



HIS MAJESTY'S
TENTH REGIMENT OF FOOT
AMERICAN CONTINGENT

WHAT IS THE TENTH REGIMENT OF FOOT?

The Tenth Regiment of Foot is an historically re-created unit formed to portray the service of the British Army in America during the American War for Independence. Composed of three types of soldier—Grenadier, Light Infantry and Battalion soldiers—plus a band of fifes and drums, the men of the Tenth Foot are accurately uniformed, equipped and schooled in 18th century military drill so they appear in public exactly as a British soldier would have been seen over 225 years ago.



“The Tenth Regiment of Foot is the finest 18th Century British re-created regiment in the world.”

Military Modeling



On 3 June 1767, the Tenth Regiment of Foot sailed from Cork Haven, Ireland, bound for America. The Regiment, raised by James II, was eighty-two years old by this date. King George III had conferred the Regiment's colony on Major General Edward Sandford, who prudently stayed in England all during the American War of Independence. Under the command of Lieut. Col. Francis Smith, the Tenth Foot began serving its tour at the Great Lakes Fort. In October, 1774, it was called to Boston and was quartered on Boston Common.

On 19 April 1775, the Regiment's Grenadier and Light Infantry companies were sent to Lexington

where they took part in a skirmish on Lexington Green; then the Light Infantry took part in a

The Original 10th Regiment of Foot: A Short History

second skirmish at Concord's North Bridge. Meanwhile, the Regiment's Battalion Companies were assigned relief of the troops on the night of the 19th. This was the first action of what would be the American War of Independence. The Tenth Foot was there and saw duty through the war, from the battle of Bunker's Hill to the Battles of Long Island and Monmouth, from Germantown to the invasion of Manhattan Island. And finally to their last major action, the defense of Newport and Quaker Hill in August 1778.

In the Cardwell reforms of the late 19th century the Regiment was named the Lincolnshire Regiment and began recruiting in that county and was nicknamed "The Poachers" after the famous Lincolnshire Poacher of legend.

The Regiment has given a generous share of valiant service, including action in: the Peninsular War, campaigns against Napoleon in Egypt, the Sikh Wars of 1846-9, the Indian Mutiny, South Africa, World War I (with 10 battalions), service in Palestine, India and Burma during the 1930s, service at Dunkirk, the Normandy landing and the drive to the Rhine in WWII. The title of Royal was conferred on the Regiment by King George VI for its valiant service in WWII. Most recently the Regiment was on active duty in Cypress, Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq.

The Tenth Foot has seen much reorganization. Today the original Tenth of Foot serves as part of the 2nd Battalion—The Royal Anglian Regiment—which bears the proud nickname "The Poachers."

*Left: Earl of Bath's Regiment,
the original Tenth Regiment of Foot.
1685.*

*Center: Lieut Col Francis Smith,
commanding officer, 1764.*

*Right: March on by the Old Colours,
2 Royal Anglian, Duxford, England,
29 April 1995*





Colonel Vincent J-R Kehoe, founder and commanding officer.

In the late 1960s, people all over New England were preparing for the country's bicentennial. Long dormant town militia and minute man companies were reorganized and began to stage mock battles with "British regulars". At one of these rehearsals a local historian/photographer stood staring in horror as bathrobe-clad "regulars" in paper hats tried to emulate the crown forces troops. That man was Vincent J-R Kehoe, and he made up his mind to produce a British unit that would appear on the field as they would have looked in 1775. No red paper and

The Recreated 10th Foot: 1969 to the Present

cardboard caps! No comedy uniform coats! Accuracy, dignity, and realistic military professionalism ... Vincent J-R Kehoe would settle for nothing less.

Of all the regiments garrisoned in Boston in the 1770s, Kehoe chose the Tenth Regiment of Foot as the subject of recreation (a respectful nod to his own old regiment, the Tenth Mountain Division of WWII). With the help of two retired British officers, Major Nick Dawnay and Major-General Sir Christopher Welby Everard KBE CB DL, Kehoe began researching the history and uniforms of the Tenth Foot.

Kehoe was tireless in his research and meticulous to the point of obsession about detail, the result—the recreated British unit that formed on Lexington Green on 18 April 1975, drew gasps from the spectators. Cameras flashed, and flashes repeated like an artillery barrage. With spit-and-polish

British troops fire on the rebels; Patriots Day re-enactment, 19 April



Col Vincent J-R Kehoe with officers and the Serjeant Major on Patriots Day



and military precision, the new British unit showed the crowd exactly what the professional military of 1775 would have looked like. As the antithesis of the civilian American farmers-turned-militiamen, the Tenth made sense, turned heads, and men queued up to join. Following their appearance that April, the regiment swelled to ranks of more than 100 officers and men.

The Regiment's Ties with the British Regiment

The men who had helped with Vincent J-R Kehoe's original research retained an abiding interest in the recreated unit. On 15 July 1969, Sir Christopher Welby-Everard, then president of the Tenth Foot Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association, formally authorized Kehoe to establish the American Contingent of the Tenth Regiment of Foot. On 6 January 1970, the regimental association commissioned Kehoe as "Colonel of the Tenth Foot", and the first organizational meeting of the American Contingent was held on 17 April 1971.



The Regiment marches across the North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts led by the Grenadier Company.



Led by their commanding officer, the Regiment marches through the city of Lincoln, England with colours flying and bayonets fixed.

What Units Comprise the Tenth Foot?

The Regiment is made up of three companies plus music. Each unit attracts a different type of person.

Grenadier Company: With a six foot height requirement, these bearskin-capped soldiers are meant to look imposing as they march in the ranks on the right flank of the regiment. They were the shock troops of the 18th century.

Light Infantry Company: Nimble and swift-footed, the "lights" are usually the youngest soldiers, ready to skirmish as a unit or in the line of battle. They are on the left flank of the line.

Battalion Company: Wearing the distinctive tricorn hats of the 18th century, the battalion men were the ordinary soldiers of the army of King George. Each regiment had eight companies of battalion soldiers.

Musicians: Absolutely essential to Regimental life, both in battle and in camp, the drummers and fifers were often little more than boys doing a man's important job. And there is a place in the ranks of today's 10th for the aspiring young musician.



The Grenadier Company led by their Serjeant and their captain marches down battle road in Concord, Massachusetts.



The Light Infantry on parade in Lincoln, England



Soldiers of the Battalion Company.



Fifer and drummer with the Colours on parade

People Request The Tenth

The majority of the Regiment's appearances are at historical re-enactments, since these events permit the unit's members to truly recreate the life of the eighteenth century soldier, and the public to experience the sights and sounds of camp and battle of that era. The Regiment is highly sought after for these events, but the members participate in other activities as well.

Education: The Tenth Foot treats spectators to more than a view of battle; visitors are invited to visit the encampments, to chat with the recreators and to examine clothing and accoutrements that are as accurate to the period as our ongoing research allows. Members also do presentations for schools, historical societies, and at historical sights.

Theatrical events: Because of its deserved reputation for precision and polish, the Tenth Foot has been invited to participate in films and special events.

- *Spencer For Hire*— television episode
- *April Morning*— motion picture
- *Patriot's Day*— American Experience, PBS
- Documentaries for The National Park Service

Parades: Parade organizers have long valued an appearance by the Tenth Foot, knowing the unit is a real crowd-pleaser. Parade participation is an important fund raising activity for the unit, and supports our efforts to research and replicate the soldier of the eighteenth century.

- Lexington, Massachusetts, Patriot's Day
- Needham, Massachusetts, 4 July
- Andover, Massachusetts, Memorial Day

Ceremonial Guard Duties: From visiting military bands to honour guards for visiting royalty, the Tenth Foot is valued for its ability to carry out first rate detail.

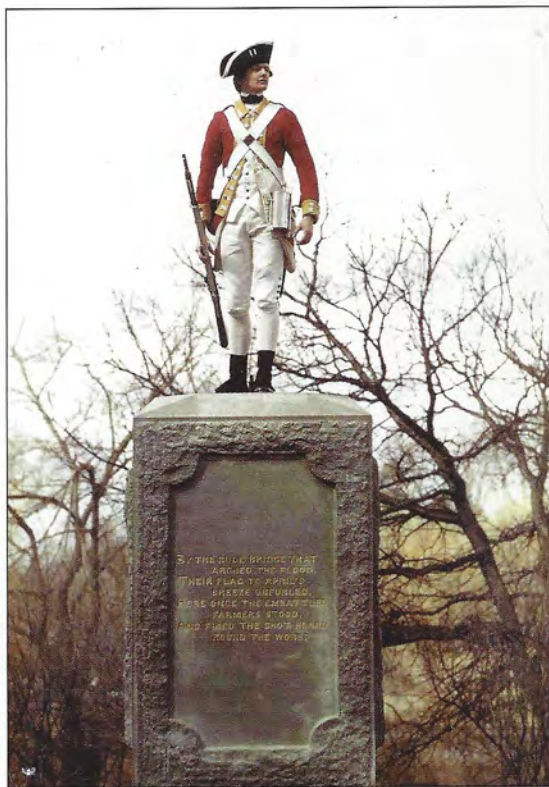
- Reviewed by HRH Queen Elizabeth II in Boston
- Guard of Honour for HRH Prince Charles in Boston
- Reviewed by HRH The Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Lincoln, England
- Colour ceremony with visiting British Band of The Coldstream Guards, Boston



Left: HRH Queen Elizabeth II reviews the Regiment in Boston. Col Vincent J-R Keboe commanding.

Center: Standing guard for HRH Prince Charles during his visit to Boston.

Right: Light Infantry marches past reviewing stand in Lincoln, England, reviewed by military, political and royal persons.



*His Majesty's
Tenth Regiment of Foot
American Contingent*