MILITARY ILLUSTRATED PAST & PRESENT

No.38 JULY 1991 £2.50

IRAQI REPUBLICAN GUARD UNIFORMS

CANADIAN UNIFORMS 1808-1816

CAPE MOUNTED RIFLEMEN, 1827-70

JACOBITE ARMY AT CULLODEN, 1746

N.W. FRONTIER, 1919

TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO

ISSN 0268-8328

His Majesty's Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry, 1803~16 (2)

ROBERT HENDERSON

The first part of this article described the complex development and active service of the Canadian Fencible Regiment. Their struggle to achieve the uniforms and arrangements of a regular corps is further detailed in this section. Also discussed are the differences between Regulars in Canada and those serving on the Peninsula or at home. The harsh climate, the access to Commissariat stores, and the distance between regiments and their agents in England all affected the Regular's appearance in North America.

Although the Canadian Regiment was intended from the start to have its 'pay, clothing, arms, and accoutrements on the same footing with line Regiments'[1], events dictated otherwise. Only after its embodiment following the Chesapeake Affair did the regiment receive a regular clothing issue from its agent in England.

With his recruits nearly naked, Lt. Col. David Shank ordered in the spring of 1806 that the Regiment be clothed in the uniforms of the late Queen's Rangers. In his correspondence with Colonel Thomas Peter, Shank described the Queen's Ranger clothing on hand as consisting of 200 'suits'[2]. What each suit included can only be speculated upon.

Normally, when a regiment was disbanded the men were entitled to take away with

Continued on page 30

Colour photographs overleaf:

(A) *Reconstruction: private of a battalion company in summer dress, 1812. (Photo: Janice Lang)*

(B) *Reconstruction: detail of private's equipment, 1812. He carries a 36-round reversible-block pouch reconstructed after an original in the Canadian War Museum; the wooden block takes 18 cartridges top and bottom. The leather pouch was made with a slight flare to permit easy reversal of the block to bring the bottom cartridges to the top. Note the branded Board of Ordnance mark on the canteen, after an original in the Canadian War Museum. (Photo: Janice Lang)*

(C) *Reconstruction: drummer, summer 1812; in this example the coat has ordinary private's lace due to the difficulty of obtaining the complex drummer's pattern. Note brass fife case; these were usually regimentally marked. (Photo: Janice Lang)*

(D) *Drum of the Nova Scotia Fencibles, made of brass, with the colony's coat of arms painted on a yellow background; yellow hoops have red edge-stripes and a central blue worm. Canadian Fencibles' drums would probably have been similar but bearing the Royal Arms — the Canadas had no coat of arms at this date. (Canadian War Museum)*

(E) *Reconstruction: lieutenant of a battalion company, as he might appear in full dress uniform in 1814. (Photo: Janice Lang)*

Front cover of this issue:
Canadian Fencibles private with snowshoes. The difficulty of marching in snow was provided for: in Maj. Gen. Louis de Watteville's proposed attack on an American winter camp at the end of 1813 he ordered that the troops should not be encumbered with packs, carrying only canteens and haversacks. The Light company of the Canadian Fencibles would have formed the advance guard, and were issued snowshoes. General, District and Garrison Orders also reveal the issue of ice-creepers, moccasins, fur caps and mittens, gloves, extra socks, flannel shirts and drawers to Regulars in wintertime. (Photo: Janice Lang)

Belt plates of the Canadian Fencible Regiment. The prominence of the central thistle on the officer's example — an original in a private collection — underlines the influence of the Regiment's Scottish roots. The private's plate, with a plain rim, and thistles flanking the crown, is a reconstruction copied from an original in the collection of the New York Historical Society. It was common practice for drummers' plates to bear a drum motif; an original 41st Regt. drummer's plate has the crown replaced by a drum. (Janice Lang)

A

C

B

E
B
D
NOVA·SCOTIA·FENCIBLES.

them that year's clothing or the equivalent in pay. When the Rangers were disbanded in 1802 many men were compensated for missing that year's regimental necessaries. It is quite conceivable that the missing clothing arrived in the Canadas during the following year's shipping season and was placed into stores. If this was the case Shank would have had access to the complete regimental uniform of the Queen's Rangers.

Items expected from the agent of the Queen's Rangers in England included caps, regimental coats, and pantaloons. These articles were claimed for by former Queen's Rangers in 1802 and probably constituted the bulk of Shank's issue to his men. The Queen's Ranger coat was made of dark green wool faced with black. Though resembling some experimental rifle corps of the time in colour and cut, the coat was laced in the fashion of a line regiment. Containing no worm, the lace was arranged in single, 'double-headed' or square-ended loops[3]. Like the coat, the pantaloons were also made of green cloth[4]. Hamilton Smith illustrates the Queen's Rangers wearing a tall cap, the style and make of which is uncertain. These green uniforms were replaced by red ones after the Regiment's strength was officially recog-

Top:
(Left to right) Coat, breast and gaiter buttons used by the recreated regiment, copied from originals in the Canadian Parks Service collection. No regimentally marked gaiter buttons of the Canadian Fencibles have been found. (Photo: Janice Lang)

Bottom:
Detail of Grenadiers from Coldstream, 1st and 3rd Foot Guards: Hamilton Smith, 1812. The cap was 12in. high, of black bearskin on an internal frame. The back had a slight taper reminiscent of such caps during the American Revolution. The brass plate probably displayed the Royal Arms; at the base of the rear was a small brass flaming grenade badge, or a drum on the caps of Grenadier drummers and fifers. Cords and tuft were white. The Grenadiers and drummers of the Canadian Fencibles received such caps at the end of 1810. (National Army Museum)

nized on the army establishment in 1808.

When embodiment came it did not solve all the uniform problems of the Regiment. Neither the Regiment's field officers nor Greenwood, Cox & Co. (the regimental agents) could predict the Canadian Fencibles' rapid growth. Between January 1808 and January 1809 the Regiment's strength grew from 265 to 421 men. An additional 26% increase was experienced in the following year. By 1812 the Regiment levelled off at a strength of just under 700.

As a result of this rapid growth, equipment and clothing shortages plagued the Canadian Fencibles from 1808 to 1811. In November 1808 the return of arms for the Regiment showed, along with other items, the need for 269 firelocks and bayonets, and the lack of both drums and pikes. The adverse effect of the doubling in strength was evident to Maj. Gen. Isaac Brock in August 1809. When they marched into Quebec City that month Brock noted the Regiment's 'deplorable condition... untaught, without clothing, or necessaries.'[5]

The next year saw the implementation of a vigorous programme to improve the Regiment's condition. Shank was deemed unfit to proceed with the Canadian Fencibles' development and was assigned to other duties. Major George Robertson of the Canadian Fencibles, 'a steady, intelligent, and active officer... much more calculated to the task'[6] was promoted to lieutenant-colonel. By the end of 1810, Inspection returns show the Regiment almost complete in clothing, arms, and accoutrements.

1810-1811

All men possessed a cap, regimental red coat, waistcoat, white woollen breeches and tall black wool gaiters, and a pair of shoes. In addition, each sergeant received a pike, a sword and belt, a sash, and a book of instruction. Drummers were issued hangers with belts and drum carriages, but were left wanting both drums and bugles; these items were supplied in 1811. As for the rank and file, each was given a musket and bayonet, a 36-round reversible-block cartridge pouch, a bayonet scabbard, and a set of pouch and bayonet crossbelts. Each of the ten pioneers possessed an axe, saw, and apron. After much petitioning the members of the Grenadier Company received their regulation bearskin caps.

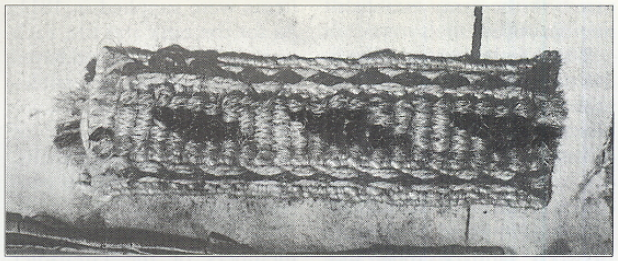
Echoing earlier supply problems, the Canadian Fencibles suffered the loss of their 1810 issue of 353 greatcoats. The loss at sea of these greatcoats left most of the Regiment to patch their two-year-old greatcoats and another 120 men devoid of any at all. The lack of adequate clothing for the winter of 1810-11 was hard on the Regiment. Those months coincided with the highest winter sick rate in the history of the Canadian Fencibles — even higher than the winter of 1812-13, when a 'spotted pox' epidemic hit Upper and Lower Canada. To solve this shortage the Military Secretary, Lord Palmerston, ordered Maj. Gen. Francis Baron de Rottenburg to have the greatcoats made in the Canadas. After considerable effort by De Rottenburg the Regiment received greatcoats, in three of the regulation sizes, at the end of the same winter[7].

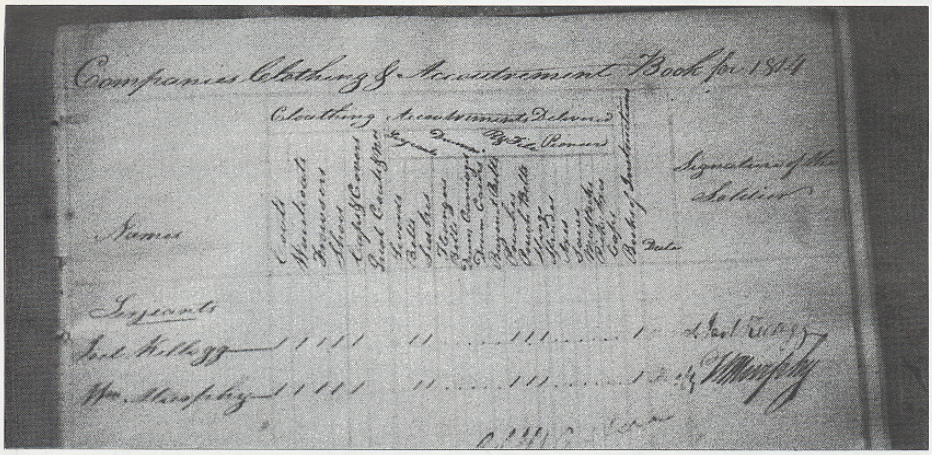
Although fully equipped, the Canadian Regiment lacked a stand of Colours. This oversight was rectified on 3 June 1811 in Quebec City, when the Regiment was presented with its first set of Colours. In his consecration address the Reverend Jacob Mountain described the Colours as a 'high and hallowed trust... a trust never to be betrayed by disobedience or disaffection, nor disgraced by a disorderly or a dastardly conduct'[8]. With the King's and Regimental Colours in hand, His Majesty's Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry was finally complete.

UNIFORMS IN 1812

By the outbreak of war in 1812 each private in the Canadian Fencibles had been issued with a regimental coat made of woollen cloth coloured madder red. The coat's collar, cuffs, and shoulder straps were faced with 'yellow' (not 'lemon' nor 'deep' yellow). The private's lace contained two evenly-spaced black lines and was arranged by twos in square-ended loops. The coat typically possessed two different sizes of buttons. Twelve smaller buttons were placed

Reconstruction: Canadian Fencible officer and sergeant defending the Reigmental Colour. The General Order of 6 July 1813 creating the rank of colour sergeant stipulated that Fencible regiments in America were not eligible, and regimental records support this. Note the 1812 shako, which probably did not reach the Regiment until 1814. (Photo: Janice Lang)





to fasten the front of the coat and the shoulder straps. Larger non-functional buttons were mounted by fours on the cuffs and pockets, along with two on the outer seams of the back panels, flanking the lace triangle in the centre.

As with most British infantry regiments, the sergeant's coat was made of scarlet red fine melton and decorated with plain white worsted wool lace. The sergeant's rank badge of three chevrons was of white lace mounted on a single piece of yellow wool. For corporals the chevrons were made from private's lace. The quartermaster sergeant and the sergeant major, whose coats were of an officer's cut, had gold lace on their rank badges. (Oddly enough, the Regiment was to have no colour sergeants).

In contrast to the private's uniform, the drummer's coat was made of yellow and faced with red. A total of 27 yards of lace decorated each coat. The lace itself was edged by thin black stripes. It had a tufted centre of red and white diagonal stripes flanked by two narrow yellow lines. This lace, $^1/_2$in. wide, was mounted all over the coat. The drummer's wings were probably edged with woollen tufts of red and white. Although no original drum has survived, they were probably made of brass and had the royal coat of arms with a yellow background painted on them.

Top left and right:
Original samples of private's and (right) drummer's lace of the Canadian Fencibles, from the Pearse Records Book. Notations accompanying the private's sample call for 12 yards of looped lace per coat, arranged '10 by 2 Double-headed'; the pattern has two black stripes. The drummer's 27 yards of lace were noted as arranged on 'Seams...6 Darts up...no Body lace' in addition to the '10 by 2 Double-headed' placement on the front. It is also noted that the drummer's coat had only ten large coat buttons, which left either the pockets or the cuffs without buttons or lace. The entry also called for a 'worsted mixed fringe' presumably a red and white tufting for the shoulder wings. The drummer's pattern lace has a red and white repeat diagonal between two yellow lines, and the black edge-stripes seem to be in a thick/thin weave. (Canadian War Museum)

Centre:
Detail from the clothing and accoutrement book of Capt. Hall's company for 1814. Note the very complete list of items across the top of the page. Not visible here is an entry for one pioneer in this company; he was issued one felling axe, one saw, one mattock, one bill-hook with case and girdle, and an apron, and was thus encumbered with more equipment than regulations demanded. Each sergeant in this company seems to have been issued a sash, sword and belt, pouch and belt, and musket sling. A regimental court of enquiry of June 1814 also recorded sergeants with pikes. Nevertheless, while in theory only Light company sergeants were supposed to have muskets and crossbelts, this document shows that battalion company sergeants in this Regiment also received them. (National Archives of Canada)

Bottom:
Companies' greatcoats and blankets were numbered and issued against signature: here, part of the records of Capt. Hall's battalion company of the Canadian Fencibles. (National Archives of Canada)

Sergeant (right) and private, winter dress, 1812-13: reconstructions. There were four qualities of greatcoat provided by British clothiers. The highest quality was issued to regular regiments, and was marked 'S', arrow over 'T', 'G'. The grey coats came in four sizes; sealed patterns for three of them were shipped with each greatcoat issue; the fourth, most likely the largest, was issued one for every 30 coats. Size markings (Nos.1,2,3,4) and the quality indicator were marked inside the lower part of the coat. Sergeants' coats were shipped without collars or cuffs, allowing these to be added in regimental facing colour (yellow in this case) by unit tailors. Sergeants' and corporals' chevrons could be added to the right sleeves. Each coat had 24 large regimental buttons: two on shoulder straps under the cape, eight pairs down the front, and three on each pocket. Coats destined for Canada were fully lined, and had a life expectancy of two years. When they were issued to companies each was individually numbered and its issue recorded. (Photo: Janice Lang)

HEADGEAR

The cap worn by most of the Regiment at the opening of the war was the stove-pipe shako, the exception to this being the grenadiers and their four drummers, who wore bearskin caps with white plumes and cords. Introduced in 1801, the leather stove-pipe shako was replaced with one made of lacquered felt in 1806. The shako itself was expected to last a year while its plate, lacquered rosette and regimental button, and wool tuft had a two-year life expectancy.

The Horse Guards circular letter of 18 March 1812 called for the replacement of the stove-pipe shako with one of superior quality. Commonly referred to as the Belgic shako, the new cap's innovative features included the adoption of a cover made of prepared linen which prolonged the hat's use to two years. The new cap's introduction, however, did not affect regulars stationed in the Canadas until their 1814 clothing issue. Regulations stated that regimental clothing destined for Canada had to be finished by February to be examined by the Inspectors of Army Clothing[9]. This allowed the clothing to be shipped in time for its issue on 25 December. When the new cap was approved the Canadian Fencibles' 1813 clothing issue had probably already set sail for North America. Regiments arriving in the Canadas in 1813 from the West Indies and Great Britain, on the other hand, would have received the new cap, as their 1813 clothing was not inspected until July and October respectively. By 1814, the Canadian Regiment was completely outfitted with the new 'cap and cover'[10].

TROUSERS AND NECESSARIES

The early shipment of regimental clothing also affected the adoption of grey wool trousers in the Canadas. The General Order of 5 June 1812 stated that breeches had already been forwarded for several regiments serving in Canada for the clothing issue of 1813. This order sanctioned the breeches' use for the following year. Therefore it is quite possible that knee breeches and tall gaiters were worn by the Canadian Regiment until at least the summer of 1813. Supplementing the wool breeches, there was also wide use in the summer months of linen trousers which were provided by the soldier as part of his 'necessaries'. Grey trousers and half-gaiters were in universal use in the Canadas by the summer's end of 1813[11]. The great quantities of grey trousers available in Commissariat stores made this possible.

As for other necessaries, each soldier was expected to possess two pairs of worsted socks or stockings, two pairs of shoes, one flannel and one linen shirt, and a leather stock with clasps. On 23 October 1813 the *Montreal Herald* advertised the sale of army necessaries that included half boots, nailed and heelshod, full and half hose, trousers and drawers, linen and check shirts, stocks and clasps, cloth, shoe and button brushes, shaving boxes, combs and blacking, razors, knives and spoons. Many of these items, as well as a wool shell jacket and forage cap, towels, a tin cup and plate, musical instruments, tobacco, a polishing mixture of brick dust and lard, and pipeclay, were all crowded into the soldier's knapsack.

When a Regular regiment was called upon to engage in a lengthy march, linen haversacks and canteens were issued to them from local Commissariat stores. Because of this, none of these items were to have been marked regimentally. Surviving wooden canteens in Canada only bare a branded Board of Ordnance mark. During the war both tin and wooden canteens were used by Regulars in the Canadas[12]. Commissariat store returns show a large portion of the Canadian Fencibles in possession of wooden canteens. MI

To be continued