

ed by the finest officer America had yet produced, Sir William Pepperell.

This splendid soldier, a native of Kittery, Maine, was a colonel of militia at 30. Nineteen years later he was appointed commander-in-chief of the New England force of 4,000 men, that captured the French fortress of Louisburg. For this service to the crown, he was made a baronet, the only New Englander to be so honored. While he was on duty at Governors Island he received his promotion to major general, thus becoming the first of a long line of distinguished officers of similar rank who have served there through the years. He was raised to the rank of lieutenant general in 1759.

Pepperell had the foresight to train his New England men to fight in the Native-American fashion rather than in the solid formations of European soldiery.

It is to this training that we owe the victories some of these same men later would achieve in the American Revolution, when they would be fighting for the Continental Army's cause. Meanwhile, near the obscure French outpost of Fort Duquesne — called Pittsburgh today — occurred the event which would simultaneously prove the wisdom of practicing the military tactics Pepperell preached, and prominently and forever place Governors Island in our national military history. This circumstance

was the French and Native-American massacre of General Braddock's English troops. They were ambushed while marching through a forest, in close order and conspicuous array, and unable to defend themselves against an enemy, which they could not see, but could feel only too keenly.

Britain's immediate reaction to this disaster was to empower John Campbell, Earl of Loudoun and commander-in-chief of His Majesty's forces in America, to raise a light infantry regiment in the colonies, consisting of four battalions and a band, totaling 4,000 men. The regiment would be commanded by officers bearing the king's commission. It would be a regular unit of the British Army, and would be called "The Loyal American Provincial Regiment, 62nd Foot." To aid enlistment in this new force, the Virginia Assembly pledged 8,000 pounds, Maryland appropriated 5,000 pounds for

the same worthy cause, and in addition there was a general bounty of five pounds for each man recruited. The rolls were soon filled, chiefly by German and Swiss emigrants from Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and North Carolina. They were antagonistic to the French and were happy to have this chance to fight against their old enemies, merely by taking an oath of allegiance which made them naturalized British subjects. Within the year the regiment was formally organized at Governors Island, which was designated as its permanent home station, the fourth battalion being known as "The Governors Island Battalion."

Under the interested patronage of George II and with a highly competent officer corps, which contained many foreign veterans of European wars, the Loyal Americans soon became one of the best

known and most important of the British regiments in America. Certainly it must have been one of the best dressed, for its uniform of white knee breeches, three-cornered black hat, and scarlet coat faced with blue, was further elaborated with white lace at the cuffs and throat and two additional blue stripes on the coat front. Their hair was worn long, braided into a pigtail, and powdered.

On Christmas Day in 1757, a reorganization of the British Army changed the designation of the Loyal Americans to

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"The Royal American Regiment, 60th Foot" with that famous "soldier of the king," Lord Jeffery Amherst, replacing Lord Loudoun as colonel-in-chief. It is interesting to note that Horatio Gates, future Adjutant General of the Continental Army under George Washington, served at one time as a major in this same regiment and was stationed with it on Governors Island.

It may be said that the Royal Americans created, on Governors Island, was the first infantry school in America. It was formed, primarily as an experimental and training organization, to probe the reasons for such defeats as that suffered by the ill-fated Braddock and to try and evolve new infantry tactics, that would not only recognize, but improve upon the efficient methods of guerrilla warfare as practiced by the French and their Native-American allies.