Artillery Rgt.: 1779–81</td>
<td>state uniform</td>
<td>buff</td>
<td>buff lining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>blue</td>
<td></td>
<td>French hats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd State Regiment</td>
<td>state uniform, red lining</td>
<td>buff</td>
<td>yellow lining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Infantry</td>
<td>brown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Light Dragoons: 1779</td>
<td>white canvas jackets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>blue stable jackets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>green</td>
<td>red</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>round hats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fronted caps with chains and white hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Light Dragoons</td>
<td>See Plate C2</td>
<td>buff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazine Guards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st and 2nd State Legions, 1781–83:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>leather covered with bear skin, black and white plumes, ditto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>white</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd State Legion, 1782–83:</td>
<td>state uniform with blue overalls. See also Plate F3</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>light horsemen’s caps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>red</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfax Volunteer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Horse Troop, 1781</td>
<td>jockey frock sheeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*Continental units raised in and by Virginia.)
making military clothing after the capture of Williamsburg by setting up a depot outside the Albemarle Barracks under Commissioner of War Colonel William Davies. Utilizing German prisoners-of-war as artificers and tailors, the Albemarle facility functioned until, at the war's end in May 1783, operations and existing clothing stocks were moved to Point of Fork.

In October 1782 David Ross, State Commercial Agent, reported to the Governor that he had imported to Petersburg 1,000 suits of soldiers' clothing consisting of blue coats with blue capes and lapels lined with white serge, trimmed with white metal buttons marked USA, epaulettes of worsted for corporals and silk for sergeants; white waistcoats lined with serge, small USA buttons; breeches of stout twill lined with flannel; sergeants' coats of better quality; 20 drummers' coats of stout white cloth and blue serge linings; also 309 green horsemen's jackets, 1,470 pairs of shoes, 200 pair German hempen trousers with spatterdashes sewn on, and 961 pairs of blue worsted stockings. The supply, which included cloth and buttons in gross amounts, was utilized to provide the remaining Virginia state and Continental troops until demobilization in 1784. The table opposite summarizes uniforms of Virginia State Troops and Militia, 1779–83:

**North Carolina**

In March 1779 the Continental Congress authorized reduction of the North Carolina Line to six battalions, and the discharge of the North Carolina Light Horse. When the regiments were ordered to join Major General Benjamin Lincoln's Southern Army, operating in the Carolinas and Georgia, General Washington and the Continental Board of War extended themselves to clothe the troops for the campaign. By July 1779 Brigadier General James Hogun, commanding the Line, announced to Governor Richard Caswell that his officers were in want of clothing and requested the Governor to order Thomas Craike, Commissary of Purchases, to buy blue and white cloth, as that was the uniform ordered for them by the Continental Board of War. On 23 November 1779 Washington informed the Board of War that the North Carolina troops were ready to march having been supplied with uniform which consisted of 547 coats and vests, 361 pairs of breeches, 182 pairs of canvas and linen overalls, 1,348 pairs of shoes, 304 shirts, 1 hat, and 109 blankets.

Numbering over 717 rank and file in September 1779, the troops needed additional support on arrival in North Carolina; purchases of officers' clothing were completed by Captain James Reed of the 1st Regiment. The entire Line were captured at Charleston; and as prisoners of war, these officers petitioned the Board of War on 31 January 1781 to change the uniforms of the Line to scarlet facings laced at button holes and edges with silver, the men to have white tape where the officers had lace. General Washington, receiving this petition on 14 May 1781, agreed with it in substance, but warned against the use of lace. Imports ordered in October 1781 for the account of North Carolina included large quantities of blue and scarlet cloth. Other supplies of cloth
and clothing were purchased from local merchants or impressed by district lieutenants.

In 1783, 60 officers each received for 2½ to 2½ yards blue, 7/8 yard scarlet, 3/4 yard white cloth, 10½ to 14 yards of linen for shirts, 1 hat, 1¼ yards of ribbon, ¼ white taste, 2½ dozen large and 2½ dozen small buttons. For the pattern of facings, lace and collar of this uniform see the portrait of Lieutenant Colonel John Baptist Ashe. The uniform of the North Carolina Continental Detachment, received from the Deputy Clothier General with the Southern Army, is illustrated in Plate E4.

Between 1780 and late 1782 the North Carolina Militia provided drafts for the North Carolina State Legion and for the volunteer light horse troops and foot battalions. Under the Act of June 1781 for ‘Raising Troops out of the Militia of this State for the defence thereof’, the district militia officers were responsible for clothing the light horse drafts with leather caps, boots, spurs, swords, saddles, and bridles to supplement the shirts, overalls, stockings, breeches, lined waistcoats and thick woollen coats with white capes and cuffs customarily supplied to the foot militia. For the Light Dragoon uniform of 1780, see Plate C2.

### Uniforms of mounted units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regiment</th>
<th>Coats</th>
<th>Facings</th>
<th>Turbans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Militia Light Horse 1781–82:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kershaw’s</td>
<td>light blue</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giles</td>
<td>light blue</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richardson’s</td>
<td>light blue</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonald’s</td>
<td>light blue</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolb’s</td>
<td>light blue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Dragoons 1781–82:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myddleton’s</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton’s</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammond’s</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maham’s</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Horry’s</td>
<td>See portrait of Peter Horry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Regiments of Light Dragoons:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Horry’s, 1779</td>
<td>dark brown</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Greg’s Company, 1779</td>
<td>dark brown</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Conyer’s, 1782</td>
<td>brown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston Militia</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery</td>
<td>blue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

South Carolina

With the fall of Charleston in 1780 the South Carolina Continental Line was captured. While prisoners of the British, officers of the Line petitioned the Continental Board of War to change the authorized uniform to a coat without lapels, button holes on each side of the coat laced with gold, trimmed with yellow buttons and an edging of lace, collar and cuff of buff, with a double edging of lace, buff lining and ‘under clothes’ (smalldresses), the men to have yellow tape where the officers wore lace. General Washington approved the change on 29 May 1781 excepting for lace, which he found too expensive.

For the South Carolina officers still prisoners of war Governor Mathews ordered in March 1782 from James McDougall, a British merchant in Charleston, fine blue cloth for officers’ coats, red cloth for facings and fine white or buff for waistcoats and breeches, for which a supply of rice would be smuggled through the lines.

For the rest of the war military operations were handled by State troops and Militia, most of whom were raised for mounted duty. Troopers were furnished at state expense with a coat, horseman’s cap,
Sketch of regimental button, from original at foot of description of the uniform of the 2nd New York Continental Regiment, Swarthout Papers, New York Historical Society. (Peter F. Copeland)

pair of shoes and spurs, blanket, and two each of waistcoats, overalls, shirts, and pairs of stockings. Arms and accoutrements were to be obtained from captured stores. Uniforms of these mounted units are summarized in the table opposite.

Georgia
With the Georgia Continental Brigade of four regiments reduced to 98 rank and file fit for duty in April 1779, John Sanford Dart, Deputy Clothier General at Charleston, SC, reported to Major General Benjamin Lincoln, Commander of the Southern Department, that the Georgians could be amply clothed from stores available in Charleston. For this uniform, see Plate E 1.

Regimental distinctions:
4th Regiment February 1779: deserter described in blue coat edged white, and pewter button with number 4.

Georgia Continental Battalion 1782: received from the Continental Board of War 500 yards of white cloth for 200 waistcoats and breeches.

Georgia State Legion 1782: deerskin coats turned up with blue cloth, horsemen’s caps, overalls and boots.

Militia 1779: Major, blue coat, ruffled shirts and black silk breeches.

Supplementary bibliography
Only sources not used in General Washington's Armies 1775–1778 are included in this bibliography. Printed sources: Erlyn M. Acomb, ed., The Revolutionary Journal of B

Col. Philip Van Cortland, 2nd New York Continental Regiment, after a miniature by John Ramage in a private collection. Blue coat, buff cape and lapels; gold buttons and epaulette; white waistcoat, frills and stock. (Peter F. Copeland)


Manuscript sources

THE PLATES

A1: Trumpeter, 4th Regiment Continental Light Dragoons, 1779–81
Trumpeters of the 4th Light Dragoons were distin-
guished by scarlet turbans and brass letters ‘4LD’ on their leather caps. Otherwise the uniform was that of the troopers: green cloak with red cape; green regimental coat lined and turned up at sleeves with red, brass buttons; red belted waistcoat; green breeches, boots, black stock, and brown shirt. (Portrait of Captain John Heard, private collection; Pennsylvania Packet, 3 April 1779; Pennsylvania Journal, 14 April 1779; Henry Papers, HSP; Pennsylvania Archives)

A2: Trooper, 2nd Regiment Continental Light Dragoons, 1782
White round-cut stable jacket with blue standing collar, cuffs, edging of shoulder straps, and rose on hip, one row of small white buttons; japanned black leather caps with black horsehair crests, white plume with red top not exceeding top of cap, black leather cockade; leather breeches, black stock and white shirt. (Orderly book of Heronimus Hoagland, New England Historic Genealogical Society; account book of Elisha Jane, US National Archives)

A3: Officer, 3rd Regiment Continental Light Dragoons, 1781
This regiment retained the same uniform from 1779 to 1783, but with variations in the fashion and the shade of blue of officers’ facings. We show a white coat with dark blue lapels, lapets, cape and cuffs, silver buttons and epaulette; black sword belt; white waistcoat; black leather cap with officers’ distinctive metal crest and black plume, white horsehair; white stock and frills; black horse furniture. (MULA Plate 689)

A4: Trooper, 1st Regiment Continental Light Dragoons, 1781–83
The regulation uniform prescribed for Continental Light Dragoons, as adopted by the 1st Light Dragoons late in 1781, consisted of a short-skirted blue regimental coat with white cape, lapels and round cuffs, buttons, turn-back, and overalls, and a helmet crested with black fur. (Drawing by de Verger, Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection; Executive Papers, Virginia State Library)

B1: Sergeant, Philadelphia Department, Continental Corps of Invalids, 1781
Red watch coat over green regimental coat with buttons and lace; black cravat, white shirt and ruffles. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University)

Col. Walter Stewart, 2nd Pennsylvania Continental Regiment, 1780, by Charles Willson Peale. Blue coat; scarlet lapels, cape, and waistcoat; silver epaulette, yellow buttons; black stock; checked shirt; brown overalls; white waistcoat; and flapped round hat. (Freeman’s Journal and Weekly Advertiser [Philadelphia], 27 September 1780 and 15 October 1781; USNA)

B2: Officer, Corps of Sappers and Miners, 1782–83
Blue coat faced buff and edged scarlet, gilt buttons and epaulettes; buff waistcoat and breeches; white stockings; cocked hat; white shirt, stock and frills. (Portait of the Chevalier de Cambray-Digny by Charles Willson Peale, Collections of the Independence Hall National Historical Park)

B3: Waggoner, Quartermaster General’s Department, 1779
Plain brown single-breasted coat, plain white buttons; green under-jacket; blue ribbed stockings; black
Civilian hat with button, and black silk handkerchief around the neck. *(Pennsylvania Packet*, 30 March 1779, USNA)

**C1: Private, Illinois Regiment, Virginia State Forces, 1780**
Short blue coat turned up at cuffs with white, blue lapels, white Spanish-type collar; white buttons, waistcoat and overalls; brown shirt, no stock; Spanish cocked hat, musket and waistbelt cartridge box. *(MULA Plate 369)*

**C2: Dragoon, Captain John Rogers' Company of Illinois Light Dragoons, Virginia State Forces, 1780**
Blue cloak; black stock; tanned moccasins; blue cloth cap with white binding; blue short coat with white binding; black overalls, and blue leggings; white belts. *(George Rogers Clark Papers, Virginia State Library)*

**C3: Volunteer, North Carolina Militia, 1780**
When reporting for active duty the foot component of the North Carolina Militia was to be fully clothed in 'cloth-coloured' short hunting shirts with blue capes. They also had cloth-coloured overalls and flapped black hats, and were to be fully armed and accoutred as riflemen. *(North Carolina Archives)*

**C4: Trooper, South Carolina Regiment of Militia Light Horse, 1782**
Belonging to Giles's Troop, this light horseman has yellow cape, cuffs and turban, as well as the standard light blue single-breasted short coat, black leather-fronted cap, plain white waistcoat and overalls. *(MULA Plate 473)*

**D1: Bandsman, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment, 1782–83**
Scarlet British sergeant's coat with blue lapels, yellow buttons; white waistcoat, breeches and stockings; black cocked hat with Union cockade. *(Papers of William Heath)*

**D2: Sergeant, 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment, 1780–82**
Blue coat, scarlet lapels with buttons in pairs, round cuffs with buttons in pairs, scarlet piping on wings and shoulder straps, yellow buttons; white waistcoat, overalls, sword belt; black cocked hat with round cockade. *(MULA Plate 665)*

**D3: Officer, 4th Continental Artillery Regiment, 1779**
Blue coat, small standing collar, two lines of gold lace at edge, scarlet edged with gold, lapels and round cuffs with slashes, gold buttons and epaulettes; buff waistcoat and breeches; cocked hat with scarlet plume, gold band and loop; white shirt and ruffles, black stock. Small artillery flag with blue field, gold finial and cords and tassels. *(Portrait of Thomas Forrest by Charles Willson Peale, Collections of Independence Hall National Historical Park; Cadwallader Papers, MdHS)*
E1: Private, Georgia Continental Battalion, 1779
Blue short coat, faced blue, white buttons and lace; red waistcoat; grey kilt with black line; red overalls with white garters; black fur cap. (Papers of Benjamin Lincoln, Massachusetts Historical Society; Collections of the Georgia Historical Society)

E2: Sergeant, North Carolina Continental Battalion, 1782
Blue short-skirted coat, scarlet lapels, cuffs and cape with white tape edging, white buttons; white waistcoat and overalls; black stock and white shirt; fantailed hat edged with silver. (North Carolina Archives; George Washington Papers; Papers of Nathanael Greene, Clements Library)

E3: Brigadier General, Continental Army, 1780–83
Our model for this reconstruction is Brigadier General Anthony Wayne who obtained a blue coat lapelled, caped and cuffed buff, with gold buttons and laced button holes; buff waistcoat and breeches; gilt epaulettes, white or silver star on shoulder strap; cocked hat with white feather or plume. (Anthony Wayne Papers, Clements Library; Anthony Wayne Manuscripts, HSP; miniature of Brigadier General Anthony Wayne by John Ramage; Collections of Detroit Institute of Arts)

E4: Private, Lt.Col. Thomas Posey’s Virginia Continental Detachment, 1782
Blue coatee, blue lapels, eight buttons in pairs on
sword belt; leather breeches; leather cap with bear-skin roach, green turban. (Portrait of Major Henry Lee by C.W. Peale, IHNHP Collections; USNA)

**F2: Dragoon, Armand’s Legion, 1780–83**  
Blue coatee, buff pointed lapels, cape and round cuffs, yellow buttons in pairs; blue waistcoat with buff edging and three rows of small yellow buttons; yellow breeches, black hussar boots; red stock, white shirt; brass French dragoon helmet with bear-skin roach and brown fur turban; French hussar sword and waist cartridge box, white webbing. (Portrait of Colonel Armand by C.W. Peale, HSP; Papers of the Continental Congress; drawing by de Verger, Anne S.K. Brown Military Library)

**F3: Private, Lt. Col. Charles Dabney’s 3rd Virginia State Legion, 1783**  
Green sailor’s jacket; white buttons, feather and waistcoat; blue overalls; black cap. (Account book of Henry Young, Virginia State Library; Executive Papers, Virginia State Library)

**F4: Officer, Henry Sherburne’s Additional Continental Regiment, 1779**  
Dark brown coat, yellow lapels, cape and cuffs, silver buttons, white lining; green vest and breeches; cocked hat bound silver. Waist cartridge box and sword attributed to Colonel Sherburne. (MULA Plate 477)

**G1: Private, 2nd New Hampshire Regiment, 1782**  
Brown-dyed British coat, faced and cuffed white, narrow white lace on outside of facings, collar and upper end of cuffs, blue diamonds with white binding at the corner of the turnbacks; British hat, white waistcoat, linen overalls; white star on the breast of coat; black stock and white shirt. (New Hampshire Archives; Orderly book 2nd New Hampshire Regiment, New Hampshire Historical Society)

**G2: Sergeant, Light Infantry Company, 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment, 1780–82**  
Short blue coatee, scarlet cuffs, lapels, wings and cape, white buttons, white lining, yellow binding on lapels, cuffs and cape; brown linen vest and Russia drill overalls; red sash over shoulder, black sword
plume, white binding on front with white triangle on front plate to indicate rank. (Pennsylvania Archives; Andrew Peters Papers, American Antiquarian Society)

G3: Drummer, 2nd New York Regiment, 1779–80
Buff coat, blue lapels, cape and cuffs, white buttons, white turnbacks with blue heart, blue tape on seams and blue shoulder knots; white waistcoat and breeches; grey stockings; black stock, white shirt, plain cocked hat. (New York in the Revolution As Colony and State, Vol. II)

G4: Officer, 2nd New York Regiment, 1779–81
Blue coat lined white, buff lapels, cape and cuffs, silver buttons and epaulette; white waistcoat, breeches and stockings; black half-gaiters; crimson sash. (Miniature of Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt, by John Ramage)

H1: Private, 4th Massachusetts Regiment, 1782
Blue coat, white lapels, cape, cuffs and 3-year faithful service chevron; white buttons, linings, waistcoat; buff breeches; black knee straps and half-gaiters, grey stockings; cocked hat with white feather, tape, loop and button, tassels; round black cockade with white relief. Bayonet fixed to musket, therefore no bayonet belt. (MUIA Plate 601)
H2: Ensign, Rhode Island Regiment, 1782–83
Blue coat, white lapels, pointed cuffs, waistcoat, cape and overalls; silver RIR buttons in pairs with laced button holes; brown overcoat; black leather cap trimmed in silver, with silver anchor, black feather. Regimental standard. (MUIA Plate 559)

H3: Drummer, Rhode Island Regiment, 1782–83
White coat, blue lapels, cape and pointed cuffs, blue lace on seams; black leather cap with white anchor and white fringe along edge of cap; white waistcoat and overalls. (MUIA Plate 559)

H4: Sergeant, 3rd Connecticut Regiment, 1782–83
Blue long-skirted coat and cape, white cuffs, lapels, and waistcoat, ticken overalls; cocked hat bound white; black stock, brown shirt. (Webb Papers, Deacon Nathan Beers Papers, Yale University)
Trooper, Baltimore Troop of Light Dragoons, Maryland Militia, 1781. Composed of members of the local gentry, this unit's volunteer horsemen wore modified fox-hunting garb, such as short country-cloth coats with blue cuffs and cape, white under-jackets and white leather breeches, and beaver caps bound with silver lace with the letters LH on the front. (Peter F. Copeland)

Lt. Col. Robert Knox, Pennsylvania Militia, c. 1783, by Charles Willson Peale. Medium blue coat, scarlet lapels, cape and cuffs; silver edging, epaulettes, and buttons, white stock and ruffles, buff waistcoat. (Fort Ticonderoga Museum)
Notes sur les planches en couleur


D1: Ce membre de la fanfare a reçu un habit interdit qui devait servir à un sergent de l'armée britannique. Ces manteau rouges correspondaient à une mode contemporaine qui voulait que les musiciens portent un manteau de couleurs "inverses", par exemple dans le cas de l'infanterie américaine, des manteaux rouges aux paremments bleus. D2: Les galons et épaulières sont les caractéristiques notables de cet uniforme. D3: À partir d'un portrait contemporain de Thomas Forrest par C.W. Peale.


G1: En 1782, les troupes du New Hampshire, qui avaient bien besoin de se faire ravitailler, firent les premières à recevoir une partie des grands stocks d'uniformes britanniques capturés sur les mers. Les manteaux rouges étaient teint en marron. Les étoles blanches sur la poitrine étaient une affectation ajoutée après l'émission. G2: Les compagnies d'infanterie légère furent par chaque régiment pour formes, à diverses périodes, un Corps Leger qui comportait jusqu'à 12 bataillons étaient considérés comme des appels temporaires et n'avaient donc pas droit à un uniforme distinctif, mais leur commandant Anthony Wayne autorisa un calot d'infanterie légère caractérisé avec un camée en or. La ceinture et le porte-épée identifie le rang du sergent. G3: Couleurs renversées typiques et décoration supplémentaire d'un uniforme de tambour. G4: Son uniforme est composé d'un habit bleu, aux paremments gris, gilet et culottes blanches.

H1: La sapelette est fixé en permanence car on ne distribuait pas de porte-saplettes. Notez le calot bleu qui indique trois ans de service. H2: Notez le calot en cuir et l'étendard du régiment. H3: Encore une fois, notez le calot spécial avec un budge en forme d'ancre et une frange blanche. H4: La sapelette est en "tinder" rayé (comme c'était souvent le cas), tissu bon marché utilisé par exemple pour couvrir les matelas.

Farbtafel


C4: Akten weisen diese Uniform für die Gile's Troop der Miliz-Kavallerie von South Carolina auf.


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