

1. Policy Statement -- Dress Regulations

As there is a growing tendency within the Battalion to alter and modify the approved and recognized "standard", or formal dress for each Company and subunit, I must officially insist upon adherence to the Dress Regulations and the rules for their application.

For the good of the whole, these regulations and rules need to be rigidly observed. Most important, Section and Company commanders must not unilaterally make changes without first tabling such modifications with myself and obtaining agreement to proceed.

I believe that it has been generally recognized that the power of our formal presentation is to a great degree the result of the uniformity of our clothing and accoutrements. While such uniformity is an obvious denial of individualism, I see it as a necessary price to pay in order to convey a quality image when desired and required.

Also, I firmly believe that the incredible feeling of regimental spirit and the high level of morale which exists within our unit stems from a rather unique willingness throughout the vast majority of the membership to voluntarily suppress individual expression.

Of course, the professional army insists upon and indeed enforces uniformity. We neither have the ability to demand conformance nor the capability to enforce it, or for that matter to punish members for infractions. As the senior leader, I can only encourage, cajole and plead for cooperation. I can remind each of you what has worked for us repeatedly in the past and what has made our Regiment a byword in the reenactment business. I ask again for each and every one of you to discipline yourself for the good of the whole.

If you are having difficulty in recognizing infringements against standard dress regulations, let me provide some examples of old and recent decisions which in my opinion should have been discussed and cleared before implementation.

1. Regulation coats being cut to coatees in the Artillery Section.
2. Ruffled shirts, earrings, multi-bombs and shoulder belt harness in the Grenadiers.
3. Hangers being worn in the Right Section by ranks below Serjeant.
4. Slouch hats and belly boxes being used in the Left Section.
5. Yellow smallclothes; trousers; black, short gaiters and black ostrich feathers in the Drums.
6. Ball bags and slouch hats in the Light Coy.
7. Individuals wearing unauthorized decorations and ladies' favours on their coats while on parade.

While I would agree that there are historical justifications for all, or at least most, of these alterations from the established norm, my point strongly remains. A standard must be set and adhered to. Let's play ball!

2. Second Cloathing Period, Second Battalion, KRR NY

Most of you know that the Museum of Applied Military History has received a Federal Government, Secretary of State, Bicentennial Grant of \$5,000 for the equipping of all ranks to the second cloathing period (1779-84).

Our Grant application requested \$27,500 to prepare 90 troops at no cost to the individuals. Such equipping includes new coatees (red faced blue) mounting Regimentally cyphered buttons; new, square-cut waistcoats also with new buttons; shoulder carriage bayonet harness and slouch hats. (see pp. 142-144 & 152 in the Regimental History). All other cloathing and accoutrements ~~are~~ **is** transferable from our current representation of the First Battalion, first cloathing period.

Of course, this award of \$5,000 (only 18% of what was requested) does not allow a universal equipping of the total membership -- far from it. At the estimated cost of preparation, the \$5,000 would only complete 16 men. Which 16 do we choose?? Does the Executive committee choose them? Do we draw names randomly from a hat?

As an answer to this predicament, members from almost every subunit in the Battalion have approached me to suggest that their particular group would be the most sensible one to equip. In all cases, quite persuasive arguments supported their opinions. Nonetheless, all of these solutions posed a most serious problem, ie. a specific subunit would be favoured above all others.

Unfortunately, no simple, equitable proposition has been advanced for the use of the Grant monies which would give every interested Yorker an equal chance to equip himself at no cost. On the other hand, to return the funds would seem ludicrous and to use them for other purposes would constitute a dangerous breach of the Grant's terms with potentially nasty results in the likely event that an audit be taken.

As a compromise this Grant will be utilized in the same manner as the Wintario one of the late 1970's. An inventory of raw materials will be purchased and put into Regimental stock. Members who wish to assemble Second Cloathing, Second Battalion kit may purchase these goods at cost and will be extended an interest-free loan for a 12 month term.

However, each member who puts together this uniform must recognize at the outset that he will have very limited opportunity to utilize it. The Yorkers will not turn out with red and green coats intermixed. Nor will a driblet detachment of red coated men turn out with the First Battalion. It is unlikely that any events will be set exclusively for Second Battalion men within the next two years. The major use for these new uniforms will be "show and tell" type occasions where it will be an advantage to exhibit both uniform styles. No one will be allowed to purchase Second Battalion kit who has not completed and paid for that of the First.

Under no circumstances will this Second Cloathing period situation be allowed to spoil our current uniformity and spirit.

The Dress Regulations for the Second Battalion will be:

1. All men will represent Battalion troops. The Flank Coys will not be formed until the numbers clearly permit.

2. All men will wear red coatees (ie. short coats) with Royal blue facings. Buttons on each coatee will be Regimentally cyphered and will be grouped in pairs to signify the Second Battalion. Coatees to be of approved pattern only.
3. All men will wear white, square-cut waistcoats mounting Regimentally cyphered buttons.
4. All men will wear black, slouched hats without brim tape. The left side of the brim will be capable of being temporarily turned up and secured for arms drill. This will be accomplished by a black lace tie-up. A red band around the crown of the hat, approx. 1" in width will be acceptable, but not essential. No other style of band is to be used.
5. All men will wear single frog, shoulder belt harness for their bayonets. (belt axes will be laid aside) The harness' shoulder sling will be in one piece without buckle. All harness to be of one pattern only.
6. Be advised that men wishing to prepare kit for Second Battalion should be committed to purchase all of the necessary equipment. Troops should not appear in public until completely uniformed and accoutred.

A stock of beautifully crafted pewter KRR NY buttons are at this moment being manufactured. ^NSlouch hats in 5 common head sizes. Madder red and Royal blue cloth has been sourced and a coatee pattern is close to complete.

Those men who meet the above criterion and wish to proceed with kit will please phone or write to me. No funds required at this stage.

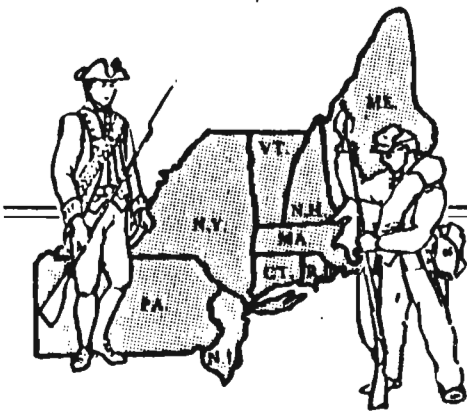
3. Royal Visit Recap

I believe all of us were extremely pleased with the Regiment's role during the Tour and very proud of our collective achievement. At Prescott we fielded 78 troops and 18 followers. A complete artillery detachment with Fieldpiece and Mortar added greatly to our demonstrations. Our very restricted activities at the Toronto Tattoo and the Royal Ontario Museum were nonetheless well appreciated.

Everyone whom I have spoken to who had contact with the Royal couple shared an equal amazement at their warmth and knowledge. We were indeed privileged to have served such a prominent series of roles for the key event in the Bicentennial year.

There have been an unbelievable number of comments which have come from direct contact with the Queen and Prince Philip and the Royal entourage. Her Majesty was apparently delighted by the Huzzahs so strongly delivered at Fort Wellington. On being advised that we intend to christen the Gun with the Royal quote, "A Jolly Good Bang", the Queen expressed her pleasure.

Ron Doering, honeymooning in Britain and on the Continent was more than just a little surprised to see all those Yorker faces over and over again on the Telly. And a friend of Gerry MacMartin has told him that she saw us on the tube in Sweden!



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DO PEOPLE DRINK MORE TODAY THAN THEY DID IN 1779?

"The U. S. S. Constitution - Old Ironsides- as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for a crew of 475 men. This was enough to last through six months of sustained operation. Total evaporators installed - none. On August 23, 1779 The Constitution set sail from Boston. She carried 475 officers and men - 48,600 gallons of fresh water. 7,400 cannon shots, 11,600 pounds of black powder, and 7,900 gallons of rum. Permission to harrass and destroy English shipping was given. Making Jamaica on October 6th, she took on 620 pounds of flour, and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there on November 12th. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 4,300 gallons of Portugese wine. On November 18th she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British Men of War, and captured and scuttled twelve English merchant ships -- salvaging only the rum. By January 27 her powder and shot were exhausted. Unarmed, she made a night raid at The Firth of Clyde. The landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons aboard by dawn. Then she headed for home. The U. S. S. Constitution arrived in Boston in February 1780 with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no whiskey, no wine, -and 48,000 gallons of stagnant water!"

.....From the log of THE U. S. S. Constitution".....

Who says Canadians can outdrink Yankees?? This threat to our cultural heritage must be met and defeated. Cpl. James Devlin a man with intimate knowledge of American mores and an accomplished consumer of the subject beverages will begin lessons for all troops at the turn of the year so that we can regain our just place in the sun. Note: this duty is mandatory, not voluntary. All troops report to Cpl. Devlin on Jan. 7, 1985 with \$50.00 to start a programme of forced consumption.

The Colonel

Organized for the interaction and cooperation of living history reenactors with museums, historic sites, and educational institutions to enhance authentic interpretations of our American heritage.

King's Royal Yorkers: Dress Regulations, Formal Occasions

eg. Under arms with the Colours. Inspections and Ceremonies with dignitaries.

General for All Troops

1. No Indian or Canadian garters or sashes.
2. No ribbons, pin-on badges, medals or wierd embellishments.
3. Strong preferences:
 - white, canvas gaitered trousers.
 - plain, white linen or cotton shirts.
 - black neckstocks for all Battalion and Light Coy troops; white rollers for Grenadiers and no one with checked or plaid neckerchiefs.
 - approved, coloured smallclothes in the Drums only.
 - below-the-knee white, canvas gaiters for all troops with breeches except Grenadiers who have above-the-knee, brown woollen.
4. A Black ostrich feather for Commissioned Officers, SjtMjr & Drm Mjr exclusively.
A single, white ostrich feather for Grenadiers only.
The Drums may blend an array of ostrich feathers including white, but not black.
Note: all other feathers are inappropriate for Formal occasions.
5. It will be recognized by all troops that the Commissioned Officers, SjtMjr & DrmMjr are historical exceptions to many of the rules of uniformity although they must portray their exalted stations with complete dignity.
In turn, it is the duty of these officers to be sensible to the many blandishments directed to 18th Century officers with regard to the need for uniformity for the betterment of their regiment.

Battalion Troops (Colonel's Coy)

1. Full length coats only.
2. Bicornes with black tie-ups only.
3. 36 hole cartridge pouch only. (special exceptions by permission)
4. All Cpls & Ptes with standard length muskets only. (39" & 42")
5. All with bayonets & axes.
6. All with tin, kidney canteens & haversacks. (which may be laid aside in certain circumstances)
7. Preferences: Sjts to carry halberds.
Sjts only to carry hangers.

Grenadiers

1. to 6. as above, except axes.
7. All with hangers or all with axes except Sjt.
8. All with shoulder carriage.
9. One bomb on rear of bicorn.
10. Turnbacks with blue bombs.
11. All coats to have wings.

Light Infantry

1. All with coatees mounting wings
2. All with belly boxes
3. All with double frog waistbelt and axes. (Sjt may carry hanger)
4. All with bayonets polished bright
5. All with tin, kidney canteens & haversacks.
6. All with standard length muskets polished bright.
7. All with slouch hats -- bands & fur optional.

Drums

1. All with approved, laced coats/coatees.
2. Coloured smallclothes to match within the assigned Coy and to be approved prior to tailoring.
3. All bicorns with white tie-ups.
4. Light Coy headgear to be uniform.
5. All with hangers, waist or shoulder harness optional.
6. All Fifers with brass fife cases.
7. All Drummers with RP cyphered drums.
8. All with feathers or all without.

Artillery

1. Full length coats or coatees optional. Coatees to have wings.
2. Headgear to match coat of choice.
3. Arms and accoutrements optional; but, must be appropriate to the period and the Regiment.