



THE MILITIA

ARTICLES

Being the rules of the historical, re-enactment and education society known as The Militia.

Prepared by order of
The Militia Founding Committee
(henceforth to be known as Horse Guards)
on this, the 25th day of September AD2009
(and as amended on the 23rd day of October AD2012).

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1 - DEFINITION & MISSION

1.1 - The Militia is an historical re-enactment and education society.

By carrying out recreations of the past, The Militia will provide an educational and entertaining insight into selected periods of history for the public, for schools/youth groups, for museums and for other education and heritage related organisations.

The Militia is a 'not for profit' organisation. Militia members perform for the public on a voluntary basis. Any payment for services made to The Militia is used to support The Militia through equipment maintenance, black powder supplies, transportation of equipment/stores, equipment replacement, group insurance and any other costs incurred in the running of The Militia.

1.2 - The Militia is an umbrella organisation encompassing 3 main areas of activity:

- a) a Napoleonic Prussian Landwehr unit*
- b) a generic 18th century redcoat militia unit (plus sailors)*
- c) an education capability.*

In addition, The Militia is intended to be flexible enough to provide portrayals of historical periods from the early 18th to mid 19th centuries (Queen Anne to Queen Victoria).

The Militia is, in essence, a vehicle that allows us to achieve 2 key aims:

- a) participation in the expected Waterloo re-enactment in 2015*
- b) participation in activities which fall outside of members' other re-enactment identities and which cannot be insured via those routes.*

The Militia's education capability serves two purposes:

- 1) a formal outlet for the educational intent that is at the core of all we do*
- 2) an income stream that will facilitate Militia activities.*

1.3 - Membership of The Militia allows participation in all of the above elements - the only criteria being that members meet the desired standards of kit and conduct applicable to each activity.

It is The Militia's aim to achieve high levels of quality in all of its activities. The Militia's standards are laid out in the Standards and Performance Policy.

1.4 - The Militia's intent can be summarised as follows:

Enjoy, Entertain, Educate, Excel

2 - RULES

The society rules (henceforth to be known as "The Militia Articles") are set down by the committee and are the rules and procedures of the society. No member unit may have any rules or policy that conflicts with The Militia Articles.

2.1 - THE MILITIA ARTICLES

2.1.1 - The society shall be called "The Militia" and this title shall be strictly adhered to at all times. The Militia shall be governed by a committee of elected officers (henceforth to be known as "Horse Guards").

2.1.2 - Horse Guards shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and three Ex-Officio Officers. All Horse Guards officers shall be fully paid up members.

2.1.3 - The quorum shall not be less than three. Horse Guards shall meet four times per year, furthermore the Secretary, at the request of any three Horse Guards Officers may call a Horse Guards meeting on fourteen days' notice. All Horse Guards Officers shall hold office for three years and be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

2.1.4 - The Treasurer shall pay all monies received by him on behalf of The Militia into a current account in the name of the society and all cheques drawn on such account shall be signed by the Treasurer and a Horse Guards Officer appointed by Horse Guards. In addition, the Treasurer shall keep complete and accurate records of all the financial accounts to be submitted to the society at its AGM, together with an audited balance sheet.

2.1.5 - The Annual General Meeting shall be held within 6 weeks of the end of The Militia's financial year (30th September). Any amendments to The Militia Articles will be presented at this meeting.

A summary of the financial performance and position of the society, as reviewed by an appropriate person shall be published to the members at the AGM. Notice of the AGM shall be given to all members no less than fourteen days before such a meeting. The notice shall contain the Agenda and no other business shall be transacted at the AGM (except with the Chairman's permission).

2.1.6 - The Chairman shall have the power to call a Special General Meeting on fourteen days' notice, stating the purpose of such a SGM.

The Secretary, on receipt of a written request signed by any six members, shall

forthwith call on fourteen days' notice an SGM.

Any such request shall set out the reasons why such a special meeting is to be called, and the notice convening the meeting shall state fully the business to be transacted there at. No other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.

2.1.7 – In the event of The Militia being wound-up and ceasing to exist, the assets thereof shall be realised and after payment of the society's just debts and expenses, the balance of the monies realised (if any) shall be distributed as the majority of the members present and voting at a General Meeting shall resolve.

2.1.8 – Horse Guards' ruling shall be final in all respects relating to the administration of the society. Horse Guards, from time to time, may make rules for the use and maintenance of the society's property.

2.1.9 – The decision of Horse Guards on any matter not specifically provided for in The Militia Articles shall be final.

2.1.10 – With the exception of elections, resolutions at all Horse Guards and General Meetings shall be decided by a show of hands. With the exception of elections, the Chairman shall have the casting vote. The means of deciding a tied election will be decided prior to any election taking place.

2.1.11 – All applications for membership shall be made in writing using the appropriate form. Membership shall be granted by a majority of Horse Guards Officers voting in favour of granting the application. Membership details will be recorded centrally.

2.1.12 – Every member shall be provided with a copy of The Militia Articles and shall be bound by the same and by any alterations thereof.

2.1.13 – It is the responsibility of every member to report any contravention of The Militia Articles to Horse Guards. The Militia shall hold no responsibility in respect of any accident or mishap that may arise out of the activity of members or visitors at any event.

2.1.14 – Joining fees and green fees will be set annually by Horse Guards prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Members under the age of sixteen shall not pay a joining fee.

Members aged sixteen and over shall pay "green fees" to attend an event. Members under the age of sixteen shall not pay green fees.

Details of the membership structure can be found at 3.6.

2.1.15 – There shall be no provision for temporary membership. Guests may be invited by Horse Guards under special circumstances. A levy may be applied.

2.1.16 – No person shall be allowed to participate in any Militia activities unless they are a fully subscribed member or unless they are an official guest of the society (i.e., approved by Horse Guards).

2.1.17 – All members must make themselves known to the Camp Commandant on arrival at an event and carry a current signed Militia membership card at all times during the event. Membership cards are not transferable and must be produced on demand by any Horse Guards Officer, police officer or any authorised person (which may include non-Militia event organisers, security personnel, landowners, sponsors, etc).

2.1.18 – All members using weapons of any type must be fully trained in their safe use, and shall hold such licences and certificates as are required by current legislation. No member shall be permitted to participate in combat re-enactment without first having met The Militia's own competency and safety standards, as defined by Horse Guards.

2.1.19 – Trustees shall be appointed, by Horse Guards, to hold and administer the society's property. All equipment so entrusted shall remain the property of The Militia at all times and is to be surrendered to Horse Guards on demand and within seven days.

2.1.20 – Horse Guards shall, on proof to its satisfaction, and in its absolute discretion, have the power to expel any member whomsoever, whose conduct (whether by act or omission), it considers to be contrary to the best interests of the society or detrimental to the good name of historical re-enactment and education.

The member concerned should be given the opportunity to appear before Horse Guards to explain any alleged misconduct (Court Martial).

A member may only be expelled by two thirds of the Horse Guards Officers in attendance voting in favour of the motion.

3 - POLICIES

3.1 - HEALTH & SAFETY

3.1.1 – All members must make themselves known to the Camp Commandant on arrival at an event and carry a current signed Militia membership card at all times during the event.

3.1.2 – Members under 16 years of age may take part in combat re-enactment only if the event organiser/host society rules allow it and then only at the discretion of Horse Guards.

3.1.3 – Members under 16 years of age may only attend events with a full adult member who is wholly responsible for their supervision, needs and care and who will be held fully accountable for their actions. At all times the adult member must know where and what a child is doing and the child must never be left with another adult without that adult's permission.

3.1.4 – The Militia will not take any responsibility for the actions of any member who has been advised on medical grounds not to participate in any form of activity undertaken by The Militia.

3.1.5 – All members using weapons of any type must be fully trained in their safe use, and shall hold such licences and certificates as are required by current legislation. No member shall be permitted to participate in combat re-enactment without first satisfying The Militia's own competency and safety standards, as defined by Horse Guards. Any member may be suspended from combat re-enactment, pending a competency and safety review.

Horse Guards will appoint a Master-At-Arms to oversee all aspects of combat training, proficiency and safety.

3.1.6 – Black powder will only be issued by approved powder officers to members who produce the correct documentation. No black powder will be issued to any member who cannot produce their licence at an event. No other members of The Militia may bring black powder to or store black powder at an event unless they have all relevant licenses and this has been previously agreed with the event powder officer.

At events where powder for the use of The Militia is issued by organisations other than The Militia, members are expected to adhere to that organisation's powder regulations. In cases where such an organisation's powder regulations give cause for concern, members must seek immediate advice from a Horse Guards Officer.

3.1.7 – A first-aider must be present at any combat re-enactment.

3.1.8 -Horse Guards may refuse any member's participation in any aspect of any event on Health and Safety grounds.

3.1.9 - Information including event attendance, health and safety, training and competency testing will be recorded centrally.

3.1.10 - At all times during an event, a Horse Guards Officer will hold the temporary post of Camp Commandant. The Camp Commandant will be responsible for matters of Health & Safety and for matters relating to the accommodation of The Militia and its members.

3.1.11 -The Camp Commandant, in consultation with Horse Guards, has the right to expel a member from an event if their behaviour warrants it.

3.1.12 - It is the role of the Camp Commandant to oversee the standards defined above. Members are expected to co-operate with any Health & Safety and accommodation related requests made by the Camp Commandant.

3.2 - STANDARDS & PERFORMANCE

It is The Militia's aim to achieve excellence in all activities and to build a reputation as a reliable, credible, high quality outfit. As such, members are expected to understand and reflect the very best in re-enactment practice.

Few problems are anticipated in this area, but for the avoidance of doubt The Militia's stance is outlined below.

3.2.1 - Anachronistic equipment, behaviour, interaction and products are the quickest and most assured way of undermining the credibility of a portrayal.

Anachronistic spoilers come in two forms - Crimes Against History and Period Errors.

3.2.1.1 - *Crimes Against History*

The Militia will not overlook, ignore, or otherwise tip toe around crimes against history.

Crimes against history are defined as acts or omissions, committed in front of the public, which undermine and belittle the huge amount of effort and commitment displayed by the vast majority.

They include, but are not limited to: ice cream; canned drinks; telephone use; camera use; cigarettes; fast food; mixing modern attire (e.g., trainers); mixing modern equipment (e.g., pushchair).

Members are encouraged to address such issues with their comrades.

3.2.1.2 - *Period Errors*

Period errors are defined as acts or omissions resulting from a member's: misinterpretation of guidance received; misunderstanding of period information; inadvertent oversight; incorrect assumption; misguided attempt at individuality; or disagreement with The Militia's standards.

They include, but are not limited to: modern ankle socks worn with hose; wristwatches; non-approved personal equipment; inappropriate interaction with social superiors; non-approved personal decoration (e.g., hat brooches); anachronistic historical attire (e.g., shoe buckles pre-Restoration; big collars post-Restoration); incorrect footwear; freestyle drill postures.

The Militia will address these errors in an open and honest way and members are expected to take any such criticism in the spirit in which

it is intended and take necessary steps to address any matters raised.

Members are encouraged to address such issues with their comrades.

Horse Guards will be glad to provide support and advice to any member wishing to enhance their portrayal.

3.2.2 – Kit standards will be published by Horse Guards from time to time and will take the form of “style guides”. Members are expected to adhere to the standards contained therein.

Where possible Horse Guards will provide a set of minimum standards designed to be as inclusive as possible within the acceptable historical parameters of the period and/or specific re-enactment event. Members should, however, aspire to the maximum standards.

In the event that a member disagrees, on historical grounds, with some element of The Militia’s defined kit standards, Horse Guards will explain the rationale behind the standard concerned. If the member remains unsatisfied they must present their contrary evidence to Horse Guards. Horse Guards will consider the evidence and make a decision accordingly. Members are expected to adhere to the defined standards while this process proceeds and to abide by the outcome.

3.2.3 – The historical periods portrayed are in the era after the establishment of standing armies. As such a high degree of uniformity is required, in attire, conduct and drill. Personal touches are not encouraged and members choosing to “bend” the defined standards in attire, conduct or drill should expect a request to conform to the unit’s standard practices (and they shall have the mark of “Deviant” branded into their forehead! Dammit!).

3.2.4 – Members wishing to develop individual characters, stage set piece cameos, or participate in front-of-house portrayals must first seek the approval of Horse Guards.

3.2.5 – Where an event involves a static living history display (e.g., a soldiers’ encampment or HQ) that is to be populated by The Militia, The Militia will take all possible steps to ensure the period integrity of the area.

3.2.6 – It is the role of Horse Guards to oversee the standards defined above. Members are expected to co-operate with any Standards & Performance requests made by Horse Guards Officers.

3.3 - EVENTS

3.3.1 - No member may commit The Militia to any event without Horse Guards' approval. Members identifying potential events must present the information to Horse Guards for consideration.

3.3.2 - The Militia will only attend events that are considered by Horse Guards to be sympathetic to The Militia Definition & Mission.

3.3.3 - If an event is approved, Horse Guards will appoint an events organiser to handle the booking arrangements.

3.3.4 - Before committing to a booking the event organiser must obtain the permission of the Chairman. Once a booking has been confirmed the event organiser must inform the Chairman.

3.3.5 - Event organisers must adhere to The Militia Articles in all dealings with sponsors and external organisations.

3.3.6 - Prior to an event the event organiser must raise a booking form detailing the event and any fee, this should be sent to the sponsor and a returned copy kept by the Treasurer.

3.3.7 - Following a fee paying event the event organiser must complete a standard Militia accounts form and return it to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will then invoice and collect payment from the sponsor. On receipt of payment the Treasurer will, if appropriate, issue expenses to Militia members.

3.3.8 - Where there is a date clash between a Militia event and a regimental event of Prince Rupert's Blewcoats of the Sealed Knot (including The First Foote Guards), Horse Guards will make an attendance decision in the best interests of all, and communicate that decision to all parties at the earliest opportunity.

3.4 - FINANCE

3.4.1 - A summary of the financial performance and position of the society, as reviewed by an appropriate person shall be published to the members at the AGM.

3.4.2 - In the event of The Militia being wound-up and ceasing to exist, the assets thereof shall be realised and after payment of The Militia's just debts and expenses, the balance of the monies realised (if any) shall be distributed as the majority of the members present and voting at a General Meeting shall resolve.

3.4.3 - The Treasurer shall pay all monies received by him on behalf of the society into a current account in the name of The Militia and all cheques drawn on such account shall be signed by the Treasurer and a member of Horse Guards appointed by Horse Guards. In addition, the Treasurer shall keep complete and accurate records of all the financial accounts to be submitted to The Militia, at its AGM together with an audited balance sheet.

3.4.4 - Proceeds from a fee-paying event shall be used to meet/offset any expenses incurred by members fulfilling the needs of that specific event. Any remainder will be added to the central funds of The Militia.

3.4.5 - Group assets (fire irons, tentage, events equipment etc), will be owned by The Militia at all times. All historical assets purchased will be appropriate to the time period portrayed by the Landwehr unit, but available for use by all units.

3.4.6 - No member of The Militia may commit funds to any purchase without the prior approval of the Treasurer. In giving approval, the Treasurer will specify a maximum expenditure and may provide procurement advice.

3.4.7 - Only member expenses agreed in accordance with Article 3.4.6 will be reimbursed, and then only on provision by the member of a completed claim form and a receipt for the purchase. Only receipted amounts up to the agreed maximum expenditure will be reimbursed.

3.5 - DISCIPLINE

3.5.1 - In rare cases, contravention of the law, or of The Militia Articles, may require resolution by disciplinary means.

The following section outlines possible disciplinary steps in ascending order of severity. All such cases will be assessed and the appropriate step, or combination of steps, taken.

- 1) A quiet word with the member concerned, from any other member. (Example offences - unsafe practice).
- 2) Unofficial Warning. Delivered by a Horse Guards Officer. Not recorded centrally. (Example offence - continued unsafe practice).
- 3) Official Warning. Recorded centrally. (Example offence - wilful continued unsafe practice).
- 4) Final Official Warning. Recorded centrally. (Example offences - extreme unsafe practice; refusal to comply with Official Warning).
- 5) Request to leave the public area of the event pending an on-site meeting of all parties to resolve the problem. The member has the right to appeal any decisions arising from the meeting. Both sides have the right to request a formal Court Martial. Recorded centrally. (Example offences - violence; inappropriate behaviour).
- 6) Request to leave the event site pending a formal Court Martial at a later date. The member has the right to appeal any decisions arising from the Court Martial. Recorded centrally. (Example offences - violence; refusal to comply with Health & Safety request; continued inappropriate behaviour).
- 7) Expulsion as a result of 5. The member has the right to appeal any such decision. Recorded centrally.
- 8) Immediate expulsion from The Militia (and event if applicable). As a result of an emergency meeting of Horse Guards. The member has no right of appeal. Recorded centrally. (Example offence - criminal acts).

3.6 – MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

3.6.1 - Membership of The Militia requires payment of an *annual membership fee* of £10 at the beginning of the year.

3.6.2 - The *annual membership fee* for Horse Guards Officers will be £20.

3.6.3 - All members who wish to attend an event with The Militia are required to pay a *pay-to-play fee* of £2.50 on arrival at the event.

3.6.4 - The *annual membership fees* and *pay-to-play fee* will be reviewed annually and any changes will be communicated to members at or before the AGM.

3.6.5 - Members attending an event with The Militia will be required to pay *green fees* on arrival at the event. Green fees are used to finance refreshments etc for the group. They are not part of the membership payment.

3.6.6 – With effect from the 2013 AGM, membership of The Militia’s Napoleonic unit(s) will require members to join the Napoleonic Association.

3.7 - MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

3.7.1 - Members are eligible for election to Horse Guards if they have been a member for the two years immediately preceding the AGM at which they intend to stand.

3.7.2 - Members wishing to be elected to Horse Guards must be nominated by another member (a sponsor).

3.7.3 - Sponsors are required to have been a member for the two years immediately preceding the AGM at which their nominee intends to stand.

3.7.4 - Nominations must be submitted to the Secretary no less than seven days prior to the AGM.

3.7.5 - Election will be by secret ballot at the AGM.

3.8 – COMMAND STRUCTURE

3.8.1 - There is no such thing as a permanently held rank in any of the units under The Militia umbrella. Nor is there a “time served” progression in seniority.

3.8.2 - A distinction should be drawn between roles with military authority (e.g., musket block command) and interpretive roles with no such authority (e.g., a figurehead officer). Both types of role may be combined in one person, but a nominally senior interpretive role does not bring with it any military authority unless specifically stated.

For the purposes of this policy, roles with military authority are termed Field Appointments and interpretive roles are termed Interpretive Appointments.

3.8.3 - Interpretive Appointments are all short term and subject to review at any time.

3.8.4 - Field Appointments are always made for a specified duration. They are of two types – Long Term Field Appointments (i.e., more than one event, a whole season for example) or Short Term Field Appointments (i.e., one event or less, a single battle for example).

3.8.5 - Field Appointments are specific to a unit.

3.8.6 - Where there are multiple Field Appointments in a single unit, each will assume the relative level of military authority denoted by their rank title (e.g., Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, etc).

3.8.7 - In military matters Field Appointments will have authority over any Interpretive Appointment nominally senior to them.

Military matters are defined as those pertaining to: the safe management of combatants on and off the field; strategic and tactical decisions on the field; the manoeuvring and deployment of combatants on the field; the drill and training of troops; military liaison with allies (and enemies).

Nothing in this definition is intended to prevent a Field Appointment seeking input and advice from others, or have a more historically appropriate Interpretive Appointment relay certain orders.

SELECTION FOR FIELD APPOINTMENTS

3.8.8 - Short Term Field Appointments are open to all members meeting the basic kit requirements for the unit in question.

3.8.9 - With effect from the 2012 AGM, selection of Long Term Field Appointments will be by election at the AGM.

3.8.10 - Members will be eligible for election to a Long Term Field Appointment if they have been a member of the unit in question for the two years immediately preceding the AGM at which they intend to stand (subject to the following criteria).

3.8.11 - Members wishing to be elected to a Long Term Field Appointment must be nominated by another member (a sponsor).

3.8.12 - Sponsors will be required to have been a member of the unit in question for the two years immediately preceding the AGM at which their nominee intends to stand.

3.8.13 - Nominations for Long Term Field Appointments must be submitted to the Secretary no less than seven days prior to the AGM.

3.8.14 - Election will be by secret ballot at the AGM.

The result will be subject to ratification by Horse Guards (ratification may be granted, withheld, or granted with conditions - e.g., that a probationary period is applied to the appointment).

3.8.15 - Long Term Field Appointments will normally only be available in The Militia's Napoleonic unit.

3.8.16 - Short Term Field Appointments will be available in all of The Militia's units.

3.8.17 - Short Term Field Appointments in The Militia's Napoleonic unit will be made by the member holding the Long Term Field Appointment in the unit in question (subject to any conditions attached to their appointment). The appointment will be made from among members who have expressed a wish to "act up".

Where there are more than one Long Term Field Appointments in a unit, selection will be by consensus.

3.8.18 - Short Term Field Appointments in The Militia's non-Napoleonic unit will be made by Horse Guards. The appointment will be made from among members who have expressed a wish to "act up".

3.8.19 - The Militia's non-Napoleonic unit provides members with the opportunity to gain command experience. Members seeking election to a

Long Term Field Appointment are required to have demonstrated a satisfactory level of command competence in this unit before nomination.

SELECTION FOR INTERPRETIVE APPOINTMENTS

3.8.20 - There is no selection process for Interpretive Appointments. They need only meet with the rules laid out in section 3.2 of The Militia Articles.