



THE MILITIA

Style Guide No. 1

Government Forces

In The Age Of Piracy

1689 - 1720

By our very own Andy 'Gok' Smith, that Most Renowned of Stylists, Master Of The King's Wardrobe and Trusted Costumier to the Royal Courts of Europe



How To Look Good ...In The Early 18th Century!

Hello all you sexy Militia you!

Want to know what's hot on the streets and what's positively simmering on the catwalks of 1689 - 1720?

Allow me to guide you through ~~the fleshpots of Portsmouth...~~ this season's must-have military styles. The following pages will show you what's hot and what's not!

You will notice that the standard Redcoat and Royal Navy sailor outfits are based soundly on our existing Foot Guards and Bluecoat kit.

With a tad of 'jiggery-pokery' we can give the basic period impression - simply by stitching up our Guards hats into tricorns, or, for the sailors, by slapping on a woolly mammoth...sorry, Monmouth hat.

With a tad more ingenuity (and a little more expense) you can greatly enhance your Redcoat or Royal Navy sailor look.

The photographs in this style guide have notes to help you achieve the desired look.

There are but two 'Style Guide' rulings:-

- 1) If you're armed with a pole-arm (i.e., pikemen without the option to go musket) you need to dress as a Royal Navy sailor in a Bluecoat.
- 2) If you're armed with a musket you need to dress as a Redcoat (If you have one. A Bluecoat is absolutely fine if you do not).

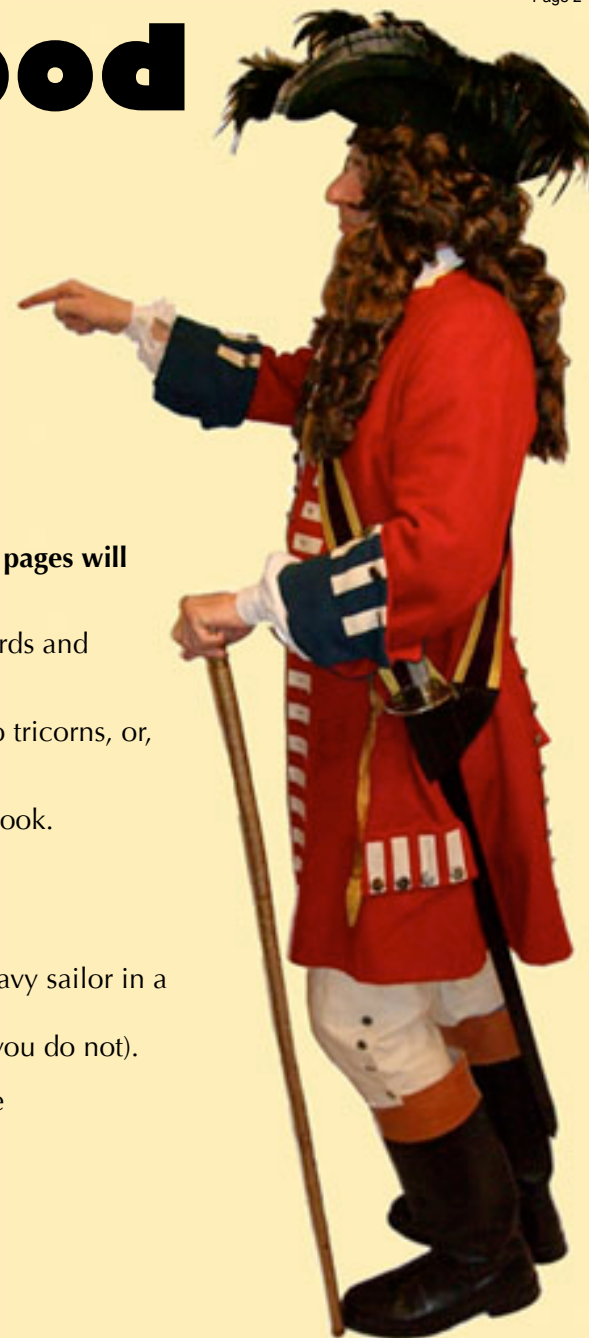
Have fun girlfriends and don't forget – NEVER match stripes with spots and Highland plaid doesn't suit the more 'well-nourished' Jacobite...stick to plain colours in a well-cut style.

Aiiiiiiii...Fashion!

Love from

*Andy "Gok" Smith
xxx*

If you have any queries about kit, just ask ... themilitia.1815@yahoo.com



REDCOAT - Standard Kit

This is the basic Redcoat outfit.

It is just like the 1685 First Foot Guards uniform except for the tricorn, the canvas haversack and the way the stock is worn.

It is easy to temporarily convert your First Foot Guards hat by stitching up the other two sides and wearing it back to front, so that there's a corner pointing forwards. (If you don't want to alter your Guards hat, The Militia have a limited supply of Militia issue tricorns for purchase).

Simple canvas or linen haversacks are easy to come by. In fact since they were banned by The Sealed Knot, many of you probably have one lurking at the bottom of your dressing up box!

The neck stock should be tucked in.

A flintlock musket is the preferred weapon for the Redcoats, but a matchlock musket is absolutely fine. If you are lucky enough to have the choice, bring the flinty!

So, the basic Redcoat uniform is:-

- Tricorn
- Redcoat
- Tucked in stock
- Short collar plain shirt
- Baldric or sword belt with tuck or hanger pattern sword
- Waist belt if no sword belt (buff/brown with plain buckle)
- Bandoliers and/or powder horn
- Haversack
- Blue breeches
- Blue hose
- Black soldiers' shoes

Please note:-

- All Redcoats are to be armed with muskets.
- All pole-arm personnel are asked to please dress as sailors.
- If at all possible, musketeers are asked to please dress as Redcoats (see page 4 if this is not possible).



SAILOR - Standard Kit



These are the basic Royal Navy sailor options.

It is simply the familiar Bluecoat uniform with one or two modifications – a large red or black neckerchief, a haversack, a waist belt and a suitable hat.

The Bluecoat is worn open, with the neckerchief and equipment worn on the outside.

The neckerchief is a one metre square of red or black cotton. It is folded diagonally, rolled up and tied loosely at the front.

Haversacks and waist belts are easy enough to acquire (see page 3 for more information on these).

The simplest hat options for sailors are the Monmouth cap and the tricorn (see page 3 for more on tricorns).

Further hat options are detailed on pages 6 & 7.

Hose should be woollen and knitted (rather than cut cloth).

Sailors can be armed with a pole-arm (boarding pike) or a musket. As with the Redcoats, swords should be of the simple tuck or hanger pattern and worn on a baldric.

So, the basic Royal Navy sailor uniform is:-

- Monmouth cap or tricorn
- Bluecoat worn open
- Short collar plain shirt
- Breeches with waist belt
- Neckerchief
- Haversack
- Baldric with tuck or hanger pattern sword
- Knitted woollen hose
- Soldiers' shoes (any colour)
- Bandoliers and/or powder horn (for musketeers)

REDCOAT - Enhanced Kit



This picture shows a selection of ways to enhance the basic Redcoat uniform.

1 - Cartridge box - Bandoliers are a little bit out of date for the period we are portraying.

A cartridge box is more authentic.

Buff leather is the preferred pattern for cartridge boxes, to match the rest of your leather work, but any plain Georgian era cartridge box will be acceptable. The one illustrated is actually a First Foot Guards grenade box.

For further cartridge box information see page 7.

2 - Bayonet - The simple addition of a bayonet to your waist belt adds another level of menace!

3 - Canteen - A tin or leather canteen will really enhance your personal kit and give the appearance of a soldier on campaign (particularly if that campaign is somewhere really hot ... like the West Indies).

4 - Sword belt - Bang up to date personal military equipment!

5 - Canvas gaiters - Over the knee white canvas gaiters were becoming one of the hallmarks of the British soldier during the period we are portraying.

6 - Put something in your haversack! They look pants with nothing in them. See page 9 for some pack stuffer suggestions. Or just put your lunch in it.

SAILOR - Enhanced Kit



This picture shows some ways to enhance the basic Sailor uniform.

1 – Proper sailor jacket – navy blue, lots of buttons, mariners' cuffs - a style of coat popular with sailors through time.

2 – Chequered shirt

3 – Sailors' trousers (often called 'slops') – short baggy trousers favoured by nautical types for the ease of movement they allow, often purchased from the ship's purser, or made by the sailor with material purchased from the purser. These can be obtained via The Militia.

4 – Naval pattern cutlass

5 – Cartridge box

6, 7 & 8 – Hats – Sailors were not constrained by uniform and hats in particular were often a matter of personal preference. 6 is a super-authentic short brimmed tricorne. For more information on hats see page 7.

RIGHT KIT

Here's a bit more detail on some of the basic kit requirements and enhancement ideas. If you have any queries about the right kit for the period, are struggling to meet the minimum kit standard, or if you wish to purchase items sourced by The Militia, just ask ... themilitia.1815@yahoo.com



1

Figure 1 – Plastic camping space is often difficult and expensive to come by. If you have an authentic tent, can borrow one, or have been thinking about getting one, then now might be the time!

Figure 2– This is a *thrummed cap*, a style of fluffy woollen hat that was worn by sailors for hundreds of years. These can be obtained via The Militia.

Figure 3 – Standard issue First Foot Guard hat with all three sides pinned up into a tricorn. Suitable for sailors and Redcoats.

Figure 4 – Militia issue tricorn. The Militia has a limited supply of these at a very reasonable price. Suitable for sailors and Redcoats.

Figure 5 – Monmouth cap. The standard woolly hat of the working man for centuries. Not suitable for the Redcoats.

Figure 6 – Straw tricorn. These can be picked up very cheaply from places such as Hobbycraft. Simply stitch the three sides up for a great tropical sailor look. Not suitable for the Redcoats.

Figure 7 – A range of cartridge box and bag options for sailors and Redcoats. The three across the top are purpose made cartridge boxes worn on a shoulder strap and positioned on the right hip. Bottom right is a normal leather bag, which, with the addition of a wooden insert to hold the cartridges will be fine. Bottom left is a *belly box*, worn on a waist belt.

Figure 8 – Soldiers' shoes. The preferred footwear for all sailors (any colour) and Redcoats (black). If you don't have any, beg, borrow, or steal some!

Figures 9 & 10 – Swords carried are to be simple tucks or hangers (9). Sailors may wish to upgrade to a swanky naval pattern cutlass (10).

Figure 11 – Over-the-knee white canvas gaiters or leggings. These will really finish off the Redcoat look and bring your outfit right up to date. Not suitable for sailors.



2



3



4



5



6



7



11



10

9



8

WRONG KIT

This page details *some* of the most likely *kit faux pas* and *historical misunderstandings*. If you would like further guidance on The Militia's approach to living history and kit standards please refer to The Militia Articles, or ask any member of the board, who will be happy to help.

REMEMBER – If you're in any doubt about the right kit, just ask ... themilitia.1815@yahoo.com



Figures 1 to 5 – These hats are all from the wrong period of history: montero; Scots bonnet; cow pat; morion (and back & breast); broad brimmed hat.



Figure 6 – The period we are portraying is just before powdered and queued hair and wigs became fashionable. Gentlemen of this period would have worn the long "peruke" style wig. Please note - common soldiers and sailors aren't gentlemen! Good Lord no! So no wigs please.



Figure 7 – Big collars and cuffs and fancy lace trimmings are soooooo last century. It's all short collars and discreet cuffs now. If you don't have a short collared shirt, please ensure that your big flappy collar is worn inside your coat.



Figures 8 & 9 – Buckets and startups were cool in the mid 17th century, when the army and navy were slightly more amateur affairs, but now we're all professionals uniformity is the order of the day. Soldiers' shoes please.



Figure 14 – Please avoid wearing modern ankle socks beneath your hose. Everybody except you can see the unmistakable outline of a modern sock and if your hose are particularly thin, they can even see the sporting logo!

Figure 15 – Don't forget to take your watch off. Watches at this time would have been of the pocket or fob variety. They were still quite rare and would probably only be owned by wealthy types.

Figure 10 – Nice sword Grandad! The rapier was already on its way out in the Civil Wars. Its long blade had been replaced by the more practical broadsword blade and the ornate hilt was just for show. By the period we are portraying Government forces were equipped with simple standard issue swords – tucks and hangers are *de rigueur!*

Figure 11 – No modern shoes. Of any sort.

Figure 12 – "This season, I am mostly wearing ... Dolce & Gabbana!" Keep an eye out for stray labels – common places to find them are on garden centre gauntlets, non-authentic woollen hats, modern belt buckles and modern ankle socks (see *Figure 14*).

Figure 13 – Please avoid tacky pirate themed accessories. You'll look a tw@t.

EXTRA KIT



What's the use in having a pack if you've got nothing to put in it?

This page shows just a selection of the period "pack stuffers" that are available. Almost everything shown is suitable for all periods The Militia are likely to portray – so, if you're going shopping, some of these will be handy for years.

1 – Personal kit – hard to believe, but people in the past did actually take care of themselves and their kit!

Along with washing and shaving gear, this picture shows other personal items including a "housewife", the green linen roll at the bottom. It contains basic equipment for sewing and cobblering.

2 - Sustenance and entertainment – A range of plates and drinking vessels. Tin, leather and wood would have been the most practical materials for sailors and marine soldiers – ceramics tended not to last long on board a rocking ship.

Smoking and chewing tobacco was popular, but fags were a ways off yet – snuff for the gentlemen!

Dice and cards and gambling – never far from a fighting man's hand!

Glass bottles were a relatively new thing in this period and would not have been that common.

3 – Writing gear – More and more people of the lower orders were becoming literate.

The basic writing kit of quill, penknife and ink did not change for hundreds of years until mass production brought reliable metal nibs.

4 – Miscellaneous stuff – Just like modern people, most folk would have all sorts of old crap in their bags and pockets!



SUGGESTED SUPPLIERS

The list below details suppliers of re-enactment kit for the period.

Members are advised to exercise caution in making purchases and to take advice from The Militia before buying anything outrageous! We really wouldn't want you to waste your money on the wrong kit – because we are mean and if it doesn't fit the period we will ask you not to wear it.

Remember: If you have any queries about anything contained in this Style Guide please feel free to contact any member of the board, or email us at ... themilitia.1815@yahoo.com

Clothing & Accoutrements

www.tinkerstailor.com
www.sj-seamstress.com
www.chimera-costumes.co.uk
www.hertsfabrics.co.uk
www.charlotterainecorsetry.co.uk
www.jas-townsend.com

Clothing & kit (UK)
Clothing (UK)
Clothing (UK)
Ali the fabric man (UK)
Corsetry and custom attire (UK)
Clothing & kit (USA)

Weapons & Living History Kit

www.re-enactmentshop.com
www.foxblade.co.uk
www.twojs.me.uk
www.westpointsutlers.org
www.henrykrank.com
www.armorclass.co.uk
richard.brown1645@yahoo.co.uk (email)
<http://gggodwin.com>
www.bradleycompanyofthefox.com
www.colonialmarket.com
www.thequartermastergeneral.com
www.flyingcanoetraders.com

Swords & kit (Netherlands)
Leatherwork (UK)
Leatherwork, weapons & kit (UK)
Guns & swords (UK)
Guns & swords (UK)
Swords (UK)
Leatherwork (UK)
Kit & clothing (USA)
Kit & clothing (USA)
Bags (USA)
Kit & clothing (USA)
Kit & clothing (USA)

Please be aware that purchases from US & Canadian suppliers will usually incur a customs charge.

