



THE MILITIA

9th February 2012

Dear member of The Militia

Our living history camp is at the heart of everything we do.

It is where we tell the public our story and show them our toys, it is where we eat and sleep, and it is where we spend most of the weekend. The officers of Horse Guards are committed to the camp being an integral part of all our portrayals.

There is a slight problem though – Horse Guards are very good at shouting and making stuff go bang, but we're not so hot on social history and military catering! We need help.

With immediate effect, Horse Guards would like to formally establish a team of dedicated experts to take ownership of the living history camp*. We know there's a talented bunch of you who have already made great progress on getting the camp up and running – we want to recognise that and provide the tools and support to do the job.

We fully expect that the team will develop its own communications pretty quickly, but if you would like to be a part of this team please contact the Secretary in the first instance, just so we can put everyone in contact with each other (richard.brown1645@yahoo.co.uk - or - 01604 858844).

The attached document is a brief which Horse Guards require the living history camp team to operate within. It is designed to give the team as much freedom as possible, whilst ensuring that the team's activities support and complement Horse Guards' overall intention and direction for the society**.

The brief is intended to achieve two main things: 1) clearly define the historical portrayal we're going for; 2) put in place a slick catering and supplies operation, that everyone understands and can access and will work every time. NOTE: the living history camp team are absolutely not expected to do all the donkey work – we have bone idle soldiers to fetch and carry, put tents up, take tents down, wash up, clear away, peel veg, sweep up, hold stuff, shake stuff, stir stuff and to cut wood! Them's the rules.

The living history camp team's first objective is to get up and running, understand the brief and be ready for a trial run at Winterlager 2012 (March 31st, April 1st).

Horse Guards are here to help make the team a success, so please use us: ask us questions; bring us problems; bring us ideas; give us kit wish lists; moan at us (not too much!); tell us what you need; anything at all – if we can sort it, we will.

To embed the new team at the heart of The Militia, we would like to extend an open invitation for a member (or members) of the living history camp team to attend Horse Guards meetings. Better still – there will be Horse Guards vacancies at the 2012 AGM should anyone from the living history team wish to stand for election.

Finally, the "living history camp team" is a really pants name - once the team is formed, please can you come up with a better name for it!

Yours ever so gratefully,

HORSE GUARDS

*Defined as the non-military camp operations, such as the camp kitchen and any historic interpretation looking at social and domestic life. Military living history features, such as the QM stores and the surgeon, will remain with the military team – although nothing in the brief is intended to stop interaction of any kind between the teams – in fact it is positively encouraged.

**The Militia Articles will remain the over-riding set of rules and Horse Guards will remain the governing body - but the intention is that the camp team will have as much independence as they want, as long as the operation satisfactorily meets the requirements of the brief.

Landwehr Lager – Brief

Historic Interpretation

- Research and portray low status non-combatant/camp-follower/civilian/garrison roles and activities that support the Landwehr’s interpretive approach and are appropriate to the period of the Napoleonic Wars.
 - Where possible, enhance the portrayal by researching and implementing elements appropriate to Prussia and/or Silesia and/or the Prussian Army and/or the Landwehr.
- Research and replicate, as far as is practical, low-status/military food and beverage arrangements appropriate to Northern Europe that support the Landwehr’s interpretive approach and are appropriate to the period of the Napoleonic Wars.
 - Where possible, enhance the portrayal by researching and implementing elements appropriate to Prussia and/or Silesia and/or the Prussian Army and/or the Landwehr.
- Develop a broad understanding of society in Northern Europe during the period of the Napoleonic Wars, to inform and underpin the non-combatant portrayal (and, by interaction, the combatant portrayal).
 - Where possible, enhance the portrayal by researching and implementing elements appropriate to Prussia and/or Silesia.
- Ensure that all historic interpretation is conducted in accordance with The Militia Articles.

Logistics – plastic/pre-event planning

- Obtain event requirements/budget info from the appropriate HG before each event.
- Follow a standard pre-event planning process before every event.
 - A checklist to be followed for every event. Things to consider might include ...
 - team comms
 - an owner for each pre-event task
 - menus
 - budget
 - event-specific requirements
 - transport
 - back up plan
 - etc etc.

Logistics – authentic/at-event planning

- Obtain event programme/last minute event info from the appropriate HG at/before each event.
- Follow a standard at-event planning process at/before every event.
 - A checklist to be followed for every event. Things to consider might include ...
 - team comms
 - an owner for each at-event task
 - schedule activities to fit event programme
 - plan for topping up supplies mid-event
 - back up plan
 - set up, clear up, take down
 - etc etc.

18th Century Camp/Tavern – Brief

Historic Interpretation

- Research and portray low status non-combatant/camp-follower/civilian/garrison roles and activities that are appropriate to Britain during the period of the eighteenth century.
 - Where possible, enhance the portrayal by researching and implementing elements appropriate to the British Army and militia, the Royal Navy, Customs & Excise authorities, smugglers and assorted period criminal types.
- Research and replicate, as far as is practical, low-status/military food and beverage arrangements appropriate to Britain during the period of the eighteenth century.
 - Where possible, enhance the portrayal by researching and implementing elements appropriate to the British Army and militia, the Royal Navy, Customs & Excise authorities, smugglers and assorted period criminal types.
- Develop a broad understanding of British society during the period of the eighteenth century, to inform and underpin the non-combatant portrayal (and, by interaction, the combatant portrayal).
- Ensure that all historic interpretation is conducted in accordance with The Militia Articles.

Logistics – plastic/pre-event planning

- Obtain event requirements/budget info from the appropriate HG before each event.
- Follow a standard pre-event planning process before every event.
 - A checklist to be followed for every event. Things to consider might include ...
 - team comms
 - an owner for each pre-event task
 - menus
 - budget
 - event-specific requirements
 - transport
 - back up plan
 - etc etc.

Logistics – authentic/at-event planning

- Obtain event programme/last minute event info from the appropriate HG at/before each event.
- Follow a standard at-event planning process at/before every event.
 - A checklist to be followed for every event. Things to consider might include ...
 - team comms
 - an owner for each at-event task
 - schedule activities to fit event programme
 - plan for topping up supplies mid-event
 - back up plan
 - set up, clear up, take down
 - etc etc.