

Getting Started

We realize that joining a living history organization requires a significant investment in time and money and encourage you to attend events and talk with other participants before committing to a unit.

For Revolutionary War research, we recommend reading:

Fusiliers by Mark Urban, This is a well-written look inside the Royal Welch Fusiliers during their service in North America, 1775-83.

With Zeal and Bayonets Only by Matthew Spring. The author focuses on the tactical evolution of the British Army during the American Revolution.

We live where you live...

The Royal Welch Fusiliers in America is one of the most geographically diverse living history organizations in the United States. **We have companies in the following areas:**

- Northeast/Mid-Atlantic
- Southeast (VA, NC, SC)
- Ohio/Western Pennsylvania
- California, Arizona

Membership Requirements:

- 16 years of age and older for musketmen
- 14 years of age and older for musicians (drummers and fifers)

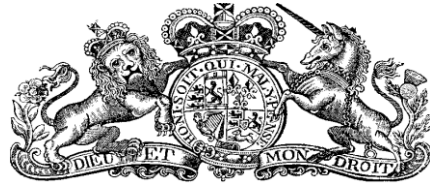
For More Information, please go to:

www.rwfia.org



**23rd Regiment of
Foot
Royal Welch
Fusiliers in
America**





A Short History of the 23rd

Formed in 1689 by Lord Henry Herbert of Chisbury, the 23rd Regiment of Foot saw its first action at the Battle of the Boyne River, Ireland in 1690. Under John Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough, the 23rd went on to distinguish itself in the battles and campaigns of the early 18th Century, earning the title of Fusiliers and henceforth being known as The Welch Regiment of Fusiliers.

The Fusiliers designation was an honorary title awarded to only three regiments (7th, 21st and 23rd) in the entire army. It also authorized the wearing of the distinctive mitre cap.

In recognition of its outstanding service during the War of Spanish Succession, the Welch Regiment of Fusiliers was designated as a “Royal Regiment” in 1713. The 23rd was now known as the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

On August 1st, 1759, during the

battle of Minden, Germany, the 23rd (along with the other regiments in its brigade) was mistakenly ordered to advance, unsupported in front of the Allied lines. The French commander immediately ordered successive infantry and cavalry attacks against the solitary brigade. The Allied brigade broke every enemy attack and then the “Heroes of Minden” launched a counterattack that broke the French line and secured victory for the Allies.

In 1773, the 23rd arrived in New York City on a planned rotation. The regiment was ordered to Boston in 1774. In 1775, it served as part of Lord Percy’s relief column during the battles of Lexington and Concord. The 23rd would go on to serve in every major campaign of the war (with the exception of Burgoyne’s), eventually capitulating as part of Lord Cornwallis’ force at Yorktown in 1781. The detached Grenadier Company in New York City evacuated with the rest of the army in 1783.

Notes

Fusilier Cap

This 10” high, bearskin cap replaced the old “mitre” cap in 1768. This cap was a distinction awarded only to Fusilier regiments. The front of the cap is a plate bearing the Royal Cipher along with the motto “Nec Aspera Terrent”—Dangers do not frighten them.

Regimental Facings

As a Royal Regiment, the facings or the lapels of the coat and cuffs are “Royal” (dark) blue. This meant that due to its distinguished service, the Crown subsidized the entire cost of the 23rd in terms of clothing and accouterments.

Regimental Composition

8x Fusilier Companies

1x Light Infantry Company

1x Grenadier Company