

## **THE COMMAND ELEMENT OF THE KING'S ROYAL REGIMENT OF NEW YORK**

When I assembled this data years ago, I was confident that some stunning revelations would emerge, but this proved not to be the case. Perhaps if I had been able to plot the ages of all the officers, a greater delineation between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions would have become obvious; however, the birth dates for the officers have been very difficult to discover, as, unlike the Other Ranks, they were not recorded; perhaps Gentlemen were not expected to reveal their ages.

As to countries of birth, it should be recognized that 'Ireland' was unified in this time period, so it is generally impossible to differentiate between present-day Eire and Ulster.

When military records listed a man as foreign born, he was generally from one of the German principalities, but, of course, Germany was not a unified country in this time period. As well, present-day Belgium and the Netherlands were not clearly defined nationalities.

When America was noted as the birthplace, this includes present-day Canada.

A great many Royal Yorker recruits were drawn from the Palatine German populations in the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys and the New Hampshire Grants (Vermont.) Consequently, the majority of those listed as American born, were German in extraction.

Obviously, many officers and NCOs were promoted during their service; however, I have used each man's most senior rank for the calculations.

### **The Commissioned Ranks**

#### **Lieutenant-Colonel**

Sir John Johnson, the lieutenant-colonel and captain of the Colonel's Companies of both battalions was American born and without Regular Army service; however, he had considerable experience as a volunteer under his father at Lake George and Fort Niagara, then as captain of rangers during the Pontiac Uprising and afterwards as a militia captain of horse and foot and as a militia battalion commander.

There were three primary interests in Sir John's life, his family, his estates and the military. Today, we might consider his interest in the military as a hobby, but Johnson, with his estates so well organized and operated by teams of retainers, he more likely looked upon it as a vocation.

Due to his father's immense influence and his own demonstrated skills and competence, he became the Major General of Northern New York's militia and his collective experiences and interests prepared him for the several critical leadership roles he undertook during the war as an active campaigner and administrator.

#### **Majors & Captains**

There was only one major in the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion and sixteen captains. Of these seventeen, the place of birth is known for thirteen.

Scotland – 8; America – 3; Ireland – 1; England – 1    77% outside of America

Two men served as majors in the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion and twelve as captains. The birthplace of eleven of these is known.

Scotland – 3; England – 3; America – 2; Ireland – 2; Foreign – 1    73% outside of America

### **Lieutenants**

There were twenty-four men who served as 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants in the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, but the place of birth of only fourteen is known.

America – 10; Scotland – 2; Ireland – 1; England – 1      71% born America

Thirteen men served as lieutenants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion and the birthplace of eleven is known.

America – 5; Scotland – 3; Ireland – 2; Foreign – 1      45% born America

### **Ensigns**

There were ten men who served as ensign in the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion eight of whom have known birthplaces.

American – 5; Scotland – 2; Ireland – 1      63% born America

### **Summary for both Battalions**

Of the sixty-eight commissioned officers of the two battalions whose birthplaces have been determined, the distribution was - America – 46%; Scotland – 32%; Ireland - 12%; England – 7%; Foreign – 3%

Another manner of viewing the statistics.

Rank	Total	Born Old Country	Born America
Captain	24	79%	21%
Lieutenant	25	40%	60%
Ensign	17	35%	65%
Total	66	53%	47%

### **The Other Ranks**

#### **Serjeant Majors, Drum Majors & Serjeants**

Fifty-five men served as senior Non-Commissioned Officers in the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion and the birthplace of forty-six of these has been determined.

America – 16; Scotland – 15; Ireland – 7; England- 6; Foreign – 2

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion, thirty-five men served in these ranks and the place of nativity for all them has been identified.

America – 24; Scotland – 8; Ireland – 3

#### **Corporals**

Fifty-seven men served as corporals in the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion and the birthplace of forty-nine is known.

America – 20; Scotland – 11; Ireland – 11; Foreign – 4; England – 3

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion, thirty-two men served as corporal and, like the senior NCOs, the place of nativity for all of them has been identified.

America – 25; Scotland – 4; Ireland – 2; England – 1

### **Summary**

Of the eighty-one senior Non-Commissioned Officers of the two battalions whose birthplaces have been determined, the distribution was -

America – 49%; Scotland – 28%; Ireland - 12%; England – 8%; Foreign – 3%

Of the eighty-one Corporals of the two battalions whose birthplaces have been determined, the distribution was -

America – 55%; Scotland – 19%; Ireland - 16%; England – 5%; Foreign – 5%

Rank	Total	Born Old Country	Born America
S&DMjr/Sjt	81	51%	49%
Corporal	81	44%	56%
Total	162	48%	52%

#### **Additional Information**

Eight of the captains and the major of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion had previous Regular or Clan regimental service and seven of those were with the battalion until the end of the war. This represented a very high proportion of experienced company commanders.

In contrast, only three of the nine captains of the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion and the two majors had prewar service; however, the other six captains had seen extensive service in the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion before being promoted to captain and transferred.