

# The 45

by Højberg - (Chakoten 1966/1)

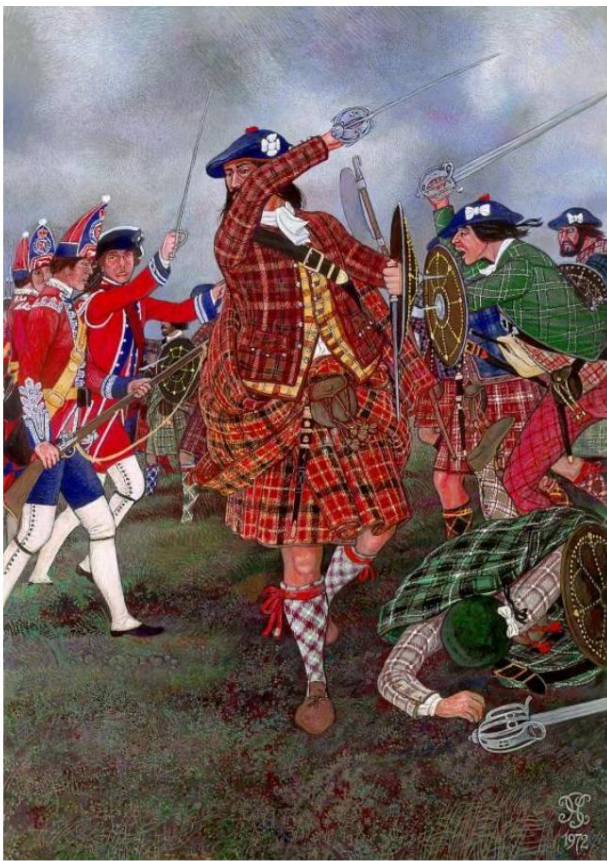
The purpose of this article is primarily to give an account of the dress and armament of the Scottish Highlanders in "The '45", which is the term used in Scotland for the warlike events surrounding Prince Charles Edward Stuart's attempt to regain the Scots-English throne for his family. The uniforms of the English forces involved - especially those of the Highland regiments - will also be dealt with, but only in passing (here lies an obvious topic waiting to be dealt with).

Prior to this, a necessary historical orientation will be in order:

## Foreplay

In 1688, King James II of England and Scotland was forced into exile by the strong Whig opposition and replaced by William of Orange, the Dutch governor who was married to King James's sister. There was thus still a Stuart on the throne, namely the Queen. James died in France in 1701. The following year, William of Orange died and was succeeded on the throne by Queen Anne, King James's daughter, i.e. a Stuart, but unlike her father, a Protestant. She was married to Prince George or Jørgen of Denmark, and it was during her reign that John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough ("Mallebrok") won his victories on the European mainland. On Anne's accession to the throne, her half-brother James, who was in exile in France, was excluded from the line of succession, and the followers of the Stuarts had to face the fact that she would become the last Stuart on the English throne, if - as happened - she died childless, after which the throne was to transfer to the Hanoverian line. This happened in 1714, and in 1715 the Earl of Mar raised the standard of King James III in Scotland.

The rebellion was put down in early 1716, and the Pretender ("The Old Pretender") returned to France with the Earl of Mar. With French support, he tried several times later to gain a foothold in Scotland; the last attempt was in 1745, when he sent his son, "The Young Pretender," Prince Charles Edward Stuart.



"The '45" - by the English quite simply called "The Rebellion" - cannot be regarded simply as a Scottish rebellion against the English. The prince's aim was not to secede Scotland from the union - which would have satisfied most of his supporters - but to bring both countries back under the Stuarts. In reality, "The '45" became almost an internal Scottish civil war with a religio-political background between - on the one hand - the Catholic Stuart prince supported by Scottish supporters and French troops, and - on the other hand - the Protestant Scots (Whig' er) supported by English troops, many units of which were recruited from Scotland.

Prince Charles Edward Stuart was born in 1720 as James' eldest son with his Polish wife Clementina Sobieska. Attempts had been made to give him a military education, but he was far from a strategic genius, though not without personal courage. Contemporary descriptions of his appearance show that his nickname "Bonnie Prince Charlie" was fully justified, and it is understood that at one stage of his escape after Culloden he was able to dress in women's clothing without being detected. He was quite tall, slim, big dark eyes. He usually wore a bright wig.

With a retinue of only nine men, including John William O'Sullivan, a captain in the French service, Irish by birth, who was to become his second-in-command (Quartermaster - and Adjutant-General), the prince arrived on ship for Scotland July 23, 1745. He landed on the Isle of Eriskay. Although far from encouraged in his undertaking, he nevertheless sailed on and landed at Arisaig in Scotland itself. Here he was promised help from several large clans, including the important Cameron clan, led by Lochiel the Younger.

On 19 August he assembled his army, for now only 1,300 men, at Glenfinnan, where a red and white silk banner, brought from France as a gift from his father, was unfurled in front of the front amid great excitement. It was probably a St. George's flag, white with a red cross. On the same occasion, the royal Scottish standard, the red lion erect on a gold ground, framed by a red border of lilies, was unfurled. It was probably this plume that was with Culloden.

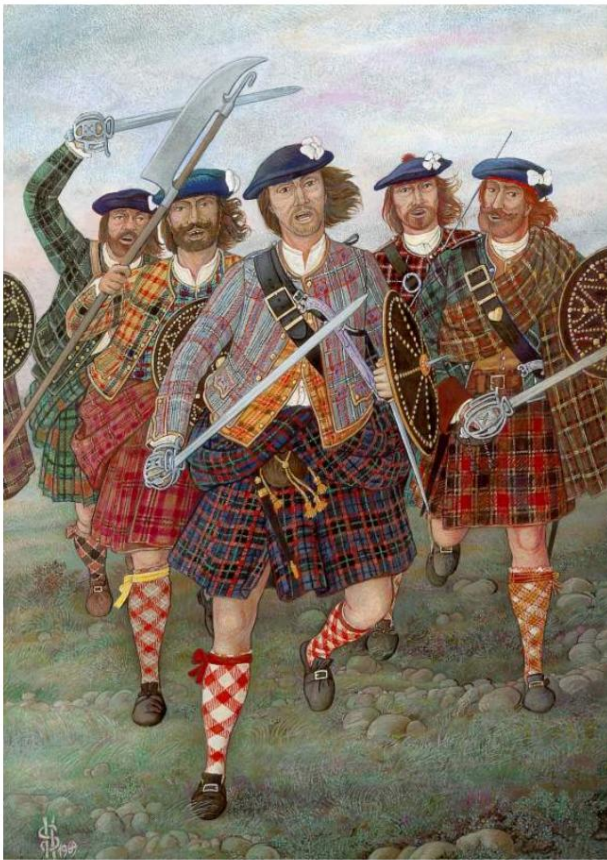
A few days later, Edinburgh was taken without resistance, and heralds at the city cross proclaimed James VIII (the Scottish numbering is different from the English) "King of Scotland, England, France and Ireland".

But the Union Jack still flew over Edinburgh Castle, which they failed to capture together with the city.

The English troops in Scotland at the time of the commencement of the rebellion were few and in miserable condition. The best were undoubtedly Loudon's Highlanders, the second in the glorious line of Highland regiments, raised in June 1745, that is, before the start of the rebellion, with a total of 12 companies.

The Black Watch regiment, still in 1745 number 43 in the ranks of English infantry regiments, was stationed in Southern England, but at the beginning of the rebellion two companies were newly formed in Scotland, which at least participated in the first battles under the name Lord John Murray's Highlanders. However, there was a reinforcement of the English force in Scotland, and Lieutenant-General Sir John Cope was given the supreme command.

The first serious engagement took place at Prestonpans, where the Highland army, after a nightly approach, on the morning of the 21. September 1745 fell upon the royal army and - literally - ran it over in an attack that for a long time terrified the English, but which gave the prince excessive confidence in the invincibility of his Highlanders.



Here, a presentation of the Highlanders' attacking tactics will be in order:

### **The attacking tactics of the Highlanders**

From the British military side, it is said that the Highlanders have their strength in the attack, but that in the defense they only became capable soldiers after having undergone actual military training and discipline - a consideration whose correctness, among other things, appeared at Culloden, where the terrain and probably also a gradually failing will to fight prevented a massive attack with the right elan.

Lieutenant-General Hawley, who replaced Cope after Prestonpans, but who himself was later beaten at Falkirk, addressed his troops before this battle, in which he - but unsuccessfully - tried to teach them how to resist the Highlanders' attack. He himself despised the Highlanders - *"I do and always shall despise these Rascalls"* - but realized that their way of fighting was new and unfamiliar to soldiers trained troops. In this inquiry it is stated:

*"Nothing is so easily resisted as the Highlander's way of fighting, if the officers and privates are not beforehand filled with the lies and slanders that are told about them. They usually form their front rank of those they call their best men or true Highlanders, who are always few in number. When they multiply in battalions, it is usually four men deep, and these men (ie the true Highlanders) are then in the first rank, the rest being "lowlanders" and other rubbish.*

*When these battalions come within the distance of a long musket shot, the front rank gives fire, and at once throws down their muskets, and comes down in a pack amid noise with their swords and shields, to strike fear into their adversary. By the time they reach those they want to attack, they have gained a depth of 12 to 14 men.*

*A sure way to destroy them is to fire upon them in rows (it is assumed here that the attacked force is arrayed in three rows) diagonally towards the centre; first the back row fires, but only when they are 10-12 paces away. If fire is given at a greater distance, one will lose, for there will never be time to reload, and if one runs, death is certain, for as they are without rifle or other equipment, it is impossible to escape from them, when you have your own weapons and equipment, and they don't give a pardon, but just follow the instructions given, they are the most despicable enemy there is."*

As far as Hawley.

Lord George Murray, who was the actual military leader of the Highlanders, explains in a letter that the reason why the attack by the Cameronians and Atholls failed at Culloden was that the discharge of fire intended to initiate the charge was not effective, some of their own being between them and the enemy, and - he writes: *"This was a vast loss for the fire of Highlanders is more bloody than that of any regular troops whatever"*, although the fire - as Hawley says - was fired from a long distance. Incidentally, Lord George describes the attack in the same way as Hawley *"Their custom has always been when they do attack, to run upon the enemy with the utmost speed so as only to receive one fire or at most two before they mixed"*.

After the defeat at Falkirk, Hawley was replaced as Commander-in-Chief of the Royal English Army by the Duke of Cumberland, Prince of the Hanoverian Royal House. Although still quite young (four months younger than the 25-year-old Prince Charles), he had war experience from the battles in France. It was not because of his warlike prowess <sup>1)</sup>, but rather because of his connection to the royal house, that he was already appointed commander of the Coldstream Guard and Captain-General of the army at the age of 21. He seems to have had the confidence of his people to a great extent, which is surprising when you consider that the Hanoverians were not popular in England either. He was fat and ugly - qualities that, at least in Scotland, were interpreted as typical of Hanoverians.

Despite the two brilliant victories, Prestonpans and Falkirk, there was a growing sense of defeat in the Highland army. The useless trip down to England (before Falkirk) contributed to this.

It had appeared that in England proper there was no mood for the return of the Stuarts to the throne. However, the Scots themselves sought a decision, and they got it emphatically in the battle of Culloden.

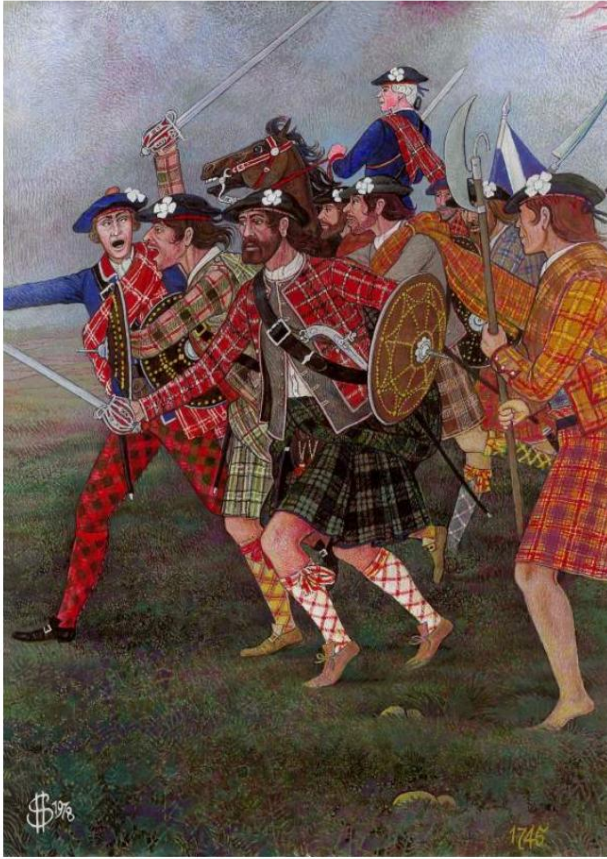
The prince was able to do what is the goal of every strategist, he could decide the time and place of the battle himself. But he chose wrong. The Drunmoss heath at Culloden was quite unsuitable for the Highlanders' preferred mode of fighting, which requires fairly level ground, everywhere passable for foot soldiers (ie without bogs or other obstacles) and preferably sloping down towards the opponent's position. It is also important that the terrain to the flanks protect against flanking, but the Prince and his adviser O'Sullivan quite overlooked the danger on the right wing, which they considered sufficiently protected by the terrain of Culloden Park and the walls around it. Lord George Murray saw the danger and warned against it, and the course of the battle showed that Culloden Park could be passed, even by cavalry, once part of the wall had been torn down. It also contributed to the defeat that, the night before the battle, a march had been made towards Cumberland's camp to take him to bed, but in the morning, due to misunderstandings in the command, they had to return with unfinished business. The crew only got a short rest, some simply didn't show up, when the army had to be put in battle order. Some had lost their targets during the night march.



An account of the course of the battle will not be given here. The prince's defeat was decisive and forever ended the hopes of the Stuarts for the throne and the hopes of the Scots for an independent Scotland.

## The Highlanders

### Tartans



There are also - and especially in Scotland - in our time a number of romantic notions about the age of the Scottish tartan patterns. The fact is that scarcely many—perhaps none—of the present-day family tartans can trace their origin further back to the 1780s, after the repeal of "The Dress Act," which after "The '45" had prohibited all use of Scottish dress (only in the army was the kilt allowed to be used as a uniform, undoubtedly the reason for the ease with which recruitment into the Highland regiments took place). It is true that from the time before 1745 there are accounts of clan chiefs' attempts to introduce uniform tartans for their clans, but the attempts have continued. From 1714 there are paintings of the Laird of Grant's bagpipes and his "honorary champion" dressed in "belted plaid" in the same tartan (red, green and black), but this tartan is not identical to the modern Grant tartan, although the colors are the same. It is claimed that the Murray tartan must be the model for the Government tartan (also called the Black Watch or The 42'nd), as apart from the red stripes it is identical to this one, which only has the colors green, blue and black. This is, however, the case for a number of modern family tartans (Gordon is probably the best known), and these are known with certainty to have been formed with the Government tartan as a model.

Bonnie Prince Charles is most often portrayed, though for good reasons not by contemporary artists, dressed as "Royal Stewart". "This tartan can - although probably in a slightly different form from the current one - date back as far as 1739, when The 43rd Highland Regiment of Foot was formed, and the regiment's bagpipers were given this tartan. The fact that the tartan was called "Royal" is probably precisely an allusion to its being worn by the King's troops, and because of this association with the hated Hanoverians on the British throne alone, it is quite unlikely that Prince Charles would adopt this tartan. Contemporary pictures also show him in a red- black tartan, often with different patterns in dress, trousers, stockings and shoulder plaid.

Judging by numerous contemporary portraits, tartans in red and black were widely used around 1745, but probably only in the upper class for finer use, while less conspicuous tartans were used for outdoor pursuits such as hunting and war. An example of such can be mentioned the so-called Cullodent tartan, which was used by one of the prince's staff officers at Culloden, and of which remains have still been preserved.

Tartan woven fabric was used for all kinds of clothing, not only the plaid, whether it was used as a "belted plaid" or simply as a supplement to the "feileadh-beag" (little kilt) or trows, but also the short shirt ("doublet"), the waistcoat, stockings and trows were often tartan woven and often in different patterns.

Among other things. from the well-known painting by the Swiss David Morier (reproduced without colors in Hesketh Tartans) it appears that there was no uniformity in the use of tartans and that different tartans were used in the same suit. This confusion has been explained by the fact that the Scots during the war (the picture reproduces a scene from the Battle of Culloden: *The Scots' fight with Barrell's Blues*) plundered their dead for pieces of clothing, which is also true, as the fallen after the battles were buried naked; but this explanation is quite unnecessary: not only does it appear from numerous contemporary portraits, e.g. also by Prince Charles, cf. above, that the use of red/black tartans of different patterns in the same suit was common in higher circles for finer use, but also e.g. a picture of Lord George Murray, who probably did not need to plunder the fallen, shows that even in the highest circles different tartans were used in the same suit for shirt, waistcoat, belted plaid and stockings.

The tartan patterns' lack of association with specific families is also evidenced by an Edinburgh company's advertisement in 1745, while the Highland army was in the city. We recommend ourselves to our valued customers with a rich assortment in tartan "*of the newest patterns*".



### Suit and armament

**Bonnet:** The only piece of clothing of the Scots that can with any right be described as an item of uniform was the bonnet, "The bonnet".

This was dark blue (black blue), in rarer cases dark green, shaped almost like a modern beret hat, and provided with a small red pompon.

Edge of leather or multi-colored fabric with running for a black fabric band that could be tied at the neck so that the hat could be individually adjusted.

On the left side a white bow cockade.

It may have contributed to the uniformity of the Highland army that Prince Charles (this happened after the Highland army's return from the "excursion" to England, before the battle of Falkirk) requisitioned from the Glasgow city government "6,000 cloth short coats, 12,000 linen shirts, 6,000 pairs of shoes, 6,000 bonnets, and as many tartan hose, besides a sum of money". Glasgow was the seat of the Scottish Whigs, and one can imagine the feelings of the citizens at having to support the papist rebels in this way.

**Shirt:** It appears from the above that the Highlanders used shirts, but also that they lacked shirts. The shirts were white - at least to begin with. Also vest and above it a shirt, doublet. Both parts could be buttoned, most often the shirt was unbuttoned as well as the bottom buttons in the waistcoat to make room for the kilt's folds. Both vest and shirt were short and without lapels, and the vest was usually longer than the shirt. The clan chiefs and their closest sub-commanders, meanwhile, had a more uniform-like shirt of plain fabric (dark blue or dark green) with silver inlays. This could - in contrast to the ordinary clansmen's shirts - have silver-edged notices in the color of the shirt.

However, what particularly distinguishes the Scots' clothing from that of other peoples is what is below the belt: the kilt or trows.

**Kilt:** The kilt existed in two forms: the older form, "large kilt", "belted plaid" or (in Gaelic: Breacan-feile), and the younger form, "small kilt" or (in Gaelic: Feileadh-beag), that had been in common use since ca. 1730, but was known earlier. At least during the war, the large kilt was the most common, because it offered great advantages in field conditions: during the day an article of clothing with varied uses, at night it replaced a tent and bedspread. The small kilt (used today) had to be supplemented under field conditions with a plaid, which was worn loosely rolled up over the left shoulder with long hanging ends and held on the shoulder by a strap on the doublet. The plaid was not fringed, but like the plaid used for the kilt, provided with a fabric edging.

The large kilt was laid out in the following way: The plaid, a rectangular piece of fabric of approx. 5.50 x 1.80 m (6 x 2 yards), was spread out on the ground and folded in half so that at each end there was a smooth piece of the same width as the body. The length of the blanket of 5.5 m was thereby reduced to approx. 1.5 m. You then lie down on the plaid wearing only a shirt in the direction of the folds and with its lower edge just above the kneecaps and place the unfolded ends of the plaid over the front of the body, first the right, then the left end, whose edge therefore comes along the right thigh. Before standing up, you fasten the belt around your waist, and the part of the plaid that is above the belt point will hang down to your ankles when you stand up. Only then do you put on the vest and shirt, and the hanging part of the plaid is attached with the help of a brooch at the left shoulder. In the absence of one, they contented themselves with tucking the folded plaid under a strap at the back of the shoulder. This seems to have been the practice of the Royal Highland Regiments, the Black Watch and Loudon's Highlanders.

From what is stated here, contemporary images show many deviations: E.g. the front parts of the plaid can also be folded, and the free edge can be in the middle or on the left side. An engraving, showing a Highland regiment on the march in Flanders in 1743, produces many styles of carriage, e.g. the plaid used as a cloak, wrapped around both shoulders, or the upper part (which actually had to be attached to the shoulder) hanging down loosely or worn over the left arm. This upper part could also be wrapped around the left forearm in battle as a substitute for a shield. The dimensions of the plaid can also be smaller than those stated here. Although the kilt in the form of a "belted plaid" must be considered a very practical piece of clothing, under certain circumstances it could be too heavy or warm. On one occasion during the English Civil War, due to the summer heat, the participating Scottish troops were ordered to remove their kilts during the impending battle, and prior to the attack that opened the Battle of Prestonpans, the Highlanders, or at least some of them, removed their kilts. On their own initiative their plaids and must therefore have carried out the attack and the pursuit in a bare shirt. For the sake of public embarrassment, one has to hope that the shirts - if they all had shirts - were of a decent length. Scots consider it something close to blasphemy to wear any kind of trousers under the kilt. They only have what all men have.

An English observer has reported that "the chevalier" (ie Prince Charles Edward) immediately after the battle twice exclaimed: "*My Highlandmen have lost their Plaids*", and he continues: "*at which he laughed very heartily*".



**Trews:** Instead of kilts, Highland officers, at least when mounted, wore trews, i.e. the special Scottish breeches (Gaelic: Triubhas), possibly together with collared boots. Trews were always sewn from tartan cloth and usually in such a way that the threads of the cloth went diagonally, which should give the best opportunities for an exact adaptation to the shape of the leg. The so-called trews, which in our day are used by certain Scottish regiments, and which have the threads of the fabric vertical and horizontal, are sewn like ordinary trousers, and bear their name wrongly. These trews could be equipped with silver or gold lace on the outer sides of the legs and were - judging by contemporary pictures - always worn with hose bands, garters, as "gartered trews". Trews were trousers and stockings in one.



**Socks:** The socks worn with the "belted plaid" and small kilt were always made of tartan fabric. They were tied below the knee with garters (garters, Gaelic: Gartain), usually red, but also made of tartan cloth and tied in elaborate bows.

**Shoes:** Black shoes with metal buckles were usually worn in "The '45" according to current fashion, but homemade light lace-up shoes of undyed leather with upper leather and sole in one have also been used. Several have probably also performed without either socks or shoes.

**Sporran:** One must not believe that the Scots of that time had sporrans similar to the sporrans that were common in the Highland regiments until a few years ago, and which are still used by the pipers. Rather, they resembled the modern sporrans now worn by officers and crew of No. 1-dress: A rather small leather purse, closed by means of a string or a metal bag lock and with leather tassels. It was not white like today's military sporrans, but leather brown and was attached by means of a strap to the belt that held the plaid together. Its location was somewhat random, often far to the right near the dirk. Sporrans could also be worn with trews. The Sporrans has not been able to make room for much other than pipe and tobacco. Possibly also gunpowder and bullets, if the gunpowder was not lying loose in one of the pockets of the shirt or vest or in a powder horn, carried in a strap or cord over the left shoulder. Where the Highlanders got their food was a mystery to me, until I saw in an account of the burial of the dead after one of the battles that the killed Highlanders could be distinguished from the other undressed corpses by the fact that they had a cake or other form of food, probably in a bread bag with a string over the right shoulder and worn under the shirt and waistcoat.

**Dirk:** In addition to the sporran, the dirk (Gaelic: Biodag) also hung from the belt. This particular Scottish knife or dagger was single-edged and the blade as long as a man's forearm. Mounted of black wood, decorated with silver, but otherwise of very varied design. The sheath is usually made of black leather with silver fittings and with a bisque for a knife, in some cases also for a fork and spoon. The black-handled Scottish stocking knife (Gaelic: Sgiandubh, i.e. black knife) was not used in "The '45"; it only appeared later, when the dirk was banned.

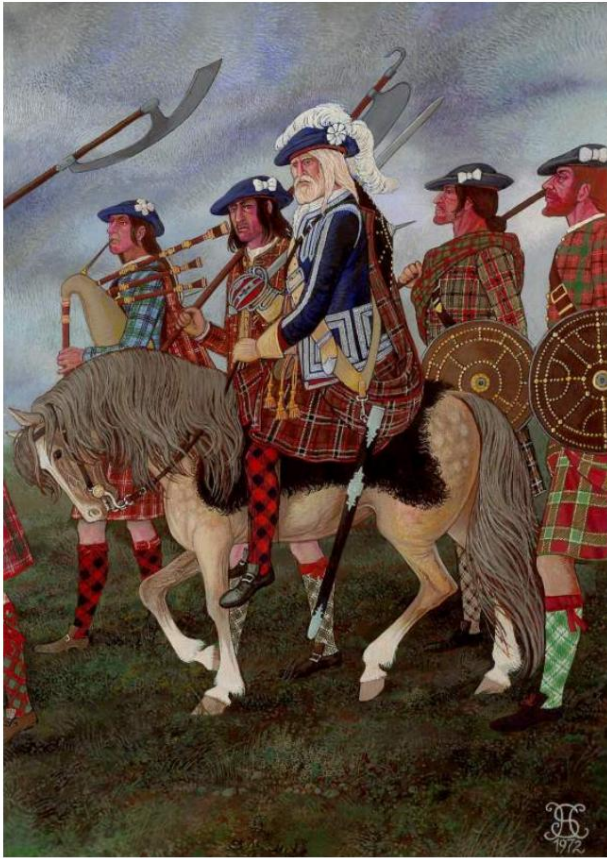
**Claymore:** The chief weapon of the Highlander was his claymore (in Gaelic proper claidheamh-mor, i.e. great sword), a name which was and is still used for the sword with a straight, double-edged blade, although the term properly applies only to the considerably longer two-handed crucifix sword which was formerly a favored weapon in Scotland. The claymore's official English name is broadsword, which term also applies to a horseman's pallasch, which, like the claymore, has a straight blade and a basket attachment. The claymore had its place on the left side, hanging in a sword pouch or by a carabineer on a bandolier (shoulder belt) over the right shoulder. The sword belt was black or leather-coloured and usually had a silver-plated buckle and fittings.

**Pistols:** The bandolier could be fitted with a transverse strap (of leather or metal) that served to place a pistol, which then had a flat piece of metal on the side of the barrel that could be slipped under the strap. An additional pistol could be placed in a belt with a cross strap, like the sword bandolier over the right shoulder, or in the waist belt. The Scottish pistols, which were never carried in pistol holsters, were also made of metal, usually iron, the finer examples with inlaid silver.

**Rifles:** Especially at the beginning of the Rebellion the armament of the Highlanders with rifles was very incomplete, indeed even at Culloden many firearms were wanting. All kinds of guns have been in use, light bird guns, old fashioned flintlock muskets, probably also antique fuse guns and of course captured English "Brown Bess" guns. The latter had the bayonet, but this weapon was unnecessary for the Highlanders, as the gun was always thrown to the ground when - after an initial volley - they attacked with claymore, dirk and target.

**Target:** The use of the Scottish round shield, target or targe (Gaelic: Sgiath) was common among the Highlanders, the royal Highland regiments have also used the target, albeit not as a standardized item of equipment. The shield was round, usually quite small, but the size could vary. It was

made of wood, covered with leather, and studded with copper nails, the heads of which formed a pattern. The shield bugle was designed for screwing in an iron spike. The shield was thus both an offensive and defensive weapon. In battle the shield was carried on the left arm by means of two leather straps, on the march on the back in a long strap over the shoulder.



**Polearms:** An English observer of the Highland army, when assembled at Edinburgh, relates, as an example of its defective and haphazard equipment, that many had armed themselves with "Scythe blades" mounted on poles. Now "scythe" can mean both scythe and sickle, but from contemporaneous drawings it appears that both parts have been used, probably also English officers' halberds and non-commissioned officer's sceptres. Typically Scottish is the Lochaber axe, which at the end of the stake, above the ax blade, was equipped with a hook, intended to pull enemy riders off their horses. Like "the target", the Lochaber ax has been used by the Royal Highland regiments, possibly as a non-commissioned officer's weapon.

One does not need much imagination to imagine that the Highlanders in the described equipment made a certain impression on the English soldiers, who - standing in corded joints - with their finger on the trigger awaited the onslaught of these sword-wielding furies. The soldiers no doubt wanted to follow the call given at Culloden by the attacking Highlanders to the grenadiers of Barrel's and Munro's regiments: "Run, ye dogs". *"Like wild cats they came swarming down on our left wing and without further ado (without ceremony) began to cut and hack at us in their usual manner"*, wrote a soldier after the battle to his anxious family. Of the whole apparition of the Highlanders one gets a picturesque impression from an English spy's account of their camp at Edinburgh. He describes them as strong, active and hardy men who looked good in their "Highland Dress".

Their determined expressions and bushy, uncombed hair gave them a wild, barbaric and imposing appearance. Regarding their armament, he can say that three-quarters of them had both swords and muskets. Of the rest, some had either swords or some form of sidearm, while approx. 100 men were armed with scythe blades set on shafts (scytheblades, can also mean sickle knives). The Highland army at this time was hardly more than 2,000 men. According to the same accounts, they also had artillery: a single small iron cannon, lying on a cart and pulled by a small Highland horse.

Although the war gave the Highlanders an opportunity to supplement their deficient armament, there were still at Culloden two "regiments" (commanded by John Roy Stewart and Glenbuckett) whose men were without swords. Moreover, many of the Highlanders had wasted their targets during the strenuous march the night before the battle.

## Other units in the prince's army

The rebellion was to serve many purposes. As mentioned, the prince's purpose was to regain control over both kingdoms, the national Scots to separate Scotland from the union, and France to create a "second" front in the war with England, whose scene was otherwise only on the mainland. Originally, it was France's intention to provide large-scale military assistance, but when it came down to it, the French continent limited itself to the following:

A squadron of it in France in 1698 created Fitz James' Regiment of Irish Horse from two already existing cavalry regiments from the Irish Brigade.

However, only three troops reached Scotland in February 1746. They had no horses with them, and when they disembarked at Aberdeen, the privates themselves carried their riding equipment, weapons and breastplate. Their uniform was red with blue facings.

They were with Culloden, where a troop under Cpt. Robert O'Shea along with Balmorino's Troop of Life Guards formed the escort for the Prince.

From the Irish Brigade in French service also descended a force of foot, usually called the "Irish Picquets", and the French Royal Scots (Royale Ecosais), a regiment of foot under Lord John Drummond - in all approx. 750 men who joined the prince's army before the battle of Falkirk.

In addition to the Highland infantry proper, organized into regiments or battalions of widely differing sizes and commanded by their clan chiefs or their sons, there were smaller cavalry forces, namely:

- Lord Balmorino's Life Guards, consisting of half a hundred young nobles - at Culloden their number was only 16.
- Lord Elcho's Life Guards, also recruited from noble circles - before the Culloden reduced to a score of horsemen.
- Perthshire Horse, also a small force, though probably somewhat larger than the two aforesaid. Was there at Culloden.
- Lord Kilmarnock's Squadron, which, due to lack of horses, had to fight on foot at Culloden.
- Lord Pitsligo's Horse, originally 150 men, had "dwindled to nothing" at Culloden - but were still there!
  
- Murray of Broughton's Hussars, originally probably c. 100 men, at Culloden only a dozen left.

Not much is known about the uniforming etc. of these cavalry units, probably only the two Life Guards had actual uniforms, Lord Elcho's thus blue and red (possibly blue dress with red facings), the others must have been dressed in tartan shirts and trows. The hussars had a tartan shirt, a fur hat (ie almost a "goblin hat" (red?) with a fur trim), large collared boots and were armed with a saber, their horseshoe coat was of a hussar cut (color?) with tassels in the corners, pistols in holsters in front of the saddle. With the means available, these riders had thus been given a hussar character, corresponding to their name, but one should not expect that in English "hussar" means anything other than a light horseman. Thus Kingston's Light Horse, which was just formed in 1745, is also referred to as "hussars" at the time, which also applies to the many English Light Dragoon regiments formed after 1759. But this was a digression.

## The Prince's Attire



Despite all popular notions about this (whiskey labels, pictures on cake tins etc.) it seems to be a fact that the prince only wore a kilt ("belted plaid") during the flight after Culloden. When he embarked for France he was wearing trows and a kilt.

Incidentally, he seems to have had a rich wardrobe: When he rides into Perth on 4 September, it is in tartan clothing with "trows laced with gold".

At the entry into Edinburgh on 16 September he was in a "tartan jacket", red corduroy trousers (ie not trows) and knee boots. His green velvet bonnet had a white cockade.

Later in the day, when he took up his residence at Holyroodhouse, he is said to have worn a blue velvet bonnet, "laced with gold", and on his chest St. Star of the Order of Andrew.

An eyewitness recounts the prince's entire apparition during the happy days at Holyroodhouse:

*"He was a tall slender young Man, about five Feet ten Inches high, of a ruddy Complexion, high nosed, large rolling brown Eyes, long visaged, redhaired, but at that Time wore a pale Periwig. He was in Highland Habit, had a blue Sash, wrought with Gold, that came over his Shoulder; red Velvet Breeches, a green Velvet Bonnet, with a white Cockade, and a Gold Lace about it. He had a Silverhilted broad Sword, and was shewn great Respect by his Forces ."*

The Scottish United Services museum in Edinburgh houses a suit said to have belonged to the prince; it consists of a "tartan jacket" in seven colors, with collar and cuffs of purple velvet, and trows in red and green.

At Prestonpans he was according to an English source *"clad as an ordinary Captain in a coarse Plaid and blue Bonnet"*, i.e. the ordinary Scottish officer's attire with trows. That he was wearing boots is evident from the narrator's words that boots and knees were dirty after he had fallen into a ditch.

Of the prince's attire at Culloden, it is known that he wore boots and a shield of French origin with a silver medusa head. He was riding a gray gelding that had recently been presented to him.

### The banners of the Highlands

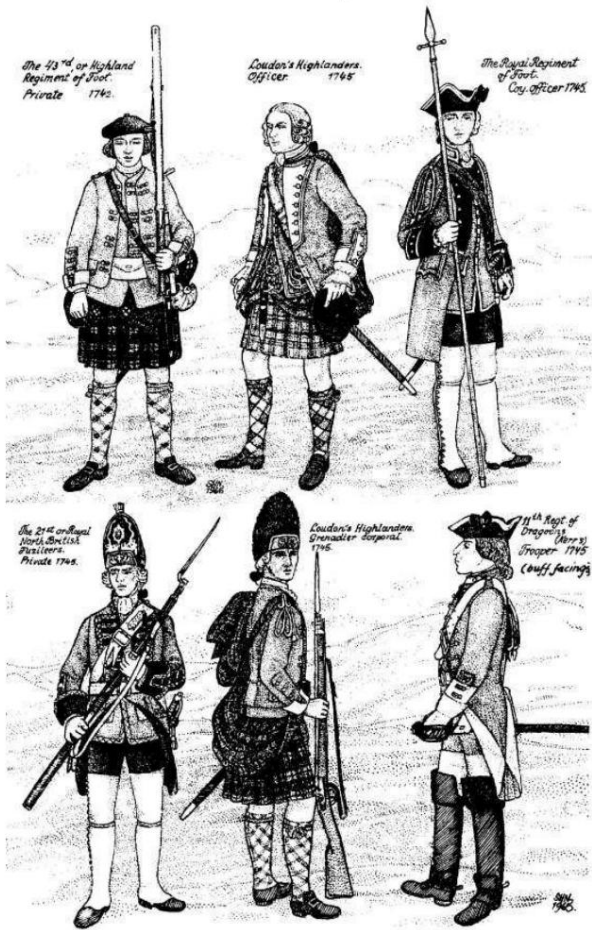
From many contemporary records it appears that in the Highland army, similar to what was (and is) the custom in the English army, two banners were carried per "regiment", namely; the national flag with a white St. Andrew's cross on a blue background and the regimental banner with the respective clan chief's arms.

The cavalry units also carried banners. As a curiosity, it may be mentioned that the prince's Life Guards used as their "standard" at Culloden a banner captured at Falkirk from the English Gardiner's Horse.

As a motto, this banner had (ironically) "Britons, strike home". It was carried by Cpt. Daniel, the only English Jacobite officer present at Culloden.

The banner of the Highland Army, which must have been the Scottish royal flag with the Stuart arms "the Lion rampant", the lion rampant, red on a gold ground, was captured at Culloden. Along with the other captured banners, it was burned in Edinburgh by the executioner after they had been led through the streets of the city by chimney sweeps. Sic transit gloria mundi!





## Scottish regiments in the English army

Of Scottish regiments in the English army in 1745 there were the following:

The 2nd or Royal North British Regiment of Dragoons, established 1681, now The Royal Scots Grays (2nd Dragoons). In the regiment's name at the time, the allusion to its Scottish origin was omitted (until 1708 its name was The Royal Regt. of Scotch Dragoons). Right from its inception, the regiment was called The Greys, an allusion to the dragoons' stone gray uniforms, which were soon replaced by red ones. Because of the name, gray horses were then acquired - not the other way around, as is commonly assumed.

The 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards, established 1642 (Argyll's Regt), now The Scots Guards. The regiment was formerly - until 1712 - called the Scotch Guards.

The Royal Regiment of Foot, established 1633 as Sir John Hepburn's Regiment, now The Royal Scots.

The 21st, or North British Fusiliers, established 1618, now The Royal Scots Fusiliers. Until 1701 called Scotch Fusiliers.

Leven's or The Edinburgh Regiment, established 1689 as The Earl of Leven's Regt., now The King's Own Scottish Borderers. In 1745 called Sempill's Regt.

The Cameronians, established 1689. Present name: The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

The regiments mentioned so far were uniformed as regular cavalry and infantry regiments, only with the establishment of the independent Highland companies, the forerunners of the Black Watch, was the kilt introduced.

The 43rd, or Highland Regiment of Foot, formed 1739 by amalgamation and addition of the "Black Watch" companies, now The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment). Only in 1749 did the regiment become No. 42, and in 1758 it became "royal" (42nd, or The Royal Highl. Regt.) and replaced the hitherto buff facings with blue.

Loudon's Highlanders, formed 1745, disbanded 1748.

Of the uniforms of those of the regiments which took part in "The '45" mention must be made in connection with the illustrations:

**The Royal Regt. of Foot:** Triangular hat, blue facings. The officers gold lace, buttons etc. The uniform color (vest and dress) the usual red, i.e. scarlet from sergeants upwards, ordinary red, i.e. almost Titian red, for the others. In addition to the dark blue trousers, the field crew had a pair of red ones made from discarded uniform dresses.

**The 21st or Royal North British Fusileers:** Blue grenadier cap with red flap at front and red puld. Blue facings, white lids with blue "Worm", white metal buttons. All leather clothing (belt, bag, bag strap, saber pendant, "sword knot", rifle strap, etc.) light buff with brass buckles.

**The Edinburgh Regiment (Sempill's):** Like other infantry regiments of the line. Facings?

**The 43rd or Highland Regt. of Foot and Loudon's Highlanders:** Mentioned as one, as the uniforming has probably been quite uniform apart from the facing colour, which in the case of the 43rd was buff, but Loudon's in 1745 had white facings (later also buff). A portrait of the Earl of Loudon from 1747 shows him in a long-sleeved dress with buff facings and gold trim.



The cap was the dark blue Scotch bonnet with red pompon and black "cockade", possibly fastened with a double cord - see the drawing of the private Highlander whose model is in The Clothing Book of 1742. The edging must have been white, red and green in small checks. Shirt and waistcoat were red (scarlet for sergeants and officers), buttons white, buttons white (officers silver), however, the officers at Loudon's probably had gold buttons and buttons, the crew's button and button color is unknown.

The tartan used for "belted plaid" was the same for both regiments: Government, also called the Black Watch and 42nd, probably of roughly the same design as the one used today. In addition to the large kilt used for field use (at least the 43rd, the Black Watch) also had a small kilt, feileadh-beag, for "undress" use, in a tartan of a less sombre appearance. The tartan here used is described by some writers as the modern Murray tartan, which is like the Government tartan, but with red "overstripes" through both the green and the darker blue stripes, I believe that there is more support for one view, which assumes that the red stripes have only gone through the green part, where they replaced the black, narrow stripe.

The grenadiers - and these were found both at the 43rd and at Loudon's - used this tartan both for small kilts and for "belted plaid". This applies at least to the 43rd. In addition, the grenadiers had as a special characteristic a tall fur hat with a red flap at the front, provided with a brim and kgl. name feature (GR) of white(?) lace.

Socks sewn from tartan fabric in a red/white tartan, possibly with a narrow black stripe.

As already mentioned, "the pipers" had kilts in Royal or Stewart tartan. The "bar" of the bagpipe has probably had no fabric covering and has thus appeared in the natural leather colour. It could be decorated with a small flag (triangular with a rounded tip), white with an upright red St. George cross.

The armament of the Highlanders consisted of the musket with the bayonet and claymore with an iron hilt, either of the army's model 1745 or a private weapon. Black leather clothing.

Cartridge bag of buff-colored leather attached to the waist belt. Dirk, sporran and target were not compulsory, but at least dirk and sporran were often carried, and targets are known to have been used.

The 43rd (Black Watch) is not generally mentioned in connection with the Rebellion, and the two companies raised in Scotland in 1745 may have been disbanded after Culloden and not attached to the regiment stationed in southern England throughout the Rebellion.

## Literature:

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George F. Collie: *Highland Dress*. (King Penguin, London 1948).

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## The author's illustrations for the article

Højberg has drawn a number of color plates and black and white drawings for this article.

Some of them are used as vignettes in the article

And for those who want to try whether it might not be possible for the brave Scots to put Bonnie Prince Charles on the throne, if only....., the company Front Rank manufactures 28mm wargame figures from the period.

## Notes

1) Duke The Duke of Cumberland should probably only be remembered for his sauce, as decidedly so *is also excellent.*