

British Infantry Regiments and the Men Who Led Them 1793-1815

By [Steve Brown](#)

54th Regiment of Foot

Secondary Title: West Norfolk

Regimental History, 54th Regiment of Foot

1755: Raised at Salisbury by John Campbell, Marquis of Lorne as 56th Regiment of Foot
1756: Re-numbered 54th Regiment of Foot
1782: Secondary title - West Norfolk
1800: 16 May - 2nd Battalion formed at Winchester
1802: May- 2nd Battalion disbanded at Gibraltar
1881: 2nd Battalion, The Dorsetshire Regiment
1951: The Dorset Regiment
1958: The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, on amalgamation with The Devonshire Regiment
2005: The Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry
2007: 1st Battalion, The Rifles

Service History and Demographics, 1st Battalion 54th Regiment of Foot

1793: Guernsey; Southampton; November – to Flanders; to Guernsey due to storms
1794: Guernsey; Netley; Southampton; June – Ostend; Alost; September – Bostel
1795: Waal; retreat to Bremen; April – to England; Southampton; Ringwood; Lymington; June – to West Indies; September – St Vincent
1796: St Vincent; Mt William; to England; December - Chelmsford
1797: Chelmsford; to Ireland
1798: Ireland – Birr
1799: Nenagh; Roscrea; Limerick
1800: Ireland; to England – Winchester; Netley; August – Belle Isle; Ferrol; Gibraltar; November – Minorca; Malta; December - to Egypt
1801: March – Alexandria; Mandora; siege of Alexandria; Marabout
1802: Minorca; February – Gibraltar; put down mutiny
1803: Gibraltar
1804: Gibraltar; August-September – 100+ fever deaths
1805: Gibraltar; November – to England; one ship & 129 men taken POW en route; Portsmouth
1806: January - Bexhill; February - Colchester; Ashford; 2 POW companies paroled at Cape of Good Hope; 2 companies to South America
1807: January - to West Indies; 2 companies at Montevideo; October – other 8 companies on Jamaica | *17% English/Welsh, 1% Scots, 82% Irish*
1808: Jamaica
1809: Jamaica
1810: Jamaica
1811: Jamaica
1812: Jamaica; 6 new companies recruited in England (Woodbridge)
1813: Woodbridge; detachment on Jamaica (77 men left); May - Colchester; June – 9 new companies at Harwich; to Pomerania; Stralsund; Rostock; October – Jamaica remnants to England; November – Hanover companies to England; diverted to Antwerp
1814: Holland - Merxcm; Antwerp; Nieuport
1815: April – Courtrai; Grammont; Hal (missed Waterloo); Paris; Army of Occupation; November – to England.

Service History and Demographics, 2nd Battalion 54th Regiment of Foot

1800: Formed from Irish militia recruits at Winchester; Netley; August – Belle Isle; Ferrol; Gibraltar; November – Minorca; December – to Egypt
1801: March – Alexandria; Mandora; siege of Alexandria; Marabout
1802: Minorca; February – Gibraltar; May - disbanded at Gibraltar.

Significant Militia/Volunteer Intakes:

(militia units unless noted otherwise)

1800: 895 Irish Militia volunteers
1811: West Norfolk

Colonels

Mariscoe FREDERICK

Regimental Service: Lieutenant-Colonel in 75th Foot; Colonel of 54th Foot 30 April 1770
Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 15 January 1762; Major-General 30 April 1770; Lieutenant-General 29 August 1777;
General 12 October 1793
Retired: 1801
Died: Somerset 1829.

Sir David BAIRD, Kt.

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 84

Born: Scotland 1757

Regimental Service: Major in 71st Foot 5 June 1787; Lieutenant-Colonel 8 December 1790; Colonel of 2/54th Foot 9 May 1801 (vice Frederick); Colonel of 24th Foot 19 July 1807

Early Service: Served in India 1780-1793; held in chains at Seringapatam 1780-1784

Service 1793-1815: Served in India 1793-1799; served in Egypt 1801; commanded forces to Cape of Good Hope 1806; served at Copenhagen 1807; served at Corunna 1808-1809 (lost left arm)

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 21 August 1795; Major-General 18 June 1798; Lieutenant-General 30 October 1805; General 4 June 1814

Later Service: Commander-in-Chief Ireland 1820-1822; Governor of Fort George

Awards & Honours: GCB; KC; Baronet 1809

Died: Crieff 18 August 1829.

Oliver NICOLLS

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 64

Born: Ireland c.1740

Relations: Father of Lieutenant-General Jasper Nicolls

Regimental Service: Major in 1st Foot 14 March 1781; Lieutenant-Colonel in 1st Foot 5 February 1787; Lieutenant-Colonel in 45th Foot 31 March 1787; Colonel of 4th West India Regiment 20 May 1795; Colonel of 54th Foot 19 July 1807 (vice Baird); Colonel of 66th Foot 3 August 1808

Early Service: Served at Gibraltar; served in West Indies 1787-1794

Service 1793-1815: Commander-in-Chief on Grenada 1792-1794; Commander-in-Chief Bombay 1802-1807; Governor of Anhalt 1813

Brevets & Staff Service: Brigadier-General and Quartermaster-General in West Indies 1795; Lieutenant-General 25 September 1803; General 4 June 1813

Died: December 1829.

Hon. Edward FINCH

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 93

Born: 1756

Relations: Fifth son of 3rd Earl of Heneage

Regimental Service: Captain & Lieutenant-Colonel in Coldstream Foot Guards 3 October 1792; 2nd Major 9 November 1800; 1st Major 18 June 1801; Colonel of 54th Foot 3 August 1808; Colonel of 22nd Foot 18 September 1809

Service 1793-1815: Commanded 1/Coldstream Guards in Holland 1799; commanded 1/Coldstream Foot Guards in Egypt 1801; commanded 2nd Brigade of Guards at Copenhagen 1807

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 3 May 1796; Major-General 1 January 1801; Lieutenant-General 25 April 1808; General 12 August 1819

Awards & Honours: MP 1789-1819

Died: 27 October 1843.

James Ochonar, Lord FORBES

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 102

Born: Aberdeen 1765

Regimental Service: Captain & Lieutenant-Colonel in Coldstream Foot Guards 28 August 1793; Colonel of 3rd Garrison Battalion 19 July 1807; Colonel of 94th Foot; Colonel of 54th Foot 10 September 1809 (vice Finch); Colonel of 21st Foot 1 June 1816

Service 1793-1815: Second in command of all British forces in Mediterranean 1808

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 3 May 1796; Major-General 29 April 1802; Lieutenant-General 25 April 1808; General 12 August 1819

Awards & Honours: Lord Forbes in 1804

Died: Germany 1843.

John Francis CRADOCK

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 70

Born: Dublin 1762

Relations: Only son of John Cradock, Bishop of Dublin; changed surname to CARADOC in 1820

Regimental Service: Major in 12th Dragoons 1785; Major in 13th Foot 1786; Lieutenant-Colonel in 13th Foot 16 June 1789; Colonel of 127th Foot 16 April 1795; to half-pay of 127th Foot; Colonel-Commandant of 2/54th Foot 8 May 1801; Colonel of 71st Foot 6 August 1803; Colonel of 43rd Foot 7 January 1809

Service 1793-1815: Served in West Indies 1794, wounded on Martinique; Quartermaster-General in Ireland 1797; served on staff in Egypt 1801; served on staff in Mediterranean 1802-1808; commanded British forces remaining in Portugal after Corunna

Brevets & Staff Service: Major-General 1 January 1798; Lieutenant-General 1 January 1805; General 4 June 1814

Awards & Honours: GCB; KC; Lord Howden in Irish peerage 1819; Lord Howden in British peerage 1831

Died: London 26 July 1839.

Lieutenant-Colonels

AGC = Army Gold Cross (clasps in brackets)

LAGM = Large Army Gold Medal (clasps in brackets)

SAGM = Small Army Gold Medal (clasps in brackets)

MGSM = Military General Service Medal (Silver Medal) (clasps in brackets)

William Goodday STRUTT

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 325

Born: Essex 1762

Regimental Service: Major in 60th Foot; to half-pay; brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 18 November 1790; Lieutenant-Colonel 4 April 1792

Early Service: Served at Minorca and Gibraltar; served in West Indies

Service 1793-1815: Commanded 54th Foot 1792-1798; served in Flanders 1794; lost right leg on St Vincent 1796; Deputy Governor of Stirling Castle; Governor of Quebec 4 April 1800

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 21 August 1795; Major-General 18 June 1798

Later Service: Rank stationary after 1800

Died: Essex 1848.

Christopher DARBY

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 252

Born: Ireland

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 2 May 1794 (vice Wollaston); Lieutenant-Colonel 1 September 1795

Early Service: Served in North America 1775-1791

Service 1793-1815: Served in Flanders 1795-1795; served in West Indies 1795-1796; commanded 1/54th Foot 1798-1805; served in Egypt 1801

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 25 September 1803; Brigadier-General on Jamaica 8 November 1806; Major-General 25 July 1810; Lieutenant-General 4 June 1814

Later Service: Commandant of Limerick District 1814-1832

Died: Limerick 1832.

John Thomas LAYARD

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 350

Born: 1750

Relations: Brother of Lieutenant-General Anthony Lewis Layard

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 1 September 1795 (vice Darby); brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 1 January 1798; Lieutenant-Colonel 16 May 1800

Early Service: Served in North America 1775-1779; ADC to General Matthews in West Indies 1781-1783 and 1787-1792

Service 1793-1815: Served in Flanders 1794-1795; served in West Indies 1795-1796; Paymaster of a Recruiting District 24 August 1798; commanded 2/54th Foot 1800-1802; served in Egypt 1801; commanded 54th Foot 1805-1808; Lieutenant-Governor of Curacao 1809

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 25 April 1808; Brigadier-General in West Indies 25 December 1808; Major-General 4 June 1811; Lieutenant-General 19 July 1821

Died: Bath 22 May 1828.

Robert GARDEN

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 5 January 1799 (vice Montgomery); Lieutenant-Colonel 17 May 1800; to half-pay 25 July 1802

Service 1793-1815: Inspecting Field Officer of Yeomanry 1803.

Hon. William BLIGH

Born: Ireland 1775

Relations: Son of 3rd Earl Darnley; brother of General Hon. Edward Bligh

Regimental Service: Major in 26th Light Dragoons 10 May 1799; Lieutenant-Colonel in 54th Foot 30 July 1800 (vice Strutt); to half-pay 25 July 1802

Died: 8 August 1845.

William Samuel CURREY

Born: Lismore Island

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 26 December 1805 (on transfer from 86th Foot); Lieutenant-Colonel 13 July 1809

Service 1793-1815: Commanded 54th Foot 1809-1811

Retired: November 1812

Died: Lismore 17 February 1840.

John James, Earl WALDEGRAVE

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 1191

Born: Somerset 1785

Relations: Second son of 4th Earl Waldegrave

Regimental Service: Major in 8th Garrison Battalion 9 June 1808; Major in 72nd Foot 20 March 1808; Major in 15th Light Dragoons 25 July 1809; Major in 12 Light Dragoons 13 March 1812; Lieutenant-Colonel in 54th Foot 26 November 1812; to half-pay of 98th Foot 17 June 1819

Service 1793-1815: Served in Peninsula July to December 1812; commanded 54th Foot 1812-1815 and in Waterloo campaign

Awards & Honours: 6th Earl Waldegrave in 1794

Died: 21 July 1835.

Majors

AGC = Army Gold Cross (clasps in brackets)

LAGM = Large Army Gold Medal (clasps in brackets)

SAGM = Small Army Gold Medal (clasps in brackets)

MGSMS = Military General Service Medal (Silver Medal) (clasps in brackets)

John Peter ADDENBROOKE

Born: 1753

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 30 November 1792

Later Service: Gentleman Usher to Queen Charlotte; Equerry to Princess Charlotte

Retired: November 1793

Died: Versailles 9 September 1821.

Hon. Edward PAGET

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 165

Born: Staffordshire 1775

Relations: Second son of 1st Earl of Uxbridge, nephew of Josiah and Forbes Champagne

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 14 November 1793 (vice Addenbrooke); Lieutenant-Colonel in 28th Foot 30 April 1794;

Colonel of 80th Foot 25 February 1808 (vice Lake); Colonel of 28th Foot 26 December 1815

Service 1793-1815: Served in Flanders 1793-1795; served on Minorca 1798; served in Egypt 1801; served at Sweden 1808; served in Peninsula September 1808 to January 1809, commanded reserved division at Corunna; again in Peninsula May and June 1809, lost arm at Oporto 12 May 1809; again in Peninsula commanding 1st Division October 1812; POW 17 November 1812 to April 1814;

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 1 January 1798; Brigadier-General 1803; Major-General 1 January 1805; Lieutenant-General in Peninsula 1809; Lieutenant-General 4 June 1811; General 27 May 1825

Later Service: Commander-in-chief in India 1822-1825; served in Burma 1824-1825; Governor of Royal Military College 1826-1837; Governor of Chelsea Hospital 1837-1849

Awards & Honours: GCB; KB; LAGM (Cor); MP 1796-1806

Died: Cowes 13 May 1849.

Frederick-William WOLLASTON

Born: Leicestershire 1762

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 30 April 1794 (vice Paget, on transfer from 7th Dragoons); Lieutenant-Colonel in 22nd Light Dragoons 1 May 1794

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 1 January 1800

Awards & Honours: High Sheriff of Leicestershire 1817

Retired: 1801

Died: Surrey 13 August 1849.

Robert Alexander MONTGOMERY

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 1 September 1795

Died: 1798.

Thomas DIGBY

Regimental Service: Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 1 January 1798; Major in 64th Foot 16 May 1800 (on transfer from 64th Foot, vice Layard); exchanged to Lieutenant-Colonel in 5th Foot 22 October 1802; to half-pay immediately after.

Andrew ROSS

Born: Scotland 1773

Regimental Service: Major on half-pay of Reay's Fencibles 12 June 1794; brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 1 January 1800; Major in 54th Foot 17 May 1800 (vice Gordon); to Lieutenant-Colonel in 70th Foot 8 October 1803

Service 1793-1815: ADC to General Dalrymple 1795-1797; commanded 2/54th Foot in Egypt 1801; acting Lieutenant-Governor of Demerara and Essequibo 1808

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 25 October 1809; Major-General 1 January 1812

Died: of fever at Carthage 1812.

Frederick DELME

Relations: Grandson of 4th Earl of Carlisle

Regimental Service: Major on half-pay 103rd Foot; brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 1 January 1800; Major in 54th Foot 18 May 1800

Retired: June 1802.

John Granby CLAY

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 469

Born: 1766

Regimental Service: Major in 105th Foot 1795; to half-pay; Major in 54th Foot 19 May 1800; brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 1 January 1801; to half-pay 25 July 1802; Major in 3rd Foot; to Lieutenant-Colonel on half-pay of 24th Light Dragoons

Early Service: Served in West Indies 1784-1794

Service 1793-1815: Served on home staff 1797-1799; served in Egypt 1801; Assistant Inspector-General of Army of Reserve 1804; served at Manchester during mill riots 1808-1812

Awards & Honours: Ottoman Order of the Crescent

Died: 1846.

Sir William WILLIAMS

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 847

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 24 June 1802 (vice Delme); to half-pay 25 July 1802; Major in 81st Foot 26 October 1804; Lieutenant-Colonel in 5/60th Foot 15 November 1809; Lieutenant-Colonel in 13th Foot 25 June 1812

Service 1793-1815: Served in Flanders 1793-1794; served in West Indies 1795-1796; served in Irish Rebellion 1798; served in Egypt 1801; served in Peninsula with 81st Foot November 1808 to January 1809; served at Walcheren 1809; served in Peninsula with 5/60th Foot June 1810 to July 1812, wounded five times; served in Canada 1814

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 12 August 1819; Major General 22 July 1830

Awards & Honours: KCB; KTS; AGC (Cor FDO CR Bad Sal)

Died: Bath 17 June 1832.

Patrick BELLEW

Relations: Son of Major General Patrick Bellew

Regimental Service: Major in 5th Foot 16 July 1800; exchanged to Major in 54th Foot 22 October 1802 (vice Digby)

Died: Gibraltar 15 April 1804.

Aleyne Hampden PYE

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 682

Regimental Service: Major in 32nd Foot 1 August 1804; Major in 54th Foot (vice Bellew); to half-pay of 10th West India Regiment and Deputy Quartermaster-General in Canada 2 January 1806; to half-pay of 10th West India Regiment

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 4 June 1814; Major-General 19 July 1821

Later Service: Deputy Quartermaster-General in Jamaica

Died: St Omer 9 January 1833.

Sir Neil CAMPBELL, Kt.

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 785

Born: Scotland 1776

Relations: Son of Captain Neil Campbell of Duntroon

Regimental Service: Major in 43rd Foot 1805; Major in 54th Foot 20 February 1806 (vice Pye); brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 18 August 1808

Service 1793-1815: Served in West Indies 1806-1808; Deputy Adjutant-General in West Indies 18 August 1808; commanded 16th Portuguese Line in Peninsula May 1811 to December 1813; military adviser in Russia 1813-1814; served on Elba 1814-1815 (Napoleon escaped whilst he was in Florence); commanded 54th Foot in Waterloo campaign

Brevets & Staff Service: Brevet Colonel 4 June 1814; Major-General 29 May 1825

Later Service: Governor of Sierra Leone

Awards & Honours: CB; AGC (Mart Guad CR Sal)

Died: Sierra Leone 14 August 1827.

William CLUNES

Born: Scotland

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 20 July 1809 (on transfer from 50th Foot)

Service 1793-1815: Served in Peninsula August 1808 to January 1809, wounded at Corunna; served at Walcheren 1809

Retired: October 1811

Died: Sutherland 24 November 1831.

Allan KELLY

Royal Military Calendar Entry: No. 1827

Born: c.1780

Regimental Service: Major in 54th Foot 31 October 1811 (vice Clunes); brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 12 August 1819

Service 1793-1815: Served in Netherlands 1815

Died: 11 September 1848.

Sources:

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