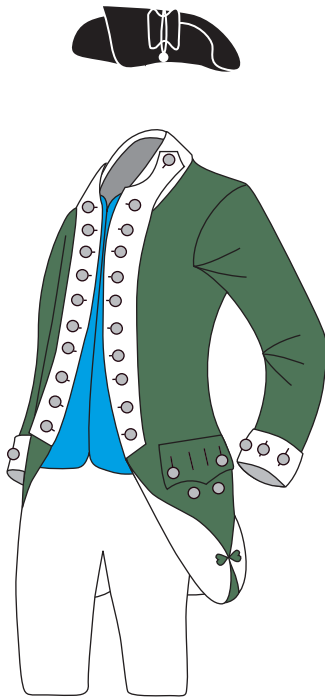


DOCUMENTED UNIFORMS OF THE OLD 11TH PENNSYLVANIA ILLUSTRATED



November 20, 1776

“a deserter in what appears to have been the first unit uniform, a green coat faced with white, along with sky blue jacket and breeches in the PENNA. JOURNAL.”§

*Deserter from Company G, commanded by
Captain John Douglass**

May 21, 1777

“The same green coat faced with white appears in a deserter description in the 21 May 1777 edition (of the PENNA. JOURNAL).”§

*Deserter from Company A, commanded by
Captain Samuel Dawson**

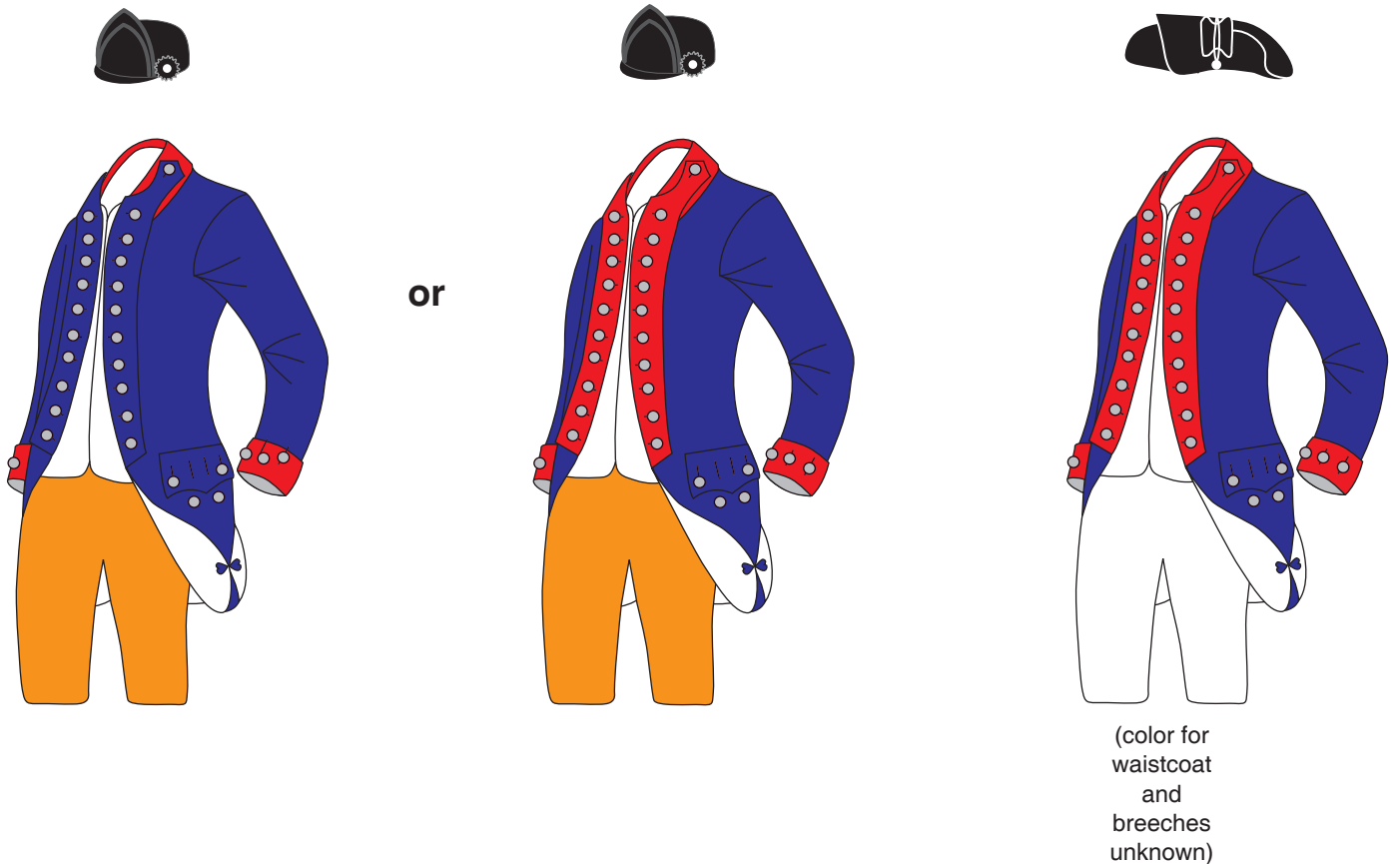


November 20, 1776

“Another deserter in the same unit but wearing a hunting shirt and leggings was listed in the same newspaper.”§

*Deserter from Company G, commanded by
Captain John Douglass**

DOCUMENTED UNIFORMS OF THE OLD 11TH PENNSYLVANIA ILLUSTRATED



April 22, 1777

"a light infantryman, wearing a new suit of regimentals, consisting of a light infantry cap, blue coat with scarlet cape and cuffs, white woolen waistcoat, new buckskin breeches, was described in the 22 April 1777 PENNA. EVENING POST."§

*Deserter from Company B,
commanded by
Doctor John Coates**

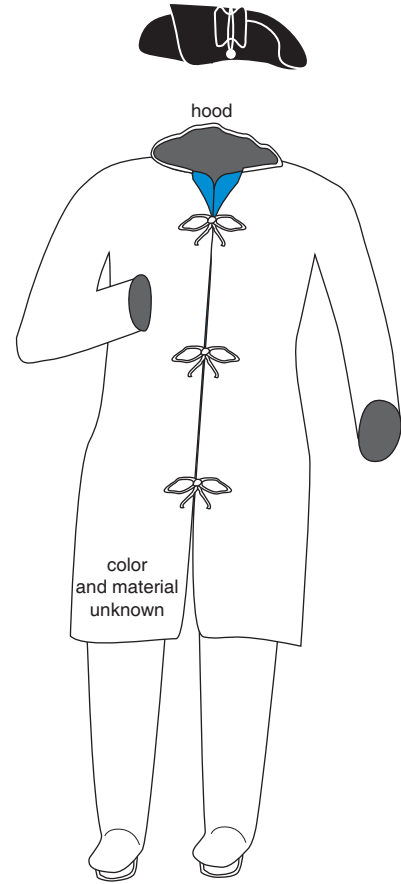
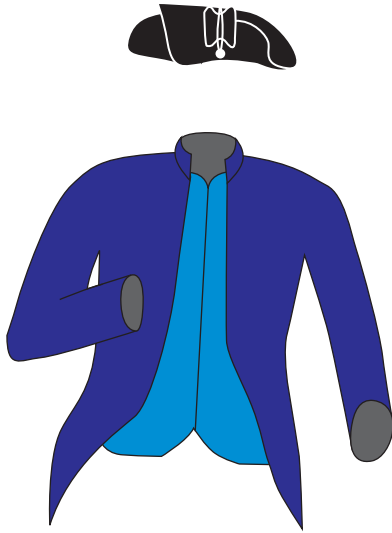
(This description could also be interpreted as pictured above, both are acceptable in the 11th PA)¹

September 20, 1777

"Another soldier of the 11th Pennsylvania, Pvt. John McKie,"...
...according to two Light Infantryman of the 37th Regiment was:
"wrapt up in a blanket, and under it a blue coat faced with red, which appeared to be the uniform of some Regt. in the Rebel service."

Page 222 Appendix B
11th Pennsylvania Regiment
Unidentified Companies
Pvt. John McKie, W/POW(16), British deserter "after he surrendered Sergeant Murphy came up and wounded him with his bayonet."²

DOCUMENTED UNIFORMS OF THE OLD 11TH PENNSYLVANIA ILLUSTRATED



July 16, 1777

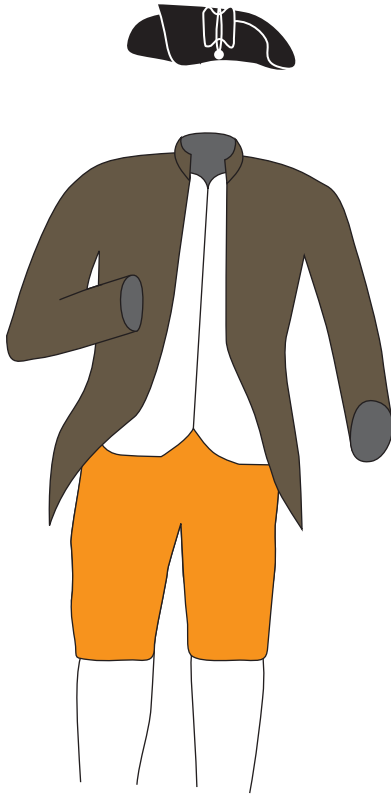
“Two more deserters, one in a blue coat and jacket...”

“...and the other in a blanket coat, blue jacket and trousers, were described in the 16 July 1777 PENNA. GAZETTE.”

*Deserter from Company C?,
commanded by
Capt. Adolph William Hedrick*³*

*Company unknown*⁴*

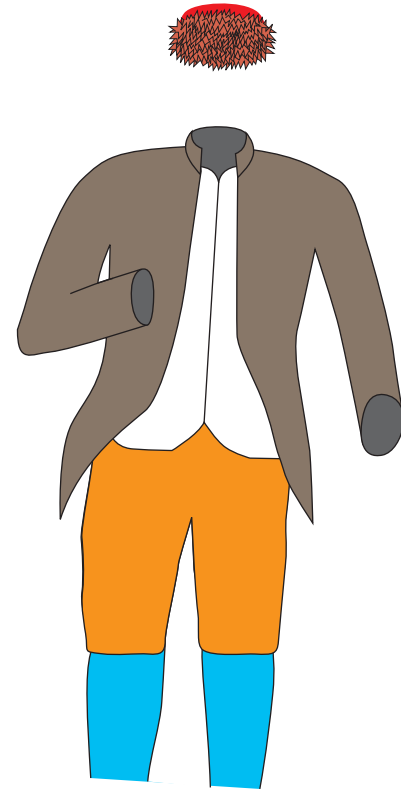
DOCUMENTED UNIFORMS OF THE OLD 11TH PENNSYLVANIA ILLUSTRATED



July 1, 1778

“two deserters were listed in the 1 July 1778 PENNA. PACKET, one in a brown coat, white jacket, leather breeches and woolen stockings...”

*Deserter from Company D, commanded by
Capt. William Bradford Jr.*⁵*



“...and the other in a brown or light colored coat, white Continental under-jacket, leather breeches, light blue woolen stockings and a fur hat.”

*Deserter from Company D, commanded by
Capt. William Bradford Jr.**

“Between January and 23 September 1778 the Continental Clothier General issued the unit 256 coats, 302 waistcoats, 267 pairs of breeches, 745 pairs of shoes, 520 pairs of hose, 680 shirts, 109 hats, 289 blankets, and 44 pairs of overalls”⁶

Illustrator's Synopsis: It would appear from clothing descriptions, that unlike most of the rest of the Pennsylvania line, the 11th Pennsylvania was fairly well equipped with proper clothing, with a mixture of civilian and military clothing. This seems especially true after January 1778, as further evidenced by the Continental Clothier General quotation. While uniformity on the other hand, is not present, there are some striking similarities. First, the abundance of "blue waistcoats". Three of the eight individuals are found in these and three others in "white waistcoats." Second, regimentals. Green faced with white is found twice, while blue regimentals also appear twice. Last but not least, buckskin breeches. These are found on three of the eight individuals. As a last note, it is interesting to see a mix of clothing within companies and identical clothing in different companies. A green coat faced with white appears in both Company A and G, while company G also had a man in a hunting shirt and leggings, clearly an indication that the green coats weren't issued to everyone in the company, but were issued to the #1 company, Samuel Dawson's company as well as the #7 company, John Douglas' company. Perhaps there was enough coats to outfit all of the #1 and only part of the #7, as the #1 company would have gotten the best issue.

Illustrator's Notes: While the sampling may be small in the clothing descriptions we have, I think it gives us some very good clues as to what the unit looked like:

- 1) Regimental coats appear in half of all the clothing descriptions
- 2) Waistcoats were either "sky blue" or "continental white", no other colors are mentioned
- 3) Buckskin breeches are found in good numbers and no other material was described for this item.
- 4) New clothing issues are also seen as late as April 22, 1777.

This clothing description is what deserter Dennis Clancy was found in - which is also our founding uniform description. We also know from the Washington papers that the light infantry company was in existence up till about the Battle of Germantown, so this impression is good for most (if not all-as clothing was never done away with once issued) of the Philadelphia campaign should anyone wish to re-create it.⁷

I hope the new presentation of this information has been as enlightening for you as it has for me. It has sure given me some interesting food for thought.

YMHS, Justin Blocksom, member, 11th PA Regiment

Footnotes and Postscripts

*Company designations as per listed in The Pennsylvania Line Regimental Organization and Operations, 1775-1783, by John B.B. Trussell. Dated Citations are from Uniforms of the Continental Army, by Philip Katcher, page 153.

§ If you would like to read the full ad in the original language, goto: <http://www.11thpa.org/deserters.html>

¹ James Bell, member of the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment, when looking into the facings/no facings question, created a generic regimental "template" (similar to these graphics here) so he could make color files of each regimental description of each unit in the Pennsylvania line as a basis for comparison to the 11th's descriptions. He also used Philip Katcher's book, Uniforms of the Continental Army. There was a curious anomaly on page 148, under the description of the 5th Regiment of 1777-1781.

"This unit was organized basically from the old 4th Battalion in early 1777 and ceased independent operation in 1781. The first uniform appears to have been the old 4th Battalion's blue coats faced with white. Deserters were described in the same uniform, which included, usually ... regimental clothes, viz: a bluecoat with white cape and cuffs, white woolen waistcoat, drilling breeches, fashionable wool hat, as mentioned in the PENNA. GAZETTE 23 April 1777 or simply ... regimental, viz: blue coat faced with white facings, as mentioned elsewhere in that same paper. A regimental blue coat faced with white, buckskin breeches and blue yarn stockings were worn by a deserter listed in the 19 March 1777 issue."

The discovery made from this quote was to note that the term "facings" and "cape and cuffs" are used interchangeably in these descriptions: A coat fully faced in a particular color (cape, cuffs and lapels), even though the lapels were not specifically mentioned, just as in our infamous 22 April 1777 post. It is therefore on this basis that the term "regimental" when used, includes all three of the following: cape, cuff, and facing in the garment being described.

² McGuire, Thomas J. Battle of Paoli. Stackpole Books. 2000. Pages 129 & 222, Appendix B.

³ Trussell's account differs slightly from the descriptions listed by Katcher. No specific day is mentioned in the Trussell account, while the Katcher account is very specific. Trussell's account of this deserter, while the blue coat is the same, no mention is made of the deserter wearing a jacket, so the company association is a conjecture on my part.

⁴ Again, a discrepancy between Trussell and Katcher. This deserter is mentioned with the one above in Katcher's book, but is completely omitted in Trussell's writings. If this deserter was found with the former in the "blue coat" on the same day and the company designation is true, then logic would have this soldier also in Company C, but as this is based on a circumstantial theory, I have left the designation blank.

⁵ I believe Trussell made a typo here. Katcher clearly indicates these men deserting in July of 1778, while Trussell lists them in July of 1777. As Katcher specifically lists his source and date, I think the listing of these deserters in 1777 was an oversight on Trussell's part.

⁶ Kather, Philip. Uniforms of the Continental Army, George Shumway Publisher. 1981. Page 153.

⁷ We know from the Washington Papers that the light infantry corps that was created in August of 1777 was still in existence post-Brandywine and was to be re-assembled after that engagement:

"Head Quarters, near the Warren tavern, September 15, 1777.

"....Such men belonging to Genl. Maxwell's light corps as have returned to their regiments, are again to join Genl Maxwell without delay; and the officers commanding regiments are to make diligent search for those men, and see that they are sent to join that corps immediately."

The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor. online at: [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(gw090235\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mgw:@field(DOCID+@lit(gw090235)))

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McGuire, Thomas J. Battle of Paoli. Stackpole Books. 2000. Pages 129 & 222, Appendix B.

Kather, Philip. Uniforms of the Continental Army, George Shumway Publisher. 1981. Page 153

Trussell, John B.B. The Pennsylvania Line Regimental Organization & Operations, 1775-1783, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. 1993. Pages 129-132.

websites:

Index to the Uniforms of the American Revolution, <http://www.walika.com/sr/uniforms/uindex.htm>

Washington Papers. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html>

The Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment, Inc. <http://www.11thpa.org>