

# British Infantry Regiment

During the period in which the American War of Independence takes place, the reputation of the British soldier and that of his Royal Navy counterparts were at their zenith. Having defeated the hated French in Europe, India and America just over a decade previously, the British military reigned supreme.

It is no wonder then that the shock of the American colonists rebelling against their British protectors was felt across the world when in 1775 those colonist opened fire on the King's regiments. This 'shot heard around the world' would arguably lead to the first American civil war as the colonists were divided into anti-British patriots and pro-British loyalists. Families and communities were riven by this division.

Despite ultimately losing the war, British forces performed with courage and determination, aided and abetted by Indian tribes and Hessian mercenaries as they took on the American forces and latterly those of the Americans' French allies.

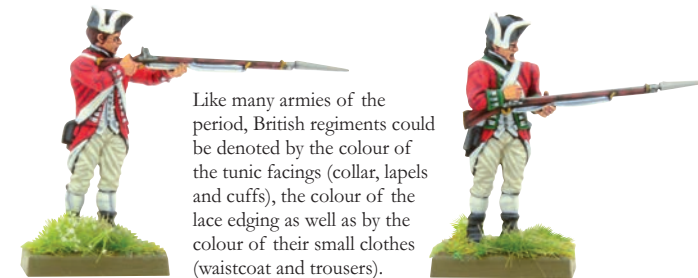


A pair of ensigns – the King's Colour always sits to the right of the regimental colour. Use parts marked **K** for ensigns.



## Royal Regiments

The designation 'Royal' alone did not grant elite status to a regiment but it would most probably have attached a certain prestige over other line regiments. The prefix was usually granted as a battle honour or for long and distinguished service. Royal regiments had dark blue facings and white lace.



Like many armies of the period, British regiments could be denoted by the colour of the tunic facings (collar, lapels and cuffs), the colour of the lace edging as well as by the colour of their small clothes (waistcoat and trousers).



27th (Inniskilling) regiment of foot, regimental colour



27th (Inniskilling) regiment of foot, King's colour



33rd (West Riding) regiment of foot, regimental colour



33rd (West Riding) regiment of foot, King's colour



44th regiment of foot, regimental colour



44th regiment of foot, King's colour



63rd regiment of foot, regimental colour



63rd regiment of foot, King's colour



64th regiment of foot, regimental colour



64th regiment of foot, King's colour



23rd (Royal Welch Fusiliers) regiment of foot, regimental colour



23rd (Royal Welch Fusiliers) regiment of foot, King's colour

Unlike that of their Hessian mercenary brethren or their Continental Army foes, the flags of the British Army during the American Revolutionary War are well documented and easily researched. Following a tradition that both preceded and succeeded the rebellion in the thirteen colonies, British regiments would march into battle with the Kings' colour (Union flag marked with laurel leaves and the number in the centre) and the Regimental colour which, on the whole, had a field the same colour as the regimental facings, the regimental badge in the centre and the Union flag in the upper left canton. Other cantons could, in some cases, hold further emblems.

Flags researched by and courtesy of Dr Lesley Prince.



## Heads

All of the heads will fit any body. Note that the type of headgear generally denotes infantry type.

Cocked hats (A, B, C and D) are typical of line infantry. These are supplied as front and back components with matching codes (A2 and A2a, for example).

Heads in bearskins are marked E, F - these were predominantly worn by Grenadiers.

Helmets or roundhats (G and H) can be used for Light Infantry.



## Sergeants

Use parts marked M to assemble a Sergeant figure. Arms marked M are good for line infantry sergeants - for light or grenadier sergeants use arms marked M with wings.

Body M could also be used for a line officer firing a pistol. Use the arm M epaulette and a left arm M with no wings/epaulettes.



## Drummers

Use parts marked L to assemble a drummer. Drummers would follow the tradition of reversed uniforms with facing colour and jacket colours being swapped.

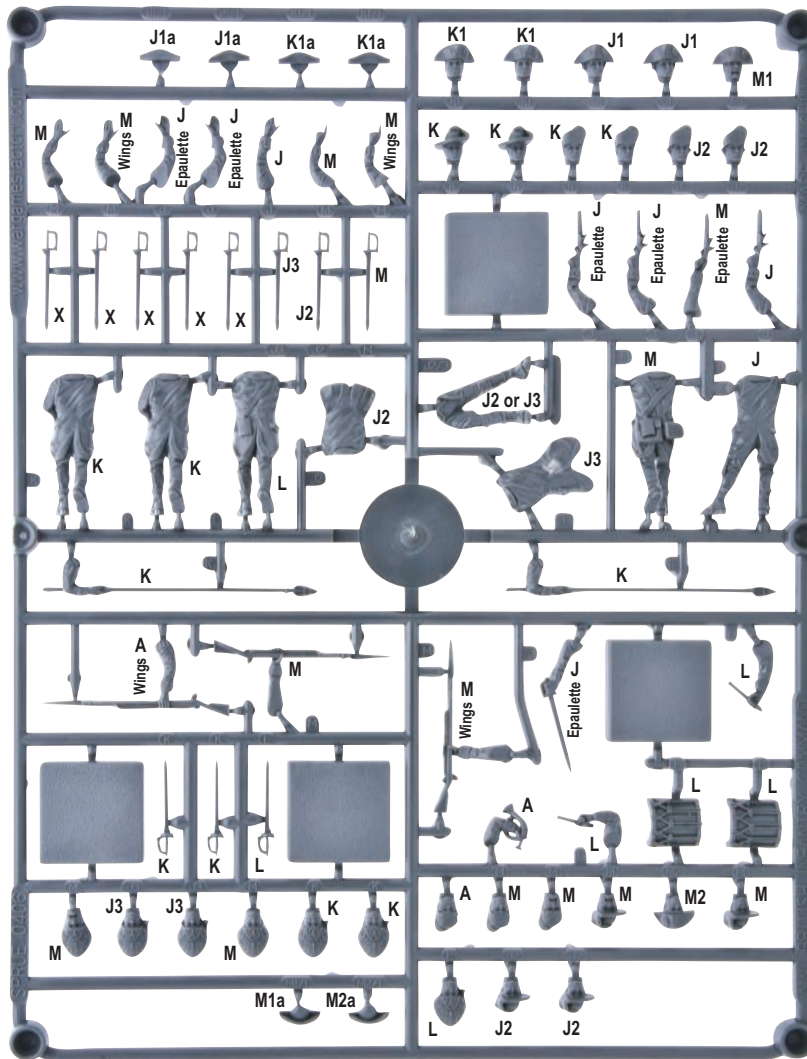


## Officers

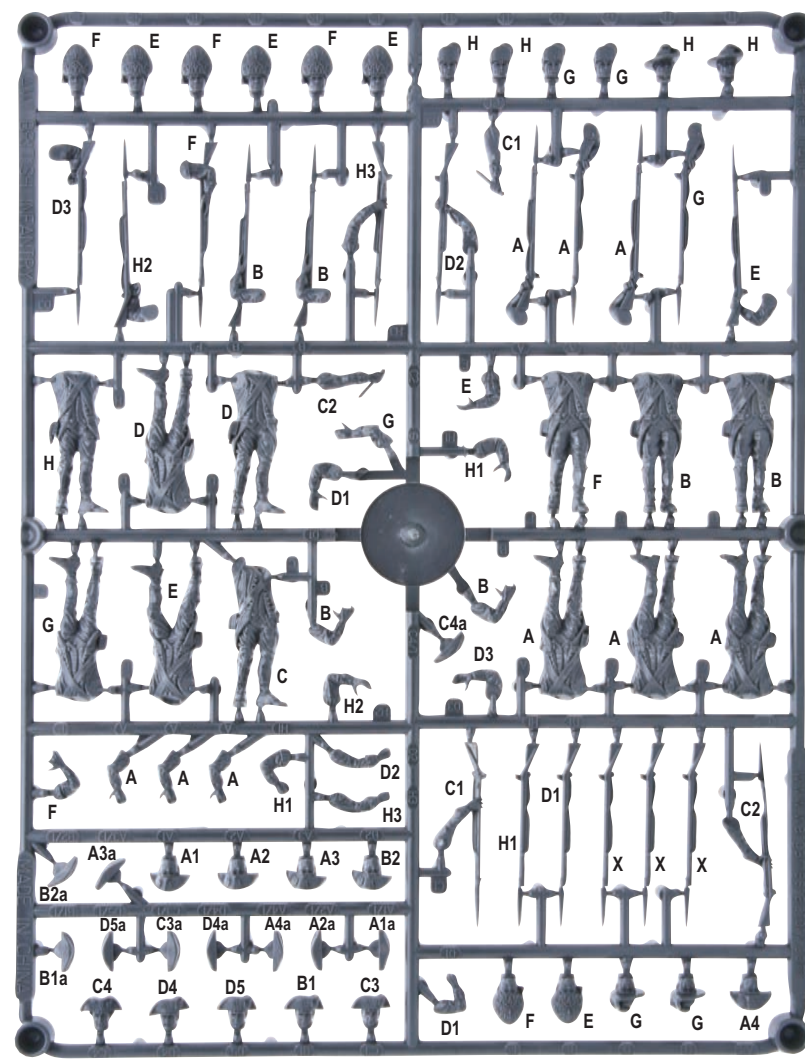
More junior line officers would have one epaulette on their right shoulder, higher ranks (and grenadier officers) on both shoulders.

Body J can be a line or grenadier officer. Body J2 can be a line, light or grenadier officer. Body J3 makes a line or grenadier officer. Light officers should use J epaulettes arms (1 or 2 shoulders dependent on rank) and grenadiers on both.

# British Army command frame



# British Army infantry frame



## Bugler

Parts marked A can be used with bodies A, D, H or G to create a Bugler as seen below.



## Light Company

All British Infantry regiments - with the exception of the three Foot Guards regiments - were entitled to a light company. Soldiers of the light infantry were more commonly referred to as 'Light Bobs'.

Above we have an early light infantry bugler whilst below is a light infantryman wearing the pulled down cocked hat more commonly used as the war progressed.

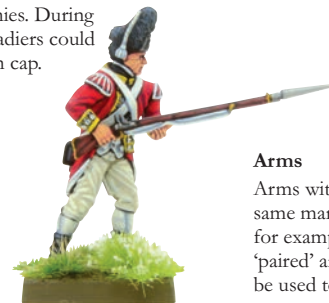


## Grenadiers

The tallest and toughest soldiers would gravitate to the Grenadier companies. During the earlier stages of the war Grenadiers could be recognised by their tall bearskin cap.

## Extras

Parts marked X are not needed to make the contents of a British Army regiment but have been included to allow you to convert your models or to add more atmosphere to your battlefield.



## Arms

Arms with the same marking (D3, for example) are 'paired' and should be used together.

## Uniforms

The coat length and shoulder wings determine a soldier's troop type. Bodies with arms A, B and D have long coats with blank shoulders typical of line infantry.

Bodies and arms C have longcoats; for line infantry use arms C1 and for grenadiers use arms C2.

Bodies and arms G and H are shortcoats, use shoulders with wings for light infantry.