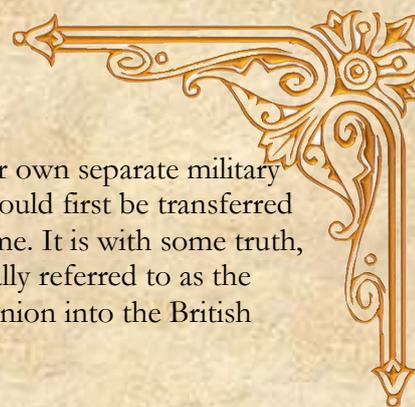


THE BRITISH ARMY OF 1704

Chris Grice



Before the Union of Crowns of 1707, England, Scotland and Ireland each had their own separate military establishments. If Scottish or Irish regiments were sent overseas on service, they would first be transferred to the English establishment, freeing up resources for new units to be raised at home. It is with some truth, therefore, that, despite the relatively high proportion of Scots and Irish, it was usually referred to as the English army. The English and Scottish establishments were amalgamated at the Union into the British establishment, but the Irish were to remain separate for another century.

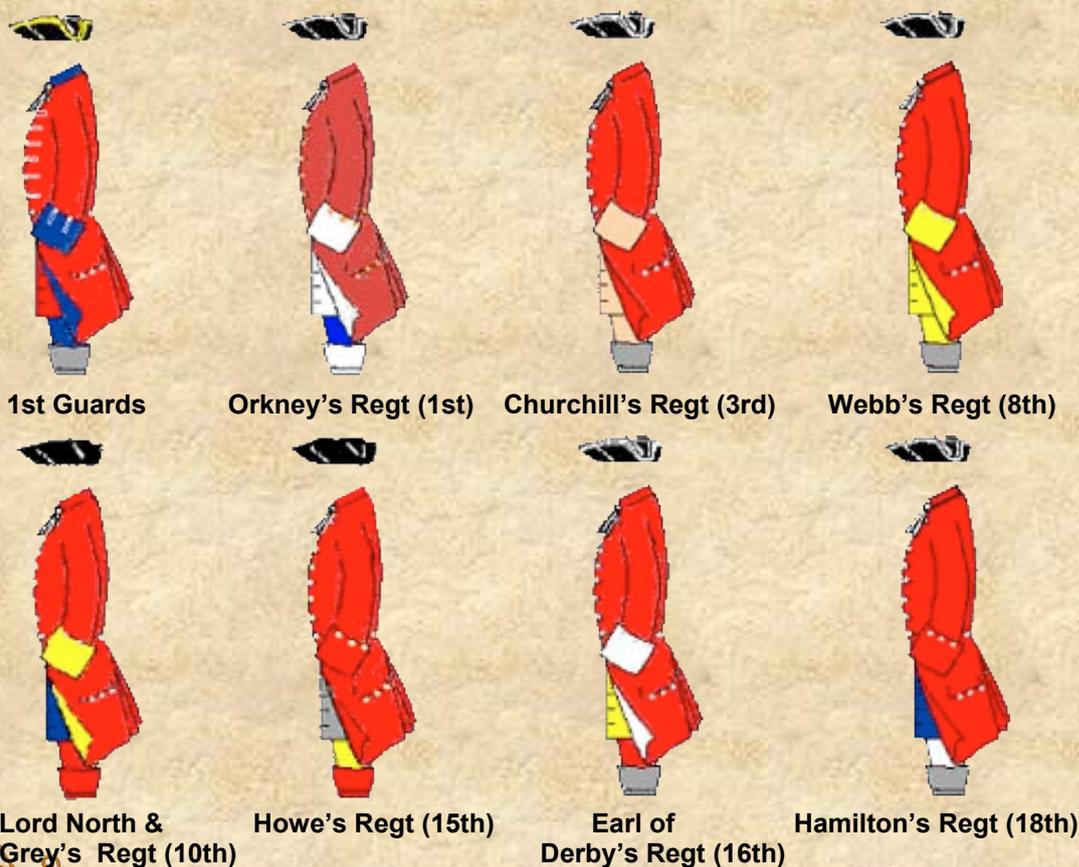
The army in 1704 was small, by contemporary European standards, though it was of high quality, despite the questionable circumstances under which many of its men were recruited.

Most British infantry regiments had only a single battalion. The 1st Foot Guards and Royal Scots were exceptions each having two battalions, but these would never serve alongside each other in the field. A battalion usually comprised 13 companies, including one of grenadiers, further divided into 26 platoons. The 'Dutch' system of platoon firing was used.

On paper, a cavalry regiment had nine troops of 60 men, with three troops forming a squadron under the senior troop commander, but regiments were often hugely under strength and were reduced to two or even only one squadron. British Horse eschewed fire tactics and were trained to charge home at a fast trot. Dragoons rarely dismounted to fight and British commanders do not seem to have differentiated in their use of Horse and Dragoons. Traditionally, British cavalry rode black horses.

With very few exceptions, the British army dressed in red, though there is little certainty about the actual shade. Some sources, following Goldberg and Wagner, show scarlet uniforms for the foot and crimson or madder for horse, although they show some Scots regiments of foot in crimson. It is more than likely that there was no correct shade of red and that the actual uniform colour varied a great deal according to the quality of manufacture and age of the garment, as well as the amount the colonel was willing to spend to clothe his men.

The Foot



THE BRITISH ARMY OF 1704



The Foot (continued)



Rowe's Regt (21st)



Ingoldsby's Regt (23rd)



Marlboroughs Regt (24th)



Ferguson's Regt (26th)

The Horse



Lt. General Lumley's Regt



Maj. General Wood's Regt



Brigadier Cadogan's Regt



Duke of Schomberg's Regt



The Dragoons



Lord John Hay's Regt (2nd)



Mounted on Greys



Maj. General Ross's Regt (5th)



The Royal Artillery

