

A group of British Grenadier Guards in their iconic red tunics and black bearskin hats, marching in formation. The image is a halftone print with a red and black dot pattern.

**Richard Cannon**

*Historical Record  
of the Seventy-Second  
Regiment, or the Duke  
of Albany's Own  
Highlanders*



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# **Historical Record of the Seventy-Second Regiment, or the Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders**



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# INTRODUCTION

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TO THE  
SEVENTY-SECOND REGIMENT.

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As several corps have, at successive periods, within the last century, been borne on the establishment of the Army, and numbered SEVENTY-SECOND regiment, it is considered necessary to prefix to the Historical Record of the services of the Regiment, which at present bears the title of the "*Seventy-second Highlanders*," the following explanatory details, in order to prevent the blending, or misconception, of the merits and services of corps which, although bearing the same numerical title, have been totally distinct and unconnected.

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1.—In April, 1758, the *Second Battalions* of fifteen regiments of infantry, from the 3rd to the 37th, were directed to be formed into distinct regiments, and to be numbered from the 61st to the 75th successively, as shown in the following list, viz.:—

2nd Batt. 3rd Foot,  
constituted

as 61st Regiment.

" 4th as "  
62nd

2nd Batt. 19th Foot,  
constituted

as 66th Regiment.

" 20th "  
as 67th

" 8th as 63rd	"	" 23rd as 68th	"
" 11th as 64th	"	" 24th as 69th	"
" 12th as 65th	"	" 31st as 70th	"

The Second Battalion of the 32nd was constituted the 71st Regiment.

" "	33rd	" "	the 72nd "
" "	34th	" "	the 73rd "
" "	36th	" "	the 74th "
" "	37th	" "	the 75th "

The above 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, and 75th regiments were disbanded in the year 1763, after the peace of Fontainebleau.

The *Seventy-second* Regiment, formed in 1758, was constituted, as above shown, from the Second Battalion of the Thirty-third regiment, and Major-General the Duke of Richmond was appointed the colonel. It was disbanded on the 29th of August, 1763.

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2.—On the commencement of the American war in 1775, additional forces were raised, and the number of the regular regiments of infantry, which had been reduced in 1763 to *Seventy*, was increased to *One Hundred and Five*, exclusive

of 11 unnumbered regiments, and 36 independent companies of invalids.

In the year 1777, a corps was authorised to be raised at the expense of the town of Manchester, consisting of ten companies of one hundred men per company; it was numbered the *Seventy-second* Regiment, or Royal Manchester Volunteers, commanded by Colonel Charles Mawhood, and was placed on the establishment of the army in December, 1777. The Regiment embarked at Portsmouth for Gibraltar on the 28th April, 1778, and was employed in the memorable siege of that fortress from 1779 to 1782, and continued on duty in that garrison until the early part of the year 1783, when the Spaniards abandoned their attempts to regain possession either by force or stratagem. The regiments at Gibraltar were relieved in the spring of 1783, and the *Seventy-second* Regiment, to which Major-General Charles Ross had been appointed, in October, 1780, in succession to Colonel Mawhood, deceased, returned to England in 1783.

The number of infantry regiments was again reduced in 1783, after the termination of hostilities with America, by the treaty of peace concluded at Paris on the 30th of November, 1782, and when peace had also been concluded with France, Spain, and Holland; the *Seventy-second*, or *Royal Manchester Volunteers*, was disbanded on the 9th of September, 1783.

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3.—The disbandment of certain regiments after the conclusion of the general peace in 1783, occasioned an alteration in the numerical titles of certain regiments, which

were retained on the reduced establishment of the army: the *Seventy-third* was directed to be numbered the *Seventy-first* Regiment; the *Seventy-eighth* to be numbered the *Seventy-second* Regiment; and the *Second Battalion* of the *Forty-second* to be constituted the *Seventy-third* Regiment. These corps had been raised in Scotland, in 1777, and denominated *Highland* Regiments.

They embarked for India in 1779 and 1781; the alterations took place in 1786 in their numerical titles, which were regulated by the dates at which they were placed on the establishment of the Army, viz.:—

71st late 73rd Highland Regiment on 19th December, 1777

72nd late 78th " on 29th December, 1777

73rd late Second Battalion of the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment raised in 1779, and constituted the 73rd Regiment on the 18th April, 1786.

The details of the services of the present *Seventy-second Regiment*, or *The Duke of Albany's own Highlanders*, are contained in the following pages; the histories of the 71st and 73rd Regiments are given in distinct numbers.

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1848.

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# GENERAL ORDERS.

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*HORSE-GUARDS,*

*1st January, 1836.*

His Majesty has been pleased to command that, with the view of doing the fullest justice to Regiments, as well as to Individuals who have distinguished themselves by their Bravery in Action with the Enemy, an Account of the Services of every Regiment in the British Army shall be published under the superintendence and direction of the Adjutant-General; and that this Account shall contain the following particulars, viz.:—

— The Period and Circumstances of the Original Formation of the Regiment; The Stations at which it has been from time to time employed; The Battles, Sieges, and other Military Operations in which it has been engaged, particularly specifying any Achievement it may have performed, and the Colours, Trophies, &c., it may have captured from the Enemy.

— The Names of the Officers, and the number of Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates Killed or Wounded by the Enemy, specifying the place and Date of the Action.

— The Names of those Officers who, in consideration of their Gallant Services and Meritorious Conduct in

Engagements with the Enemy, have been distinguished with Titles, Medals, or other Marks of His Majesty's gracious favour.

— The Names of all such Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Privates, as may have specially signaled themselves in Action.

And,

— The Badges and Devices which the Regiment may have been permitted to bear, and the Causes on account of which such Badges or Devices, or any other Marks of Distinction, have been granted.

By Command of the Right Honorable

GENERAL LORD HILL,

*Commanding-in-Chief.*

JOHN MACDONALD,

*Adjutant-General.*

# **PREFACE.**

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The character and credit of the British Army must chiefly depend upon the zeal and ardour by which all who enter into its service are animated, and consequently it is of the highest importance that any measure calculated to excite the spirit of emulation, by which alone great and gallant actions are achieved, should be adopted.

Nothing can more fully tend to the accomplishment of this desirable object than a full display of the noble deeds with which the Military History of our country abounds. To hold forth these bright examples to the imitation of the youthful soldier, and thus to incite him to emulate the meritorious conduct of those who have preceded him in their honorable career, are among the motives that have given rise to the present publication.

The operations of the British Troops are, indeed, announced in the "London Gazette," from whence they are transferred into the public prints: the achievements of our armies are thus made known at the time of their occurrence, and receive the tribute of praise and admiration to which they are entitled. On extraordinary occasions, the Houses of Parliament have been in the habit of conferring on the Commanders, and the Officers and Troops acting under their orders, expressions of approbation and of thanks for their skill and bravery; and these testimonials, confirmed