

Royal



Yorkers

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick

NORTHERN BRIGADE FIGHTS THE BATTLE OF HUBBARDTON, VERMONT ~ JULY 8 & 9

According the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic State webpage, "Military historians note that, of all the Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields in the US, the Hubbardton Battlefield most resembles the period in which the battle took place."

There's something about being on an original Revolutionary War battlefield. This is particularly true of the battlefield at Hubbardton. Tucked away amongst the ridges of Vermont's Green Mountains, it is one of the most picturesque sites we'll visit this year. With our tents pitched beside the old Castleton Road, next to the foundation of the Selleck Cabin, you can't help but feel a sense of the place's history.

The battle of Hubbardton took place on July 7, 1777 and was one of the early engagements in Burgoyne's campaign. Only the day before, General St. Clair's rebel force made a hurried night retreat from Fort Ticonderoga. At 4:40 a.m. on the following morning

the pursuing British troops, under General Simon Fraser, caught the weary American rearguard napping. The ensuing battle lasted nearly two hours and ended with the rebel force under Lt Col Seth Warner defeated and scattered. Almost one third of the Americans engaged were captured, while 40 more were killed. At this stage of the campaign Burgoyne had the rebels on the ropes.

The Hubbardton event will be held on July 8 & 9. Although the schedule has not been finalized, it is expected that a full weekend of activity will take place. The public will be encouraged to visit the camps, tour the battlefield, and take in lectures and presentations. A memorial service will be held on Saturday evening, and a narrated tactical demonstration is set for both Saturday and Sunday. Several years ago we also did a tactical on Sunday morning, which was particularly memorable because of the low-lying mist that drifted



over the battlefield as we advanced in extended order. Pretty neat!

Those who attended the event at Hubbardton in the past will recall what great times we've had there. This site has generated more "war stories" per capita than any other site in recent memory. If you haven't been before, you'll know better than to be left out again. If you've been there in the past, you will need no persuading to attend again this year.

Directions: If on Hwy 4 in Vermont, take Exit 5 and head north to the town of East Hubbardton. The battlefield is just north of the town. If on Hwy 30 in Vermont, go to the town of Hubbardton and then turn east. Follow the secondary road to the battlefield park near East Hubbardton.

Coming Events

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| June 1-4 | UEL Annual Conference - Toronto |
| June 17 & 18 | Black Creek Pioneer Village - Toronto |
| June 17 | Loyalist Landing - Adolphustown, ON |
| July 1 | Canada Day Parade - Bath, ON |
| July 8 & 9 | Battle of Hubbardton - Hubbardton, Vermont |
| July 22 & 23 | Grand Recce - Ward Pound Reservation, NY |
| July 29 & 30 | Rev War Encampment - Fort George, NOTL |
| Aug 11-25 | Bateaux Trek - Lake Champlain |
| Aug 26 & 27 | Rose House Museum - Picton, ON |
| Sept 16 | Thornhill Parade - Thornhill, ON |
| Sept 31/Oct 1 | 225 th of West Canada Creek (2 nd Batt) - Poland, NY |
| Oct 21 & 22 | Siege of Yorktown - Endview Plantation, Virginia |



225th Anniversary of the Grand Reconnaissance

Ward Pound Reservation ~ July 22 & 23

On May 22, 1781 General George Washington met the Count de Rochambeau at Wethersfield, Connecticut to lay out a plan of action for the combined American and French forces in the north. It was agreed that the French should join the Americans on the Hudson River, and both move against the British-held city of New York.

It was not until the first week of July that Count de Rochambeau traveled from Newport, Rhode Island to join the Americans on the Hudson. As the two commanders scanned the opposing shores of the Hudson River, the imposing British entrenchments and fortifications gave reason to reconsider the ambitious plan laid out two months before. From July 21 to 24 Washington and Rochambeau, with a combined force of 5000 men, conducted a reconnaissance-in-force, thoroughly surveying the British lines north of New York. In the history of the American



Revolution this became known as the "Grand Reconnaissance". At its conclusion the decision was made to aban-

don the idea of attacking New York. Instead, the Americans and French would slip away to the south, joined by the French fleet off Chesapeake Bay, in an effort to entrap Lord Cornwallis' army in Virginia. The "Grand Reconnaissance" might well be called the first step on the *Road to Yorktown*.

On the weekend of July 22 & 23 the Brigade of the American Revolution, the British Brigade, the Continental Line, and the Northern Brigade will converge on Ward Pound Reservation at Cross River, NY to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Grand Reconnaissance. Hope to see you there!

Directions: From Albany take #87 south, then #84 east, and then #684 south. From Interstate 684, (or the northern terminus of the Saw Mill River Parkway) exit for Cross River / Katonah, Route 35 and turn East onto Route 35 for 4 miles to NY Route 121. Turn right on NY 21; the Reservation entrance is 0.1 mile ahead on the left.

LOTS HAPPENING ON JUNE 17 & 18 WEEKEND

Black Creek or Adolphustown

On the weekend of June 17 & 18 there are two Yorker supported events, at opposite ends of Lake Ontario.

In Toronto our annual visit to Black Creek Pioneer Village will take place, with all the camp life activities, battle scenarios and public interaction normally associated with this site.

On Saturday, June 17 Adolphustown Park will hold its annual Loyalist Landing event, which commemorates the arrival of the Loyalists to the Bay of Quinte area.

Two excellent events, leaving you with a difficult choice...



Attention Ladies

We will be holding a women's meeting at 10 am on Saturday June 17th at Black Creek Pioneer Village. Things that will be discussed are as follows: getting participation from all women in the Northern Brigade for the weekend's public events; selling fabric; getting to meet some of our newer members; and helping with questions or fittings for new kit. If you are planning on making a new outfit for Polly Johnson day and think you might need a hand with the fitting of your gown, then this would be the best time to get it. Foreseeing no rain, we will have our meeting around the picnic benches outside the public washroom.

Amanda Moore
A/Cpl of Distaff

Rev War Encampment ~ Fort George ~ July 29 & 30

On the weekend of July 29 & 30, Fort George will be hosting a Revolutionary War Living History Weekend.

Most of us think of Fort George and Niagara-On-The-Lake as a War of 1812 site. However, during the Revolution Colonel John Butler built a set of ranger barracks on the Canadian side of the Niagara River, in order to relieve the overcrowding at Fort Niagara. The British government also operated a small naval station on the Canadian side known as Navy Hall. The original buildings were destroyed during the War of 1812, but one circa 1817 building is still extant and lies on the river shore immediately below Fort George. In 1779, Colonel Butler was given permission to release some of his rangers to begin farming in support of Niagara's garrison, a move that constituted the first settlement of American Loyalists in present-day Ontario. When the Rangers were disbanded in 1784, they settled in the area and named their town Butlersburg, after their commanding officer.

Plans are underway for what looks like a very good weekend. Three opposed-sides battles will take place, as well as a parade through the town of Niagara-On-The-Lake, and displays

throughout the weekend. There is expected to be a good showing of sutlers, for those who are looking for an opportunity to spend some shillings on needful things.

This event is well supported by the Friends of Fort George, who will provide three meals on Saturday and two meals on Sunday. The site will also provide clean straw, firewood, washrooms and showers will be available in the staff building. On Saturday even-

ing there will be a Tavern with traditional music.

This event has been organized jointly by Parks Canada and the Museum of Applied Military History. Fort George is counting on a big turnout from the Brigade of the American Revolution (BAR) Northwest Department, but also strong support from the Northern Brigade in general, and the Royal Yorkers in particular. Make sure you mark this one on your calendar!



REVISED EDITION OF "THE KING'S ROYAL REGIMENT OF NEW YORK"

A few of you have searched for a copy of the earlier edition of "The King's Royal Regiment of New York", which I published in 1984. At that time, there were about 2000 copies produced and the book sold for \$20 at retail and \$10 to members of the regiment. That edition went out of print in 1989 and the price rapidly escalated over the years. A recent check of the used and scarce book market showed a listing at \$250US.

Even from the moment the book came off the press, I was collecting additional information on the men who served in the regiment. I am amazed by all the 'facts' I've turned up on these

fellows.

The link to my publisher (shown below) gives full details of the new edition, which is over 1/3 larger than the first. In view of all the surprises we've had in recent times regarding our uniforms and equipment, the picture section contains no reenactment stuff. However, there are many more "neat" images of original artifacts. A few that I particularly like are Sir John's portrait in full colour; a colour plate of Captain Richard Duncan's powder horn, and, thanks to Janice Lang, an improved reproduction of Peachey's painting of the KRR settlement at New Johnstown (Cornwall).

I realize that the new price of \$64.95 is going to shock many of you, but such is life in the fast lane. For those of you who are interested, I don't know yet what discount I'll be able to offer, but it won't be much.

Himself

<http://globalgenealogy.com/countries/canada/loyalist/resources/101046.htm>



THE ARMS, ACCOUTREMENTS AND UNIFORM SITUATION

Over the long winter of 2005-2006 the Colonel has agonized over the arms, accoutrements and uniforms of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. As a result of his in-depth research some new conclusions have been drawn. For those who are looking for photographic proof, it ain't going to happen. However, the many clues from inventories, drawings, orderly books, first hand accounts, etc. are pointing in the direction of change. Gavin explains the rationale for his conclusions in the thesis that follows.

Over three decades, we've somewhat unconsciously developed a myth that the original KRR was some sort of elite Provincial unit, drilled to a fine point and equipped to the nines with the best of everything and superbly turned out. Of course, the spirit, competence and uniformity of our recreation that we've worked so hard to hone have done much to warp our historical awareness.

Well, it doesn't take much digging to reveal that this 'elite' idea is a fabrication. The old KRR was a Provincial regiment in every sense of the word. Although Haldimand considered the regiment part of the "flower of his little Army," when compared to his beloved British Regulars, the Yorkers were pretty 'low down on the totem pole.' Certainly, the KRR performed well on long-range penetration raids. Yes, they were able and willing to outmarch the majority of the British Regulars and virtually all the Germans, but they were very much like highly efficient native African or Indian auxiliary troops when it came to quality of arms and equipment.

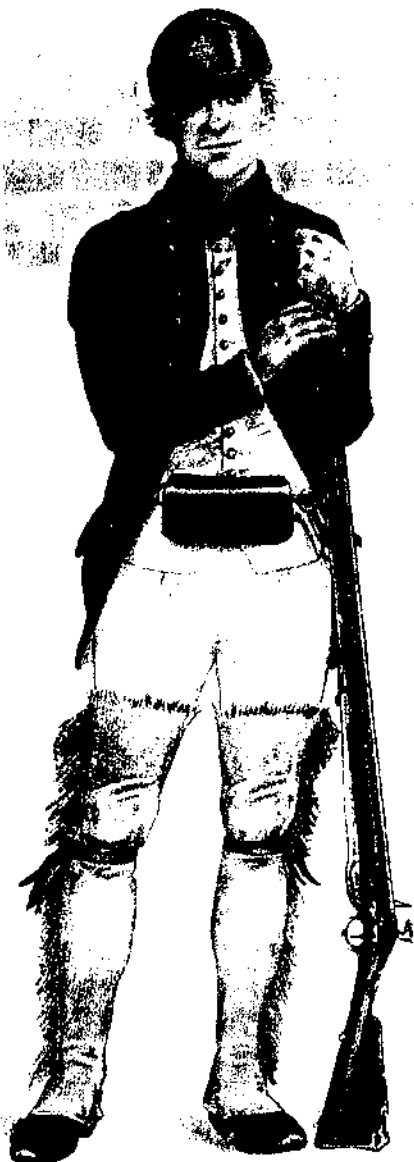
MUSKETS

Contrary to Jim Kochan's conclusion, the Yorkers weren't issued in 1776 with select Short Lands that had been sent from Britain to arm Canadian Provincials. In fact, the arms initially issued to the battalion were of poor quality and a wide variety of types. To quote Major Gray, the Yorkers received "old Repaired arms not worth a sixpence for service."

When Sir John was preparing for the October 1780 raid into the Schoharie and Mohawk Valleys, he combed through the whole regiment to take the best arms (and the most fit men). So, when Captain John Munro made his preparations soon after for the concurrent raid to Ballstown, he had to accept the best of a bad lot of arms (and a number of fresh recruits without uniforms).

In September 1781, Sir John commented to Haldimand's military secretary that "the great deficiency of Arms in my Regiment and badness and Variety of those they have, makes me desirous of Exchanging them, which I beg you will lay the necessity of before the Commander in Chief, as I understand a good supply of Arms is Arrived."

In November 1781, Major Gray noted that the battalion had received 130 stands of good arms in 1779, but these had been consumed in the serv-



ice. The 1st battalion didn't receive a sufficiency of decent arms until March 1782, long after it was taken out of active frontier service.

So, there's no reason for us to shy away from Long Lands with wooden and steel rammers, Short Lands, Militia & Marine muskets, short military muskets of doubtful design and origin, carbines/fusils, Dutch muskets, repaired and beaten up muskets of all military patterns, as all of these are mentioned in the official Ordnance and Quarter Master General's Department's Returns.

I haven't been able to prove whether the KRR at any time received French arms left over from the Conquest, but I do have proof that the Royal Highland Emigrants did, as did the various loyalist corps that went with Burgoyne AND Leake's Independent Company when it first served with the 1st battalion in 1778.

Conclusion: Any British/Dutch/American military-style pattern, period firelock is acceptable, and we should accept early French pattern arms, as well. Uniformity of musket pattern isn't on the cards. Of course, our goal of having a bayonet with every firelock won't disappear, but regimental returns indicate that bayonets were missing in every company.

ACCOUTREMENTS

Kochan's contention that the KRR drew Stands of Arms comprised of a musket and sling, a simple waistbelt, a belly box and a sliding bayonet frog is true. It is very probable that the belt, frog and musket sling were made from tanned harness leather, not buff, although I haven't been able to prove that. Robert Henderson of the *Discriminating General* found a return of stores prepared in Halifax after the war that showed a remarkable number of musket slings made from tanned leather relative to the number in buff. However, Eric Fernberg believes that the belts and frog were dyed black and extant samples of both items on the Royal Welch Fusiliers website are in black.

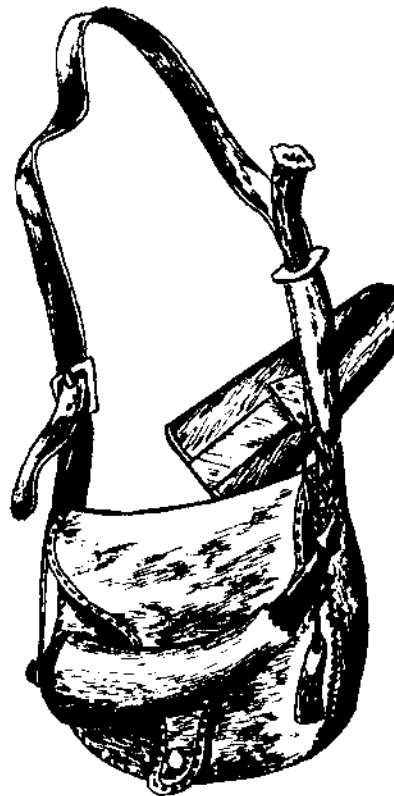
I'm told that it was the Colonel's prerogative to supply his regiment with cartridge pouches and waist or shoulder-mounted, integral bayonet carriages at his expense, which was later repaid by the Crown. Note: I have yet to prove this contention.

And by the way, although the seven British Regulars portrayed by von Germann in 1776/77 all had shoulder bayonet carriages, the three privates in Hunter's view of Ticonderoga were wearing waistbelts and my money is on Hunter for accuracy.

There is primary evidence that in 1776 Sir John supplied his recruits with sixty-six pouches at his own expense. Heaven knows what pattern they were, but they were pouches, not boxes. So, the fact that most of us Royal Yorker reenactors have shoulder-mounted pouches is acceptable (as we can all consider ourselves 'select' men). However, the wearing of belly boxes by new recruits would be correct with a plain waistbelt and sliding

frog. We should direct recruits to purchase that combination and if a recruit wants to purchase a pouch later, that would be acceptable.

Kochan theorizes that the men who were equipped only with belly boxes might have supplemented their cartridge supply with personally-owned ball bags and powder horns. Primary documentation shows that Sir John purchased forty-three powder horns in



1776, so I believe Kochan's theory is reasonable. And to support it, we've found an original horn carried by Captain Duncan himself.

In our recreated 1758 New York Provincials, the privates wore a shoulder-mounted ball bag with a horn. As reenactment safety rules dictate that

loading with loose powder from horns is unacceptable, our ball bags were fitted with custom-made cartridge boxes/blocks in which prepared cartridges were carried. So, the horn was a purely decorative, but accurate item of kit.

I recommend that we should maintain a tight clamp on ball bag design so we don't get any weird, *Mountain Man* variations, and also the size and style of the powder horns. With the addition of a box/block in the ball bag, this combination provides a solution for members to carry an additional supply of cartridges without the need for a shoulder-mounted cartridge pouch.

To date, I haven't found a reference to Sir John supplying the battalion with bayonet carriages, either waistbelts or shoulder harnesses with integral frogs. I'm hoping that a search of his agent's records will confirm that he purchased such accoutrements, at least in the second clothing period. In any event, I see no reason why members currently equipped with waistbelts with integral frogs or shoulder harnesses should stop using these. However, any member who wishes to convert to a simple waistbelt and sliding frog should be allowed to do so.

Conclusion: Any mixture of accoutrements as supplied by the Crown, the colonel or by private purchase should be acceptable within our ranks. New recruits should be supplied with a Stand of Arms, which would include a belt, sliding frog and musket sling. I will attempt to sell our excess buff leather and, if successful, buy an appropriate quantity of tanned harness leather to be dyed black for the production of simple belts and sliding frogs.

UNIFORM, HATS, SHOES

Clothing is a far more difficult topic to get a grip on. Dealing with the items in order of simplicity:

Shoes

There's no record in the Quarter Master General's (QMG's) Departmental Returns of boots of any description

being supplied to Provincials; however, there are constant references to English Shoes, Canadian Shoes and moccasins. I haven't yet identified the construction of Canadian Shoes (some folks believe these were a type of mukluk, but made of leather, not seal-

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skin). As to moccasins, I suspect these were sourced locally from the Canada Indians, so any unadorned Woodlands' Indian design would be correct.

Of interest, shoe buckles are not mentioned at any time in the QMG's Returns, although garter and stock buckles are at times recorded.

I am not suggesting for a microsecond that those of us who have Hi-Los should abandon them. For one thing, they're too expensive to discard and they're too efficient, especially for those with arch and ankle support problems.

Conclusion: So, no action here other than to recognize what was actually issued.

Shirts

Judging from the substantial volume of shirting linen and finished shirts that were inventoried in the QMG's Stores, it's apparent these were supplied to the British Army as necessaries as part of a "half mounting" which included rollers, stockings and shoes. In September 1778, Sir John applied to Head Quarters for a moderate quantity of half mountings for recruits in the various companies.

None of the QMG's Returns say anything about the colour of the shirt linen or shirts, so they may have been white, checked or both. However, for what it's worth, none of the von Germann paintings showed anything but white shirts on British Regulars and the scale of the Hunter's Ticonderoga painting is too small to define something like checks.

Conclusion: As recruits served in the Yorkers without proper uniforms until an indent was made before the advent of cold weather, even if official army shirts were universally white, shirts of various check colours may appear in our ranks as if brought from home.

Legwear

This is a complex topic. It's quite clear from Kochan's findings that the Royal Yorkers drew uniforms from supplies sent from Britain for Canadian Provincials. Mind you, not a single issuing document has been found that ties the KRR to this clothing, so my conclusion is based on extrapolation.

Primary documentation indicates that the supplies arrived as unmade suits of clothes, probably organized into bales by size, e.g. small, medium and large. The QMG's Returns confirm that a suit comprised precut pieces for a coat, waistcoat and breeches. So, when the KRR drew a supply of suits, the men would have received the pieces to make woollen Breeches.

From primary documentation, the British Artillery prepared Overalls (gaitered trousers) for the winter from woollen cloth (see also von Germann's image of a British Regular in capote and Canadian Cap) and, for the upcoming campaign season, a different set of Overalls from old tents. The Hesse Hanau Artillery, which served alongside the British, was unable to find old tents and purchased "Russian linen" on the local economy to make their campaign Overalls. I suspect that "Russian linen" was the same material as Russia drill or Russia sheeting (the difference between those two classifications may have been the width or weight of the goods). We do know that Russian Drill was a mixture of linen and hemp fibre and wore like iron, and Russia sheeting was most likely a similar blend.

The 19th century copies of von Germann's lost paintings of British Regulars of 1776/77 include an artilleryman and six Infanteers, four of them wearing Overalls in a 'white' material, very likely old tents or new Russian linen.

There is considerable debate amongst recognized experts about the difference, if any, between Trousers and Overalls. One faction says these terms were loosely applied to describe the same garment. Another faction maintains that the terms meant distinctly different garments. That is - Overalls were gaitered trousers and Trousers were straight-leg pants without gai-

ters. The first faction claims that the straight-leg trousers that many of us are now wearing, didn't appear during the war, but were a later adaptation. The second faction claims straight-leg trousers were worn throughout the conflict. Ain't that wonderful?!

In the getting-to-be-infamous von Germann paintings, only Overalls and Breeches with black Spatterdashes were illustrated. In Sir John's Orderly book for May 16, 1777, it was noted that "trowsers & Every thing else" were to be ready for wear at next Saturday's parade", and in July 1781, Captain John Munro recalled that he had purchased trousers for his men for the raid against Ballstown the year before. Was this simply loose terminology, or...

It's also clear from the QMG's Returns that Leggings were in widespread use by all the British army in Canada and, judging from the very substantial volume of legging cloth and trimmings held in inventory, these were supplied by the Crown similar to half mountings. In the May 1778 QMG's Return, the cloth for Leggings was also to be used for Great Coats, so it must have been a very specific weight and weave. The only Leggings' colour mentioned in Returns was green, although large volumes of gray, black and brown cloth were later held for no stated purpose.

Although our members often wear Leggings over Gaitered Trousers, they were intended to be worn with Breeches. From the volume of Leggings made, there must have been many instances of men on campaign in Breeches and Leggings rather than Overalls. Leggings were preferred to Spatterdashes, as they offered more protection against snakebite and other possible hurts.

Trimmings were always in stock with the cloth, undoubtedly to edge the leggings and prevent unravelling. There was also a supply of leather straps to go under the instep of the shoe which settles that question.

There is an original document showing that the Hanau Artillery substituted a white cotton material for strong linen for the tailoring of white summer

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Breeches. This fabric was purchased on the local economy, but no record has been found that British regiments wore summer weight Breeches in Canada.

Before concluding this section, it should be noted that the small clothes supplied to Canadian Provincials were made of Buff wool. So, if any Yorker decides to make a new pair of woollen Breeches, that should be the colour.

Conclusion: Variations for legwear.

Military Breeches - Preferably Buff coloured and worn with Green Leggings over English Shoes or Woodland Indians' moccasins, or Black Spatterdashes over English Shoes, or with Hi-Lo boots.

Civilian Breeches - It is obvious from original Royal Yorker returns and correspondence that new recruits served in the ranks without proper uniforms, so coloured or leather civilian

Breeches may also be worn.

Overalls - Ideally made of Russia Drill, although heavy (say 12oz), cotton canvas twill is a good substitute. We are severely limited by not having a reliable seamstress to make this difficult garment properly.

Straight Leg Trousers - Unless I can find other information, we will continue to accept this variation of legwear.

Waistcoats

Now, here's a difficult topic. As noted above, the suits of Canadian Provincial clothing issued to the Royal Yorkers included a Buff Waistcoat. As the suits were specifically sent out to supply the Canadians as Light Infantry, it is very probable that the waistcoats were cut to the 1771 Light Infantry pattern.

As for contemporary British Regulars in Burgoyne's army, the James Hunter Ticonderoga painting shows a group of four British Regulars. The waistcoats of two privates and the officer are the swallow-tail version.

Conclusion: I believe we should be in Buff, Pattern 1771 Light Infantry Waistcoats. This is the same pattern that Singleton's Company, 2Bn wears in red wool and Crawford's Company used to wear in white.

I'm not recommending that all of the 1Bn rushes out to buy new Buff 1771 Waistcoats. However, if anyone does buy a new Waistcoat, it should be that colour and pattern and the purchaser should be careful to have the garment cut long enough to match the bottom of their coat facings.

Obviously, anyone who still has a white, 1771 Waistcoat left over from Crawford's Company, 2nd battalion could drag it out of storage.



← Cut off style of waistcoat

Pewter Buttons

Incredibly enough, that great guru of Rev War artifacts and famous artist, Don Troiani, met Duncan's Ken Taylor at the Oneida Nation's unveiling of his Oriskany painting near Rome, NY. He had a 'nice' time with Ken and sent me a message advising that the Crown RP buttons we use for our first clothing period were not in use until 1780. I asked him if he had any primary documentation about when the RP design was implemented, but he didn't

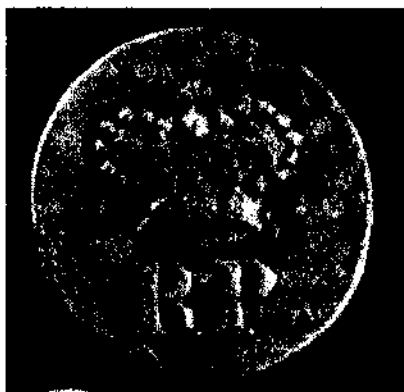
reply.

Even at the 'dawn of Yorker time' I had my doubts about RP buttons because so few had been dug up at Fort Haldimand on Carleton Island where the KRR did so much service. However, the 'experts' of the time said that RP buttons were correct for Provincials and we moved ahead.

Troiani says that plain, flat buttons would have been supplied. These had the same cross-section and diameter as our RP buttons. The plain buttons that we've been buying from Robin Upton for our trousers for the last decade are OK for diameter, but just a wee bit too thick.

So, anyone who wants to grind off the RP and Crown from their coat and waistcoat buttons would be in great shape. Ha! Ha!

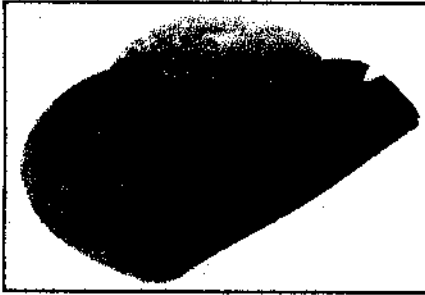
Conclusion: If anyone makes a new Buff Waistcoat, he should use plain buttons.



Hats

All of you will recall Jim Kochan's startling pronouncement, "If the King's Royal Regiment wore cocked hats they would have been the only regiment in Canada to do so." Well, a tremendous amount of digging has gone on since he hit us with that one.

To be sure, all of the British Regulars



in the von Germann paintings wore cap hats, as did the three privates in Hunter's 1777 Ticonderoga painting. There's much primary documentation proving that Canadian Department's

British Regulars wore cap hats right through the war. Then, there's that secondary source story in Simms about our recruiting serjeant from the Major's Company wearing a cap hat with red horsehair in 1778. Pretty overwhelming evidence!

But, Kochan stumbled over the May 1777 phrase in Sir John's Orderly Book - "their Regt'l hats well Cocked." He theorized that this might have referred to the proper making of the caps, OR that the Yorkers wore round hats turned up and the phrase referred to a uniform method of doing so.

Steve Sandford postulates that the battalion was issued with round hats and they cocked their narrow brims in a similar fashion to our present 'bicorns' with the two front cocks laced into position and the rear cock held in place by a hook and eye. This hat would be considered "well cocked" and, by turning it around and dropping

the rear cock as a bill, it would be serviceable on campaign.

And, Steve could be right. However, to make that change would mean each Duncan's private either would take apart his current bicorn, cut the brim narrower, sew the white mohair tape back into place, re-cock the two front cocks with the laces and sew a hook and eye on the crown and rear cock, OR he'd buy a hat blank and sufficient white mohair tape to fit round the brim and sew that in place. Then, he'd cock-up the front and mount the hook and eye on the rear. Frankly, I just don't see either of those approaches happening.

And more important, why would the KRR have been the only regiment in Canada to employ their round hats in this manner? That question is damned hard to answer!

The other idea Steve's been working on is selling kits for each man in Duncan's to make his own cap hat.

Coats

Here's the most contentious of all the garments. We've known for a long time from Sir John's Orderly Book for 1776/77 that when men from the Line companies were transferred into the Lights they were expected to trade coats with the outgoing men. And, if that wouldn't work, then the wings would be removed from the coats of the outgoing guys and sewn onto the incoming guys' coats. Of course, what that means is that all the coats in the battalion were jackets. So, although we've known that for a long time, we've balked at doing anything about it.

That everyone was in Jackets dovetails into Kochan's hypothesis that the KRR drew Canadian Provincial suits, as the suits were specifically sent out to equip a corps of Light Infantry.

Although primary documentation indicates that the Canadian Provincial suits came with red facings, some units that were issued with them chose other facing colours. For example, Canadian Provincial suits were provided to the two Quebec City Militia battalions, yet there is primary evidence that they chose to have green facings made from cloth donated by a local tailor. And, primary evidence proves that, by the following year, their officers had buff facings on their coats.

Primary documentation proves that the Royal Highland Emigrants were issued with Canadian Provincial suits in 1775. Kim Stacy, the RHE historian, wrote an article for the Company of Military Historians which stated that the Emigrants' first issue of coats were green faced buff, although he has some details of the uniform incorrect, and

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I'm waiting to see a copy of the article to see what primary sources he has cited.

A German primary document stated that each of the three companies of Canadian Provincials raised for the 1777 campaign were to have coats with different facing colours. As red facings came with all the suits and buff and green cloth was in inventory, one could assume that these would be the three facing colours. Whether the green bulk cloth was the same shade as the coat body is unknown.

Other than Simms' secondary story about the Royal Yorker recruiting sergeant wearing a green jacket with red facings, I haven't found a single other document, primary or secondary, which gives a facing colour for the KRR. And what's so very, very frustrating about that is that I've got primary information about coat and facing colours for Jessup's King's Loyal Americans, Jessup's Loyal Rangers, Peters' Queen's Loyal Rangers, Butler's Rangers, Leake's Independent Company and Rogers' King's Rangers. Why oh why didn't someone contemporary just mention what colour of facings the Yorkers wore?!

Many of you will recall our theory that Sir John could have bought blue cloth on the local economy for facings. Jim Kochan had three comments to refute this. First, he noted that Johnson didn't have the funds to do so, as his fortune was tied up in real estate in rebel territory. Well, even though he may have been cash strapped in Montreal, his credit in Britain would have been fine because of the family's holdings left over from Sir William's investments, and he could have had funds transferred to him from there. Second, Jim believed he wouldn't have had permission to do so. Well, who gave the Quebec City battalions' permission to change from red to green facings and their officers to change from green to buff? Who gave Eben Jessup approval to refuse the green uniforms in favour of the red coats faced green that Major Gray bought on the local economy? And, there are many references to materials of different types being purchased by other

officers locally, so there isn't much of a question about availability.

Yet, I think Jim's most telling objection to our idea about blue facings is that the facing colour probably wasn't a priority for Sir John. He'd been around green coats faced red in the Indian Department. There was even a coat of that description looted by New Jersey Continentals from Johnson Hall just after Sir John left for Canada, so it's unlikely he would have harboured a deep objection to this colour combination. Let's face it, his real concentration was on completing his battalion and getting his men equipped, not fiddling around with a minor detail like facing colour.

Anyway, I want to stress - I still haven't found a single reference, primary or secondary, other than Simms, as to what colour of facings were worn with the green coats. There is no evidence to prove that blue wool could not have been purchased and used for facings and much evidence to show that cloth was available and that other officers sourced locally for their needs. If Johnson had bought blue locally, the cloth would have been stored in regimental stores and not by the QMG's Department, so the fact that no blue cloth shows up on QMG's Returns is insignificant.

On the other hand, there was a large quantity of green cloth, fine and coarse, in QMG's Stores during our first clothing period. In May 1778, there were six pieces (a piece is 60 yards) of fine and nine bales and thirteen pieces of coarse. By December, the supply of coarse green had shrunk to three bales and ten pieces. In October 1779, a piece of fine green had been consumed and the supply of coarse green had grown to nine bales and nine pieces, so a new shipment must have arrived from Britain. So, without knowing how often the Provincials were allowed to draw new clothing for the complete regiment, the supply of green cloth suggests that this may have been the facing colour employed by the KRR.

In October 1779, there was mention of Provincial red coats faced blue in the QMG's Returns - the Yorkers second clothing period had commenced.

Then in April 1780, a cask of red and green facings appeared in inventory. Were these red facings that had been laid aside and extra green facings that had been cut, but not used? Who knows? In any event, in that same April '80 return, there had been no movement in the use of bulk green cloth since the previous October.

And this possibility of green facings for the KRR - could this be the reason for the nicknames Johnson's Green and Royal Greens? Well maybe, *but remember*, both of those nicknames do not appear in Rev War correspondence - they are 19th Century aberrations and could just as easily refer to the coat body colour as the facing colour. For example, I've found a single primary reference to Butler's Greens, and that regiment did not have green facings from what I can determine.

Conclusions:

Facings - At this juncture, there's still so much doubt about our facing colour, I'm suggesting no change. The research continues, so let's just wait it out.

Jackets - I am recommending that Duncan's Company privates and NCOs cut their coats to jacket length and that we set up a link to our website with instructions and images on how to proceed.

On proper Light Infantry jackets, the pocket flaps are angled. As so many of our coats have faded several shades lighter than where they started, I don't think we'd do ourselves a service to change the position of the pocket flaps.

New Coats - I also suggest that we have no new coats tailored. We'll go back to buying old coats from fellows who leave and supply those to recruits. If we can't find a fit, then the recruit wears a workshirt and, in cold weather, borrows a capote until we get this facing colour situation resolved. As noted above, in a workshirt, or if he wants, a civilian coat, he looks just like so many recruits would have looked in the original regiment.

Officers and Drummers - Our Officers and Drummers can decide whether to cut their coats to jackets or not. There's primary documentation that

proves officers', serjeant-majors', drum majors', serjeants' and drummers' suits were sent out for Canadian Provincials in proportion to the privates suits, so everyone should properly be in a jacket, but that's quite a decision, so I suggest we let it stand as voluntary. (Not that the altering of coats to jackets by the privates isn't voluntary, etc...)

In total, I see all of this as a quite gentle and rather exciting change. One of the results will be to turn the battalion into a more Provincial appearance with a wider variety of clothing and obvious recruits in the ranks. And, the switch to a Light corps has some solid appeal.

LtCol Gavin Watt

This watercolour of a post-war Loyalist camp at Johnstown (Cornwall) gives us a fascinating glimpse of the Yorker as they made the transition from military to civilian life, 1784.



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