

Practical applications and demonstrations of their new techniques were tested by the 60th Foot in various skirmishes with Native Americans in 1757 and 1758. Later, the regiment fought with distinction at the Battle of Quebec and saw violent action at Louisburg, Ticonderoga and Montreal, clearly establishing its right to the regimental motto "Celer et Audax" (Quick and Brave).

The final stamp of approval was put on the regiment's combat training in 1763, when its Swiss colonel, Henry Bouquet, decisively defeated the Native Americans at Bushy Run and Fort Pitt. From then on, individual companies and battalions of the Royal Americans were in great demand wherever there was trouble in any of England's colonies. It is small wonder that the 60th Foot, known today as the King's Royal Rifle Corps, with service in both World Wars, is one of the most famous outfits and has the longest list of battle honors in the entire British Army.

While small units of the 60th were on

detached service from Governors Island in 1767, two additional regiments came temporarily to swell the Island garrison — the red-and-yellow-coated 44th Foot, and the 22nd Foot, in red and light blue. Both are still on the active list of England's Army: the 44th as the "Essex Regiment" and the 22nd as the "Cheshire Regiment," and both of them are equally noted for unusually courageous feats of arms.

With the war clouds of the American Revolution gathering close, Britain prudently transferred the combat units of the 60th to its Jamaican possessions, where their loyal American sympathies would not be in so great conflict with their Royal American obligations. Only the band was left behind, to entertain the Tory citizenry of New York with frequent public concerts. At the same time, Captain Montresor of the Royal Engineers began a series of fortifications on the island, but they lacked a clear plan and afforded neither defense nor offense when the crisis of 1775 exploded over the American Colonies.