



THE BUGLE HORN

Newsletter of the 2nd 95th Rifles

Battle Re-enactment and Living History Society



2020 (COVID-19) Edition

'The bloody fighting 95th Rifles.

First in the field and last from the fray.'

Regimental toast of the 95th Rifles



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COVID-19 Security As it seems that the virus will be with us for some time, a quick resume of the unit's COVID Security measures by Captain Tim Saunders is appropriate

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Equipment The research and making of the rifleman's leather equipment and knapsack. Paul Durrant

Music The 95th Rifles and their music by Paul Edwards.



Visit our website at <https://www.95th-rifles.co.uk/>

Editorial

It goes without saying that in common with many hobbies and pastimes, 2020 has been a disastrous year for living history and re-enactment. Initially we thought COVID-19 would all be over in a few months but as event after event as cancelled as the 3-month insurance window closed-in, it became apparent that this year would be a total write off. There has, however, been a little activity to review in these pages but with optimism that there will be a vaccine, the main focus of this newsletter is looking forward to 2021 and a whole new season of battles and campaigns for the 2nd 95th Rifles Whether you are a prospective member, newly joined or well established there should be something in these pages for everyone.



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Corporal Eric Pratt

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Secretary Rifleman xxx xxxxxx

Events Chosen Man Richard Crocker

Treasurer Rifleman Doug Blinkhorn

Catering Helena Dynes

Photos courtesy of Deviouswolf, unit members and other members of the Napoleonic re-enactment family.

Cover photo: Socially distanced drill.

EVENTS REPORT

Following an extremely successful 2019 season packed full of events both domestic and foreign, we commenced our reenactment year as usual with our two training weekends at Chiltern Open Air Museum (COAM) in February and March. Little did we know it then that these would be the only events we would have for the entirety of 2020. But alas we all watched in dismay as our calendar was systematically shot away.



Above: Winter training at Chiltern Open Air Museum 2020. The squad are under arms wearing white undress jackets for drill. Rifleman Theos forgot his regimental cap!

This year's postponed Almeida expedition at the end of August will hopefully be in our 2021 calendar along with the invitation we received to take part in the Austerlitz event in November.

Below: Members of the 2nd 95th Rifles gracing the British Waterloo memorial at Hougoumont in 2019.



Events are clearly the lifeblood of reenactment and as such we are looking ahead to 2021 with far more optimism and to that end have two training weekends booked in with COAM for 6/7th February and 6/7th March. COAM are most keen to continue their relationship with us and we have also booked in a public event there for 5/6th June.

We will also be looking forward to travelling once again to the hallowed ground of Waterloo where this years expected thousands will all be gathering in even greater numbers I would imagine. The date for this event is likely to be 19/20 June, but clearly, as with all events scheduled, is subject to confirmation.

Whilst the COVID situation next year is impossible to predict, we would like to think that there will also be a decent number of UK events. At present, the Napoleonic Association have events planned for Stanford Hall in Leicestershire, Deene Park in Northamptonshire, Crouch Ridge in Essex, and Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire.

Let us all keep our weapons clean, canteens full and fingers crossed for a 2021 season where our family of green can all come together once more doing what we love.

We look forward to lots of events reports next year in the next newsletter.

8th/9th February & 7th/8th March - Winter Training Chiltern Open Air Museum

The drill practice must go on. The 2nd 95th's relentless pursuit of excellence was undaunted by Storm Ciara or threatened pandemic. Pictures of course speak louder than words!



The lull before the storm!



Hold on tight!



Ahh! Warm cosey billets.

No. 4 Company, 2nd Battalion, 95th Rifles

OVERSEAS EVENTS

Nearly every year the 2nd 95th Rifles attend an overseas commemorative event, normally somewhere in Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium or Holland. They are usually held on a battlefield of our period and they can be a camp and battle or battles, a campaign event or a combination of both. Either way they offer us what is invariably an evocative link to the history of the 95th Rifles that we seek to recreate.

We are regular attenders at the Waterloo re-enactment in Belgium and in 2018 we had the unique opportunity to take part in a battle on the field of Quatre Bras and later that to travel to Astorga in Spain for a re-enactment of parts of Sir John Moore's retreat to Corunna. Here, as we had several extra days, we were able to incorporate a look at some of the 95th's key actions during the retreat, including at Benavente and Cacabelos, which marked the regiments transition to an elite of the army.

2019 saw the 2nd 95th joining a goodly contingent of Brits travelling to Holland for the anniversary of the ill-fated 1809 Walcheren expedition. The battles began with an amphibious landing from period ships, which for most of us was a new and very different experience.



Right: Riflemen coming aboard their ship at Vere during the 2019 Walcheren expedition.

Looking ahead (optimistically), we hope to return to the campaign trail in mainland Europe during 2021. There are no confirmed events as yet, but we are aware of a number that are being planned. Not least of these is a major re-enactment at Waterloo - the biggest since 2015 and if it happens, it is unlikely to be rivalled in size for a number of years.

Another casualty of the Pandemic was a commemorative event at the fortress town of Almeida on the borders of Portugal and Spain. This has been tentatively rescheduled for August 2021 - ideal for incorporating in a holiday as a part of an extended trip.



Right: Members of the 2nd 95th Rifles during their battlefield tour of the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo.

Keeping The Hobby Alive – Virtually

Rob Yuill, the author of this piece, is both a Colonel - our 1st Brigade commander - and a rifleman in the ranks of the 2nd 95th Rifles, playing either role as numbers and/or event dictate.

It has been termed an unprecedented year with events cancelled, progressively, throughout the year due to the restrictions imposed because of COVID 19. However, at least twice in my re-enacting memory I can remember similar years with many events cancelled in 2001 and 2007 because of the Foot & Mouth outbreaks. The fact that we have been through similar before and the hobby has bounced back, I think, is something to take heart from and we should not mourn the season we have lost due to COVID 19 but plan for the bounce back and look forward to creating new events in the future.

In spite of the restrictions, we have not been wholly idle this year, conducting two well attended and productive training weekends at Chiltern Open Air Museum prior to 'lockdown' and later on with members of the 2/95th taking part - alongside members from other units - in two unique online virtual events organised by the parent Brigade, 1st (British) Infantry Brigade.



Rifleman Tomlinson armed and fully accoutred for battle.

2nd May 2020 - Camp Quarantine, or The Virtual Whittington Castle event.

The weekend of 2nd/3rd May should have been the first public event of the season and been the coming together of 1st Brigade units for an event at Whittington Castle in Shropshire. Due to the restrictions, this was cancelled; but with irrepressible spirit, we still had a first event, of sorts, to mark the start of the season. A virtual online event. With a day of organised activity on the Saturday, we came together for the weekend; and pitched tents and set up camp fires, where we could, (in gardens, yards and living rooms!) to come together on line and make a start to the season. With drill, parades, camp duties and carousing arranged by the power of social media, we had a first event; with over 30 people taking part and 24 all ranks on parade for the final muster.



Corporal Pratt sword fixed



Rifleman Biggin in drill order.

20th June 2020 "Waterloo, wherever you are!"

Following the success of the Camp Quarantine event, 1st Brigade hosted a second on line event to take the place of the cancelled Waterloo event. As with the first online event, the idea was that re-enactors join in from wherever they could; bivouacs in back yards, camp grounds in gardens or even just reporting in from 'in billets' to take part in a day of activities centred around the Battle of Waterloo. This included an excellent short documentary by our own Officer Commanding - Captain Tim Saunders on the part played in that momentous battle by all the Battalions of the 95th. The event also served as an opportunity to raise money for the charity WATERLOO UNCOVERED with participants paying a 'billeting fee' to take part and 'visitors encouraged to make donations. The event raised £350 for Waterloo Uncovered.



The Yuill family 'Waterloo' camp. Time for a bit of equipment husbandry.

and had 129 people taking part, with 53 participants online at the same time being the largest 'turn out' of the day, and at least 650 'visitors'. Re-enactors joined us from France, Belgium, Germany, Holland and Canada as well as the UK; with French, British, Brunswick and Prussian corps all contributing. Although no substitute for a real event, it certainly helped to break the hum drum of lock down and was a great excuse to dust off the uniforms and have a bit of fun. Above all there was an encouraging spirit from all who took part that we were determined to see our hobby recover and overcome whatever the future holds.



Some have gardens but Rifleman Painted doesn't!

COVID-19 Drill

With the expectation that the pandemic would be a feature of life for some time, COVID secure protocols were written for the company and trialled during the summer. For most of Napoleonic re-enactment, distancing is a problem, as much of the drill is conducted in close order, shoulder to shoulder but for the Rifles some of what we do can be conducted in loose files or extended order.

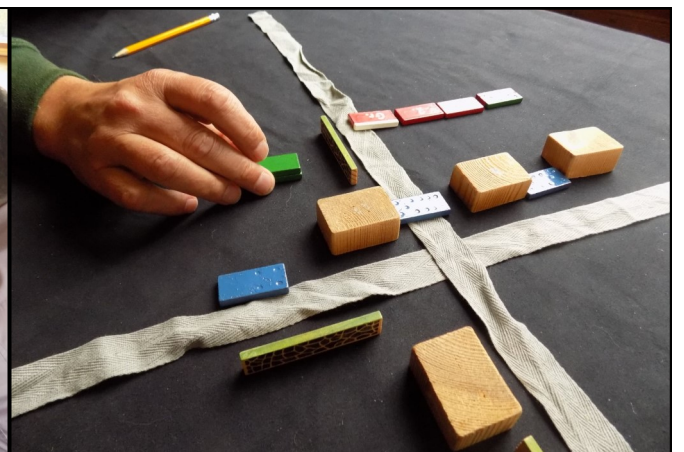
A small gathering proved that while it certainly wasn't normal, we could drill and have fun distanced and wearing masks. Wearing masks was not a problem until we came to firing the rifle when biting the end of the cartridge. So social distancing and masks off.



Socially distanced firing

Officer and NCO Training

During the period of the 'Rule of Six' a few of us were able to gather together with coloured counters and pieces to run through drill manoeuvres, particularly commands and positions in the company for various evolutions. This proved to be thoroughly necessary to both train and prevent skill fade. As a second activity, under the direction of the Brigade Commander, Captain Saunders and Sergeant Dynes were given a number of tactical scenarios in which the rifle company has a specific role. Working out which formations to use and the necessary orders certainly had the grey matter working hard



THE SERGEANT'S PAGE

Kit and Caboodle

It's that time of year again where we would normally be talking about events that we did this year and what's planned next year. Well in this strange time it's important not to forget our kit, even though it's not getting used. In fact, it might be more important to make sure it stored correctly as I'm sure you would not want to be buying replacement items just though lack of use.

I think the uniform is pretty self-explanatory, make sure it's clean, dry and if possible, hanging on a hangar. That way it should in theory be the same as when you last wore it. I cannot promise it won't get tighter around the midriff over winter. One thing I do over winter is I buy lavender moth sachets and place them in different places near my wool items (uniform, blankets etc) to try to stop them getting destroyed by the little buggers. A couple of other things I do but not necessarily before winter but once or twice a year is to polish the buttons/ brass work and lightly brush my uniform with mixture of clear vinegar / water. Hardly getting it wet and then leaving it to air dry. I find it freshens things up a little.

My leatherwork gets a wipe down with leather oil to keep it from drying out / keep it in good nick. I tend to do this a couple of times a year and then just polish what is needed during the year. Do not polish the strap for the canteen this just needs a little oil. I managed to bugged up my first one by putting a little brown polish on it as recommended by someone – looked lovely on its own but was a completely different colour compared with everyone else's. There are several leather oils out there, I use one made by Carr, Day & Martin, but I know Rob recommended Lord Sherratons Leather cream. Whatever you use for once read the instructions and try it somewhere that would be hidden if it mucks things up. Boots should be stored dry and clean. I am guessing the dry bit this year isn't a problem as most of the kit hasn't been outside much to get wet.

One thing that does take a bit of ongoing upkeep over winter I the canteen. I think what is the point of carrying it about if you can't bloody well use it, so it's worth a bit of work. This is what I have tended to do over the last few years.

Either make sure it is full of water and that water needs changing every two or three weeks. That way it stops the oak from getting dried out. If it dries out the seams will open up and it will leak. If it does develop a leak just keep putting water in it or maybe put the whole thing into a bucket of water. This should hopefully allow the

wood to swell and close the seams. This will work up to a point, if I goes too long without water it might never recover.

Another way of keeping the wood from drying out is store some spirit in it. I have had cheap rum in mine for the last couple of winters and it seemed to work pretty well. I guess a cheap whiskey or something similar

Riflemen skirmishing by file pairs.



would work as well. It costs more obviously, but it should be more or less maintenance free then for the winter with the added bonus of the rum should hopefully taste even better in the spring.

My canteen currently has water in it as it fell over and most of the rum drained past the stopper. So, I am changing the water until I get some more spirit. But one other disadvantage of using water (I'm assuming a spirit won't have this problem) is you will get a build-up was water based organisms / bacteria. Don't ask me exactly what but probably best to not to drink them. To try to keep the bugs a bay I will be once in a while putting a little sterilizing solution / tablet in with the water for maybe half an hour then rinsing. Same stuff they clean baby bottles with. I use Milton tablets – read the instructions on whatever you use but it does not take much. I think I used a quarter or half a tablet last time I did it to my canteen. We do exactly same to aircraft water systems to clean them.

Another thing that I should mention especially as I make the blooming things is the regimental caps. Obviously store clean, dry blah blah blah. But one thing that people forget all year, even around camp is to try not to leave them with the peak flat on the table, bottom of the box or wherever you leave it. This will bugger up the peak and you will have a peak pointing skywards in no time. I store my caps on boxes.



The 1806 tend to be left on its side as it fits in the box ok that way, but the 1812 cap being a little taller doesn't fit (I use the same size boxes to help store them at home before someone suggest getting a bigger box) for the 1812 cap I have a small piece of foam the cap body sits on so the peak is basically in mid-air without getting pushed in different directions. Store them in whatever containers you like, but please try to be careful with the peaks. They are a bugger to sew on and repairs are even worse. One word of note – I tend to store my stuff in either my kit box with the lid slightly open or cardboard boxes. This way they get a bit of air to keep things dry. I'm not convinced a sealed plastic box is a good idea especially if there is a possibility of moisture in the item when its placed inside.



Last thing your rifle. Clean, rust free and oiled. It's also a good idea to check it once in a while and reoil / clean as required. Oh, and while it's out of the gun cabinet you could do some arms drill. It

does not take much but the more practice over winter the easier it's going to be next season. Just remember the height of the room you are in if you do it inside before presenting arms. Simon P knows all about that ☺ – fixed the ceiling yet Si? Well that about wraps up a quick reminder about the kit and just leaves me to say have a short off season and see you all for what has to be a better year next year.

THE RECRUIT

Rifleman Mark 'Ronald' Macdonald who became a fully-fledged member of the 2nd 95th Rifles last year, provides an insight into the process of joining our ranks.



Take the King's Shilling and join the 2nd 95th Rifles!

How to show an interest? Before I was in the group, I found myself feeling like I was stuck at home, wanting to go somewhere and experience something fun but more than just a weekend trip. And I have always taken an interest in history but wanted to be a part of a group. So, I decided to find the Rifles. I learned of the Rifles a few years before, on Facebook, and from there I send an email over to the Recruitment offer of my details. After that I got a response and was talking about where and when the group had events for me to try. My first two weeks were free, with hot food and warming company! On my third event I was invited to join the Rifles, and to fall in as a recruit. Starting my journey with weekends away around campfires, marching in rain and shine across the length and breadth of the country, with different groups and experiences.

What will be my first event be like?

Turning up on my first day was new and nervous. Packing for a camping weekend in a tent, black boots, and rechecking the address of the event I found myself in a field with people settling into camp. The member I chatted with met up with me and introduced me to the group. I was able to put my bed and gear in the Unit's tent and be supplied with a set of white uniform. The first night I met members around crackling fire and some of the best food provided. First light, I was working with members getting camp ready, helping members getting breakfast, hot drinks and ready for the day. After being told what the day entailed, I began learning basic drill and eventually marching with the Unit. Over the weekend, I was able to learn of who and what it means to be a member of the 2nd 95th Rifles, and the member that make up this green jacket family.



A recruit wearing a white undress/drill jacket in one of the period buildings at the Chiltern Open Air Museum. A winter training weekend is the best time to join us for a closer look at Rifles living history.

'Awkward Men, Fall in!'

Once I was accepted into the Group, I joined the 'Awkward Squad'; the historical name for the new recruits to the rifles from civi-street, red coated militia or those who need extra drills. Since I was brand new with no kit to call of my own, I made use of the time learning drill, getting to know the people and what it meant to be in a living history society. This time was fun and rememberable, as it provided many opportunities to make friends across different groups and go to many events. It was also a time that provided many achievements, as the more time I invested, the more experience and appreciation I got out it.

From Boots to Bed

When I joined the group, I did start off with nothing, and was borrowing kit from the unit quartermaster. This was helpful for me as it allowed me to talk to various members and get an idea of the kit I need, but also where and when I should get kit. For me, I started off with a good pair of boots and a coat. And then over my time in being an Awkward Man I was able to slowly build up what I needed. This was annoying at first, but it helps build a perspective of the uniform you want to put on.



Awkward Men in white uniform photographed during an event. All are now riflemen.



Falling in Green

When you join the group there is no denying you want to wear the green uniform and be part of the Rank and File! However, being part of the 2nd 95th Rifles means the uniform is rewarded. Over your time as an Awkward Man and gathering you kit, you learn of what the group means to the members and how you can be a part of it too. And with turning up and enjoying myself with the group, I was asked eventually to wear my Green Jacket. And because of this no one will forget how I 'bolted like a Greyhound' back to my tent to change and fall back in as a Rifleman [I remember that occasion well - I have never seen a rifleman move so fast! Editor].

Rifleman Macdonald is now our recruiter. If you are tempted to come and join us for a weekend, do drop Ronald a line via the recruitment page on our website.

<https://www.95th-rifles.co.uk/recruitment/>



CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

The company quartermaster has enough basic kit for recruits to take part in their first few events but once formally invited to join the 2nd 95th, it is time to start collecting your own clothing and equipment. The unit has a tradition of making most of the Rifleman's necessities to its own well researched designs and standards and as far as possible, in house. This ensures that the company remain historically correct and uniform in appearance.

As far as uniform is concerned your first purchases should include a white undress jacket, boots and a greatcoat (it has been known to be cold and wet!). You will be measured up for your whites and advised

on options available for purchase of, for example, boots. Always get advice - there is a saying in re-enactment - buy wisely and buy once!

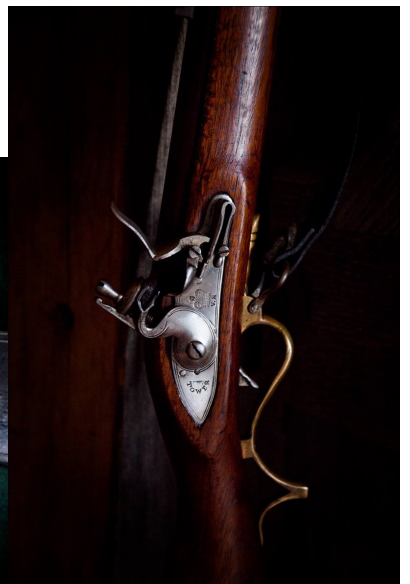
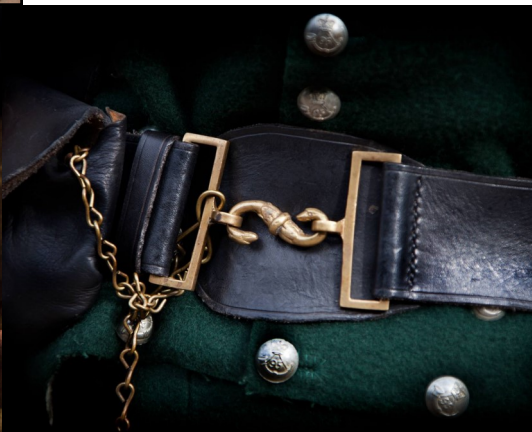
Invariably, if you are lucky with sizes, some of the Rifleman's uniform and equipment can be purchased from retiring members of the company. As new uniforms are handmade and take time to tailor, ordering your rifleman's greens is a matter of some priority.

Former member Paul Durrant makes the rifleman's black leather equipment with brass fittings and also makes our knapsacks. Over the years there has been much debate about the design of knapsacks used during our period. Following extensive research, we have got away from the wooden framed trotter pack, for an item that is as accurate as is possible, complete with our bugle horn badge.

Another consideration regarding equipment is your rifle. Once again there is a second-hand market across the hobby, but time must be allowed for the processing of applications for shotgun certificates (re-enactment 'rifles' are smooth bore). Some police forces take inordinately long to grant them.



Left: The components of a rifleman's jacket and the finished article and below, some of his other necessities.



Music of the 95th Rifles



Musician Paul Edwards has in the best traditions of the 2nd 95th spent Lockdown 2 researching the part music played in the Rifles during the Napoleonic Wars and presents his findings here.

I have been asked to put something together on the subject of 95th Foot musicians and their music. I will primarily use period sources and let that speak for itself – thus I do not put across too much of my own opinion and speculations! I am grateful to contributors to the 2/95th forum for much of the information I will use.

There seems to be a commonly held confusion between the terms 'Musician' / 'Bandsmen' as opposed to 'Drummer' / 'Bugler'. In simple terms the former are members specifically of a 'Band of Music' who play a variety of instruments and their duties are to provide music for the Regiment – on parade or in more informal situations. Prior to 1803 these men were usually civilians hired by the Commanding Officer, and not infrequently were of foreign nationality - Germans and Swiss being favoured.

The bugle or 'fugelhorn' is an iconic part of the Rifles tradition. Note the black and white wings on the shoulders to denote a bugler.

Drummers and Buglers however were on the Battalion strength as Soldiers and these were in effect 'signallers' of the day - their function to give notice of the daily happenings from Reveille to Tattoo and to give signals on the battlefield. A Fifer was really a drummer who could provide musical accompaniment to the monotony of the drum in the 'Duty' tunes throughout the day but he was still not termed a 'musician.' There was some 'cross pollination' however as on occasions musicians would combine with drummers/buglers/fifers and all play together.

General Order 5th August 1803 Soldiers acting as Musicians: *"In Regiments having Bands of Music, not more than one Private soldier of each troop or company shall be permitted to act as a musician, and that one no-commissioned officer shall be allowed to act as Master of the Band ..."*

Updated by Order in 1811: *"... but the men are to be effective as soldiers, are to be perfectly drilled and able to serve in the ranks in any emergency."*

Sometimes the number of musicians exceeded the Regulation:

WO3/361 Page 481, 15 Dec 1812 *'I have it in command to signify to you, that the explanation offered in your letter of 11th Inst with respect to the number of men employed as musicians in the 2nd Battalion of the 95th Regiment is not at all satisfactory. It is presumed that the men exceeding the number prescribed are clothed as the rest of the band and consequently could not have done their duty or have been considered as effective soldiers which is the true meaning and intention of the Kings order, and I am to desire you will explicitly state for His Royal Highness's consideration, the circumstances that have occasioned a departure from it in the present instance.'*

The fife was the other instrument most commonly found in battalions of the period.



The officers were expected to contribute to the cost of the Band:

Lieut. Simmons to Colonel Norcott, Gosport, May 5th 1819:

"I cannot accede to any Subscription to Band or other fund, beyond what specified using first letter to Col Barnard on being appointed. Shall when I can afford, but in money, not in dress to the Band, at the mercy of changes."

Confirmation that the 95th did have a bands out in the Peninsular:

WO3/361 Page 431, 4 Dec 1812 *'I am directed to acquaint you that at the request of Lt Col Wade which has been signified through Lt General Sir Brent Spencer, the commander in chief has approved of the band of the 2nd Battalion of the 95th Regiment, being sent to join the six companies of the battalion now employed in Spain & Portugal. You will be pleased to acquaint me with the numbers of men who are to be sent on this occasion, and you will hold them in readiness to send to Hillsea for embarkation for Lisbon.'*

WO3/365 Page 404 8 Feb 1814 *'...HRH approves of the Band of the 3rd Battalion 95th Regiment proceeding with the first detachment of that battalion that embarks for the Peninsula.'*

Musicians on Active service:

Standing Orders, as given out and enforced by the late Major-gen. Rob Craufurd for the use of the Light Division during the years 1809, 1810 and 1811.

Section II 'Of the March' Article 2 (1) *"On all occasions of marching out of camp, or of marching after a regular halt upon the march, each corps is to march off by word of command, **and with music unless particularly ordered to the contrary.**"*

Article 6 (13) *Whenever there is an expectation of meeting the enemy, the baggage will be entrusted solely to weakly men, Musicians, etc; and the Batmen, being effective soldiers, will be put into the ranks.*

And at Waterloo:

'Our band has as usual been playing the devil during the row, the new big drum is lost and a bassoon.'

Lt Col Barnard 1st 95th, in a letter dated 23 June 1815 – Glover, Letter 84, Waterloo Archive vol. VI

The band were also used as stretcher bearers.

Simmons describes them being used to carry Colonel Barnard when he had been shot. *'I went to the house where the colonel had been taken to and remained with him. Constructed a bearer, upon which the Colonel was placed and supported upon the shoulders of our band through the pass of Vera to that town.'*

Lt George Simmons 'A British Rifleman' Page 322.

Bugler Bill Green crawling away after being wounded at Badajoz;



Musician Paul Edwards in his faithfully recreated uniform circa 1815.

"In a short time, four men, belonging to the band of some regiment came up to me and asked if I was wounded?...They had what we call a stretcher, two slant poles with a piece of sacking nailed to them for the wounded to lay..."

Bugler and Officer of the Rifles, William Green & Harry Smith. Leonaur 2005 p60



The period fugelhorn was significantly different to the modern bugle

And the music they played:

I am this morning marching, with a fine a body of men as ever left England, for Dover, where we embark ... Our men are in very high spirits, and we have a most excellent band of music and thirty bugles-horns, which through every country village strikes up the old tune, 'Over the Hills and Far Away'

Lieutenant Simmons of the 95th (Rifles), George Simmons, Leonaur 2007, p23

15th June 1813 crossing the river Ebro

'Our band struck up the 'Downfall of Paris'. We were much amused by their wit on the occasion, and we had it followed by a national tune or two to remind us of Old England and absent friends.'

Lt George Simmons, 'A British Rifleman' . Page 287

Picton's 5th Division leaves Brussels early hours of 16th June 1815:

"At length the 'British Grenadiers' by the band of the 95th Regiment announced its arrival by a street leading to the gate of Namur, we had halted just before getting to the gate by another street. Here therefore the 95th took the lead, we joined in and were followed by the 28th, 42nd [should be 32nd] 79th &c all cheering on passing the gate"

The Waterloo Archive vol 1 Letter of Lt Maule RA 3rd Division leaves Brussels early hours of 16th June 1815.

And finally:

Letter May 7th 1812 by Lieut Robert Fernyhough 3rd/95th (referring to a rifleman he had accidentally shot whilst on a live fire exercise)

'-a rifleman of ours was married the other day, and the regimental band played the new couple to and from church. The following day, we went out to fire ball at the target, when the same rifleman was shot through the breast by accident, and died immediately on the ground: strange to tell, the band that played before him to church when married, now played the Dead March in Saul, to the same place, for him to be buried, within the space of forty-eight hours.'

Military Memoirs of Four Brothers

n the next edition of the Newsletter Paul will look at the role of Buglers in the regiment.

Music and song in all its forms plays an important part in camp life.



CAMP LIFE



Historically the British Peninsular Army campaigned with its families along with the other camp followers - sutlers, etc. 'Official wives', normally six per company or one wife per ten riflemen, were expected to earn their keep taking on tasks including cooking, washing and mending, all in exchange for receiving half rations and their children a quarter ration. On the march they shared the hardships of campaign, travelling with the regiment's baggage, very loosely under the 'control' of a young officer - an unpopular task!

Today, families are a most welcome and colourful part of our camp life and re-enactment. Not only is it historically accurate but adds to our impression of the Rifles on campaign. But don't worry, we ensure that the men folk do their share of the cooking and washing-up.

The ease with which we cater, mostly outdoors on a wood fire, for twenty odd people, hungry after a day's re-enacting, is borne of years of experience and no one is thrown in at the deep end!

While the routine impression is of soldiers wives in camp, with the odd foray onto the battlefield in support of the soldiers; occasionally there is the opportunity (always optional!) to get a taste of just how challenging campaign life could be, at specific events held in the UK or in mainland Europe. Of course, the experience of carrying everything you need for a weekend in a haversack and backpack while wearing Georgian skirts and dresses, we know this is not for everyone.



At the other extreme, there are opportunities for looking our best wearing the finest fashions of the day, at dinners, balls and promenades. Again, this is a colourful and social option for those who are interested in these aspects of living history.

The sun sets on the camp of the 2nd 95th Rifles on a warm summer's evening.





EVENTS 2021

By November of each year we normally have pretty good idea of our calendar for the following season but with the uncertainties of 2020 extending into 2021, we have only the vaguest idea at the moment. As soon as government rules and practical re-enactment considerations allow the 2nd 95th Rifles will be back in action!

In a normal year we have monthly events starting with winter training in February and March, via public events in the spring and summer, through to our annual dinner and AGM in November.

In most years we travel to the Continent to take part in a re-enactment anywhere from Portugal to Holland.

Calendar

Winter Training 1 - Chiltern Open Air Museum - 6/7 February

Winter Training 2 - Chiltern - 6/7 March

Stanford Hall - Lutterworth, Leicestershire - 17-18 April

Deene Park - Corby, Northamptonshire - 1-3 May

Crouch Ridge - Althorne, Essex - 9-31 May

Chiltern Public Event - 5-6 June

Waterloo Belgium - 18-20 June TBC

Newstead Abbey - Nottingham, Nottinghamshire - July

Almeida - August

Hole Park - Rolveden, Kent - September

AGM - November

Austerlitz - November

Our events page on the website will be regularly updated as the season develops.

Rifle Corps!

COUNTRYMEN!

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP:
Half the 95th Battalions in the Service are trying to persuade you to enlist;
But there is one more to come yet!!!

The 2/95th; or, Rifle REGIMENT,

The only Regiment of RIFLEMEN in the service to wear the entire regimental uniform and re-create the RIFLEMEN'S drill:
THINK. Then CHOOSE. Whether you will enter into any old Rifle Battalion, or prefer being a 2/95th RIFLEMAN.

The first of all Services in the British Army.

In this distinguished Service, you will carry a Rifle no heavier than a fowling piece. You will knock down your Enemy at Five hundred Yards, instead of missing him at Fifty. Your clothing is GREEN, and needs no cleaning but a Brush. Those men who have been in a Rifle Company, can best tell you the comfort of a GREEN JACKET.

No Pipeclay! No Tam 'o shanters!

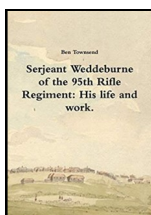
On Service, your Post is always the POST of HONOUR, and your quarters the best in the Army, for you have the first of everything; and at Home you are sure of Respect because the 2/95th is a byword in the Re-enacting world for **DOING IT RIGHT.**

The Rifle Serjeants are to be found anywhere, and have orders to treat their Friends gallantly everywhere. If you enlist, and, afterwards wish you had been a 2/95th RIFLEMAN, do not say you were not asked; for you can **BLAME NOBODY BUT YOURSELF.**

GOD SAVE THE KING! And his Rifle Regiment!

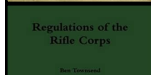
MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS

A product of the research we carry out into the uniform, equipment, tactics and campaign history of the 95th Rifles has resulted in a number of our active and retired member's work being taken up by mainstream publishers. These include:



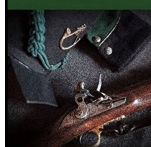
Sergeant Weddeburne of the 95th Rifle Regiment: His Life and Work - Ben Townsend

Sergeant Weddeburne joined the reconstituted 95th Rifles in January 1801 and served in Germany and at the Battle of Copenhagen in 1806. He was discharged from the 95th after Corunna and joined the Berkshire Militia. These are his drill teaching notes.



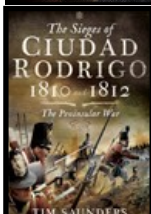
Regulations of the Rifles Corps - Ben Townsend

The August 1800 Green Book laid down the regime of daily life, training, etc. of the Rifles would work during our period. Ben has reproduced those regulations and added extensive comment and explanation.



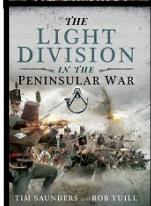
The Sieges of Ciudad Rodrigo 1810 & 1812 - Tim Saunders

On the borders of Spain and Portugal the fortress of Ciudad Rodrigo was one of the 'Keys' to Spain. The French needed to capture it for their invasion of Portugal and Wellington had to hold it for the 1812 Salamanca Campaign. In the 1812 siege the Rifles and the Light Division stormed the lesser breach where General Craufurd was mortally wounded.



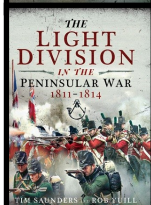
The Light Division 1808-1811 - Rob Yuill and Tim Saunders

This is a divisional history, including not just the rifles but the red coated light infantrymen, cavalry and gunners in the early years of the Peninsular war where Wellington's reliance on the reliable division was at its greatest



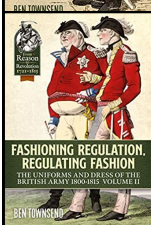
The Light Division 1811-1814 - Rob Yuill and Tim Saunders

This volume covers the operations of the Light Division during the offensive phase of the Peninsular War. It takes the story forward from the sieges of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajos, through the Salamanca Campaign to the Great offensive in 1813 and the end of the war in South West France.



Fashioning Regulation Regulating Fashion Volume 1 & 2 - Ben Townsend

A study into the development of rules and regulations for the dress of the army; an army that was keen to be fashionable along with a Prince of Wales whose taste for elaborate clothing had to be restrained! Volume 1 Covers up to 1808 and volume 2 the period when the Prince, now Prince Regent heavily influenced the army's clothing.



Work in Progress:

Masséna at Bay 1811 Torres Vedras to Funes de Oñoro - Tim Saunders

The 7th Division - Wellington's Mongrels - Rob Yuill

The Salamanca Campaign - Tim Saunders

Films by Battlefield History TV on the 95th Rifles and the Peninsular Campaign are available on Amazon Prime Video .





over the hills and far away



www.95th-rifles.co.uk