



~ Issue 1 ~  
from  
VICTORIAN TIMES

# REGIMENTAL ORDERS

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**Issue One**

**From Victorian Tymes**

If you have visited our website in recent weeks, you will perhaps have noticed the new heading, "Newsletter", on our menu bar - and a short message in that section announcing the launch of our newsletter "Regimental Orders" in Spring 2000. Well, the moment has come, our first newsletter is available in both printed and electronic form, and is being sent free to all our customers, past and present. We hope to publish at least twice a year and this first issue, like all first issues, is necessarily a trial run, and a "trial bite" for you, the potential subscriber. We have great ambitions for the future of this newsletter, which we see as a unique way of bringing together, on an international basis, all those collectors, re-enactors and researchers whose particular interest lies in British uniforms and equipment of the nineteenth century. We have been fortunate in securing the services of Chris Coogan as our editor. Chris was formerly editor of "Dress Regulations", the newsletter of the Victorian Military Society Uniform Study Group, and if you were a member of that group, you will know that you can expect a very high quality publication. This issue is not as "fat" as we hope future issues will be - but that is largely up to you - let us have an article, photographs and news of your particular group, or even simply a "letter to the editor"!

**All submissions please to:**

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**Information Exchange**

We have a database containing the names and addresses of all our customers past and present, or anyone who has requested a catalogue. Obviously this is a confidential list and is only used for our mailing purposes, but it could be used as the basis of an "information exchange group" to put people with special interests in touch with one another. If you would like to join in such a group, please download and fill in the form below and return it to us together with your remittance. We will then send out to all subscribers a list of other participating members together with a note of their special area of interest. We would like to assure you once again that this list would not be made available to anyone else. Even if you do not wish to participate or subscribe to "Regimental Orders", please be assured that your name and address will remain confidential to us, - but why not use the form to let us know of your particular interests in order that we can keep you informed of any relevant new TRL products or services.

If you would like to receive future electronic copies of "Regimental Orders", and/or to subscribe to our information exchange mailing list, (free to newsletter subscribers), we are asking only for a small annual subscription of £4 or \$7 US for at least two issues per year. I am sure you will appreciate that this is a very small sum indeed, to pay in order to receive newsletters, which contain so much original material. Just follow the link below and print off our order form.

**Keith Perks**

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**In this First Issue**

**The Late Victorian Soldier in Portrait Photographs**

**Some Notes on the Officers Uniforms of the 10th Foot**

**1871 Valise Equipment**

**Present Arms:- News From Re-enactment Groups**

## Want to Subscribe



### **~ OUR COVER PICTURE ~**

Photographed by Charleton & Son of Dublin and the Curragh, a sergeant of the Royal Engineers proudly poses with his young family in the 1880s. Wearing medals for the Egyptian campaign of 1882, together with the LS&GC medal, he wears his scarlet dress tunic with blue velvet facings and gold piping around collar and cuffs. The distinctive RE grenade badge can be seen in gold above his sergeant's chevrons. His dark blue trousers have a broad scarlet stripe.



# At The Photographer's Studio

The Late Victorian Soldier  
in  
Portrait Photographs  
Chris Coogan

**T**he formal portrait photography of the 19th Century can be an excellent source of information on dress. This is especially the case with the dress of the ordinary soldier, as original source material on this subject is generally not easy to come by.



## Private Royal Marine Artillery

By Stobie of Southsea.

Dark blue 'pillbox' forage cap with scarlet band and brass grenade badge. Dark blue tunic & trousers. Tunic collar faced scarlet with yellow worsted grenade badge; scarlet piping along front opening and around skirts; cuffs piped with yellow worsted in the distinctive RMA pattern; twisted yellow worsted shoulder cords; brass buttons. Blue trousers with brass locket. Walking out cane with nickell 'thimble' top.

Here - sitting (or standing!) for the Victorian high street photographer in their walking-out kit - is a selection of representatives of the Other Ranks of the Regular British Army of the 1880's and '90s, illustrating the wide variety of uniform worn at Home by the ordinary Tommy, across a range of different units.

Each photograph is accompanied by a brief description of the dress worn. Though far from exhaustive, the idea is merely to give an idea of the appearance of the 'soldier in the street'.

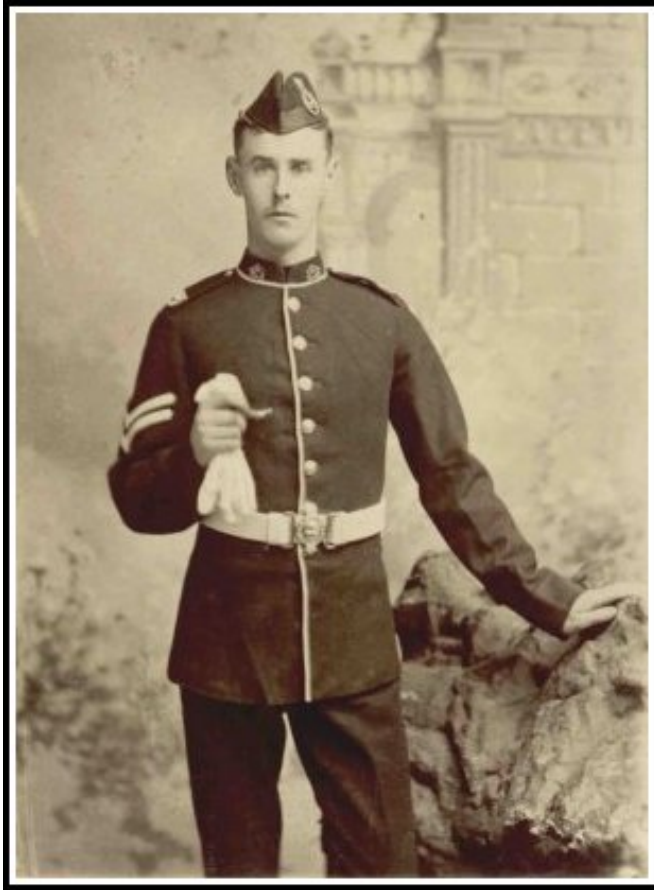


**Bandsman of 2nd Bn., East Kent Regiment (The Buffs),**

by Jacklett of Aldershot.

Scarlet dress tunic with buff facings on collar and cuffs; 'rearing horse' collar badges; brass buttons. Plain scarlet shoulder straps with white embroidered regimental titles. White piping along front opening and on rear skirts below the waist. Bandsman's 'wings' of scarlet with white tape on each shoulder. White embroidered bandsman's badge on upper right arm. White musketry proficiency badge above one good conduct badge on lower left arm. Nickel-topped bamboo cane. Whitened buff leather belt with brass locket, with bayonet frog and bayonet. Dark blue glengarry forage cap with lengthened black ribbons at the rear and brass helmet plate centre and crown as badge. Blue trousers with scarlet welts.





**Corporal, 2nd Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry,**

by Paris Studio, Cork.

Blue glengarry forage cap with regimental badge. Scarlet tunic, faced blue on collar and ('jampot') cuffs; white piping around base of collar and down front opening; corporal's chevrons in white tape. Brass regimental bugle horn collar badges. Plain scarlet shoulder straps with 'SHROPSHIRE' below a light infantry bugle embroidered in white. White buff leather belt with brass locket. Blue trousers with quarter-inch scarlet welt.



**Sergeant, 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders,**

by Lawson of Forres (Elgin)

Dark blue glengarry forage cap with white metal regimental 'stag' badge. Scarlet doublet, faced yellow on collar and cuffs, Seaforths distinctive double collar badges, with white piping below collar, around cuffs, down front opening, and on the Inverness skirts. Crimson worsted sergeant's sash. Kilt of Mackenzie tartan with regimental pattern sporran. Hosetops with white spats.



**Private, 7th (Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards,**  
by Perry, Shorncliffe Camp.

Dark blue 'pillbox' forage cap with yellow band and top button. Scarlet tunic, faced on collar, cuffs, and shoulder straps with black velvet; line of black piping down front opening; Austrian knots in yellow worsted on cuffs, false pocket flaps on rear skirts, and piping around collar. Dark blue overalls with single yellow stripe. Whitened leather swordbelt with snake fastening, worn in the heavy cavalry fashion - over the tunic - with sword slings buckled together when sword not being worn.





**Private, King's Royal Rifle Corps,**

by Bournsell, West London.

Tunic of 'rifle green', which was almost black. Scarlet collar, edged all round with flat black tape; plain shoulder straps with 'KRRC' embroidered in scarlet; plain pointed cuffs edged with black tape and traced with scarlet piping along outside edge; scarlet piping down tunic front opening; black horn buttons. Black leather belt with brass 'snake' fastening. Black trousers. Rifle green glengarry cap with black badge.



**Private (Farrier), 16th (The Queen's) Lancers,**

by Vieler of Huddersfield.

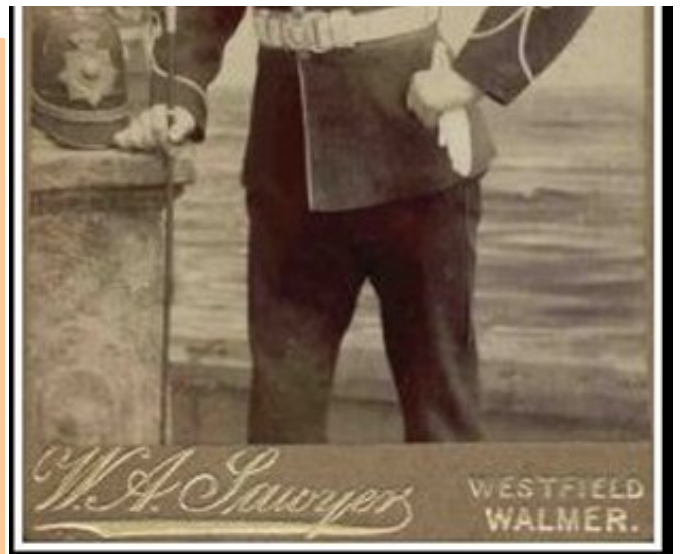
Blue pillbox with yellow band and yellow piped 'quarterings'. The scarlet double breasted tunic was faced with blue on the collar and pointed cuffs, and had a blue plastron. Blue piping around the skirts, and on the back and rear arm seams. Yellow caplines around the body, and scarlet and yellow striped girdle. Embroidered yellow farrier trade badge on upper right arm. Blue overalls with double yellow stripes. The cavalryman's usual 'walking out' whip can also be seen.



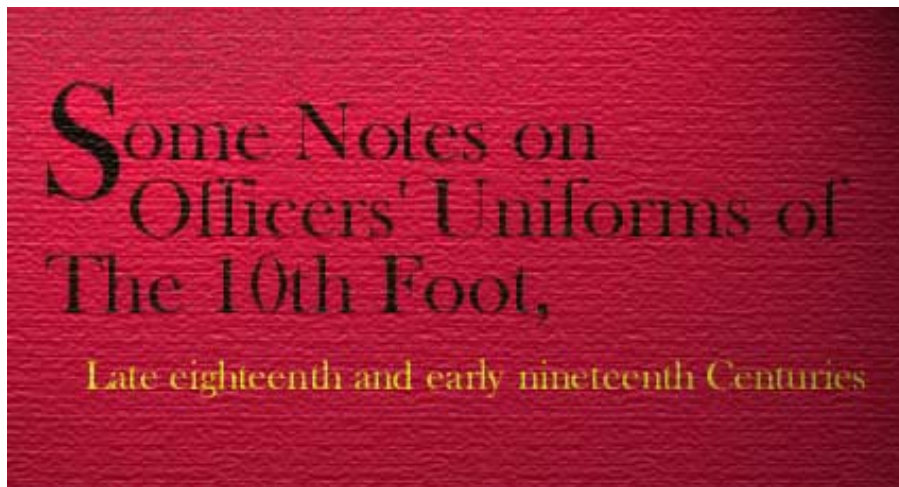


**Private, Royal Marine Light Infantry,**  
by Sawyer of Walmer.

Blue glengarry with brass 'globe & laurel' badge and black silk ribbons hanging from the rear. Scarlet tunic faced blue on collar, cuffs and shoulder straps, which also bear the globe & laurel badge embroidered in white. White piping at base of collar, down front opening, all round the shoulder straps, and formed into a 'crow's foot' above the pointed cuff. An OR's dress Home Service helmet with RMLI plate can be seen on the pedestal. Whitened buff leather belt with brass locket. Blue trousers with quarter-inch scarlet welt.



by P.J.Hoyer



A study of the uniform of the 10th Foot at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth Centuries is virtually a study of the regulations which were in force at that time, as, unfortunately, very few items of dress or appointments have survived.

Similarly, perhaps rather surprisingly, there seems to be very little contemporary pictorial information and the illustrations accompanying this article are based somewhat on conjecture and on what was worn by other regiments at the same time and in similar circumstances.

The first illustration depicts an officer of a battalion company of below Field Rank in Egypt. His headdress is the round hat which appears to have been favoured by officers on tropical station. As the regiment arrived direct from India, it is not unreasonable to assume that this was worn, as paintings by Porter and De Loutherbourg, as well as the contemporary set of watercolours by a member of the 61st Foot depicting troops in Egypt all show this form of headdress. A black cockade was worn on the left with silver regimental button and a cut feather, white over red. In some regiments the hat was ornamented with fur or feathers, and developed into a variety of shapes.

By this time officers of the Light Company would most likely be wearing the 'Stove Pipe' shako as authorised by the General Order 24th February 1800; this also applied to grenadiers, although they, as well as the battalion company officers, were allowed to retain the cocked hat. Grenadier officers appeared to be singularly well coiffed, as they still retained the bearskin cap. But, in the case of the 10th Foot, an inspection report dated 5th April 1804 stated, "No Grenadiers' or Drummers' Caps ..." The light and grenadier Companies were further distinguished by the wearing of a dark green and white plume respectively, and the grenadiers were ordered to wear a grenade badge in the centre of the cockade. The uniform coat was that prescribed in the Regulation of 1796, subsequently amended in 1797, and again in 1798, being of scarlet cloth faced with yellow. The top buttons of the coat were normally left undone and the lapels turned



back to reveal the yellow facings. The lapels were possibly edged with white as indicated in a portrait of an officer of the Tenth by Thomas Guest dated 1798 (but not clearly definable), and also in a portrait of a grenadier officer, 1801, in the collection of the late Percy Sumner. The buttonholes appear to be unlaced and certainly lace is not mentioned in several of the old tailors' pattern books of the period, or shown in Lawson's reconstruction of William Loftie's watercolour, executed at about the same time.

The collar and cuffs were also yellow, and the silver buttons on the front of the coat, pockets, collar and cuffs had the number '10' within a ring, all in relief. The number of buttons on the lapel was normally nine or ten, including the one on the collar. At this time the buttons were evenly spaced but, by about 1805, seem to have changed to pairs. In accordance with regulation, grenadier and battalion company officers had cross pocket flaps, and light company, diagonal. Our illustration shows a single silver epaulette on yellow cloth on the right shoulder; grenadiers wore one on each shoulder which had an embroidered grenade on the strap; the light company had an embroidered bugle horn. The coat is lined with white kerseymere or shalloon, with the long skirts hooked back.

The gorget was of the universal pattern of 1796, being gilt, with the King's cypher and crown engraved upon it. It was suspended by ribbons and rosettes in the facing colour, and the lower part was not to come below the fifth button of the lapel.





One of the more interesting facets of the uniform was, without doubt, the most unusual belt plate, being in the shape of a gorget, with the Arabic '10' within a ring, being domed high where the number was pinned on, the plate being completely silver. This plate was certainly unique, and identified the regiment immediately. The shoulder belt was white, passing over the right shoulder under the epaulette. The sash was crimson silk, worn over the coat and shoulder belt, knotted on the left side and sized to pass three times around the body.

Waistcoat and breeches were of white cloth, the former being quite plain, and without skirts or pocket flaps; the buttons were small and similar to those on the coat.

Boots trimmed with silver lace and tassels seem to have been 'a la mode', and can clearly be seen in a number of illustrations.

At this time, battalion officers were armed with the Infantry Officers' Pattern 1796 sword, which was a development of the 1786 Pattern. The blade was 32 inches long and 1 inch wide - both patterns being identical - the only change being to the hilt. However, the hilt of the 1796 Pattern was clearly defined in the General Order dated 4th May 1796, which stated, among other things,

*"The sword, to have a brass guard, pommel and shell, gilt with gold; with the gripe, or handle, of silver twisted wire."*

The order continues,

*"The blade to be straight, and made to cut and thrust; to be one inch at least, broad at the shoulder, and thirty-two inches in length conformably to former orders, given out in April 1786." "The sword-knot to be crimson and gold, in stripes, as required by His Majesty's present Regulations."*

The blades were often blued and gilded or decorated with engraving. The scabbard was of black leather with brass locket, band and chape.

Regardless of regulations, flank company officers appear to have forged their own way, and many carried sabres, which were officially recognised in 1799.

## FOOTNOTES:

1. I have recently seen a photograph of the original Loftie watercolour, which is in the Biblioteque Nationale, Paris. Allowing for those hidden behind belt and sash, there would appear to be twelve buttons on each lapel, and one on either side of the collar. The buttonholes are plain with twist finish, and the coat is trimmed with white piping down the front, around the top of the collar, and along the edge of the pocket flaps, which are horizontal, each having four buttons. The turnbacks are white and trimmed with lace, presumably silver. The unusual belt plate, as previously described, is again in evidence. The figure wears black knee length boots without lacing or tassels. His headdress is the large bicorne hat with white over red feather.

2. Most of the contemporary portraits show the conventional epaulette which was silver with fringes, the strap having an edging of yellow cloth and a blue stripe. It is interesting to note that in Goetz's pattern book of (approximately) the period concerned, a metal plate is depicted, and described thus:

*"10 Epaulet, all silver boild Dead and Burnish'd the number left Dead, thickefs of silver No.4 in the Gaudges.  
The Bottom Plate Chas'd up, the beaded rim cast boild Dead and Burnish'd.  
The Edge of the Plate Bizeld..."*

The design in the middle of the plate is reproduced exactly on the the epaulette strap.

The light company wing was probably typical of the period. The exact pattern is unknown. Goetz records a metal one, but does not state the regiment. This could also be possibly for the 10th Foot. It is described thus:



*"For Wings, Metal Gilt Burnish'd Plates, 12 in the Strap and 13 in the Wings on each side without the Centre Plate, on the Centre Plate A Silver Cast Bugle Horn Boild Dead and Burnish'd. Thickness of Metal 5 in the Gaudges."*



## REFERENCES CONSULTED:

- ~*History of The Tenth Foot - Lee*
- ~*Historical Records of The Tenth Foot - Cannon*
- ~*Records of The Royal Scots - Leask & McCance*
- ~*The King's Own - Cowper*
- ~*British Military Uniforms 1786 to 1796 - Strachan*
- ~*Swords of The British Army - Robson*
- ~*History of The Uniforms of The British Army - Lawson* ~*Journal of The Society for Army Historical Research (various issues)*
- ~Contemporary paintings, prints, journals and accounts
- ~The Hawkes Pattern Book

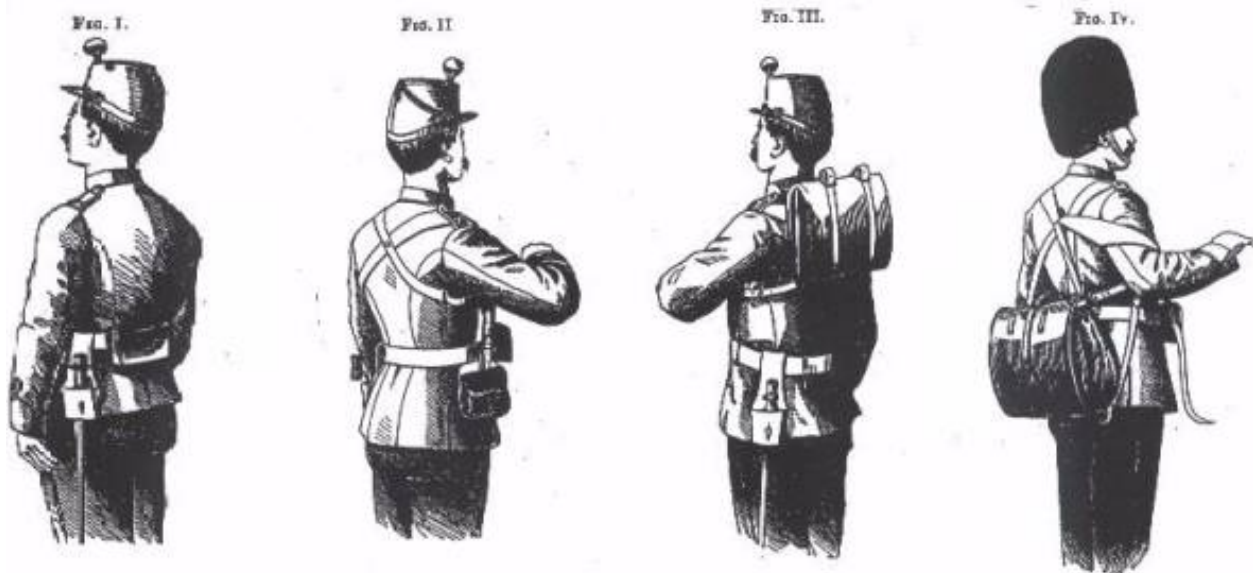




**Revised instructions for the fitting of the valise equipment were issued with GO62 of 1878 and commanding officers were responsible for these instructions being adhered to. We are re-printing this copy of the instructions with grateful thanks to the Military Historical Society**

1. The articles special to Valise Equipment consist of the following, viz:-

- 1 bag, ammunition
- 1 belt, waist, with union locket attached
- 1 set of braces
- 2 pouches, ammunition, 20 rounds each
- 1 pair straps, great coat
- 1 pair straps, mess tin (for the improved pattern canteen)
- 1 pair straps supporting valise
- 1 valise to hold the service kit



A private with the pouch worn behind when on sentry without valise.

A private with the braces, two pouches and ammunition bag.

A private with one pouch and great coat.

Method of putting on the valise.

2. While the object is to provide means of carrying a good supply of ammunition, and the articles of kit, which a soldier requires during peace, or which must be borne during a campaign, it is not intended that the full equipment shall be always carried, or that the whole of the service kit shall necessarily be in the valise. On the contrary, it is proposed to carry only one pouch on ordinary occasions in peace, to use the ammunition bag only during rifle practice, or when required for blank ammunition, and to place in the valise merely such articles of the kit as may be wanted at the time, the other articles being carried for the men.

The object is in fact to leave the soldier as unencumbered as possible, except when there is a necessity for weighting him.



3. The braces are supplied in four sizes. - viz:- large, medium, medium small and small; and future issues will be made according to the following scale of proportion to every 10 sets, viz:-

Braces,	large		1 set
Braces,	medium		2 sets
Braces,	medium	small	5 sets
Braces,	small		2 sets
		Total	10 sets

4. With this proportion of sizes if attention is given to the arrangements in the following paragraph, it is expected that little or no alterations will be required in fitting the braces to the men.



5. Officers Commanding should be very careful not to allow the larger sizes to be issued to small men.
6. The small size as a rule should be given to all men under 5ft 7in, the medium small size to men between 5ft 7in and 5ft 8in, the medium to men of 5ft 9in and 5ft 10in, the large size to men over 5ft 11in. Occasionally, very stout men may require a size larger than above stated, in which case braces of the large size should be tried, and if found not large enough a special requisition should be made for larger braces, giving the chest measurement as well as the height of the man for whom the braces are required.
7. It is however advisable that in all cases the man should wear the equipment a week or two before deciding whether an alteration of the braces is necessary, and if in cases of very small men, the braces of the small size are found too large, the only alteration necessary will be to rip out the stitches of the front brace straps where they pass through front ring, take up the straps to the required length, and then re-sew them without cutting off any portion of the straps. In cases where this alteration is necessary one penny will be allowed for each set of braces. The Officer Commanding will cover the expense by a voucher certifying the number of braces altered and attached to the Regimental Pay List, the amount being paid by the Regimental Paymaster.



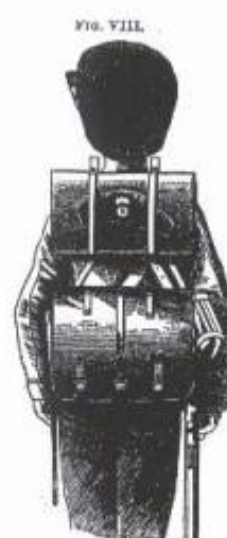
Valise without the greatcoat



Front of a private 5ft.7in in drill order one pouch only



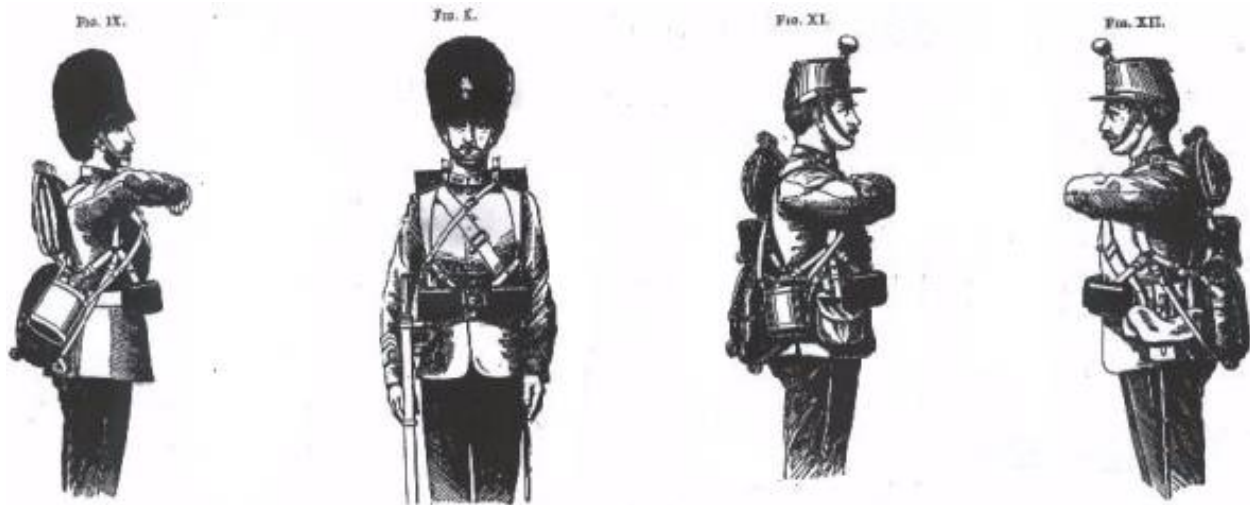
Front of a private 5ft.4in. in marching order, one pouch, water bottle, havresack, great coat, forage cap on the coat, valise



Back of a private 5ft.4in in marching order, one pouch, water bottle, havresack, greatcoat, forage cap between greatcoat straps and valise

8. On ordinary parades and fields days only one pouch should be carried, and that on the right side. (Fig VII)
9. On sentry when the valise is taken off the pouch may be slipped round to the back. (Fig I)
10. When the two pouches and the ammunition bag are worn, it is necessary that the braces should be worn to support the waist belt, as the weight of 60 or 70 rounds of ammunition is too great for the waist belt alone.
11. The back straps of braces are to be fastened to the buckles of the short strap from front brace ring under the arm, when the braces can be put on like a coat. The long straps on each front brace ring are then to be passed through the triangular loops on the waist belt and back to the buckle just below the brace ring. Fig II will show how this is done. It will be observed that the triangular brass loop can be pulled out farther at one end than the other, so as to give the proper obliquity for the strap. The ammunition bag, if required, is carried from the ring on the right side, the bag being brought up inside the waist belt as far as it will go to keep it steady.





Right side of private 5ft.4in in marching order, one pouch, havre-sack, greatcoat, forage cap between greatcoat straps and valise

Front of private 5ft.7in in marching order, two pouches, ammunition bag, havresack, water-bottle, greatcoat, forage cap, valise and canteen

Right side of private 5ft.6in in marching order with 70 rounds ammunition, two pouches ammunition bag, water-bottle, havresack greatcoat, forage cap on the coat, valise, greatcoat 16in by 7in

Left side of private 5ft.6in in marching order, order with 70 rounds ammunition, two pouches, ammunition bag, havresack, water-bottle, valise with cape under the flap, canteen on the valise, greatcoat, forage cap between the greatcoat straps, great-coat 16in by 7in

12. If it is wished to carry the great coat with the ammunition but without the valise, it can now be put on. Two upper and two lower loops (both concealed) will be seen on the brace straps behind; the coat straps should be passed through these loops from below, upwards, and the coat secured; a twist of the coat strap should be made in the loops on the brace straps to prevent the coat slipping down. The coat is very steady in this way, and balances well when there are 20 or more rounds in the front pouch or pouches. (Fig III) The best size for the coat is about 8 inches high by 16 inches in width; but for small men the most convenient size for the coat will be 7 inches high by 16 inches in width.

13. The valise should be carefully packed according to one of the methods hereafter described. The towel should be rolled tightly and placed along the inside at the top of the kit, so as to form a ridge, except when the canteen is to be worn.

#### A.

**The trousers** should be folded so that part is placed flat against the back of the valise, and part rests on the bottom of the valise.

**The boots** should be so arranged as to have one sole to the bottom, the other to the top, upper to upper, heels outward, placed at the bottom of valise.

**The shirt** should be rolled so as to fit across the valise on top of the boots.

**The holdall** should be rolled and placed on the top of the shirt.

**The socks** should be pocketed and placed to the left of the holdall.

**The brush** and pocket ledger should be placed on the right of the holdall. The towel to be rolled as in par 13 if the canteen is not worn, or placed flat next the cape if the canteen is to be worn.

**The cape** should be neatly folded about 16 inches in width and placed over the towel about one half down the back of the valise, and the other under the flap, so as to be just visible at each side.

#### B.

**The cape** should be neatly folded lengthways, then doubled and placed, one half down the back of the valise, the other under the flap.

**The trousers** should be folded in three, inside out, stripe down the centre, then tightly rolled lengthways, and placed at the bottom the valise.

**The socks** should be placed one on each side of the ends of the trousers, so as to lie along the sides of the valise.

**The boots** should then be put in, soles downwards, heels outwards, uppers not turned back, the toe of one boot being in the hollow



of the heel of the other.

**A brush** should be then placed between the sides of the valise and the uppers of a boot, the bristles being outwards.

**The holdall**, containing the usual articles, will be then placed on the top of the boots.

**The shirt** will be tightly rolled and placed on the top of the holdall. 20 rounds of **ammunition** may be placed in the pockets.

**The towel** to be placed flat, next the cape, or rolled as in par. 13 according to whether or not the canteen is worn.

**Other articles** may be placed in any vacant space. The valise should, when packed, have the sides and bottom well filled out with soft articles, so as to prevent its having a creased or drawn appearance when on the back. Four folds of the cape and the towel being next the back no disagreeable pressure is felt.

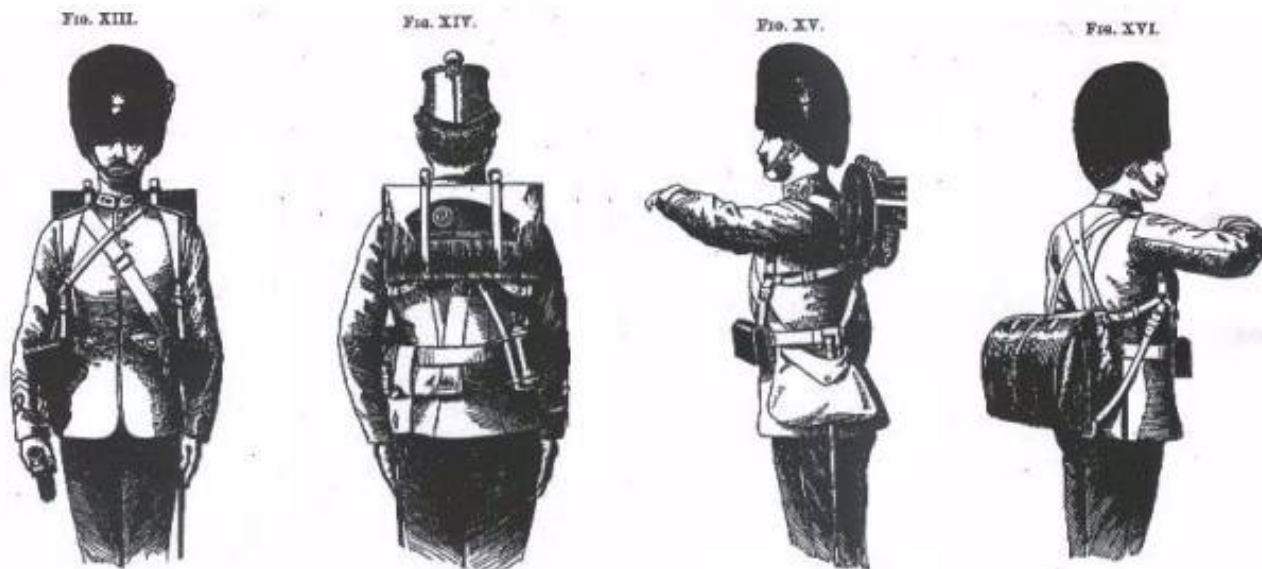


14. The articles should be packed in the valise in the order given above

15. The brace straps should now be fixed to the valise; the side buckles should be undone, and the brace straps passed through the bridge bar buckles at the back of the valise. It will be seen that the brace straps are pierced with holes immediately below the lower coat strap loop. For the smallest man (5ft 5in) the first hole below the loop is the most comfortable point to fix the bag to, for men of 5ft 7in to 5ft 9in the second hole; and for men of 5ft 10in or upwards, the 3rd or 4th hole; but every man should try two or three holes until he finds what is most comfortable. The strap, after taking the bridge bar buckle of valise should be rebuckled to the ring strap buckle, and then the straps for supporting valise secured to the bottom of the valise.

16. The equipment should then be put on like a coat, as seen in Fig IV, and secured to the waist belt; when on, it should sit like Fig V, which is about the most comfortable height. The side strap should not be too tight, else the ring will be pulled too far back; the ring should be well out from the arm; the bridge bar buckle of valise should be allowed to fall back about 1/4in from the back; this prevents rubbing of the tunic, and also permits a current of air between the bag and back. The rule about the side strap under the arm not being too tight is very important. The comfort of the man is the best test, and a comrade should alter the length of the side strap two or three times till perfect ease is obtained. In the same way the straps from the ring to the bottom of the valise should be fastened at different lengths until the proper support is found to be given to the valise. In no case should the ring be brought too far under the arm.

17. By taking a little trouble at first, a man will find exactly how tight the straps should be, and where the valise rests most easily. When properly carried scarcely any weight will be felt. When a soldier has once adjusted the valise to his satisfaction, and feels it quite comfortable, he will have no further difficulty.



A private 5ft 4in in Marching order; two Pouches, ammunition havresack, water bottle, valise, canteen, greatcoat; marching at ease with the waistbelt undone

Back of a private 5ft.7in without the valise or canteen; two pouches, ammunition bag, havre-sack rolled, waterbottle, greatcoat, forage cap on coat.

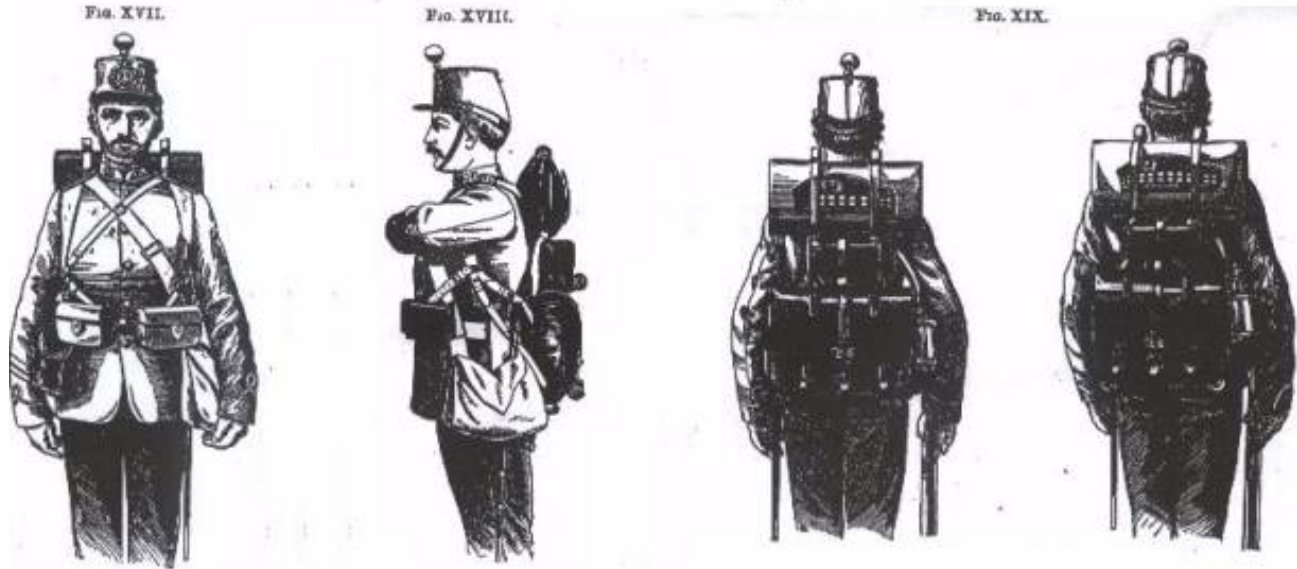
Left side of a private 5ft 7in without the valise; two pouches, havresack, ammunition bag, waterbottle, great-coat with canteen on the coat

Private in Marching ordered when the canteen is ordered bag, not to be worn.

18. The two buckles at the sides of the valise are only intended to be used for carrying small articles on the march.



19. In (Fig XI) the strap of the water bottle has been passed through one of these buckles, and the weight of the bottle is thereby borne partly by the braces and the bottle is kept out of the soldier's arm.



Front of a Private 5ft10in in marching order, 70 rounds of ammunition and 3 days rations, two pouches, ammunition bag, water bottle, havresack, great-coat, valise and canteen

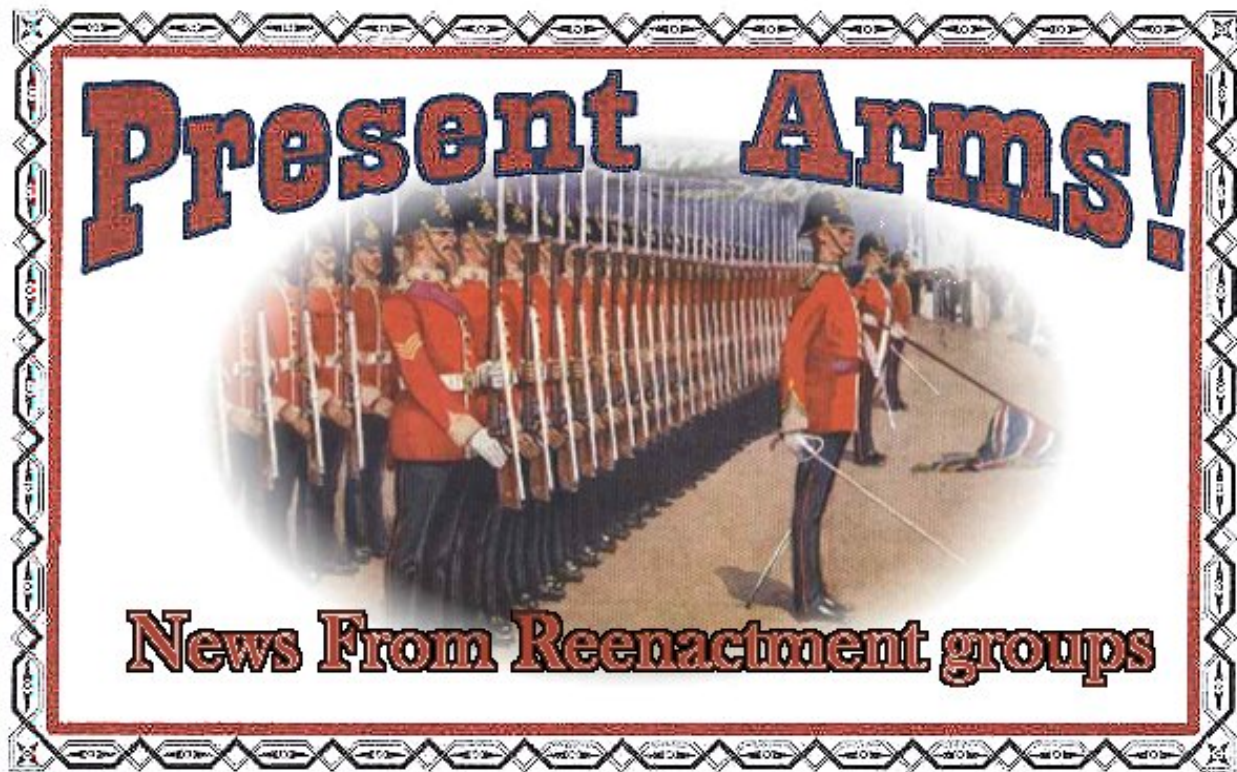
Left side of a Private 5ft10in in marching order, 70 rounds of ammunition and three days rations, two pouches, ammunition bag, water bottle, havresack, great coat, forage cap, valise, canteen and cover, great coat folded

Backs of two Privates 5ft6in and 5ft10in in marching order, with 70 rounds ammunition, two pouches, ammunition bag, water bottle, havresack, valise, canteen in cover, and greatcoat. Short man's coat 16in by 7in larger, 16in by 8in. Forage cap on great coat .

20. The canteen is only carried on the great coat when the valise is not worn and it is necessary to carry the canteen; it is usually carried on the valise.







## **The Fort Cumberland Guard**

**T**he Fort Cumberland Guard was formed in 1965 by the Fort Cumberland and Portsmouth Militaria Society who at that time were based in Fort Cumberland, a unique 19th. century artillery fortress on the Eastney Peninsula of Portsea Island, Portsmouth built to defend the entrance to Langstone Harbour.

The Guard was originally formed to present a colourful "living history" display for tourists, and at a time when this was not as well-known a concept as we now know it to be. Many, many societies have since been formed with similar aims and many re-create battles, but the Fort Cumberland Guard have remained true to their early ideals and still try to faithfully portray the life and work of a sea-soldier of the 1830 to 1860 period. The Guard moved to its present home and headquarters in the historic Southsea Castle in 1994, from where, in 1545, Henry VIII watched the sinking of his favourite ship the Mary Rose.

The Guard originally wore the uniforms and accoutrements of the Royal Marines of the 1830/40 period, which were chosen because the Royal Marines have a very close association with Portsmouth and in particular with Fort Cumberland.. Since 1992 the Guard has also worn the 1860 undress uniform to use as a "working rig" when at local forts like Fort Nelson, Fort Brockhurst, Nothe Fort in Weymouth, the Eastbourne Redoubt or when aboard HMS Warrior (1860) . The Fort Cumberland Guard Corps of Drums wear this uniform as their first choice , whilst the Infantry section prefer the more ornate 1830/40 uniform.

The Infantry tunics are cut to the double-breasted, tail-coated and high collared Prussian design that was adopted by the British Army after the battle of Waterloo, These are worn with the usual navy blue serge trousers with a single red stripe, or when in summer rig, with white duck trousers. Headgear is the bell-topped shako and the shako plate is a copy of the regulation pattern of the day, but with the Guard's own "City of Portsmouth" device surmounting the outline of Fort Cumberland.

Each man is equipped with a muzzle-loading percussion musket of British or Indian origin. Each musket is 4ft7in (1.5m) long and weighs 9lb (4kg) and with the 17in (0.5m) bayonet attached the total length of the weapon is increased to over 6ft. (2m) which was a great advantage in close quarter combat and for which there is a special drill known as "haymaking".

The Corps of Drums wear the later 1860 undress uniform with the later pattern shako. They provide martial music for the Guard

when on parade or on the march, and also provide musical entertainment for the visiting public during display days or weekends.

Many such displays are provided by the Fort Cumberland Guard during the summer season at Southsea Castle and at other venues as already mentioned above. During a typical display day there will be exhibitions of musket drill with blank charges being fired, cannon drill when the cannon is also fired with a blank charge, a conducted tour and informative talk on the artillery at Southsea Castle, and various other military ceremonies such as the "Ceremony of the Keys" which usually ends the day. As already mentioned the Corps of Drums also provide musical entertainment on these days.

The Fort Cumberland Guard are regularly invited to the many Trafalgar Night celebrations in the Portsmouth Naval community and provide a colourful and nostalgic link to the event being celebrated on that night. They also parade at various charity events during the year such as the Lord Mayor's Parade in Portsmouth and the Foresters' Christmas Charity Display at Port Solent.



**Come and join us !**

During the season, every Monday night is drill night when members practise drills, repair and replace items of equipment and generally have a relaxing couple of hours together in the friendly atmosphere of their own barrack room at Southsea Castle

At the Castle the Guard also have their own museum full of interesting artefacts and mementoes and several reconstructed dioramas. Well worth a visit!!

If you live in the general Portsmouth area, are over 18 (necessary for a firearms licence) and have an interest in military history, why not come along and join us! We can promise you a very interesting and rewarding hobby, and we are a very friendly bunch!

If you have any musical talents, the Corps of Drums may be the place for you, and we can take lads younger than the age of 18 required in the Infantry section.

**For more details contact our Hon.Secretary.**

**Mr.David K.Quinton, 49,Lichfield Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO3 6DD Tel. 01705. 754003**



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