



## 4th Company, Brigade of Guards in America, LTD *"Ye Olde Goate's Gazette"*



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### Comrades: The Campaigns of 1780! The War Has Come South! September, 2005

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Tangier – 1680, Namur, Blenheim, Gibraltar, Ramilles, Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Dettingen  
(Official Battle Honours of the Guards prior to the American War of Independence)

Tria Iuncta (Juncta) in Uno (Three into one)

Remember our Home Page – URL: [www.brigadeofguards.org](http://www.brigadeofguards.org)

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**Comrades:** Many of us are, or have been, associated with the military. Some have “seen the elephant.” One more of our own is going into harm’s way for the real thing. As I’m writing this (Sept 7), Guardsman Joe Novak is preparing to leave for “the Sandbox” of Iraq with his Marine Corps Reserve detachment. This is real war. He’s going for all of us. Any of you who have a few moments to spare, take the advice of SGP: *“send this Jarhead a letter every now and then.”* Those who have been away for a long time can tell you the value of news from home. A copy of this “Gazette” will go in the mail on the same day that he departs.

**Godspeed, Joe! Remember, THEY ain’t firing blanks!**

Cpl Joseph M. Novak  
6thCAG HQ DET  
Unit 72065  
FPO AE 09509-2065

#### Event AAR: Camden

August, 19 – 21, 2005 Camden - 225<sup>th</sup>. WE SURVIVED! Mighty Hot! Over 100 degrees before applying the heat index! Due to an ecological relocation project, all the Fire Ants who were flooded out at Savannah after the event there were relocated to Camden! Saturday battles were pretty much the usual staged event for the public. We had a decent turnout of participants for the morning fight, but a lot succumbed to the heat and missed the afternoon show. It was so hot that I authorized the removal of waistcoats (two layers), neck stocks, and wigs in the BN that I was commanding. It helped. The site had provided free lemonade and ice water at a “tavern” made up of fly tents in the redoubt near the Kershaw Cornwallis House – and the house was open so we could take advantage of the Air Conditioning there. It was survivable and will be the stuff of legends. Saturday night they provided free beer by the keg (Bass ale, not bad stuff). We had a good time.

Sunday morning was worth all the effort, the heat and the ants. The re-creation of the Battle of Camden - - ON the actual ground, at sunup was fantastic. Historic Camden provided air-conditioned busses and sausage biscuits for the participants! It was for us/by us and so not a lot of intrusion from spectators or any other anachronisms beyond a number of film crews – who were discrete. The site was about like it had been a the time of the battle – open woods. We pointed out the locations of some known remains of soldiers who fell and were buried there – men from both sides. That fight opened with a shot from a 6 Lb cannon. At the moment of firing, a man who had an open cartridge in his right hand “flashed in the pan” to remove condensation – igniting that cartridge. The powder was damp, so instead of a “FAP” and severely burned hand, the cartridge went “Fwoosh” like a small rocket through the lines of our troops – who had been correctly formed in column of march - - ON the remains of the ACTUAL road that had been there at the time. So, “BOOM” “Fwoosh” - - it sounded just like a round passing by (for those of us who have experienced artillery over-firing our position - - you know what it sounds like). Weird! The smoke hung. The sun’s slanting rays made for eerie appearance of the field. It was among the most realistic scenes I’ve experienced in a long, long time.

The 11:00 AM Funeral Service for Baron DeKalb was very special. I was amazed at just how many Freemasons were able and willing to attend. The service went well, extremely well, given the fact that we'd had no rehearsal and the firing party was a patchwork of volunteers from several different units. I was honoured to have been a part of it. We've had some really fun, interesting, and different experiences during this series of 225<sup>th</sup> events and I expect more to come. Check the calendar and let's see what we can do to have good turnouts.

**FATIGUE DUTY at SGP's: Sjt Sahlin has sent the following:** It has been suggested that we collect potential new recruits at one location for a show & tell session to solidify or weed out commitments to joining 4<sup>th</sup> Company. ALSO some have expressed an interest in kit maintenance before Whitpain. These, IMHO would be 2 separate events, My home is open and available for these events thusly:

Work Party for Whitpain: 1 October (the weekend preceding the event.)

AND if you have work that you want me to do help with; teach guide; or just offer encouragement let me know and show up on Saturday afternoon about 1:00 p.m. on October 1st. Come one; come all! Watch your e-mail for details.

## UPCOMING EVENTS – 2005 and forward

### LEGEND:

**IF THE TEXT IS RED - major company event that we voted on and will support – MAJOR EFFORT**

**IF THE TEXT IS GREEN - means some interest and we'll be there**

IF THE TEXT IS IN REGULAR FONT or **Bold Black** – means either new listing or very slight interest

IF YOU SEE (GUARDS!) in any listing, it means that, historically, the Brigade of Guards was in that action.

(GUARDS – 225<sup>th</sup>) means a 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a Guards action.

IF YOU SEE: BAR or BARS, it is a BAR hosted, sanctioned, or supported event. BB means British Brigade

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National organization web sites have other event listings: Brigade of the American Revolution: <http://www.brigade.org>  
British Brigade's Website at: <http://www.britishbrigade.org>

(Note: Some interesting "Progressive" events are being planned on a scale that will allow for a more authenticity – focused weekend than those that we normally enjoy. Check them out at: ([www.revwarprogressive.org](http://www.revwarprogressive.org))

## Commemorating the Campaigns of 1780 THE IMPORTANT ACTION OF THE WAR IS IN THE SOUTH!

### BAR Southern Department events:

Sept 17-18 British Occupation, Old Salem, Winston-Salem, NC

Here are the remaining "BIG THREE" (big 2??) national events. Events in 2005 that will be considered for major efforts by all three major national umbrellas (BB/BAR/CL) are:

Rehoboth, MA, September 24-25

Whitpain, PA, October 8-9 (I have registered the coy for this one)

Sept. 11 – Tannenbaum Park, Greensboro NC – Patriot's Tour – From the park: "This year the Guilford Battleground Company is planning another "Patriot's Tour". Like last year, we would like to have British reenactors here at Tannenbaum to interpret the beginning of the battle. The program is scheduled for Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of September from noon to 4:00 PM. We will have other living history programming on site and this year we hope for more involvement with the agricultural extension service to incorporating a more harvest slant to the domestic portion of the programming. I think that the Battleground Company might provide a lunch for the volunteers, and Tannenbaum can provide a dozen or so musket cartridges for anyone wanting to do firearms demonstrations." We have a long-standing good relationship with this park and certainly want to support them as we can. Let me know if you can make it.

**Sep, 17, 18 – British Occupation of Old Salem (BARS – GUARDS) We need to support this event!**

Full listing in the May '05 "Gazette" on the website. We seriously need to support this one. Regretably, there is a conflicting event at Latta Plantation near Charlotte commemorating the Battle of Charlotte and McIntyre's Farm (Battle of the Bees) the same weekend. We need to be at Old Salem – in force.

**October 8, 9 2005 Whitpain, PA – The official release:** LOCATION- Prophecy Park, Whitpain, Pa. (About 10 miles north of Phila.) UNIT SPONSORS- 4th Continental Light Dragoons & Queen's Rangers. BRITISH BRIGADE- Has endorsed it as one of three full BB events for 2005. It's expected to bring in as many as 12,000 spectators per day! This will be one of the bigger events of the year.

For more info, check out: <http://www.prophecycreek.org/>



**AND, a MOST important event that same weekend of Oct 8, 9 – The Wedding of Pvt. Michael Galus!! Happiness to the Couple!**

October 14, 15 Boy Scout Camporee at Fort Frederick, MD - according to Mark Chamberlain, who has been ramrodding this one, it doesn't look like we're going to be there this time. **DROPPED.**

**October 21 - 23 King's Mountain, NC – (225<sup>th</sup>)** The NPS will host a commemorative event at the battlefield park close to the original date of the battle. **Historic Brattonsville** will host a small-scale reenactment of the battle several weeks later on October 22, 2005. Kings Mountain is only about 45 minutes away and is partially in York County, South Carolina. Because Brattonsville is close by the original site, has the appropriate landscape, and the experience to host such an event, they decided to present this exciting program. This reenactment will be a successful event for a number of reasons: 1) it attempts to accurately recreate a battle that to our knowledge has never been reenacted close to its original location and on a landscape that is very similar to that of portions of the original site; 2) our events are well managed and organized by a combination of staff, volunteers and reenactors; 4) we will impose standards of historical accuracy and behavior; and 5) the number of reenactors invited will be limited to 100 on each side to insure that the experience is good and the space used is not overly crowded.

**\*\*\*Troops: We have been invited to portray one of the units of uniformed Loyalists who were at this battle. This is a singular honor due to the limited number of participants invited.\*\*\***

**Nov. 5, 6 – Film shoot at Yorktown. Individual information has been sent out to you via e-list.**

**2006 – Planning the Campaigns of 1781!**

**Here is what the BAR Southern Dep't planning calendar is looking like:**

January Cowpens 225<sup>th</sup>  
? School of Instruction  
July Green Spring 225<sup>th</sup>  
Sept Fanning Raid 225<sup>th</sup>  
? Old Salem ?  
Oct Yorktown 225<sup>th</sup>

**Jan 14, 15 - Battle of Cowpens, SC 225<sup>th</sup>** <http://www.cowpens225.com/> This promises to be a really great re-creation of a very significant battle. While the Guards were not present, we can reprise our role from Charleston as a company of the 7<sup>th</sup> or as part of the Light Infantry for this one. Plans are to camp on the battlefield (they always have "warming tents" set up since the weather tends to be cold) and fight real "battle" on private land adjacent to the National Park, so we don't have to put up with NPS BS for that.

**I have been asked to command the Crown Forces for this one and would love to have some of my Guardsmen there with me! We'll be "playing" the role of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Royal Fusiliers. Winter kit would be good.**

Feb 18, 19 Catawba Crossing, near Charlotte NC – (GUARDS – 225<sup>th</sup>) This was at the beginning of the Race to the Dan. Will be held at Rural Hill Farm near Charlotte. This was the FIRST significant action by the Guards in the Southern Campaigns. The “Catawba Crossing” was opposed by NC Militia under the Rebel General Davidson. A Loyalist Scout assigned to the Guards, Frederick Huger, is credited with shooting General Davidson. The Guards had to force a crossing at a deep ford under heavy fire. Most of Lord Cornwallis Army was held up due to a cannon overturning on a road, blocking the following units of Webster’s Brigade, so the Guards had to make the assault on their own. For more info:

<http://www.ruralhillfarm.org/servlet/Main?page=SpiritOfHornetsNest>

March 18, 19 – BIG, BIG event planned for Guilford Courthouse, 225<sup>th</sup> (GUARDS – 225<sup>th</sup>)

April 22 – 23 225<sup>th</sup> of Petersburg! BIG PLANS IN THE WORKS!

May 20-21, 2006 Ninety Six NHS will host its second 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration "Ninety Six... the Siege" . Ninety Six's siege lasted 28 days and involved General Nathanael Greene's 1,000 patriots laying siege to Colonel John H. Cruger's loyalist-held garrison of 550 troops. Folks, this is one of the PRECIOUS few National Parks that is seriously reenactor – friendly. This will be an event worth attending.

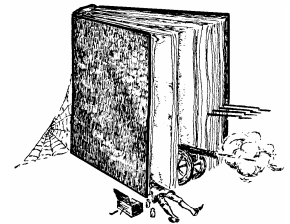
May 27 & 28 with an alternate date of May 20 & 21 – Boone’s Homestead, PA more to come.

June 6 - - extended - - ENGLAND BECKONS: The Guards (U.S. Reenactor groups) have tentatively been invited to be part of the 350th Anniversary Reception for the Grenadier Guards at Buck House June 8th of 2006. Mark you calendar, more information to come. SGP is following up.

June 23, 25 (and longer planned) UTR – 225<sup>th</sup> (GUARDS) They are hoping for a week of activity. More to come.

July 15, 16 - Battle of Green Spring 225<sup>th</sup> (BARS) (GUARDS – last “field battle” of the WAR!) Will be GOOD!

October 18 – 22 YORKTOWN 225<sup>th</sup> (GUARDS) The web page for the 225th of the Siege of Yorktown is up at [www.siegeofyorktown.org](http://www.siegeofyorktown.org). Currently, there is basic event information such as dates and general highlights. In the coming months, a full schedule of events, registration information, etc. will be posted. **NOTE: There is a plan to recreate the “Abercrombie Sortie” on the Saturday of the event – ON the National Park! That heavily involved the Guards!**



### 2007 Events in the Planning Stages:

June – exact date to be announced – Boone’s Homestead, PA

***“Good enough – ISN’T!” “Good is the biggest enemy of GREAT!”***

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**Historical Note: Pat O’Kelley, author of “Nothing but Blood and Slaughter” – a series of four books detailing every action in the Carolinas and northern GA during the war, provided this list of actions where the Guards were involved during the Southern Campaign:**

- 1 February 1781 Cowan's Ford (McCowan, McGowan's Ford), North Carolina (The Catawba Crossing)
- 4 February 1781 Trading Ford, North Carolina
- 4 March 1781 Clapp's Mill (Alamance River), North Carolina
- 6 March 1781 Wetzell's Mill (Weitzell's Mill, Whitsell's Mill, Reedy Fork Creek), North Carolina
- 15 March 1781 New Garden Meetinghouse, North Carolina  
(Where the “**refulgence**” of our muskets allegedly spooked Light Horse Harry Lee’s horse!)
- 15 March 1781 Guildford Court House, North Carolina
- March 1781 Stuart's Ford, North Carolina (where General O’Hara fired his double-barrel fusil while being carried on the back of a Grenadier of the 23d during a river crossing.)
- 6 - 17 April 1781 Cross Creek - Wilmington, North Carolina
- 14 November 1782 James Island (Dill's Bluff), South Carolina

Needless to say, we were also involved in Virginia at Green Spring and Yorktown. The 1782 action is interesting. The Guardsmen involved were most likely invalids who had been sent back to Charlestown before Yorktown and also escaped POWs who had made their way back to Charlestown.

### On the subject of Gaiters and Leggins – first the raw documentation:

**Memo Mathew to Loudoun 16 Feb. 1776**

**"Memorandum concerning the Detachment Fryday Feb 16 1776"**

"Light Infantry Company. Colo. Mathews applies for the proper Clothing.

Proposes: To cut the 2nd Clothing of this Year into Jackets. --

Caps, Colo. M to produce a pattern --

Arms, The Ordnance will deliver them with the others. a fresh Application.

Accoutrements, upon the plan of the light Infantry. Colo. M--

Bill Hook and Bayonet in the same case. Colo M.-- "

"Gaiters and Leggins

Knapsack -- Genl. Tayler has a pattern.

Nightcaps -- Colo. M to shew one

Canteens -- to see a Wooden one." (Loudoun-Hunt. LO 6510)



**Detachment Orders 26 March 1776**

"The Gaiters, at present in use to be made into Half Gaiters forthwith." (1)

**Detachment Orders 27 March 1776**

"The Battalion to Assemble for Exercise upon Moulsey Hurst tomorrow Morning at 9 o'Clock; the whole to appear in half Gaiters." (1)

**Regimental After Orders 3 May 1778**

"It is the Commanding Officers Order that the Captains or Commanding Officers of Companies do immy. Furnish their Men with half Gaiters, made of Black Cloath. -- he also orders that the Men who have not black Stocks already be immediately Completed." (6)

**From Wrottesley Company Account Book May 1778**

Of a company of 83 privates, 1 lance corporal, 4 corporals, 4 serjeants, and 1 drummer, this number of men was charged for the following items:

Half gaiters -- 87

Trousers -- 60

Black stocks -- 40

Shoes -- 37

Brush and wire -- 32

Shirts -- 19

Rose -- 5

Coat altering -- 16 (NARS Accts.)

[Note: Those who did not draw trousers and half gaiters in May drew them in July.]

**Regimental Orders 21 May 1778**

"The Commanding Officer Desires The Captains or Commanding Officers of Companies will as soon as Possible, Furnish their Men with Leggins made of raven duck a proportion of which is ready to be deliver'd at the Quarter Masters Store," (Note: Raven Duck is a type of canvas – linen or hemp)

**Regimental Orders 26 May 1778**

"The Commanding Officer Desires the Mens Regimental Breeches & Gaiters may be all sent on board the Baggage Ship as Soon as the Trowsers are Completed, All the Women that have Children as also those that are not Servicable to the Battalions to be sent on board the Baggage Ship Immediately," (6)

### **Regimental Orders 2 August 1778**

"The Officers commanding Companies are acquainted that there remains in Store of the necessaries that were received of the Quarter Master Genl. on the 6th of May at Philadelphia, the following Articles.

One Thousand Eighty Seven Yards Brown Legging. (**Note: No idea what fabric these were made from**)  
Sixty Four Gross of Horn Buttons,  
Eleven & 3/4 Gross of Binding.  
Nine Pounds of Taylors Thread.

Which are a Free Gift. (**Note: That was decent of the officers – the men didn't get charged for this material!**)

The rest charg'd at Prime Cost. /Vizt./

Eight Hundred forty two yards of Irish Linnen for Shirts at 1s./1d. pr. yard.  
Nine Shirts at 5s./ Each.  
Three Hundred Thirty four pair of Stockings from 1s./11 to 2s./9d. a pair.  
Seven pair of Soles at 1s./6d.  
Twenty nine pair of Shoe Welts, at 1d. a pair.  
One Hundred Twenty four Velvet Stocks | at 4d/a [?]  
One Hundred Forty two Hair Stocks |"

"Those Officers, who choose to have any part of the above Articles for their Companies, Will give in a Return of such Quantities as they wish for; upon which a Calculation shall be made, & such a proportion deliver'd as the whole Quantity will supply."

"The Rest not now requir'd, will be delivered to the Quartr. Master to dispose of (except the Cloth for Leggings) that it may not be Spoilt by keeping in Store, and of course a charge made to each Company; as every Battn. is oblig'd to account with the Quarter Mastr. Genl. for the amount of the Articles they receive." (**Note: "Cloth," especially when capitalized, usually, but not always, means "wool."**) (6)

### **Army Memorandum 10 March 1779**

"The British & Provincial Corps of the Army are inform'd that the following Articles, are Soon expected from Europe, for their Use. /Vizt./ Tents, Blankets (exclusive of those for the Barracks;) Mittens, Shoes, Shoe Soles, Leggings, Worsted Stockings, Linnen & Thread for Shirts; Drill for Breeches, Haversacks, Canteens, Camp Kettles, Hand Hatchets, & Wood Axes." (4)

According to Cecil C. P. Lawson (*A History of the The Uniforms of the British Army*, vol.3 p.81), Howe's correspondence describes the clothing of the army for winter 1776-1777. Lawson says ". . . all troops were provided with blanket coats and leggings, and woollen or fur caps and mittens to protect the face, ears and hands against inclemency of the weather. These woollen caps in one place are described as Canadian Toques or long knitted caps with tassels."

### **List of Stores to Be Provided by 20 Feb. 1779 Enclosed in a letter from Germain to Clinton 12 Dec. 1778 Stores to be provided for 12,600 regulars, 1000 Guards, 888 Dragoons -- approximately 15,000 men**

Tents  
7,500 pair of blankets  
15,000 pair of mittens  
30,000 pair of shoes  
30,000 pair of shoe soles  
15,000 pair of leggings  
30,000 pair of worsted stockings  
Linen and thread for 30,000 shirts  
Drill for 15,000 pair of breeches  
15,000 haversacks  
15,000 canteens  
3,750 camp kettles  
3,750 hand hatchets  
15,000 wood adzes (Clinton vol. 48:15)

### 1st Battn Orders 4 March 1779

"The Commanding Officer desires, the Captns. or Commdg. officers of Companies will as soon as possible furnish their Men with leggings made of Linnen Cloth, the pattern of which may be Seen at the Orderly Room." (4)

### Army Memorandum 10 March 1779

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### Brigade Orders 21 November 1780

"The Cloathing of the Brigade to be immediately fitted & the Commanding officers are particularly requested to have their Respective Battns. as uniform in their dress as possible; in order to assist which the Qr. Masters on delivering over the leggings of those Men who may have been removed from ye 2d Battn. to ye first will receive Black Cloth for Gaiters in return. The difference in Price will be Settled between ye Captns. of the different companies." (Note: "Black Cloth for Gaiters" is intriguing.) (5)

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(NOTE: The various numbers in parentheses denote footnotes to specific documentary resources, most of which are various Guards Orderly Books. All of the above was originally compiled by Linnea Bass and the late Bill Burke – to whom we are eternally grateful for the sharing of their work.)

NOW – What does all of that mean for us?? We've been talking about leggings and breeches for proper winter wear for a long time. Lloyd and others have been doing good research on the proper construction of this item and Lloyd has provided a prototype of a set to the Cadre. They are black wool – with a SINGLE SEAM – easy to make! They have 4 or 5 buttons at the ankle to give some shape and to make them fit more snugly but they pull over the leg and are secured by leather garters (see the illustration). The number of buttons is based on the 2 August 1778 order for 64 gross of horn buttons. That is a total of 9,216 buttons. The usual issue basis for items to the Brigade of Guards was 1062. That comes to just over 8 buttons per man, or 4 per legging. We went with black because of the orders in 1780 for black cloth for gaiters – which could have been used for leggings even though the earlier orders were for brown leggings. It's all conjecture, but this is what we came up with. We want to use heavy wool for the best protection and because it will be the most durable fabric. Thoughts? Input?

## 18<sup>th</sup> century MONEY!

Bob Selig posted this to one of the lists recently. Interesting stuff:

### EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY CURRENCIES

German/Holy Roman Empire Currency (meeting Imperial law requirements):

- 1 Gulden (= fl; gold, after circa 1500 silver) = 60 Kreuzer
- 1 fl rhein. = 15 Batzen = 60 Kreuzer = 240 Denar = 480 Heller
- 1 Albus = 1 1/2 Batzen = 6 Kreuzer = 24 Denar = 48 Heller
- 1 Batzen = 4 Kreuzer = 16 Denar = 32 Heller
- 1 Groschen = 3 Kreuzer = 12 Denar = 24 Heller
- 1 Kreuzer = 4 Denar = 8 Heller
- 1 Denar = 2 Heller
- 1 Königstaler: 1 fl 20 Kreuzer rhein.
- 1 Laubtaler: 2 fl 20 Kreuzer rhein.
- 1 Dukaten: 5 fl rhein. (since 1559)
- 1 Karolin: 11 fl

Laubtaler is the term commonly used for the French écu of six livres, which was widely circulating in Germany, especially along the Rhine.



Austrian Thaler, dated 1780

**French Currency:**

Louis (Gold) = 24 livres = 480 sous = 5760 deniers  
 Ecu (Silver) = 6 livres = 120 sous = 1440 deniers  
 Livre (Silver) = 20 sous = 240 deniers  
 Sous (Copper) = 12 deniers  
 Liard (Copper) = 3 deniers  
 Franc = 1 livre, an administrative unit only.

**English Currency:**

Pound Sterling (silver) = 20 Shillings = 240 Pennies = 480 Halfpennies = 960 Farthings  
 Shilling (Silver) = 12 Pennies = 24 Halfpennies = 48 Farthings  
 Groat (Silver) = 4 Pennies = 8 Halfpennies = 16 Farthings  
 Penny (Copper) = 2 Halfpennies = 4 Farthings  
 Ha'penny (Copper) = 2 Farthings  
 Farthing (Brass)  
 Guinee, Guinea (Gold) = 21 shillings (after 1707)  
 Crown (Silver) = 5 shillings  
 Sovereign = £ 1 Gold coin, introduced in 1817  
 In 1849, a silver florin was introduced, worth 2 shillings.

**Spanish Currency:**

Doubloon (Gold) = 8 Escudos = 4 Pistols = 16 Pieces of Eight = 128 Reals  
 Pistol (Gold) = 2 Escudos = 4 Pieces of Eight = 32 Reals  
 Escudo (Gold) = 2 Pieces Of Eight = 16 Reals  
 Piece Of Eight (silver) = 1 Peso = 8 Reals  
 Real (Silver) = 8 Copper Pesos  
 Peso (Copper)  
 Piaster (silver) = 8 Reals = 1 Piece of Eight = 1 Spanish Milled Dollar =  
 1 Peso

**Portuguese Currency:**

Johannes (Gold, 1722) = 1/2 Dobra = 1/2 Doubloon = 4 Escudos = 8 Pieces of Eight = 64 Reals = 48s. sterling (called a Half-Joe in America)

The chief trade coin and the most commonly circulating coin in the American colonies was the Spanish Milled Dollar or Piece of Eight. Minted in silver, it was similar in size and weight to the German Taler or the French écu of 6 livres. A little less than a troy ounce of British sterling silver (.925 fine silver, valued at 62 d or 5 s 2 d), a Spanish dollar was worth 54 d or 4 s 6 d. As the demand for silver coinage far exceeded the available supply, silver coins traded at a premium; the premium above the 54 d level was termed the "crying up" of coinage. In order to limit this "crying up," to Queen Anne issued a proclamation in 1704, passed into law by parliament in 1707, which specified that a full weight Spanish dollar would pass in the colonies at 72 d or 6 s, a third above the sterling rate. Since 5 s were called a Crown in Britain, the Piece of Eight was also known as a Spanish Crown while écus were known as French Crowns in the colonies.

During the Revolutionary War, New England, Virginia, and the Carolinas adhered to this "Proclamation Rate" of a one third "up-crying" and currency issued at this rate was known as "Lawful Money" or "Current Money." The Middle colonies of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland set the exchange rate for a Spanish dollar at 90 d or 7 s 6 d, 66.66% over sterling. To distinguish it from the "Proclamation Money," it was referred to as "Common Money" or "Pennsylvania Money," though "Lawful Money" appears in Delaware ledgers as well. New York created its own rate of 96 d or 8 s to the Spanish dollar, a 78% increase over sterling. This means that:

4 s 6 d British = 6 s Massachusetts = 7 s 6 d Pennsylvania = 8 s New York  
 Or, expressed in terms of the value of a pound sterling the exchange rates would be:  
 £ 1 (240 d) = £ 1 6 s 8 d (320 d) MA = £ 1 13 s 4 d (400 d) PA = £ 1 15 s 7 d (427 d) NY

How did these currencies relate to each other? In 1764, Richard Wolters, British agent in Rotterdam, reckoned 1 Pistole at 17s. 2d.st., or 4s. 3.5d. st. per Piece of Eight. In a letter of May 1780, Axel von Fersen wrote that 1 Piastre/Piece of Eight/Peso was worth 6 livres. Since he only paid 5 livres 5 sous in Brest, he hoped to make a profit upon arrival in Newport. Georg Daniel Flohr gave the value of 1 Spanish dollar at 2 fl 20 Kreuzer rhein., and according to Harris, "the British pound sterling was equal to 23.17 livres tournois" during the 1780s. The Abbé Robin, a chaplain in one of Rochambeau's regiments in turn gave the value of a shilling in New England in the summer of 1781 as 22 sous 6 deniers or 22 livres 8 sous to the pound sterling.

While stationed in Boston in the summer of 1775, Corporal Thomas Sullivan of the British 49th Regiment gave the value of a Spanish milled dollar at 4 s 6 d.



George III Gold Guinea coin dated 1777.  
"Borrowed" from an eBay listing.



Based on the value of the Piece of Eight in England and contemporary sources as well as admitting for currency fluctuations we get the following approximate exchange rates:

- 1 £ Sterling = 23 livres 3 sous 6 deniers
- 1 £ Sterling ~ 2.5 to 3.5 Pieces of Eight, depending on which state it is exchanged
- 1 £ Sterling ~ 9 fl 30 Kreuzer rhein.
- 1 Piece of Eight = between 6 s and 8 s, depending on which state it is exchanged
- 1 Piece of Eight = 2 fl 20 Kreuzer rhein.
- 1 Piece of Eight = 5 livres 5 sous
- 1 Livre = 24 Kreuzer rhein.
- 1 Livre = 10 d 1.4 farthing
- 1 Livre = 1 reales 1 copper peso
- 1 fl rhein. = 2 s 2 d
- 1 fl rhein. = 2 livres 10 sous
- 1 fl rhein. = 4 reales

In the colonies these rates fluctuate widely depending on the availability of specie, and even if it was available exchange rates could cause confusion. Just one example: On 7 September 1781 Robert Morris borrowed 26,600 Pieces of Eight or 143,640 livres from Rochambeau to pay the Continental Army at Elkton. Morris supplied the last \$ 6,200, which brought the total to the \$ 32,800 (177,320 livres) that Washington needed. It was less than half the 375,000 livres Rochambeau spent on his troops in a single month. Morris repaid the money by February 1782, though not without confusion as to the applicable exchange rate. César Louis de Baulny, treasurer of the French army, converted the Milled Dollar at s 7 6 d or 90 d (=5 livres 5 sols), while Morris converted it at a premium rate of s 8 4 d or 100 d (=5 livres 8 sols), and the French tried to refund 4,935 livres to Morris that they thought he had paid beyond the 144,000 livres he owed. At 5 livres 8 sols per Milled Dollar, \$ 26,600 amount to 143,640 livres or 23,940 écus rather than the 24,000 écus that Morris said the French had loaned him and which would have exchanged to 144,000 livres at 6 livres to the écu or French Crown. Papers of Robert Morris, Vol. 4 (1978), pp. 304-5 and pp. 330-332.

*I have the honour to remain, Sir, with kindest personal regards, your loyal and obedient servant,*  
*Jay*

**"One fool is a disgrace; two, a law firm; and three or more, a Congress."** -- Ben Franklin

**I can not give you the formula for success, but here is the formula for failure: "Try to please everybody".** - - - Benjamin Franklin

**P.S. If you do not receive this, of course it must have miscarried: therefore I beg you write and let me know.** - Sir Boyle Roche, 18th century MP



Dealing with Enemy POWs. Capt'n Callaham and some Loyalists watch over the wounded "General deKalb."