

Gaiters or Spatterdashes

“Campaign Gaiters”

I have only found one written piece of information in Bouquet’s papers regarding the gaiters worn by the 60th other than the 1762 return indicating their weight. It is in a 1759 ledger account of expenses incurred by the 1st Battalion of the RAR.

“...For Osnaburg, Dowlas, and Tops for
Spatterdashes to the Battalion
And for making them.

242 Pounds 13 shillings and 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ Pence.

Although this information is sparse it does indicate that the 1st Battalion of the RAR wore leather topped Gaiters. They were made of natural Osnaburg Linen and most likely blacked with a blacking ball.

We have 2 contemporary illustrations that show this style of gaiters. The first is a painting by Edward Penny painted in 1765 of the Marquis of Granby giving money to a soldier somewhere in Europe.



Note the black Gaiters that come to just above the calf with tops that appear to be of leather rising to cover the knee in front.

The second image is attributed to Paul Sandby as it is done in his distinctive style, and is dated to 1753.



This one shows a very similar gaiter with the leather fronts rising above a white garter strap to provide protection to the knees.

“Dress Gaiters”

There are a multitude of images showing the long white gaiters worn on parade. They are shown on each of the grenadiers in the Morier sketches and in another painting attributed to

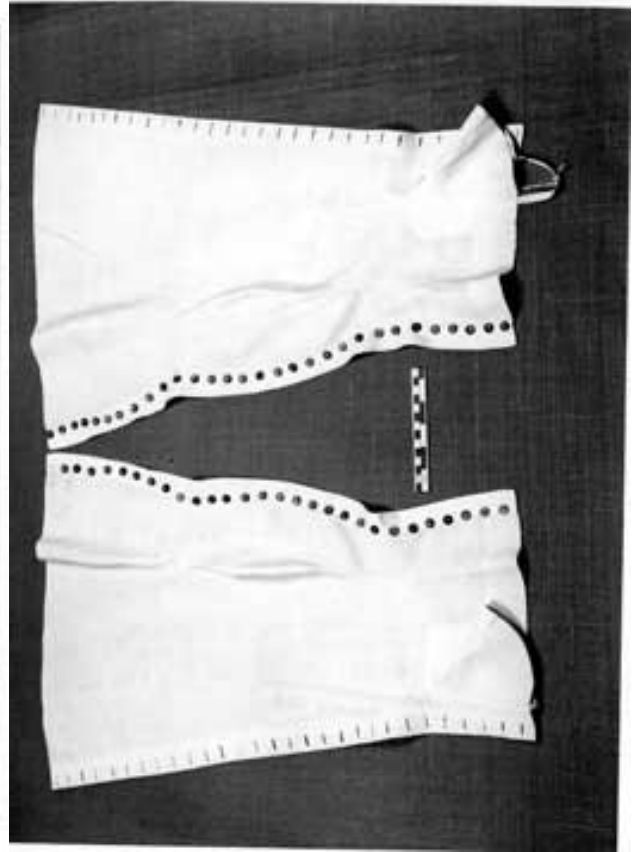
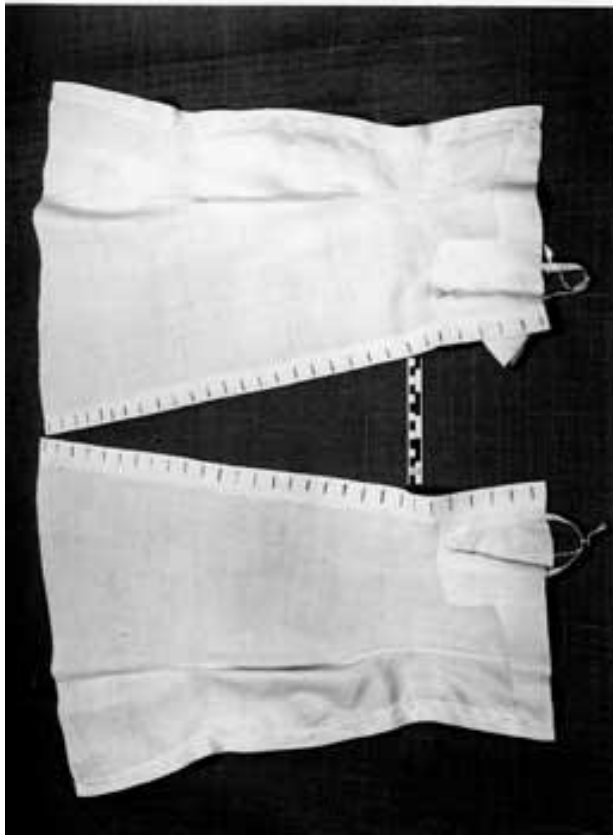
Sandby. This image has less detail than the Morier sketches and is dated to the 1760s but shows the style quite well. I will also attach a few of the Grenadier sketches for reference.



In these Morier sketches if you take time to count them you will find that the gaiters invariably have more than 30 buttons on each one, leading me to the conclusion that they are less than an inch apart. We will need to try for at least 30 buttons when reproducing these as most reenactors have a dozen or less which appear very sloppy when compared to the historical examples. It will also be paramount that we fit the gaiters very exactly to each man.



Of further interest are a few low resolution photos I was able to find of the only known extant pair of mid 18th century British Army Gaiters, those belonging to Captain Plumbe.



From what I have been able to find, these white gaiters would be the same sort of osnaburg linen painted white to waterproof them.