

46<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, South Devonshire  
Light Company, Murray's Bucks

**Objective:**

To create an impression of a regular British line unit, with a documented history to the various campaigns in New York, the 46<sup>th</sup> was selected because of the widespread service across the colony of New York during 1758-63.

**Uniforms:**

1. Uniform Coat as per pattern w/ yellow facings, cuffs, and collar. No lace tape. Coat is to be modified; lining may be removed and skirt cut short. Missy Clark of Barkerstown Sutler's, has agreed to build these uniforms. Color is Madder Red and Yellow Gold fabric by Woolrich
2. Westkit : Madder Red as per regimental pattern
3. Breeches: Madder Red, French fly as per pattern
4. Hats: During the campaigns in North American, hats were directed to be 'cut'.
  - a. Hats worn during 1758 (Ticonderoga/Carillon) may have been simple cut downs leaving a 2" brim.
  - b. Hats worn during 1759 (Niagara and later) may have been cut to that of a jockey style cap ( light infantry only) painted emblem ' G R ' on front ( B. West painting)
5. Footwear
  - a. Shoes with buckles
  - b. Moccasins may be worn
6. Leggings/Splatterdashers: Brown wool legging as per instruction (other colors or materials?) Brown material was issued while in Nova Scotia, prior to Niagara, for the construction of leggings.

**Arms and Accoutrements:**

1. a. Long Land Pattern Muskets, cut to carbines (42" barrels)  
b. Short Land Pattern muskets are OK

note 1: Gage's Light Infantry were issued with firelocks that 'were cut short and the stocks dressed to make them lighter' as well as ten 'rifled carbines' for use by their ten best marksmen on the Ticonderoga campaign.

note 2: the 3 light companies of the 44<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, and 4/60<sup>th</sup>, turned in their Long Land patterned muskets and were issued carbines w/o bayonets at Albany prior to leaving for Niagara ( p. 88, Dunnigan)

note 3: the men of the 46<sup>th</sup>'s light company had an apparent fondness for French arms due to their light weight. (p. 88, note 469, Dunnigan)

2. a. Waist 'belly' box,  
b. Shoulder box
3. Standard waist belt with bayonet carriage, w/ bayonet and tomahawk  
note: bayonets were not issued to the light companies for Niagara (p. 88, Dunnigan)
4. Standard pattern canteen, wool fabric cover, (red/brown/grey/green)
5. Blanket rolls, powder horns, ball bags, haversacks/knapsacks, may be carried, as part of field/campaign impression

### **Uniform Notes**

There are no known existing uniforms for the 46<sup>th</sup> Foot from the F&I period. We do have the clothing warrants as well as the series of painting completed by David Morier.

Page 120, of R.R. Gales's book, shows a Morier's painting of a Grenadier of the 46<sup>th</sup> in the full uniform. The Hat company regiment coats would have been similar in pattern. We know the facing color to be a yellow/golden.

Benjamin West's painting, '*General Johnson Saving a Wounded French Officer from the Tomahawk of a North American Indian*', gives us one of two known contemporary illustrations of British Light Infantrymen. Of the two figures in the background the one on the left appears to be that of a soldier of the 4/60th Foot. The second figure may be a soldier from either the 44<sup>th</sup> or 46<sup>th</sup> Foot. As both units worn yellow facings it's difficult to distinguish to which regiment the soldier belongs. The coat appears to be short and has no regimental lace. Also both soldiers are wearing 'cut' hats in the style of a jockey's cap. On the front appears to be painted the letters, 'G R'

Prior to both the 1758 & 1759 campaigns a number of orders were issued regarding modifications to the soldiers uniforms.

Brigadier General George Augusta Howe's, reforms for the clothing of the 80<sup>th</sup> Foot which was adopted by the whole of Abercromby's army. Lacing was removed, coat shirt cut short and hat brims cut down to 2 inches. Indian leggings were adopted the color was left to the discretion of the commanding officers, but blue and brown being the common colors.

May 1759 orders are given to modify the light infantry uniforms which included: removing the sleeves from the coat and placing them on the westkit, wings were added to coats like those of the grenadiers to extend half way down the arms. I have not yet verified if the 3 Light Infantry Companies at Niagara adapted this modification.

Considering this information, we can see several variations for the 46<sup>th</sup> interpretation. We must remember that all coats were originally issued as per standing warrants called for and later modified.

1. 1758 Ticonderoga : Lace removed, coat skirt shorten, and hats cut with a 2” brim. Indian style wool leggings. (blue/brown)
2. 1759 Siege of Niagara: Lace removed, coat skirts shorten, hats cut to jockey style (LI) with ‘G R’ painted on front. Indian style wool leggings. ( brown/blue?)
3. 1760 and after: No lace, sleeves removed from coat and sewn on westkit, coat skirts shorten, possibly pockets sewn to breast of coat for balls and spare flints.

Final Note: The information present above is a compilation from multiple sources. As newer details become available this page will be updated. If anyone has additional information which will enhance this work, please forward it to me for inclusion.

### **References**

Brumwell, Stephen; *Redcoats, The British Soldier and War in the Americas, 1755-1763* Cambridge University Press Cambridge, UK, 2002

Dunnigan, Brian Leigh; *Siege-1759; The Campaign Against Niagara* . Old Fort Niagara Association Inc, Youngstown, NY 1996

Gale, R.R.; “*A Soldier-Like Way*” *The Material Culture of the British Infantry 1751-1768*. Track of the Wolf, Elk River MN, 2007

McCulloch, Ian M. and Todish, Tim J.: *British Light Infantryman of the Seven Year’s War*. Osprey Publishing, 2004