

BROWN'S RAID

BRITISH REGULAR GUIDELINES



By September 18, 1777 Fort Ticonderoga's British Garrison included the battalion companies of the 53rd Regiment of Foot, the Royal Artillery's 8th Company of the 3rd Battalion, and convalescent soldiers. These convalescent soldiers were recovering from wounds received in the July siege of Ticonderoga or during the Battle of Hubbardton, including many from the flank companies engaged there. The 62nd Regiment of Foot had initially garrisoned Ticonderoga, but replaced the sickly 53rd Regiment of Foot with Burgoyne. The 53rd Regiment spread across Ticonderoga, with four companies encamped east of the bridge over the LaChute River, where they were captured in the first hours of Brown's Raid. Captain William Borthwick commanded the his company of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Artillery during the July siege of Ticonderoga, remaining at Ticonderoga with his company to forward artillery stores along to General Burgoyne's army and to deal with captured American artillery and stores.

While British Soldiers, like the 53rd Regiment of Foot, were going into winter quarters in Canada in the fall of 1776, the American privateer Captain John Paul Jones captured the British merchant ship *Mellish*, which held much of the clothing for the British Army in Canada. The capture of the *Mellish* forced army-wide steps to extend the life of British soldiers' 1776 through the 1777 campaign season. A General Order from Major General Phillips which appears in multiple Orderly Books at the beginning of February 1777 stated:

"The Clothing for the several Regiments not being arriv'd, His Excellency the Commander in Chief allows the Commanding Officers of the Battalions to accommodate the present Clothing as shall be most convenient for the Men, and it is to be repaired so as to serve the Campaign until the new Clothing Arrives."

A subsequent order, noted in the Orderly Book of The Royal Regiment of Artillery in early March indicates further attempted at properly equipping the soldiers of the Army for the upcoming campaign:

"7th March, ...The Commissary to deliver to the Qr. Master to morrow at Eleven O'Clock, all the old Tents, which are to be cut up into Trowsers for the Men; the women of the three Companies, to be employ'd in making them."



The modifications to the clothing continue through April, again evidenced by Orders from the RA Orderly book this time dated April 3rd:

"... The taylor's are to receive four Shillings p^r. Suit for altering the Clothing, and Two Pence p^r. Pair for cutting the Mens Trowsers, each man is to have a pair of Breeches cut and made agreeable to the pattern of Serjeant Ramsey. The Mens Hatts to be cut into Caps after a pattern which will be given. A sufficient quantity of Horse Hair, to be bought and Dyed Reed for this purpose..."

While this order shows that the hair for the caps was likely most often procured by legitimate, legal methods, a diary kept by Ensign Thomas Anbury of the 24th Regiment illustrates a little less savory method that some soldiers would use to procure the hair for their caps:



"...The clothing for the army not being sent out last year, and as it will be too late to fit to the men when it arrives, the commanding officers of the different regiments have received orders to reduce the men's coat into jackets, and their hats into caps, as it will be the means of repairing their present clothing, and be more convenient for wood service, the when the army take the field, they will in a manner be all light infantry. The regiments have the hair that is affixed to their caps of different colours; ours is red, and as the purest white hair takes the best colour, several soldiers, ambitious to have theirs superior to the rest, occasioned a very ludicrous affray betwixt them and the inhabitants, in which the soldiers were worsted, and got a severe beating.

They went into a field, to the number of about twenty, and began to cut the hair from the bottom of the cows' tails: the owner, observing this, assembled his neighbours and fell upon the soldiers with sticks, when a scuffle ensued, and the soldiers returned home with broken heads.

Two that had been severely beaten made a complaint to the major of the regiment, who asked them if they had on their side-arms, when replying in the negative, he told them how glad he was they had gotten a beating; that they should always be worn, being the same to a soldier as a sword was to an officer."

A series of contemporary watercolors by Friedrich von Germann, a Hesse-Hanau captain which served along side the British army on Burgoyne's expedition, illustrates individual soldiers from all but one of the British regiments in Burgoyne's army, and shows these changes in excellent detail. The coats have all been cropped from their normal just above-the-knee length to a shorter jacket or coatee length, to use the excess materials to patch the body of the coat. The pocket flaps which were originally placed horizontally have been relocated in

a vertical position to give the appearance of Light Infantry. The cocked hats were remade into caps with hair crests dyed in a particular color for each individual regiment. Women and tailors replaced broadcloth breeches with breeches and gaiter-trousers made of hemp or linen canvas.

Coats:

Best: Hand finished, well fitted, madder red wool broad cloth regimental coatee with appropriate facings, buttons and regimental lace.

Acceptable: Similar madder red regimental coatee with minor visible machine stitching.

Discouraged: Un-modified coats conforming to the 1768 Warrant.

Unacceptable: Non-uniform coats.

Waistcoats:

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit, single breasted, skirted white or buff broadcloth waistcoats for Battalion Company soldiers or square cut sleeveless, waistcoats of red broadcloth for Light Infantry Soldiers. Both should have welted pockets, conforming to the 1768 Warrant.

Acceptable: Well-fit, similar waistcoats with minor visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: Upholstery fabric waistcoats, extremely long or baggy waistcoats, waistcoats of colors other than those conforming to the Kings Warrant of 1768.

Breeches and Trousers

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit breeches or gaiter-trousers of linen or hemp canvas. Breeches should button at the knee.

Acceptable: Well-fit similar breeches or gaiter-trousers with minor visible machine stitching.

Not Recommended: Woolen Breeches, Plaid Gaiter Trousers, Woolen Brown, Black or Blue Donation Cloth Gaiter Trousers, Leather Breeches (except for Mounted Officers)

Unacceptable: Kilts, Fringed trousers, baggy breeches, breeches of colors not conforming to the Kings Warrant of 1768





Shirts

Best: Hand-stitched white linen shirt, narrow band cuffs with thread Dorset buttons or made for sleeve buttons (cuff links).

Acceptable: Machine stitched white or checked linen shirts.

Unacceptable: Cotton calico or plaid shirts.

Neckwear

Best: Horsehair or Manchester Velvet military style neck stocks with brass clasps. or linen rollers, well-tied around the neck

Acceptable: Linen rollers & cravats.

Discouraged: Silk, linen, or cotton neckerchiefs (except officers); linen neck stocks.

Hats and Caps

Best: Hand-finished, round blocked, black wool or beaver felt, 1777 Style Canada Cap based upon Von Germann Watercolors.

Acceptable: oval blocked, black felt caps of the same.

Discouraged: Cocked or Round cut hats (excepting officers)

Unacceptable: White or brown wool felt hats, Slouch hats from unfinished blanks, straw hats, fur caps.

Leg wear

Best: Spatterdashes with breeches or just socks with gaiter-trousers.

Unacceptable: Tall military gaiters, Indian leggings, baggy spatterdashes.



Socks and Stockings

Best: White or grey wool yarn or worsted stockings or socks seamed with back seams.

Acceptable: White or grey stockings or socks of wool yarn, worsted, linen or cotton.

Unacceptable: Red, yellow, black, blue or polyester stockings.

Shoes

Best: Hand-finished, short or long quartered, round toe, shoes with black waxed calf uppers, fitted for buckles. Shoe boots, half-boots high-lows, of black waxed-calf.

Acceptable: Machine made, black leather, shoes with buckles or ties, high-lows.

Discouraged: Moccasins

Unacceptable: Modern Footwear, modern moccasins, civil war bootees, or riding boots (except for field officers).

Cartridge Pouches

Best: British 36 hole reversible block pouch based upon extant exemplar marked to The 62^d Regiment of Foot or 29-hole "Fanning" style cartridge pouch.

Acceptable: 18 Round Government Accoutrement set.

Unacceptable: New Model American pouches. New England Style Soft Cartridge Pouches. Powder Horns (other than proper light infantry horns with ball bags for Light Infantry companies). 36 round B.A.R. Suitcase pouch.



Arms

Best: 1756 Long Land Pattern or 1768 Pattern Short Land Pattern British Muskets.

Unacceptable: Older pattern British Ordnance muskets, Dutch, French, commercial or American made muskets. Virginia or Pennsylvania styled long rifles.

Side Arms

Best: Bayonet mounted in waist belt based upon extant buff leather waist belt from the 21st Regiment of Foot. Proper pattern hangers for NCO's and Swords for Officers hung from proper

belting.

Discouraged: Sheathed tomahawks, belt axes, carried in a belt.

Unacceptable: Horse pistols, naval pistols, unsheathed bayonets, tomahawks, or belt axes.

Knapsacks

Best: 1760s-1780s British Goatskin knapsack with buff shoulder straps and closure flap.

Discouraged: Painted or Goatskin knapsack based upon the extant "Isaac Royal House" knapsack.

Unacceptable: Benjamin Warner style Knapsacks, Tumplines, Snapsacks.

Haversack

Best: British Stamped GR osnaburg haversack.

Acceptable: Plain osnaburg haversack.

Canteens

Best: Kidney-shaped or half-moon tinned-iron British army canteen on a hemp cord.

Acceptable: Similar tinned-iron canteens.

Unacceptable: Anything Else



Blankets

Best: White Handwoven British Army Issue blanket with white or brown stripes and Government Stamp or Rose Blankets.

Acceptable: Plain white blankets.

Unacceptable: Civil War grey blankets, Hudson Bay "Point" Blankets.