

CLOTHING, ARMS AND ACCOUTERMENTS OF THE
SECOND SOUTH CAROLINA REGIMENT
1775-1780

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For

Captain Fitzhugh McMaster, USN

1917-2001

Captain Charles M. Wallace, re-created 2nd Regiment

1952-2009

The Men of the 2nd Regiment

1775-1780

And

The Men, Women and Children of the re-created 2nd Regiment

1975-present

Who stood in the door, and kept the flame alive

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INTRODUCTION

Every third-grade student in South Carolina is familiar with the 2nd South Carolina Regiment of 1775: the story of the famous palmetto-log fort, the blue flag with a white crescent, the heroics of William Jasper, the cool command of William Moultrie, and the defeat of a British invasion force on June 28th 1776. That one day is set in stone as the pinnacle of the Regiment's achievements, save later asides as the original regiment of the "Swamp Fox", Francis Marion.

Less known is the service of the 2nd Regiment throughout its subsequent four years of existence. This period is defined by the ennui of garrison duty, the failed defense of Savannah in 1778, the successful defense of Charleston the following year, the disastrous and heartbreaking siege of Savannah in 1779, and the surrender of the regiment at the fall of Charleston in 1780.

Many 2nd Regiment soldiers would end their days rotting on British prison hulks; others would reluctantly join the British army, serving overseas. Some of these men even found their way to the partisan units of Francis Marion and others, and would fight against the British through the end of 1782, achieving final victory over the superpower of the 18th century.

A review of the clothing and accouterments worn by the 2nd Regiment gives testimony to the hardships and changing fortunes of the war as experienced by the South Carolina Continentals. These men did not go home when convenient, as did the militia, to tend their crops or protect their families. Whether through patriotism or hardship, these men signed on as professional soldiers, for either three years or "the duration of the war". They lived a rugged life, and many paid the ultimate price. We, the members of the recreated 2nd Regiment, cannot repay their sacrifice, save by remembering and honoring them. We do this by portraying the regiment as honestly and accurately as is possible.

I. BASE SOURCE FOR THE MODERN SECOND REGIMENT

The re-created 2nd Regiment's appearance is based on the article "The First and Second South Carolina Regiments, 1775-1780" in the *Journal of Military Historians* (hereafter *JMH*), summer 1977, by Captain Fitzhugh McMaster, illustrated by Darby Erd. This landmark article presented the first (and to date, only) scholarly research on the uniforms and gear of the 2nd Regiment. Unfortunately, most of McMaster's footnotes were not printed with the article, and have since been lost. Through extensive research, most if not all of McMaster's sources have been found, plus additional sources McMaster either never found or found after the publication of his article. I have endeavored to place this documentation in a chronological and etymological context, and have come to believe: 1) McMaster found most of the extant documentation for the S.C. Regiments, 2) many of his conclusions are correct, 3) many need clarification, and 4) some are incorrect. This paper is an attempt to more fully provide a clear timeline of the evolutions of the 2nd Regiment's uniform and accouterments through the course of the war.

II. PRE-WAR INFLUENCES

The Royal Colony of South Carolina had an active military establishment dating back to the 17th century. This tradition carried on into the French and Indian War, when several regiments and independent companies were raised in defense of colony. The most successful of these units was Middleton's Regiment of 1760-61. This regiment served with distinction alongside British regulars in a campaign against the Cherokee Indians. Several of its officers (including William Moultrie and Francis Marion) would later serve in the Revolutionary-era South Carolina regiments, whose dress would be highly influenced by that of Middleton's men.¹

The uniform of Middleton's regiment was modeled after the Light Infantry of the 1st Royal Scots, which was deployed in South Carolina at the time. It consisted of: a blue coatee, faced and lined in scarlet; waistcoat and breeches of the coat color (standard practice in the British Army of the period); brown or black full-gaiters, and a visorless felt light infantry cap with false front, embellished with a silver crescent.² The men would have been issued First Model "Brown Bess" muskets, soft leather cartridge pouches with shoulder carriage, and bayonets on waist-belt carriages.³ The strap leather has been described as both black and buff⁴; which is correct for enlisted men is unclear, though black is the more likely color.⁵

1. Fitzhugh McMaster, *Soldiers and Uniforms: South Carolina Military Affairs, 1670-1775* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1971), 43-45.

2. Ibid.

3. David Morier, *Grenadiers, 1st Royal, 2 Queen's and 3rd Regs of Foot*, ca. 1751-1760, oil on canvas, The Royal Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, <http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/egallery/object.asp?maker=12356&object=405578&row=32&detail=about> (accessed October 15, 2010); Don Troiani et al., *Soldiers in America, 1754-1865* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1998) 2, 4.

4. McMaster, *Soldiers and Uniforms: South Carolina Military Affairs, 1670-1775*, 70-73; Fitzhugh McMaster and Tom Jones, "South Carolina Provincial Regiment (Middleton's), 1760-1761," *Military Collector and Historian* 36 (Fall 1984), 119.

5. Fitzhugh McMaster, *Fitzhugh McMaster Papers, 1946-1971*, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

Fitzhugh McMaster described the uniform and equipment of Middleton's Regiment twice: first in his book on South Carolina colonial troops, and in a later article in the *JMH*. Figures 1 and 2 are portions of the illustrations accompanying each article, respectively:

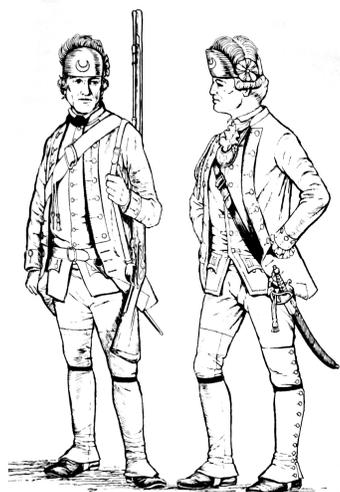


Fig. 1. Soldiers and Uniforms, 1970



Fig. 2. JMH article, 1979

The main area of speculation in both illustrations is the depiction of the caps. McMaster searched quite extensively for any description of the 1st Royal Scots headwear, and could find none.⁶ The caps in the above illustrations are approximations, based on the general design of British light infantry caps used in the northern American theater. This may also be a case of “reverse engineering”: McMaster saw depictions of caps of the later 2nd Regiment and applied their descriptions to the caps of Middleton's Regiment. At any rate, a close examination of the extant documentation reveals that early Revolutionary War caps used by the S.C. Regiments were of quite different and unique design from that shown in the above illustrations.

6. Ibid.

III. SUPPLYING THE SOUTH CAROLINA REGIMENTS

South Carolina's revolutionary government authorized the raising of three regiments in June 1775; three additional regiments were raised within a few months⁷. For the next three years, the state paid for or otherwise supplied virtually all clothing and equipment for its regiments, even after they were placed on the Continental Establishment.⁸ Given the dire supply issues within the northern American armies, little material assistance could be expected from the Continental Congress. South Carolina was one of the wealthiest of the thirteen colonies, and decided to provide for its own defense as much as possible.

Though awash in funds, South Carolina entered the war materially unprepared. Arms, clothing and sundry items were in very short supply. Henry Laurens, member of the S.C. Assembly, wrote his son John during this period, lamenting the lack of supplies for the newly-raised regiments: "May 30 1775...[The] Regiments will not be called the Ragged, but Naked, Regiments. We have no Cloths, Tents nor Blankets for them..."⁹

This supply deficiency was addressed aggressively by the state government. Ships laden with rice and indigo were sent overseas to trade their cargos for arms, cloth, hats or any available war materials.¹⁰ This resulted in a substantial influx of war material from overseas, primarily from France.¹¹ In addition, the state offered financial bonuses for locally-produced fabrics and other

7. Robert K. Wright, *The Continental Army* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1983), 305-309.

8. William Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, 2 vols. (New York: David Longworth, 1802), vol. 2, 364.

9. Henry Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 10 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1985-1988), 159.

10. *Ibid.*, 49, 58-60, 112-113, 147-151, 460-461.

11. *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*, South Carolina Archives Microcopy Number 8, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C., #1617; Laurens et al., *Papers*, Vol. 11, 49, 58-60, 112-113, 147-151, 460-461.

sundry items. Fortunately, leather was relatively plentiful in the state; though some items were imported, much of the soldiers' leather accoutrements were made by local saddlers.¹²

As a result of the state's self-reliance, the S.C. Provincial (later Continental) Regiments were issued very little ready-made clothing. The colonels of each regiment procured cloth, contracted locally-made clothing for their men, and were reimbursed by the state for all expenses. This resulted in some variations in dress among the S.C. regiments, though, as they all drew supplies largely from the same sources, general trends in the soldiers' uniforms and gear are evident from the extant records.¹³

The results of these supply arrangements were successful enough that the 1st and 2nd Regiments were described in November 1775 as being "as well clothed as troops could be" by William Moultrie, then Colonel of the 2nd Regiment.¹⁴ And, though sometimes hit-and-miss, these supply arrangements for the state's regular troops largely worked through late 1778.

By the spring of 1779, however, after four years of self-sustained warfare, South Carolina was exhausting her ability to provide for the troops. Clothing supplies were overtaxed, overseas shipments had proven inadequate, and inflation was spiraling out of control.¹⁵ The state could no longer adequately provide clothing for its soldiers.

At this time, fortunately, the Continental Congress and Washington's headquarters began taking a more active role in supporting the Army of the Southern Department. Cloth distribution

12. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780*, South Carolina Archives Microcopy Number 4, South Carolina Department of History and Archives, Columbia, S.C., *Public Ledger, 1775-1777*, 7, 10, 31, 100, 123, 129.

13. *Ibid.*, 13, 55-56, 58-59, 61, 63-65, 178, 182, 200, 242, 255, 266, 268, 280.

14. Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, vol. 1, 90.

15. *Auditor General Accounts*, 160-163; *Ibid.*, vol. 2, 369-370; Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 11, 449; *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Journals, 1777*, 91; *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Cash Book 1778-1780*, January 1779.

was reorganized through the Continental storehouse in Charleston, and new uniform regulations came down from headquarters, as did the new von Steuben manual exercise.¹⁶ Supplies of raw materials, arms and accouterments arrived from Philadelphia and other northern sources.¹⁷ Though the state continued supplying most of the men's equipment and accouterments, by 1779 most of the cloth for the men's uniforms was supplied through Continental stores.¹⁸ Due to the still-precarious supply situation, however, and the increased field duties of the S.C. Regiments in 1779-1780, clothing issues were less regular during this period than earlier in the war.

16. Benjamin Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 13 microfilm reels (Boston: Massachusettes Historical Society, 1951), Reel 4, #47, March 20, 1779; *Ibid.*, Reel 4, #678, October 8 1779; Patrick O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude: Francis Marion's Orderly Book* (West Conshohocken, PA: Infinity.com Press, 2006), 368.

17. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, S.C., "Invoice of the Military Stores Ship'd on board the Schooner Dove", December 6 1779.

18. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 3, #47, March 20, 1779.

IV. REGIMENTAL CAPS

The officers and men of the 2nd Regiment wore light infantry-style caps. This is a certainty, but lack of direct information, romanticized 19th century paintings, and modern reenacting practices have obscured the real appearance of the caps. A careful review of the evidence, both direct and circumstantial, allows us to form a more authentic picture of the 2nd Regiment's headgear, both the early-war felt cap and the later leather cap.

Usage

The use of caps by the officers of the 2nd Regiment is documented on the first date in Marion's Order book: "June 20 1775...Every Officer to provide himself with ... a cap and black Feather..."¹⁹ Three days later, the officers of both the 1st and 2nd regiments appeared before the S.C. Provincial Congress, wearing caps adorned with a feather, as described in this letter from Henry Laurens to his son, John:

*Our Young Officers have appeared in Congress in their Regimentals, first Regiment Blue faced Buff Cap & Feather – 2d Blue faced Scarlet, Cap & feather with a Crescent in front Motto, Liberty. The Captain & Lieutenants 60 in number are as likely Lads as ever I Saw in any Country –*²⁰

The first mention of the enlisted men wearing caps, complete with silver crescents, comes from the memoirs of William Moultrie, first commanding officer of the 2nd Regiment:

*About this time [Sept. 15 1775] ...I was desired by the council of safety to have [a flag] made, upon which, as the state troops were clothed in blue, and the fort was garrisoned by the first and second regiments, who wore a silver crescent on the front of their caps...*²¹

19. Patrick O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude: Francis Marion's Orderly Book* (West Conshohocken, PA: Infinity.com Press, 2006), 1.

20. Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 10, 190-191.

21. Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, vol. 1, 90.

But of what material were the caps made? In March 1776, Captain Thomas Pinckney of the 1st Regiment had a regimental cap made from beaver felt.²² In the 18th century, as today, beaver-felt hat bodies were the most expensive one could buy. Other letters show that the wealthy Pinckney was procuring for himself the best clothing and accoutrements possible (“Casmear gaiters”, “a genteel scabbard” etc.).²³ It is exceeding doubtful that enlisted men were issued beaver-felt caps. Without direct documentation, it is most probable that in the early war period the enlisted men were issued caps made of wool, the standard material for soldiers’ cocked hats and many light infantry caps.²⁴ These, then, were the caps worn by the 2nd Regiment on June 28 1776, while manning the guns of the palmetto-log fort at the Battle of Sullivan’s Island.

By October 1776, a change was coming in the construction of these caps, reflected in a resolution of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia:

October 8 1776

*Resolved that for the futer encouragement of the non Commissioned Offrs & soldiers who shall engage in the service During the war, a suit of Cloath be given each of the sd. non comm: Offrs. & Soldiers to Consist for the present year of two linning huntg. shirts, two pair of overalls a Hatt a Leathern cap two shirts two pr hose two pr shoes...*²⁵

Why the change from felt to leather? No documentation exists for the switch, but the most likely of several possible reasons is a scarcity of raw hat bodies. There is little evidence of any hat-blank production in South Carolina at the time; most raw hats were probably imported from overseas. Substituting leather, more readily available and more durable, in place of wool would help alleviate this supply problem.

22. Jack L. Cross, “Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780,” *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, 58 (1957), 28-29.

23. *Ibid.*, 28-29, 83.

24. Bennett Cuthberston, *A System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry*, 2nd ed. (London: J. Millan, 1779; reprint Morgantown, PA: Sullivan Press, 2002), 53.

25. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 118.

By December 1776, the caps of the 1st and 2nd Regiments were being made of leather.

Confirmation of this comes from the S.C. Treasury Records, from bills paid in the same month:

Disbursements for 2d Regt of Foot
Wm. Denny for Caps &c. 125._._

Disbursements for 2d Regt of Foot
Jn.o Callaghan for Caps &c. 962.5._
Wm. Denny for Caps &c. 137.10._²⁶

These two men were saddlers. John Callaghan was paid on many occasions for supplying the state troops; all entries for him contain nothing but leather goods: caps, cross belts, frogs, scabbards, cartridge pouches, cartridge boxes, saddles, bridles, horsemen's caps, etc. Callaghan was paid from the state "Saddlers Account", as was Mr. Denny, who has a similar record of producing leather goods. Clearly, the caps of the 1st and 2nd Regiments were made of leather by December 1776.²⁷

The switch from felt to leather caps is further supported by entries in Marion's Order Book. For the previous year and a half, no mention had been made of problems with soldiers wearing their caps. Suddenly, beginning in December, there is a frequent need to order soldiers to wear their caps:

December 2 1776
*...every Soldier for the future must ware his Regimental Cap when Out of Quarters...*²⁸

December 5 1776
*Agreeable to Genl Orders of 2nd Inst for every soldier to wear their Regimental caps - Commanding Officers of Companies is desired to apply to the quarter master for caps for their men...*²⁹

26. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Public Ledger, 1775-1777*, 56, 58.

27. *Ibid.*

28. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 27.

29. *Ibid.*, 29.

January 10 1777

Ordered that the men allways Appear with their Regimental Caps Such as disobey this Order may depend on being severely punished.³⁰

Why the sudden difficulty in getting the men to wear their caps? Because the caps issued to the men in December of 1776 were made of leather, and thus were heavier and probably more uncomfortable than the felt caps the men were used to wearing.

Head-gear was to be issued once per year, but after only four months, caps were disappearing from the soldiers' heads, bringing threats of reprisals, and forcing soldiers to replace them with their own money:

April 7 1777

Commanding Officers of Companies to see that ... that their men be fitted wth: regim: Caps-³¹

June 19 1777

The General with surprise & displeasure has observed slovenly, indecent & dirty in which the Soldiers have of late upon almost every Occasion Appeard . . . [this Degeneracy], if not corrected in future, be deemed & treated as Disobedience of Orders – Regimental Orders Lt Col. Marion – A return ... to be made of...what caps are wanting to compleat –³²

August 11 1777

Obliging the sergeants & privates to wear their regimental caps ...All such disregard this order may depend on being swiftly punished – Capt^{ns} or Commanding Officers of Comp^y. are to furnish Caps for any of their men that may have lost theirs & to put them under stopages for the payment of them.³³

August 27 1777

A return of the number of regimental Caps wanted by each Comp^y. to be made out immediately and deliver'd to the Adjutant, such men as have lost their caps are to be supplied with others by their Captains, who are Order'd to stop their pay for the payment of them.³⁴

30. Ibid., 43.

31. Ibid., 175.

32. Ibid., 202-203.

33. Ibid., 222.

34. Ibid., 228.

Clearly, the men did not care for the new caps. But what of the officers? For a time, these gentlemen were apparently allowed to keep their more comfortable and fashionable beaver-felt caps. No longer:

June 12 1778

*Order'd that the Officers do immediately provide themselves with Leather caps ... and that they wear no other kind of caps.*³⁵

From this point on in the order books, there is only slight mention of the caps; they were issued periodically to the men, probably depending on when their last cap was issued, into 1779. Until that time, all supplies for the S.C. Troops had come from the state, not from the Continental Congress or Washington's army.³⁶ By 1779, however, after four years of war, South Carolina's ability to supply her soldiers was becoming overtaxed. Supply of many materials, including clothing, was becoming problematic.³⁷ Fortunately, the Continental Congress finally began sending much-needed war materials to South Carolina. General Benjamin Lincoln, commanding the Southern Department, wrote the Clothier General on April 9 1779, "Mr. John Walter Gibbs of Charles Town informs me that he has in his possession twelve hundred leather Caps bought and paid for, out of Money belonging to the United States, on Account of the Georgia Battalions & that he would be glad to deliver them to your order."³⁸ As there were very few Georgia Continentals by this time, these caps would have been delivered to other Continental Battalions, which consisted mainly of S.C. regiments. And though the materials of the caps may have changed, the use plumage continued:

35. *Ibid.*, 323.

36. Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, vol. 2, 364.

37. *Auditor General Accounts*, 160-163; Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, vol. 2, 369-370; Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 11, 449; *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Journals, 1778*, 91; *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Cash Book, 1778-1780*, January 1779.

38. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 3a, April 9, 1779.

May 22 1779

*...It is now four Years since I began to strut under a Cap and Feather...*³⁹

Through the final months of their existence, before surrendering in May 1780, the S.C. troops wore caps, as evidenced by this note from the Quarter Master of the 4th Regiment:

*Clothing Served to the Artillery Regt. from 1st Oct. 1779 to 12th May 1780
[includes] ... 24 Caps (110 more sent to detachments, 27 captured at the capitulation)*⁴⁰

Even after the surrender of the 2nd Regiment, their caps soldiered on. Many former S.C. Continentals either escaped or were paroled; some of these men joined their former commander, Francis Marion, as he maintained a guerilla war on the British. Marion's partisan dress was described in August 1780; his clothing included, "a leather cap, part of the uniform of the second regiment, with a silver crescent in front."⁴¹

Specifications

The Felt Caps, 1775-1776

The uniforms of Montgomery's S.C. Provincial Regiment of 1760-61 appears to have been a model for the later 1st and 2nd Regiments, and influenced the general style of other S.C. units during Revolution. Raised for service against the Cherokee in the French and Indian War, this regiment included many officers who would later serve in the Regiments of 1775, and their uniform was strikingly similar to that of the later regiments:

S.C.. Gazette, Sept. 27 1760

The uniform of this regiment is, Blue turn'd up with scarlet, made in the same manner as that of the Light Infantry of His Majesty's Royal or First Regiment of Foot and looks extremely well.

39. Cross, "Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780," 233.

40. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, "Clothing Served to the Artillery Regt. from 1st Oct. 1779 to 12th May 1780...", (?).

41. William Dobein James, *A Sketch of the Life of Brig. Gen. Francis Marion* (Charleston, S.C.: Gould and Riley, 1821), 19.

The regiment wore a light infantry cap with an upturned or sewn-on front emblazoned with a crescent (heraldic symbol of the then-current Royal Governor of S.C.).⁴² We have no extant descriptions of these caps. Light infantry caps were not included in British uniform regulations until 1771⁴³, and the caps worn by British and Provincial light infantrymen during the French-&-Indian War were quite varied. Both leather and felt caps were used, and in any number of configurations.⁴⁴

The pre-Revolution uniforms of the Charles Town Light Infantry Company may provide clues on the later units' caps. This company wore scarlet coats and "small black beaver caps with black feathers and a silver crescent on the front".⁴⁵ Charles Cotesworth Pinckney served as a lieutenant in this company; his portrait by Henry Benbridge (Figure 3)⁴⁶, painted in 1773,



Fig. 3. C.C. Pinckney, 1st Regiment, ca. 1773-1776.

originally showed him in the Light Infantry uniform. Once the Revolution broke out, Pinckney became Captain of the 1st Regiment's Grenadier company; his portrait was repainted (twice) in 1775 to reflect this uniform. These touch-ups make it difficult to ascertain how much of the uniform depicted is truly representative of Pinckney's 1st Regiment uniform; it is difficult, however, to imagine anyone describing the cap Pinckney wears in the painting as

42. McMaster, *Soldiers and Uniforms*, 45.

43. Hew Strachan, *British Military Uniforms, 1768-1796* (London: Arms and Armour Press, 1975), 13, 187

44. Ian M. McCulloch, Tim J. Todish, and Steve Noon, *British Light Infantrymen of the Seven Years' War: North America 1757-63*, Warrior 088 (Oxford: Osprey, 2004), 45-48; Rene Chartrand and David Rickman, *Colonial American Troops 1610-1774* (3), Men-at-Arms 383 (Oxford: Osprey, 2003), 21-23, 43-46.

45. Fitzhugh McMaster and Tom Jones, "Light Infantry Company, Charleston Regiment South Carolina Militia, 1773-1776," *Military Collector and Historian*. Vol. 39 (Fall 1987), 131.

46. Henry Benbridge, *Charles Cotesworth Pinckney*, ca. 1773-1775, oil on canvas, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC. (Digital reproduction courtesy of National Portrait Gallery).

a “small black beaver cap”. Although the exact construction of this double-peaked cap is not clear in the painting*, its front plate is over nine inches tall, making it much more in the style of British grenadier mitre-caps probably worn by the grenadiers of the 1st Regiment in 1775-1776. The lower crown is reinforced with a turban of either felt or black cloth, approximately four inches high, featuring two rows of gold embroidery around the circumference and the edge of the front plate. The cap features a silver crescent overlaid with crossed scimitars, as found on 1st Regiment gorgets.⁴⁷

Another possible hint at the 2nd Regiment’s caps comes from the uniform of the St. Helena Volunteer Company, of the low-country Granville Regiment. It was raised in October 1775, five months after the 1st and 2nd Regiments, and its uniform clearly borrowed heavily from the dress of the Provincials. Company member Charles Floyd left a description of his uniform, which includes “beaver cap with a silver crescent in front, black ostrich plume on the left and white plume on the right...” Floyd also drew a sketch of himself in this uniform (Figure 4); this is believed to be the only extant period image of a South Carolina enlisted man. This sketch shows a visorless cap, with a lower front (approximately six inches) than that of Pinckney’s grenadier cap.⁴⁸



Fig. 4. Self-portrait of Pvt. Charles Floyd, St. Helena Volunteers, ca. 1775-76

*Fitzhugh McMaster concluded that Pinckney’s cap was simply a brimless, tall felt crown, bashed in laterally to give it a mitre-like appearance. This opinion, however, is not supported by any evidence, save McMaster’s visual inspection of the painting. After examining high-resolution images of the painting, notes from the Smithsonian x-ray analysis of the painting and McMaster’s own notes, I cannot agree with his assessment. Due to the darkness of the image, increased by age, the construction of the cap cannot be determined with any certainty.

47. Thomas Carter et al., *National Portrait Gallery Notes on Microscopic and X-ray Examination of Benbridge Portrait of C.C. Pinckney*, with accompanying letters. National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC, letter dated September 6, 1969.

48. Fitzhugh McMaster, “St. Helena Volunteers, South Carolina Militia,” *Military Collector and Historian* Vol. 15 (Fall 1965), 92-93.

In his subsequent article on 1st and 2nd Regiments, the enlisted men are illustrated in short visorless caps with a separate front piece attached. McMaster's text, however, makes no mention of the construction of the men's caps, save a description of the grenadier caps (taken from Pinckney's portrait), and that the men's caps were made of felt. McMaster apparently used the leather caps shown in portraits of Captains Motte and Shubrick as a basis for the design shown in the article's illustrations.⁴⁹ Unless more evidence is found, this conjectural design for the early-war felt caps is as valid as any.

The Leather Caps, December 1776 -1780

The portraits of Captains Jacob Shubrick and Charles Motte contain the only two visual references we have today for the construction of mid-war 2nd Regiment caps (see Figures 5-7).

Shubrick's battalion-company cap is seen only from the front, so its usefulness is limited. The sewn-on front piece is approximately 6 inches tall, rounded but ending in a slight point or "scallop" at the top. The silver crescent, located on the upper third of the front piece, approximately 1½ inches tall; the first letters of "LIBERTY" are visible. The cap is pulled down over Shubrick's right ear, but this portrait is believed to have been a caricature, showing him in a cavalier or slightly comical pose, and possibly with an oversized cap and coat.⁵⁰

Captain Motte's portrait would yield much more information on the cap, were it not in relatively poor condition, and only currently available in an old black-and-white photograph. Motte is holding his cap in his right hand, against his waist. Based on the position of his hand and cap, the front piece is no taller than Shubrick's and may be slight shorter. The silver crescent

49. Fitzhugh McMaster and Darby Erd, "The First and Second South Carolina Regiments, 1775-1780," *Military Collector and Historian*, Vol. 29 (Summer 1977), 70-73.

50. Henry Benbridge, *Jacob Shubrick*, ca. 1778, oil on canvas, Anderson House Museum, Society of Cincinnati, Philadelphia, PA. (Digital reproduction courtesy of Anderson House Museum).

is mostly visible, similar in design to Shubrick's crescent, though slightly larger. A blackish projection behind the shield is almost certainly a black feather.⁵¹ The use of any other ornamentation or a turban cannot be either confirmed or denied by these two portraits.



Fig. 5. Jacob Shubrick



Fig. 6. Charles Motte



Fig. 7. Motte's cap

Leather/Crown/Turban - Most leather light infantry caps of the Revolution-era were either 1) 2-piece crowns of heavy jacked leather, or 2) four or six-piece crowns of lighter leather.⁵² So which construction is more appropriate for the 2nd Regiment?

Light infantry caps of heavy jacked leather were primarily intended as protection against cavalry sabers, which the 2nd Regiment, largely on garrison duty in Charleston, was probably not much concerned with. In addition, the 2nd Regiment's caps were made by local saddlers, who also produced caps for the state Light Horse (called "horsemen's caps" in the Treasury Records). In 1779, these saddlers were charging between £40 and £65 per horsemen's caps. The total amount allotted yearly for an infantry private's full clothing did not amount to these sums. Even

51. Henry Benbridge, "Charles Motte", ca. 1776-1779, oil on canvas, as reproduced in Robert G. Stewart, *Henry Benbridge: American Portrait Painter* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1971), plate 66.

52. Jay Howlett and Stuart Lilie, Interviews with author, August 2010.

taking into account the possible added expense of iron reinforcement and plumage typically used in horseman's caps, the infantry caps must have used much less-expensive leather.⁵³

If cheaper grade leather was used, crowns of 2-piece construction would be much more susceptible to collapsing over time. Four-piece crowns would be stronger, except at the base. Therefore, most caps with four-piece crowns were reinforced with leather around the base, i.e. a leather turban. There is no documentation for the use cloth turbans on the leather caps of any S.C. Continental regiment, either in the officers' portraits or in writing.⁵⁴

A four-piece crown and turban, both of lighter-weight unjacked leather is the most likely design for the 2nd Regiment's caps, based on the above information, and through discussions with noted master reproduction cap-makers Jay Howlett and Stuart Lilie.⁵⁵

Front Plate – The only two portraits showing 2nd Regiment leather caps are those of Shubrick and Motte. Analysis shows Shubrick's front plate to be approximately six inches tall, with a small (½ inch) point at the top. Motte's front plate is partially obscured due to his stance, but would appear to conform pretty well to the dimensions of Shubrick's front plate. No trim is evident on either plate.

Feathers - The officers of the 1st and 2nd Regiments are well-documented to have worn a black feather in their caps.⁵⁶ But did the enlisted men wear feathers as well? No documentation exists either confirming or denying this, but other sources hint at this possible practice.

First, in the British Army, most Light Infantry companies had some sort of plumage in their caps, as did many American light companies. Further, there are several records of S.C.

53. *Auditor General Accounts*, 114.

54. Jay Howlett and Stuart Lilie, Interviews with author, August 2010.

55. *Ibid.*

56. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 1.

militia units with similar caps specifying feathers in general for their caps; note the use of feathers by men of the Charleston Light Infantry⁵⁷, and of the St. Helena Volunteers.⁵⁸

The S.C. Regiments were patterned after light infantry troops; the officers were ordered to wear feathers; the officers' portraits show feathers; other similarly dressed S.C. troops are documented to have worn feathers, which was common amongst privates in British and American light infantry caps. Based on this information, I suggest that men of ALL ranks in the modern 2nd Regiment wear a black feather in their cap.

Crescent – No S.C. crescent dating from the Revolution has ever been found. There are three extant images of 1st and 2nd Regiment officers' crescents (see Figures 8-10)⁵⁹. All are silver, approximately 1½ inches tall, very rounded with a large hollowed circular center. One 2nd Regiment crescent has part of the word “LIBERTY” visible, in keeping with many eyewitness descriptions. The men and officers are repeatedly referred to as wearing “silver” crescents. Those for enlisted ranks were probably made of German silver, a relatively inexpensive metal that readily keeps its shine, though cast pewter crescents are possible.



Fig. 8. Pinckney's crescent

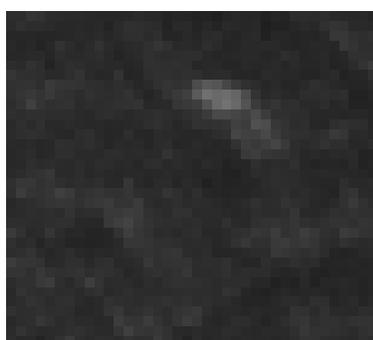


Fig. 9. Shubrick's crescent



Fig. 10. Motte's crescent.

57. McMaster and Jones, “Light Infantry Company, Charleston Regiment South Carolina Militia, 1773-1776,” 131.

58. McMaster, “St. Helena Volunteers, South Carolina Militia,” 92-93.

59. Benbridge, “Charles Motte”; Benbridge, *Jacob Shubrick*; Benbridge, *Charles Cotesworth Pinckney*.

Figure 11 is a graphic reconstruction of a 1st /2nd Regiment crescent, based on an amalgamation of the above depictions:



Fig. 11

The outer circle is 42mm in diameter; the inner circle is 30mm in diameter, centered and inserted to 13mm from bottom edge of outer circle. “Horns” of the crescent should then be slightly rounded. Stamping of “LIBERTY” would have been more practical than engraving, and is the more appropriate choice for enlisted ranks.

From the above information, here are recommended specifications for reproduction caps:

Felt Caps

- 1) 4-inch felt crown, made of black wool
- 2) Rounded front plate 6 inches tall
- 3) Bound in black wool or linen tape
- 4) Having a silver crescent (1½ inches tall), stamped “LIBERTY”
- 5) Having no turban or other decoration, save a black feather for ALL ranks
- 6) Shellacked, as per standard procedure in the British and other European armies
- 7) Optional linen lining

Leather Caps

- 1) 4-inch leather crown of 5-6 ounce leather, with either two or four-piece construction
- 2) Leather turban, 1½ inches tall, around bottom circumference of crown, ending just inside the front plate
- 3) Front plate, 6 inches high plus additional top point or “scallop” of ½ inch
- 4) Black leather trim around base of crown
- 5) Single black ostrich feather sewn into left side of turban where it meets the front plate, extending laterally over the crown; end sewn into similar location on right side
- 6) Linen lining or leather sweatband
- 7) Crescent (of above construction) sewn into front plate at three points through holes drilled in crescent and front plate

V. COATS AND SPLIT SHIRTS

The men of the 2nd Regiment have been traditionally pictured in full-length coats. The only period depictions are of the officers' coats of Harleton, Shubrick and Motte. Based solely on these paintings, McMaster determined that the enlisted men were issued full-length coats throughout the war. A closer examination of the paintings themselves, and of written period sources, reveals that the men probably wore short coatees, the facings and linings of which changed twice during the course of the war.

McMaster also concluded that the men only wore the coat on special occasions, wearing "split shirts" as fatigue wear. A review of period documentation shows that this was true only until mid-war, at which point the split shirts were phased out, with the coats being worn daily.

Usage

In his landmark work on the uniforms of the 1st and 2nd Regiments, Captain Fitzhugh McMaster makes the following statement:

*Hunting shirts, actually "split" shirts, made from 4 yards of osnaburg, were worn starting in September 1776; the unbleached material was not dyed but was retained in the off-white, or cream color. Shortly thereafter, all regimental coats were kept locked up in the storerooms, issued for parades, funerals, inspections, etc., and checked back in afterwards.*⁶⁰

Unfortunately, McMaster's documentation for this statement does not survive. However, based on a close reexamination of period records, put in chronological and etymological contexts, I believe that McMaster's statement is essentially correct, but only for the early war period.

The 2nd Regiment was raised in June 1775. On June 20, officers were ordered to provide themselves with a blue coatee, faced scarlet.⁶¹ Three days later, the officers of the 2nd Regiment appeared before the S.C. Provincial Congress in coats of this description.⁶²

60. McMaster and Erd, "The First and Second South Carolina Regiments, 1775-1780," 70-73.

61. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 1.

No mention is made of providing coats for the enlisted men of the 2nd Regiment. A few weeks later, however, Colonel William Thompson was trying to provide coats for his 3rd

Regiment:

July 29 1775

*...About 50 Men are already clothed with their Regimentals & shall get the remainder ready as speedy as possible I can as I have a number of Taylors employ'd for that Purpose, but find it little difficult to procure a sufficient Quantity of low priced Blue Broad Cloth...*⁶³

Apparently, by the end of the year, the 2nd Regiment had procured coats for their men. In his memoirs, William Moultrie, then colonel of the regiment, wrote:

We had now [November 1775] a camp on James' Island, near Fort Johnson, of at least five hundred men, well armed, well accoutered, and well clothed ... [the men] were as well clothed as troops could be, and made a handsome appearance.⁶⁴

The first mention of “split” shirts, or “hunting” shirts, comes from the S.C. Auditor General Accounts, which mentions that the 5th Regiment was supplied with “hunting shirts” in the spring of 1776.⁶⁵ During the same period, hunting shirts were also procured for the 3rd Regiment:

May 7 1776

*Having been informed a few days ago that Mr. John Giles at Monck's Corner had some Osenburgs for Sale, I desired one of my officers to send a person there & endeavour to purchase the whole of him in order to make Hunting Shirts for my men...*⁶⁶

“Ozenbergs”, a.k.a. “Ozinbrig”, “Oznaburg”, etc., was defined in the 18th century as a relatively coarse natural linen fabric, was extremely common, and typically used for working

62. Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 10, 190-191.

63. *Ibid.*, vol. 10, 253.

64. Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, vol. 1, 93.

65. *Auditor General Account*, 30.

66. A.S. Salley, ed., *The History of Orangeburg County, South Carolina, from Its First Settlement to the Close of the Revolutionary War* (Orangeburg, S.C.: R. L. Berry, 1898), 437-438.

garments.⁶⁷ Thompson's reasons for providing hunting shirts for his men are unclear: shortage of blue cloth, more recruits coming into the unit, fatigue wear, etc. At any rate, by summer of 1776 the 3rd Regiment wore hunting shirts, with at least some percentage of men having coats.

The men of the 2nd Regiment were probably in a similar situation that summer, though based on Moultrie's earlier description they may have had a greater number of coats than the 3rd Regiment. The men were wearing their coats in the Battle of Sullivan's Island, June 28, 1776:

*When the action begun, (it being a warm day) some of the men took off their coats and threw them upon the top of the merlons, I saw a shot take one of them and throw it into a small tree behind the plat-form, it was noticed by our men and they cried out 'look at the coat.'*⁶⁸

Despite the use of the regimental coats in this battle (perhaps an 'esprit-de-corps' gesture when facing the British?), the daily wear of the men was hunting shirts (more frequently called "split shirts" in the 2nd Regiment records), used as fatigue wear in lieu of hard-to-produce regimental coats. Even general officers wore these shirts, as mentioned in a letter from Henry Laurens to his son John:

August 21 1776
*If I had your Pencil I would send you the Portrait of a Group of our Warriors in Split Shirts, I believe I shall procure one of General Lee & his suite – the Dress is light convenient & cheap 40/. Currency Coats a Man who when so Coated & Armed presents a fine Martial figure, what will not Men do or submit to when they are in Earnest.*⁶⁹

The following month, a tremendous amount of oznaburg was issued to the 2nd Regiment, which immediately used in making split shirts for the men:

September 17 1776

67. Florence M. Montgomery, *Textiles in America, 1650-1780* (New York: Norton, 1984), 312.

68. Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, vol. 1, 176.

69. Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 11, 260.

*The 2nd Regiment has been also supplied out of the Public Store with ... 14 1/2 pieces Ozenbrigs quantity 1857 yds...*⁷⁰

September 18 1776

*The Commanding Offrs of Compys. to apply to the quarter master for Ossnabergs to make a Hunting Shirt pr. man at the rate of 4 yds each shirt 10s to be allowed for making...*⁷¹

Difficulties in procuring proper broadcloth were endemic throughout the states. On October 8 1776, the Continental Congress passed a clothing resolution for Continental soldiers:

*Resolved that for the future encouragement of the non Commissioned Offrs & soldiers who shall engage in the service during the war, a suit of Cloaths be given each of the sd. non comm: Offrs. & Soldiers to Consist for the present year of two linning huntg. shirts, two pair of overalls a Hatt a Leathern cap two shirts two pr hose two pr shoes...*⁷²

General Washington recognized the same advantages of hunting shirts as noted earlier by Henry Laurens: they were cheap, lightweight, comfortable and durable.⁷³ What they were not, however, was “proper” dress for professional soldiers. And Washington wanted a proper army, as did most Continental officers, seen as equal to the British army. They would struggle the entire war to provide regimental coats for their men.

Despite having split shirts, there were times when the men of the S.C. regiments had to wear their coats. In the hot Carolina Low Country, wealthy officers could provide their own summer regimental coats of silk or linen, as mentioned in the letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1st Regiment,

March 21 1776

*John will deliver to you some Princes Stuff [a type of fine linen] which I shall be obliged to you to have made into a Regimental Coat for me and ornamented with Wings...*⁷⁴

October 11 1776

70. Auditor General Accounts, 100.

71. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 103.

72. Ibid., 118.

73. John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources 1745-1799*, vol. 8 (Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 1933), 223.

74. Cross, “Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780,” 28-29.

*Please direct John to carry my Cloth Regimental Coat to Trezevant to be turned and made up smartly with Epaulets and the buttons of my Summer Coat, which I now send up...*⁷⁵

Use of split shirts continued for fatigue duty into 1777, as documented in several entries in Francis Marion's 2nd Regiment order book:

October 7 1776

*The men returned from Command to be supply'd with hunting shirts & blankets Emediately...*⁷⁶

November 28 1776

*Commanding Offrs of Compys. are desired to send in their acct's. tomorrow by 12 OC: to the Adjutant for making the Hunting shirts for the Regiments -*⁷⁷

December 24 1776

*Commanding Officers of Compys. are to make a return by three OC: this after noon to the Adjutant of the quantity of Osnabg each recd. from the quarter Master for the making of Hunting shirts for the men -*⁷⁸

February 10 1777

*The comdg. Officers of Companies that have any demands for the making the Split Shirts are desir'd to call on Co: Motte for the Paymt. of the Same...*⁷⁹

This last entry is the final mention of this garment, described as either hunting shirts or split shirts, as an issued garment in Marion's order book, or in any of the extant S.C. records.

Though not specifically mentioned in orders, split shirts continued to be used through the next few months. The men's' regimental coats continued to be used only at special occasions:

May 21 1777

...All the Officers off duty are desired to attend the funeral of Lt George Eveleigh at Mr Smiths house in Tradd Street this afternoon at 5 OC: One Subaltern one Sergeant & 24 Rank & file men to attend the funeral with Sufficient Number Blank Cartridges; the men are to receive their Coats out of the store & are to be as Clean as possible- The Officer

75. Ibid., 76.

76. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 107.

77. Ibid., 126.

78. Ibid., 138.

79. Ibid., 154.

*who Command this party is to take an account of the men who receive their coats & see they are return'd before they are discharged.*⁸⁰

June 22 1777

*...On Saturday 10 OC. in the morning divine Service will be performed by the Chaplain in St Michaels Church ... the men to receive their Coats from the quartermaster that day for which Commanding Officer of Companies to give a receipt...*⁸¹

From this point on, clothing was generally issued to the men twice per year, in February and in late summer or early fall. The clothing issued in July 1777 did not include split shirts:

July 21 1777

*The Commanding officer of each company to give in a return tomorrow morning by 10 PC: to the quarter master of the number of coats waistcoats & breeches & spatterdashers received by them from him...*⁸²

By this time, the daily use of split shirts was being phased out. Materials had begun arriving from overseas, particularly France, and the shortage of blue cloth had apparently been addressed for the time being.⁸³ This was another step towards a “proper” Continental Army. The increased ability to supply coats to the S.C. Continentals is evident by the following resolution of the S.C. Assembly; no mention is made of hunting or split shirts:

August 23 1777

*Resolved, that every Soldier who hath or shall Enlist in any regiment of this state in the Continental Service shall receive Annually one Blanket, one Coat, one waistcoat, one p^r. Breeches, one Hatt or Cap, two shirts, one Black Stock or Cravat, two p^r Stockings or Leggins, & two p^r. of Shoes...*⁸⁴

Even the Rangers of the 3rd Regiment were abandoning their hunting shirts. In addition, the promise of quality clothing used as a recruiting tool, as in this letter from Col. Thompson:

80. Ibid., 193.

81. Ibid., 205.

82. Ibid., 216.

83. Marko Zlatich and Peter F. Copeland, *General Washington's Army (1): 1775-1778*, Men-At-Arms 273 (London: Osprey, 1994), 41-42.

84. O'Kelley and Fortitude: Francis Marion's Orderly Book, 107, 266-267.

September 15 1777

*I came yesterday from Town after being there 8 days in the hottest weather I ever felt Endeavouring to get Cloths for my men. Bought cloth at £15 per yd & Scarlet ditto at £25 per yd hope to be able to Clothe them Completely as soon as Capt Hatten arrives, who went to France for Clothing for the Soldiers – the Assembly has Voted that the Soldiers should have 1 Coat 1 Jacote 1 pr Breeches 2 Shirts 2 pr Stockings 2 pr Shoes 1 Black Cravat and 1 Blanket each year. I hope this Ample Provision for Soldiers will make some that are like to Lay cold this winter list in our Regiment –*⁸⁵

Whether or not the men were completely clothed is unclear. “Capt Hatten” was actually Captain John Hatter, captain of the ship *Hope*; sent to France for clothing, the ship was captured on her return voyage by the British Navy in late 1777.⁸⁶

The effort to get the men of the 2nd Regiment into proper coats continued into the new year:

September 20 1777

*...such men as have not rec^d. their Regimental coats are to Apply to the Quarter master who has orders to deliver them, but not before the above returns are given in...*⁸⁷

November 21 1777

*Commanding Officers of Comp^{ys}. ...to make a return as soon as possible of what necessaries they have received & what are wanting Such as caps, shirts, Coats, waistcoats, Breeches, Spatterdashers, Shoes, Blankets, Axes, Knapsacks, havresacks, Camp Kettles, Arms & Accoutrements...*⁸⁸

January 1 1778

Inventory of Arms, Accoutrements, & Cloathing Delivered Capt. Blake’s Company in 2^d Regiment

[24 men listed by name]

21 Muskets

21 Bayonets

0 Pouches

1 Cap

24 Shirts

0 Coats

0 Waistcoats

85. Salley, *The History of Orangeburg County, South Carolina, from Its First Settlement to the Close of the Revolutionary War*, 455-456.

86. Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 11, 461n.

87. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 235.

88. *Ibid.*, 258.

0 Breeches
 23 Stockings
 17 Shoes
 24 Blankets⁸⁹

Apparently there was insufficient wool cloth to issue coats and winter smallclothes to the men.

This deficiency was soon corrected in the form of a large shipment of wool from France:

*On January 30th, 1778 the firm of Lozy and [Plombard] received at Charleston and sold to South Carolina: 4217 yards of blue and 643 yards of buff wool, and 10,339 yards of white cadix and tricot cloth.*⁹⁰

Cadix and tricot were thin worsted wool cloth, similar to shaloon; though typically used for coat linings, they were also used for the outer bodies of waistcoats and breeches.⁹¹ This cloth quickly found its way to the 2nd Regiment, whose tailors went to work:

February 10 1778

*...Those Soldiers who will work at the regimental Cloathing will be excused all duty & receive three pounds for a Jacket & p^r. breeches & five pound for each Coat – thirty Shillings per day will be Allowed for a man to cut out & act as foreman who must keep an Exact Account of all work done...*⁹²

Soon most of the men were in coats; an eyewitness description in the Pennsylvania Ledger from April 1778 describes the 2nd Regiment as “395 men, [dressed black faced red] and some white frocks.”⁹³ The most likely scenario would be that recent recruits were wearing old, faded oznaburg split shirts until they could be issued regimental coats.

Another clothing resolution was issued by the S.C. Assembly in March 1778; it promised even more clothing to the Continental regiments, but its long list of items to be provided does

89. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, “Inventory of Arms, Accoutrements, & Cloathing Delivered Capt. Blake’s Company in 2^d Regiment,” January 1 1778.

90. Zlatich and Copeland, *General Washington's Army (I)*, 41-42.

91. Louis Harmouth, *Dictionary of Textiles*, 2nd ed. (New York: Fairchild, 1920), 195; Montgomery, *Textiles in America, 1650-1780*, 183, 346.

92. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 289.

93. P.R.N Katcher, “South Carolina Uniforms, 1778,” *Military Collector and Historian*, vol. 23 (Winter 1971), 130-131.

not mention any kind of hunting shirt, split shirt, etc.⁹⁴ These shirts, however, were still used unofficially, whether temporarily used by recruits, or as a fatigue wear while in the field.

Thomas Pinckney found himself an overshirt while serving with the 1st Regiment on the disastrous East Florida campaign:

May 23 1778

*...I have bought one of the shirts sent from France for our Soldiers, taken by the Enemy and retaken by the Georgians, for a hunting Shirt...*⁹⁵

But for the 2nd Regiment, usually in garrison duty during this period, coats saw daily use:

October 18 1778

*The Sarg^t. or Corporal who's Business it is to see their men for Guard will Certainly be punish'd if they parade them Dirty. They're to be particularl in making their men put on Clean Shirts Stockings or Garters & if they wear Linen Jackets & Breeches they must be Clean & their Coats or Woolen Jackets & Breeches will Brusht or they must answer for the neglect...*⁹⁶

Later that year there was sufficient coats for all the men, including recruits:

November 12 1778

*Command^g. Off^rs of Comp^{ys}. will have such Coates Changed in the store which have been given to their recruits & do not fit them...*⁹⁷

By the spring of 1779, however, the supply situation in South Carolina was becoming critical. Inflation was spiraling, imports had proven insufficient, and many goods were simply no longer available. The state could no longer adequately provide clothing for its soldiers.⁹⁸ From this point forward, the Continental Army would supply much of the cloth needed for the men's clothing. However, the supply of wool was still running low:

94. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 297.

95. Cross, "Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780," 150.

96. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 359.

97. *Ibid.*, 365.

98. *Auditor General Accounts*, 160-163; *Ibid.*, vol. 2, 369-370; Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 11, 449; *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Journals, 1778*, 91; *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Cash Book, 1778-1780*, January 1779.

March 19 1779

*...The Q^r. Master Serj^t. Will Deliver Out to the Different Companies a Coat and a p^r. Breeches to Such Men as the Commanding Officer of the Different Companies think Most Proper...*⁹⁹

March 27 1779

*...What Regimental Coats are left in the Store The Q. M. Serj^t. must Issue them to the old Soldiers – Particularly to the boatmen...*¹⁰⁰

Despite his wealth and status, Thomas Pinckney, back in garrison with the 1st Regiment, was also in need of a new coat by this time:

April 19 1779

*I believe I must soon ... refit, as I begin to be much out of repair ... the Lining of my Coat is elegant on account of its fringes.*¹⁰¹

The supply of coats had not improved by the fall, when the Southern Army began its march to Savannah. In the 4th Regiment, the nine men charged with making cannon ammunition were seriously short of coats:

September 6 1779

[Excerpts from] “A Return of those things wanted by the men belonging to the Continental Laboratory in Order for Their March”

*7 Coats
0 Shirts
0 Overhalls
6 Shoes
0 Waistcoats
7 Blankets
9 Canteens
7 Napsacks
6 Arms*¹⁰²

In October 1779, a new clothing regulation came down from Washington’s headquarters, specifying that the S.C. regiments should have blue facings. A letter from John Dart, Clothier

99. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 401.

100. *Ibid.*, 403.

101. Cross, “Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780,” 231.

102. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, “A Return of those things wanted by the men belonging to the Continental Laboratory in Order for Their March”, September 6 1779.

General for the Southern Department, to his commander, General Benjamin Lincoln, acknowledged this new regulation, if and when cloth was found:

October 8 1779

*I have inclosed you a Copy of a letter which his Excellency the Governor has put into my hands, and as soon as Cloathing can be procured the Regimentals shall be made up without delay, agreeable to the directions from the War Office, unless I should receive your orders to the contrary –*¹⁰³

The next day, October 9th, the 2nd Regiment participated in the attack on the Spring Hill redoubt at Savannah. The 2nd Regiment sustained disastrous casualties; many other S.C. regiments suffered as well. Shortly afterwards, the siege was raised, and the mauled S.C. infantry regiments were sent to Sheldon, S.C, to refit and reorganize under the temporary command of Francis Marion. After several months in the field, the men were in dire straits for new clothing, as shown in a letter to Marion from General Lincoln:

December 17 1779

*...there is now cloth enough for jackets and overalls, for all the troops, and, I believe, coats also; but tailors are needed ; you will, there fore, please to send down, under the care of a good sergeant, all the tailors you have in camp, if they do not exceed twenty.*¹⁰⁴

The tailors went to work, but fate intervened. A British invasion force approached Charleston in late January; most of the S.C. Continentals had still not received their new clothing:

January 31 1780

[Genl. Lincoln to Col. Marion]

The state of [affairs] is such as to make it necessary that we draw our force to a point as much and as soon as possible. No troops will be kept in the field, except two hundred Light Infantry and the Horse. You will, therefore, please to select from the three regiments with you, two hundred of your best men and those who are best clothed, and organize them into a corps with proper officers. All the remainder, with the baggage of

103. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 4, #678, Oct. 8, 1779.

104. Robert W. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution Consisting of Letters and Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, from Originals in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources*, 3 vols. (New York: Appleton, 1853-1857), vol. 2, 4-5.

*the whole, (saving such as is absolutely necessary for Light Troops,) will march immediately to [Charleston]...*¹⁰⁵

Private Samuel Cross, 3rd Regiment, was among the less-clothed soldiers:

Oct. 20 1779 – May 12th 1780

*Received at Sheldon Camp 1 Shirt, 1 pr. Overalls, 1 Jacket, 1 pr. Shoes & 15 dollars...
At Charleston 1 Cloth Coat & 1 Blanket*¹⁰⁶

No further issue of coats is conclusively documented from this time until the surrender of all the S.C. regiments at Charleston in May 1780. However, the coats issued to the 4th Regiment during its final seven months of existence show that coats were in very short supply by this time; it also shows that coats were to be issued (ideally) during the winter:

October 1 1779 – May 12 1780

Clothing Served to the Artillery Regiment from the 1st October 1779 (at the time it became his duty) to the 12th May 1780 the time of the Capitulation

Winter { 30 Coats
10 Waistcoats
9 Breeches

Summer { 16 Waistcoats
0 Breeches
23 Overalls

95 Shirts

166 pr. Shoes

24 Caps [110 more sent to detachments, 27 captured at the capitulation]

122 Blankets [5 more issued to Georgia soldiers]¹⁰⁷

[This is a summary list of clothing issued to 124 individual soldiers. In addition, 8 pr Woollen overalls (“overalls”) and 7 Woolen Jackets were issued.]

105. Ibid., vol. 3, 9.

106. *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*, #1656.

107. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, “Clothing Served to the Artillery Regt. from 1st Oct. 1779 to 12th May 1780...”, (?).

Coat Design

In his article on the uniforms of the 1st and 2nd S.C. Regiments, Fitzhugh McMaster makes the following statement:

*The Second Regiment started out with, and did not change from, scarlet lapels, cuffs, cape and coat linings; the lapels stayed very narrow and the buttons were 5/8 inch white metal with an Arabic "2". The cuffs were "scalloped" with the high points at the front and rear of the sleeve. The grenadier company and the 8 battalion companies were to wear the full length coat while the light infantry company wore the coatee.*¹⁰⁸

McMaster listed the following sources:

- 1) The General Orders of William Moultrie, and The Orderly Book of Francis Marion; entries in both for 20 June 1775
- 2) Portraits of Harleston, Shubrick, Motte and Blake
- 3) Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Drawings 38CH50, Figures 1 and 2 of October-December 1973

Here are the General and Regimental Orders for the 2nd Regiment for June 20, 1775:

*Every Officer to provide himself with a blue cloth coatee Land & Cuff.d with Scarlet Cloth & Lind with Scarlet- White buttons & white waistcoat & breeches (a pattern may be seen at mr Freezwans also a cap and blk Feather...*¹⁰⁹

So as of June 1775 all officers were in coatees. Note that the flank (Grenadier and Light Infantry) companies were not yet created.

Next are the extant portraits of 2nd Regiment officers (Figures 12-15)¹¹⁰:

108. McMaster and Erd, "The First and Second South Carolina Regiments, 1775-1780," 70-73.

109. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 1.

110. Henry Benbridge, "John Blake," ca. 1775-1777, miniature, oil on ivory, as reproduced in Angela D. Mack, et al. *Henry Benbridge, 1743-1812: Charleston Portrait Painter* (Charleston, SC: Gibbes Museum of Art, 2000), plate 36. Benbridge, "Charles Motte", Benbridge, *Jacob Shubrick*; Charles Willson Peale, *John Harleston*, ca. 1775-1776. Peale Museum Collection, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. (Digital reproduction courtesy of Peale Museum).



Fig. 12. Lt. John Harleston



Fig. 13. Capt. Jacob Shubrick



Fig. 14. Capt. John Blake



Fig. 15. Capt. Charles Motte

All these officers have scarlet lapels, cuffs, capes and linings. Harleston is wearing a coatee; Motte's coat is slightly longer; Shubrick's coat is full-length. Harleston and Motte have French cuffs, scalloped front and back; Shubrick has one-piece cuffs, scalloped on each side. None of the officers pictured were ever in one of the flank companies (except Shubrick, who for a brief time was First Lt. in the Light Infantry), so these are representations of standard Battalion coats. Blake's portrait confirms narrow facings on the coats.

Finally, McMaster references two University of South Carolina drawings. These were done as part of an archeological dig at Ft. Moultrie in 1973. The study found many buttons with an Arabic "2", all 16-17mm wide (roughly 11/16 inch), flat with cast shank, made of relatively poor quality pewter. All other numbered buttons were from British regiments, so these were obviously from the 2nd S.C. regiment (see Figure 16).¹¹¹

However, in excavations at Dunham's Bluff, S.C., opposite Francis Marion's partisan camp at Snow's Island, the button in Figure 17 was unearthed, with a raised edge and a smaller "2". This cannot be identified to any other unit from either side, so by default this must be a 2nd S.C. Regimental button.¹¹²



Fig. 16



Fig. 17

111. Stanley A. South, *Palmetto Parapets: Exploratory Archeology at Fort Moultrie*, South Carolina, 38CH50 (Columbia: Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1974), Figs. 1, 50.

112. Charles S. Baxley, ed., "S.C.A.R Visits with James Estes of Mullins, S.C.," *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution* 4, no. 4-6 (April-June 2007), 14. <http://www.southerncampaign.org/newsletter/v4n456.pdf> (accessed September 15, 2010).

Also discovered at Dunham's Bluff was a button very similar to the one in Figure 16. The conclusion is that the 2nd Regiment used BOTH buttons. Presumably the Figure 16 button was early war, as eight examples of this type were unearthed at Ft. Moultrie, but none of the Figure 17 type were discovered. Figure 17 would have been a mid-to-late-war button. Both were apparently still on the coats of former 2nd Regiment soldiers who joined Marion's partisans after the surrender of the regiment in Charleston.¹¹³

McMaster: Just the Facts

McMaster	Documentation
<i>The Second Regiment started out with, and did not change from, scarlet lapels, cuffs, cape and coat linings</i>	This is a true statement, at least through February 1779. McMaster states that all the S.C. Continental regiments may <i>possibly</i> have changed their coat linings to white shaloon by August 1779. McMaster's reference for this has been lost, but the portrait of Maj. Benjamin Huger, 5 th Regt., along with cloth returns from the Continental store, support this theory.
<i>The lapels stayed very narrow and the buttons were 5/8 inch white metal with an Arabic "2"</i>	This is a true statement regarding the lapels; an analysis of the buttons in relation to the lapels reveals them to be approximately 1 1/2" to 1 7/8" width. The statement concerning the buttons is true but incomplete. Based on evidence from the portraits and the buttons recovered at Fort Moultrie and at Dunham's Bluff, the early war period buttons (1775-early 1777) were flat with a larger "2". Buttons after this period should have a raised edge with a slightly smaller "2". The dimensions of both buttons are actually 11/16ths (with corrosion possibly 3/4").
<i>The cuffs were "scalloped" with the high points at the front and rear of the sleeve</i>	This is partially true, yet incomplete. Two coats (Harleston and Motte) have front/rear scalloped cuffs, but they also have French cuffs, with 4 buttons up the sleeve. Shubrick's coat has plain cuffs with 4 lateral buttons, but the cuff is scalloped on the sides.
<i>The grenadier company and battalion companies were to wear the full length coat while the light infantry company wore the coatee</i>	Based on the sources cited by McMaster, there is absolutely no basis for this statement. Moultrie's order specifies coatees for all officers, at a time when no flank companies existed. The portraits show a mixture of short and mid-thigh coats, but none of the officers portraits show them in a flank company coat. The archeological drawings do not address this subject at all.

113. Ibid.

Thomas Pinckney's Coatee

Here are images of the only known extant S.C. Revolutionary War uniform coat (Figures 18-21):



Fig. 19



Fig. 18



Fig. 20



Fig. 21

This is believed to be Thomas Pinckney's coat while serving as Aide de Camp to Washington or Gates after the fall of Charleston.¹¹⁴ While it cannot be used for direct documentation of the 2nd Regiment coats, its construction reveals techniques likely used in military coat construction in South Carolina:

- 1) Coatee length
- 2) Dragoon cuffs with full-sized buttonholes
- 3) Sewn turnbacks with narrow hearts
- 4) Thin lapels
- 5) Sewn interior buttonholes for attaching exterior buttons via tape strands
- 6) Single-layer angled false pocket flaps (stitched down all around) with four buttonholes (again through the interior)
- 7) Interior pockets in each skirt (not shown in picture)
- 8) All seams finished (as per an officer's coat)
- 9) All visible seams topstitched
- 10) Single hook-and-eye near the top of the lapels (not shown)

Why the 2nd Regiment Wore Short Coats

- Middleton's Regiment of 1761, model for the 2nd Regiment of 1775, wore coatees.
- Officers were ordered to wear coatees in June 1775.
- Portraits of two 2nd Regiment officers show coatee or upper-thigh length coats; the third shows a longer coat, but this depiction is suspect.
- Many American and British units in the South modified their full-length coats to coatees.
- No order book ever references flank companies as having special or different coats.
- No reference in any order book ever mentions "coattails".
- There was a constant shortage of blue cloth, making a short coat more economical.

¹¹⁴ Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, *Life of General Thomas Pinckney* (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1895), 78-88.

- Thomas Pinckney's late-war coat is a coatee, with sewn short tails; this is the only extant S.C. Revolutionary War coat.
- In his *Treatise on the Oeconomy of a Battalion*, Bennett Cuthbertson recommends that Battalion Company coats "leave the bottom two buttons of the knee" uncovered (i.e. knee length).¹¹⁵ In his *Military Course for the Government and Conduct of a Battalion*, Thomas Simes recommends that Battalion Company coattails should hang 6 inches above the ground when a soldier is kneeling, and that light infantry coats should hang 9 inches above the ground.¹¹⁶ Based on these two references, the images in the portraits more closely match a description of a coatee than of battalion company coats.
- 1st Regiment: In March 1776, Thomas Pinckney was appointed captain of the Light Infantry company. On March 21, he wrote to his sister: "John will deliver to you some Princes Stuff which I shall be obliged to you to have made into a Regimental Coat for me and ornamented with Wings."¹¹⁷ He did not ask for the coat to be shortened or for a coatee, just a Regimental coat with wings attached. So either the Light Company was wearing full-length coats (unlikely) or Pinckney simply added wings to a standard battalion coat, which would be a coatee.

There is no evidence, save Moultrie's order for officer coatees and the extant portraits, to choose either a coat or coatee as a basis for the coats of the recreated 2nd Regiment. There are three extant portraits: one shows a coatee, one shows a coat with a length between a coatee and a full coat, one (which has been described as a caricature) shows a full coat. Having evaluated all this evidence, I believe that the enlisted men of the 2nd Regiment wore short coats, most probably throughout the entire war.

115. Cuthberston, *A System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry*, 69.

116. Thomas Simes, *A Military Course for the Government and Conduct of a Battalion* (London: J. Millan, 1776); quoted in Hew Strachan, *British Military Uniforms, 1768-1796* (London: Arms and Armour Press, 1975), 190.

117. Cross, "Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780," 28-29.

Coat Specifications

Based on the above documentation, a new, more historically-correct coat pattern should be procured for future 2nd Regiment coats. Specifications should include:

1. Dark blue broadcloth for coat body, finer scarlet broadcloth for facings, red shaloon or serge for body lining, oznaburg for sleeve linings
2. Half-lined (fully-lined at owner's discretion)
3. Coat 9-inches above the ground when kneeling on both knees)
4. Non-functional (stitched-down) turnbacks with hearts (as per Pinckney coat)
5. One 7/8-inch Regimental "2" button at the top of each (sewn) tail split
6. Single thickness false pocket flaps, sewn down, with four 7/8-inch Regimental "2" buttons, sewn diagonally or "slashed" (as per the Pinckney coat)
7. Functional lapels and cape
8. Lapels to be 2 inches wide, with proportional cape; lapels to have no lappets; facings should extend approximately 2 inches past the waistcoat
9. Lapels to have eleven 7/8-inch Regimental "2" buttons, with the top button fastening through the cape; buttons fastening to coat body through punched, unstitched holes, secured by linen tape
10. Welted interior pockets on each side, as per Pinckney coat (optional)
11. False cuffs, scalloped front and back (per Motte/Harleston coats), slashed along outer seam, four buttons along slash, with one button through the false cuff. First button $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from outer edge, succeeding buttons spaced 1½-inches apart
12. Four 5/8-inch Regimental "2" buttons on each cuff, attached as above
13. Construction and sewing practices reflecting that of typical period military coats: rough edges where appropriate, hand sewn where visible, buttons secured by linen tape, etc.

Should the regiment wish to portray the period February 1779-December 1779, coats should have white linings; for 1780, the coats should be made with blue facings with white tape buttonholes, as per orders.

Split Shirts



Fig. 22

In the 2nd Regiment, split shirts were over-garments used as fatigue wear in lieu of the regimental coat, and were also worn by soldiers lacking coats: new recruits, soldiers who lost or sold their coats, or those whose coats had worn out prior to a new coat issue. In contrast to the most elaborately-fringed hunting shirts worn by militia or riflemen, the 2nd Regiment's split shirts were mass-produced, and very utilitarian in function, similar to one worn by an American soldier in a contemporary drawing by a French officer who served in the siege of Yorktown. (Figure 22).¹¹⁸ As

such, it is recommended that split shirts of the modern regiment be made on an agreed-upon standard pattern, with the following specifications:

- 1) made of medium-to-heavy weight oznaburg (coarse unbleached linen)
- 2) be split open down the front
- 3) extend no further than upper-thigh
- 4) have a short standing collar, closed by a single button through an integral buttonhole
- 5) have a single cape, extending past the shoulder blades in the back
- 6) have wristbands closing with a single button
- 7) have raw fringe along edges of cape, split opening, and bottom of shirt

118. Jean Baptiste Antoine de Verger, "Soldiers in Uniform, 1781-1784," watercolor on paper, Brown University Library Center for Digital Initiatives: Prints, Drawings and Watercolors from the Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, <http://dl.lib.brown.edu/catalog/catalog.php?verb=render&id=1228246188843750> (accessed September 15, 2010).

VI. WAISTCOATS AND BREECHES

In period and later sources, the 2nd Regiment is invariably referred to as having white waistcoats and breeches (aka “smallclothes” in 18th century parlance). Officer portraits uniformly show all S.C. Continental officers in white smallclothes of similar construction. Was this same arrangement worn by the enlisted men? We have absolutely no documentation on the cut of the men’s smallclothes in the 2nd Regiment. Barring any evidence, the consistent depiction of the officers’ waistcoats and breeches suggests that the enlisted men’s’ smallclothes were probably of the same construction. However, based on period records, the actual cloth used by both men and officers varied at different periods and seasons, and the knee breeches would eventually be supplanted by full-length overalls.

Usage

In the first entry in Marion’s order book (June 20, 1775), the officers of the 2nd Regiment were ordered to “provide himself with...[a] white waistcoat & breeches.”¹¹⁹ At this very early stage of the war, however, enlisted men were coming into the ranks in whatever civilian clothing they had:

September 3 1775

*Orderd that the Officers of every Company do See their men Keep themselves Clean decent with their Hair combd & Dressed in a Soldier like manner They that have long Trowzers to have them made into Breeches*¹²⁰

By November 1775, the men of the 2nd Regiment were found in proper military smallclothes.

Their commander, Col. William Moultrie, later wrote:

We had now a camp on James’ Island, near Fort Johnson, of at least five hundred men, well armed, well accoutered, and well clothed with a sufficient number of regular good

119. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 1.

120. *Ibid.*, 11.

*tents...[the men were] as well clothed as troops could be, and made a handsome appearance.*¹²¹

We have no description of the enlisted men's smallclothes in this period, but we can confirm that the officers of both the 1st and 2nd Regiments were in white waistcoats and breeches. In addition to the early-war portraits of C.C. Pinckney and John Harleston (see Appendix I), Captain Thomas Pinckney of the 1st Regiment left a record of his smallclothes in letters to his sister from March 1776:

March 13 1776
*...Clean White Waistcoats and Small-Clothes are in demand.*¹²²

March 27 1776
*Please send me . . . all My clean casimeer [wool] Waist coats and Breeches.*¹²³

March 30 1776
*You have got all my Linen Waistcoats and small Cloaths at Ashepp[oo] and I am almost swelter'd in my cloth.*¹²⁴

So it was customary for officers to switch from cloth (i.e. wool) to linen smallclothes in warmer weather. Having both winter and summer smallclothes was also typical for enlisted men in most British and many American units, if they had the means of providing them. Of course, the expensive cashmere wool used in Capt. Pinckney's winter smallclothes was not used for the rank-and-file, but was in keeping with his status as a wealthy low-country planter.

Meanwhile, the 4th Regiment issued its own unique dress code for officers and men:

April 3 1776
'Tis expected all officers when with the Regiment will appear in the proper uniform of it: viz. A plain blue frock, waistcoat and breeches, the coat with a small standing collar, dragoon sleeve and pocket, with four buttons on each cuff lined with scarlet, the

121. Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, vol. 1, 90.

122. Cross, "Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780, 27.

123. *Ibid.*, 28-29.

124. *Ibid.*

*waistcoat only long enough to cover the waistband of the breeches...In summer both officers and men may, if they think proper, wear white instead of blue waistcoats and breeches.*¹²⁵

The use of blue smallclothes is never again documented in the 4th Regiment, or in any other S.C. Regiment. It is doubtful that this blue winter wear continued long in the Artillery Regiment, due to chronic shortages of blue cloth in the state. The most revealing aspect of this article is confirmation that the enlisted men of the 4th Regiment were authorized two sets of smallclothes, one (presumably of wool) for winter, one (presumably of linen) for summer. Additionally, the relatively short length of the waistcoat for S.C. Regiments is confirmed in this entry.

Did the 2nd Regiment have both summer and winter smallclothes during this period? We have no records indicating that they did or did not. The 4th Regiment had authorized two sets of smallclothes, but whether they had the means to carry out this order is unknown. Unless more information comes to light, we cannot document two sets of smallclothes for the 2nd Regiment until later in the war.

The term “jacket” pops up from time to time in the records. This word carried a double meaning at this time. “Jacket” frequently denoted a sleeved waistcoat or short working-man’s coat, but it was also sometimes used as an offhand term for any waistcoat, sleeved or sleeveless, as is clear from these entries in Marion’s order book:

May 14 1777

*...according to sentence of last court martial Jas Thompson for selling his Regimental waistcoat & Breeches recd 50 lashes on his bare Posterior & to be put under stoppages by Captn Charnock to replace the Jacket & Breeches...*¹²⁶

By late summer 1777, the use of split shirts as a stopgap for lack of coats was being phased out, as more supplies of cloth were beginning to arrive in Charleston. But the S.C. Assembly

125. Barnard Elliott et al., “Diary of Captain Barnard Elliott,” in *Year Book, City of Charleston for 1889* (Charleston, S.C.: News and Courier Book Presses, 1889), 200.

126. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 191.

could not guarantee that the S.C. Continentals would receive both summer and winter sets of small clothes:

August 23 1777

Resolved, that every Soldier who hath or shall Enlist in any regiment of this state in the Continental Service shall receive Annually one Blanket, one Coat, one waistcoat, one p^r. Breeches, one Hatt or Cap, two shirts, one Black Stock or Cravat, two p^r Stockings or Leggins, & two p^r. of Shoes¹²⁷

Wealthy officers, however, could still expect a seasonal change in smallclothes:

October 25 1777

...Be pleased to send to Burger for my Gun and Bayonet and let me have it by the First Opportunity. I shall be obliged if you will also have Maryanne look well over my Winter Waistcoats, and Breeches, have them well Mended and sent down to me.¹²⁸

The following two records indicate that, though the men may have received some clothing in late 1777, as of January 1778 no full sets of winter clothing had been issued to the men of the 2nd Regiment:

November 21 1777

Commanding Officers of Comp^{ys}. to Give a Copy of their Last muster roll to the Adjutant by tomorrow morning, also to make a return as soon as possible of what necessaries they have received & what are wanting Such as caps, shirts, Coats, waistcoats, Breeches, Spatterdashers, Shoes, Blankets, Axes, Knapsacks, havresacks, Camp Kettles, Arms & Accoutrements¹²⁹

January 1 1778

An Inventory of Arms, Accoutrements, and Cloathing Delivered Captain Blake's Company in 2d Regiment

21 Muskets

21 Bayonets

0 Pouches

1 Cap

24 Shirts

0 Coats

0 Waistcoats

127. Ibid., 266-267.

128. Cross, "Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780," 147.

129. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 258.

0 Breeches
23 Stockings
17 Shoes
*24 Blankets*¹³⁰

Relief for the clothing shortage came in the form of a shipment of wool cloth from France:

*On January 30th, 1778 the firm of Lozy and [Plombard] received at Charleston and sold to South Carolina: 4217 yards of blue and 643 yards of buff wool, and 10,339 yards of white cadix and tricot cloth.*¹³¹

Cadix (aka “caddis”, “caddas”) and tricot were thin worsted wool cloth, similar to shaloon; though typically used for coat linings, they were also used for the outer bodies of waistcoats and breeches.¹³²

With the arrival of new cloth, the tailors of the 2nd Regiment went to work:

February 10 1778
*... Those Soldiers who will work at the regimental Cloathing will be excused all duty & receive three pounds for a Jacket & p^r. breeches & five pound for each Coat ...*¹³³

Armed with this new shipment of cloth, with more hopefully on the way, the State Assembly upped its clothing promises to the S.C. Continentals:

March 2 1778
*Resolved, that instead of the cloathing hitherto allowed to the regiments of this State on the Continental establishment, Each non-Commissioned Officer, drummers, fifes and privates shall in future be Annually found with a coat waistcoat & breeches of Woolen Cloth, one Cap or Hat one Blanket four Shirts four p^r. Stockings & four p^r. Shoes two p^r Breeches of Wool or Coarse linen, two waistcoat of the same, 2 Leathern stocks & 2 leathern garters...*¹³⁴

130. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, “An Inventory of Arms, Accoutrements, and Cloathing Delivered Captain Blake’s Company in 2d Regiment,” January 1, 1778.

131. Zlatich and Copeland, *General Washington's Army (1)*, 41-42.

132. Harmouth, *Dictionary of Textiles*, 346.

133. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 289.

134. *Ibid.*, 297.

The term “coarse linen” is the first clue we have as to the linen used for smallclothes in the 2nd Regiment. This usually denoted a type of oznaburg (aka “Ozenbrig”, “Ozenbergs”, etc.), defined as a relatively coarse natural linen fabric, typically used for working garments, and was frequently used for soldier’s smallclothes.¹³⁵ It was also one of the most common, cheapest and durable linen fabrics available.

But didn’t the 2nd Regiment wear white smallclothes? Well, yes, in 18th century terminology. Oznaburg denotes an unbleached linen fabric. When new it is an oatmeal color, but through subsequent washings and long exposure to sunlight fades to a creamy off-white color.¹³⁶ An article in the Pennsylvania Ledger describes the 2nd Regiment in 1778 as wearing coats and “some white frocks”, meaning oznaburg split shirts.¹³⁷ By November 1775, when Moultrie states that the men had been adequately provided for, it is most likely that they wore oznaburg smallclothes.

“Buff ball” was a cake of a white powdery substances used to clean or cover stains on white clothing.¹³⁸ The following entry in a 1st Regiment order book confirms that their men were wearing white smallclothes in the spring of 1778:

April 15 1778
*... the men provided [with] Buff Balls to Clean Their waist Coats & Breeches with...*¹³⁹

135. Montgomery, *Textiles in America, 1650-1780*, 312.

136. Hazel Dickfoss and Laura Dickfoss, “Flax Linen,” William Booth Draper, http://www.wmboothdraper.com/Linen/linens_index.htm. (accessed September 15, 2010).

137. Katcher, “South Carolina Uniforms, 1778,” 130-131.

138. Cuthberston, *A System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry*, 101.

139. A.S. Salley, ed., “An Order Book of the First Regiment, South Carolina Line, Continental Establishment,” *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 8 (1907), 87.

In the summer of 1778, the S.C. Continentals began receiving their promised second yearly issue of clothing, as in this entry in James Mayson's 3rd Regiment order book:

July 7 1778

*That the Quarter Master serve out to every man Comd Officer and Private in the Regiment 2 pair Shoes 2 pr. Hose 2 Shirts 2 Jacketts 2 pr. Britches 1 Hatt and one Stock this Day...*¹⁴⁰

The 2nd Regiment received its summer linen smallclothes rather late; however, this occurred precisely six months after their issue of woolen smallclothes:

September 7 1778

*Command Officers of company to Apply to the Quart^r. Mast^r. Serg^t. for a p^r. Breeches & a Jacket for each of their men giving them a receipt for the same – they are to keep an Account in their company Book to whom Given...*¹⁴¹

September 30 1778

*Com^{dg}. Off^s. of Comp^{ys} to give in a return to day what number of Linen waistcoats & Breeches they have Rec^d. & how many are wanting to Compleat their Respective Comp^y. Provision return to be given to the Qt^r. M^{str} Sargent before the Provision Boat Returns as all those who neglect so to do can not be Served with any Provisions the Next Day...*¹⁴²

It would have been understood that “linen”, in this context, referred to oznaburg (since, at its basic level, that’s what it was). Lacking any specific documentation for the arrival of bleached linen from overseas, the men were probably again issued oznaburg smallclothes. But at this late in the season, the men were allowed to switch back to their old-issue wool smallclothes (presumably if still serviceable):

October 18 1778

*...[the Guard will] put on Clean Shirts Stockings or Garters & if they ware Lining Jackets & Breeches they must be Clean & their Coats or Wollen Jackets & Breeches will Brusht or they must answer for the neglect...*¹⁴³

140. 3rd Regiment, *Order Book 1778 June 23-1779 May 1*, Microfilm, Charleston Library Society, Charleston, S.C., entry for July 7, 1778.

141. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 346.

142. *Ibid.*, 353.

143. *Ibid.*, 359.

As always, clothing was at a premium, and the men were held accountable if theirs' disappeared:

November 20 1778

Jn^o. Taylor of Captⁿ. Mottes Comp^y. Confind for Loosing his Regim^l waistcoat & Breeches put under Stopage to replace them – Jam^s Oakes of Captⁿ. Baker Comp^y. Confined for Loosing his Regim^l Waistcoat & Breeches to be put under Stoppages to replace them.¹⁴⁴

November 30 1778

Jn^o. Chavis of Capt Lesaines Comp^y. Rec^d 30 Lashes on the bare back with a cat of Nine tails for Selling his Regimental Lining Breeches...¹⁴⁵

By early 1779, the men of the 2nd Regiment had been issued new winter woolen smallclothes. As the season advanced, the regiment was preparing for the summer issue of linen smallclothes:

February 16 1779

Orders (by Major Horry) The Q^r. Master Serjeant is to deliver no More Woolen Waistcoats & Breeches to Recrutes that join the Regim^l. as Summer near they will Receive the Same of Linnen.¹⁴⁶

February 18 1779

Orders (by Major Horry) The Quarter Master Serjeant is to Serve to Each Recrute as they join the Regiment a Linnen Waistcoat & Breeches instead of Wollen ones...¹⁴⁷

By the spring of 1779, however, South Carolina was exhausting her ability to provide for the troops. As the war ground into its fourth year, inflation was rapidly increasing; many items were becoming scarce, including clothing and fabric. Even the wealthy officers were struggling in their dress, as documented in another letter by the ever-cheerful and witty Thomas Pinckney:

144. Ibid., 367.

145. Ibid., 372.

146. Ibid., 393.

147. Ibid., 394.

April 19 1779

*I believe I must soon take a Journey to My Dear Harriotts House in order to refit, as I begin to be much out of repair ... The lining of my Coat is elegant on account of its fringes, the Buttons drop apace from my well worn Waistcoats. One of my Shirts is condemned, the others are respectable for their Antiquity, my Home spun small Cloaths continue in tolerable Order.*¹⁴⁸

The South Carolina government had issued financial incentives for locally-produced linen, such as worn by Major Pinckney, though by early 1778 the bounty had been rescinded.¹⁴⁹ Given the supply situation, however, it is quite possible that some of the linen smallclothes issued to the men in the summers of 1778 and 1779 were made of homespun oznaburg.

In the spring of 1779, a change occurred in the basic design of the men's' breeches. Until now the men had been issued knee breeches, accompanied with either below-the-knee spatterdashes or above-the-knee gaiters (both probably of French origin) to protect their legs.¹⁵⁰ However, by this time many units in both the British and northern American armies had abandoned the breeches-and-gaiter combination in favor of more practical and economical full-length trousers, more predominantly known at the time as "overalls" or "overhalls".¹⁵¹ This change occurred in the 2nd Regiment at this time, as evident in Marion's order book:

July 16 1779

*Captⁿ. Mazyck, Proveaux & Grays Company that are fit for duty to hold themselves in readiness to March at an hours warning, they will Apply to M^r. Simpson for one Shirt one Overhalls & 1 Lining Jacket p^r. Man What Arms & Accoutrements are wanting to Compleat them – it is expected that Captⁿ. Mazycks Comp^y. will be ready to go to town...*¹⁵²

148. Cross, "Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780," 231.

149. Thomas Cooper, *The Statues at Large in South Carolina*, vol. 4 (Columbia, S.C.: A.S. Johnston, 1838), 428.

150. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 215, 352.

151. Troiani et al., *Soldiers in America, 1754-1865*, 66.

152. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 442.

This switch from breeches to overalls probably occurred in all the S.C. Regiments, as noted in these records of the 4th Regiment:

September 6 1779

[Excerpts from] “*A Return of those things wanted by the men belonging to the Continental Laboratory...*”

7 Coats

0 Shirts

0 Overalls

6 Shoes

0 Waistcoats

7 Blankets

9 Canteens

7 Napsacks

*6 Arms*¹⁵³

By the fall of 1779, supply of cloth and clothing had become major problems. On the march to Savannah in September, French officers noted the ragged appearance of the S.C. Continentals.¹⁵⁴ After the exhaustive Savannah campaign, the men would have been in serious need of their winter clothing issue. Though promised to the men in November¹⁵⁵, the new clothing was delayed until enough materials could be found, as noted in a letter to Francis Marion from General Benjamin Lincoln, commander of the Southern Department. Marion was temporarily commanding the ALL the S.C. Continental infantry regiments, reorganizing at Sheldon, S.C., after their mutilation at Savannah:

December 17 1779

153. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, “A Return of those things wanted by the men belonging to the Continental Laboratory...,” September 6, 1779.

154. Alexander A. Lawrence, *Storm Over Savannah: The Story of Count d'Estaing and the Siege of the Town in 1779* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1951), 55.

155. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 480.

*... there is now cloth enough for jackets and overalls, for all the troops, and, I believe, coats also ; but tailors are needed ; you will, there fore, please to send down, under the care of a good sergeant, all the tailors you have in camp, if they do not exceed twenty.*¹⁵⁶

Despite the tailors best efforts, not enough clothing had been produced to fully clothe all the men by the end of January. By then, a large British fleet had appeared off Charleston, and invasion was imminent:

January 31 1780

*The state of [affairs] is such as to make it necessary that we draw our force to a point as much and as soon as possible. No troops will be kept in the field, except two hundred Light Infantry and the Horse. You will, therefore, please to select from the three regiments with you, two hundred of your best men and those who are best clothed, and organize them into a corps with proper officers. All the remainder, with the baggage of the whole, saving such as is absolutely necessary for Light Troops, will march immediately to this town...*¹⁵⁷

A confirmation of these orders comes from a statement in the S.C. Treasury Records of Private Samuel Cross, 3rd Regiment, who apparently was not part of the “best clothed” men remaining at Sheldon, and was sent to Charleston for more clothing:

*Clothing Received from October 20th 1779 through May 12th 1780
Received at Sheldon ... 1 Shirt, 1 pr. Overalls, 1 Jacket, 1 pr. Shoes & 15 dollars...
At Charleston 1 Cloth Coat & 1 Blanket*¹⁵⁸

From this point, until their surrender in May 1780, no issue of clothing is directly mentioned in any records pertaining to the 2nd Regiment. They were fully occupied with defending Charleston, and clothing became a non-priority. A record does exist of cloth issued to officers of the 4th Regiment in April 1780, as the British were tightening the noose around Charleston Neck:

April 1780

[Excerpts from] *“Clothing Served out to the officers of the Artillery Regiment for the month of April 1780 & which is not paid for”*

156. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution Consisting of Letters and Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, from Originals in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources*, vol. 2, 4-5.

157. *Ibid.*, vol. 3, 9.

158. *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*, #1656.

2 ½ yd. *Rushia ozabb.* x 19
 3 ½ yds. [black] *Sarge* x 19
 6 yds. *Coarse Cloth* x 10
 3 ½ yds. *Fine Nap* x 9 ¹⁵⁹

Russian Oznaburg was a fabric similar to standard linen oznaburg, but heavier, and of linen warp and hemp weft. Serge was a lightweight worsted wool cloth, typically used as coat lining, but could have been pressed into material for small clothes if needed; the color black suggests that this serge may have been used in lieu of the dark blue cloth normally used in S.C. Continental coats.¹⁶⁰ In truth, given the scant information available, it is impossible to reconstruct how these materials were used in these extreme circumstances; this list simply shows the materials available near the end of a long, desperate siege.

As the capitulation approached, the Quarter Master of the 4th Regiment closed out his clothing records for the final seven months of the regiment's existence:

October 1 1779 – May 12 1780

[Summary of] “*Clothing Served to the Artillery Regiment from the 1st October 1779 (at the time it became his duty) to the 12th May 1780 the time of the Capitulation*”

Winter { 30 Coats
 10 Waistcoats
 9 Breeches
Summer { 16 Waistcoats
 0 Breeches
 23 Overalls

[This is a summary list of clothing issued to 124 individual soldiers. In addition, 8 pr Woolen overalls and 7 woolen jackets were issued – ZP]

95 Shirts
 166 pr. Shoes
 24 Caps (110 more sent to detachments, 27 captured at the capitulation)
 122 Blankets (5 more issued to Georgia soldiers)

Col. Grimkes order previous to Capitulation:

4 coats
 4 winter waistcoats
 4 winter breeches

159. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, “Clothing Served out to the officers of the Artillery Regiment for the month of April 1780 & which is not paid for,” April (?), 1780.

160. Montgomery, *Textiles in America, 1650-1780*, 381.

5 pr. Shoes
*1 blanket*¹⁶¹

From these records, it appears that some Continentals were issued woolen sleeved-jackets, perhaps as a quick expedient in lieu of coats during the invasion. Additional notes indicate that the only woolen breeches issued were to musicians, who apparently continued in these as part of the musicians' livery; privates in the line received all 23 linen overalls, with a few receiving woolen overalls. It is also interesting to note that, just prior to the capitulation, Col. John Faucheraud Grimke, commanding the 4th Regiment, issued himself four full sets of clothing, plus five pairs of shoes and a blanket. He apparently was preparing for the worst upon being imprisoned by the British. In the same record, Col. Grimke also provided for his officers:

[Issued to] the officers pr. Col. G. order:

9 ¼ yards Rushian ozab.
29 ½ yards Coarse cloth
11 yards finer napd
*10 ½ yards black Sarge*¹⁶²

The same unidentified Quarter Master also made a more detailed record of which individual soldiers were issued clothing. Only fragments of this record survive, but they list individuals as receiving clothing in “winter suits”, “summer suits” or both suits.¹⁶³

Specifications

Waistcoats – There are eight extant portraits of all S.C. Continental officers (see Appendix I); all three 2nd Regiment officers, and four of the other five officers, are shown in white waistcoats which are cut straight across (no front tails or “V” split). The waistcoats generally extend just past the waistband of the breeches. Of the eight portraits where the officers' coats are opened

161. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, “Clothing Served to the Artillery Regiment from the 1st October 1779 to the 12th May 1780,” (?).

162. Ibid.

163. Ibid.

enough to possibly show waistcoat pockets, only one (Harleston) shows pockets (two small pockets with very short straight buttonless flaps). The waistcoats and breeches are mostly of off-white color; the material used is uncertain. Two images, those of Colonel Owen Roberts and Captain Brooke Roberts, 4th Regiment, are shown in stark-white smallclothes; these men are depicted at the Battle of Stono Ferry in June 1779, and would have been wearing their summer officer-grade linen waistcoats and breeches. The number of buttons on each waistcoat ranges from 11 to 14, and these generally appear closer together than typical American or British army waistcoats. The fit of these waistcoats mostly conform to the typical “tight but not constricting” fit desired in military clothing of the period.¹⁶⁴

Based on the above documentation, the waistcoats of the modern 2nd Regiment should:

- 1) Be straight-cut (no flaps)
- 2) extend to the middle of the breeches fall
- 3) have 5/8-inch plain pewter buttons, spaced 1.5 inches apart (final number of buttons depends on the wearer’s size)
- 4) have no pockets for enlisted men; small pockets with very thin straight flaps for officers (optional)
- 5) otherwise be of conventional late 18th century military design
- 6) feature “tight but not constricting” fitting

Breeches – All full-length officer portraits with show typical late 18th century fall front breeches. Only from mid-fall down are the breeches shown. They all end with four white metal above the knee band; a probably fifth button (or knee buckle for officers) at the knee band is obscured by black leather garters with brass buckles.

Based on the above documentation, breeches should:

¹⁶⁴. Cuthberston, *A System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry*, 71-72.

- 1) have conventional late 18th century military fall front pattern and design
- 2) have five 5/8-inch plain pewter buttons along bottom outer leg seam (the final button on the knee band)
- 3) extend 1 inch below kneecap (when standing)
- 4) feature “tight but not constricting” fitting

Overalls – As no extant documentation has been found for S.C. Continental overalls, adoption of an overall pattern documented to have been commonly used by later-war Continentals is recommended.

Fabrics – A recruit’s first set of smallclothes should be of coarse unbleached linen, with an optional 2nd set of white wool smallclothes. Hand stitching of all visible seams is highly recommended.

VII. SHIRTS

Very little documentation survives for the shirts used by the 2nd Regiment. In the 18th-century shirts were considered undergarments; as such they were a ubiquitous item, and little noted in S.C. records. Shirts issued by the British and French armies were standard late-18th-century drop-sleeve of white linen; this type of shirt was typically issued to American regular troops, though checked shirts were sometimes issued if white shirt linen was not available.

Usage

According to Resolutions of the Continental Congress and the S.C. Assembly, men were to be issued from two to four shirts per year.¹⁶⁵ The order books of the 2nd Regiment indicate that, though the men were issued shirts throughout the war, they probably did not meet the 2-4 shirts per year quota, especially by late-war.

Shirts for the S.C. Continentals were typically made locally, as indicated by these entries in the S.C. Treasury Records and Auditor Generals Accounts:

September 9 1776

Disbursements for the 6th Regt of Foot

Hugh Milling for Shirts & Hats 339._._¹⁶⁶

September 17 1776

*The 2:d Regiment has been also supplied out of the Public Store with ... 359 Ruffled Shirts ...*¹⁶⁷

1777 (Unspecified)

*The 2:d Regiment has been also supplied out of the Public Store with ... 50 Shirts ...*¹⁶⁸

165. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 297.

166. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Public Ledger*, 65.

167. *Auditor General Accounts*, 30.

168. *Ibid.*

Ready-made shirts from France also made their way to South Carolina. A shipment of French materials received on May 23 1777 included “200 shirts”.¹⁶⁹ The total number of French shirts which reached South Carolina is uncertain. A ship, the *Hope*, bound from Nantes and laden with clothes for the Continental troops, was captured off Charleston in late 1777.¹⁷⁰ The shirts may have made their way to the British in Georgia, where some were recaptured, as noted in this letter from Thomas Pinckney of the 1st Regiment, written during the disastrous invasion of East Florida:

*May 23 1778
Fort Howe [on the Altamaha River in Georgia]... I have bought one of the shirts sent from France for our Soldiers, taken by the Enemy and retaken by the Georgians, for a hunting Shirt ...*¹⁷¹

Additional French materials continued to reach S.C., however, so it is probable that some French shirts made their way to the S.C. troops. French shirts, however, were probably less common in general than locally-made shirts; they were too easy to make, and were not a high-priority item for importation.¹⁷²

By late-war, all clothing and fabric was becoming more scarce. In March 1779, the Southern Department Continental store had no shirts or shirting fabric of any kind on hand, though it did have a cask containing “wristband tape”, “pewter sleeve buttons” and “thread Shirt Buttons” (more on this later).¹⁷³

169. *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*, #1617.

170. Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 11, 461n.

171. Cross, “Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780,” 150.

172. Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 11, 112-113.

173. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 3, #47, March 20, 1779.

In May 1779, Lt. Col. Francis Marion hired one Mary Bennett to make shirts for his men. He sent linen and collar buttons to her; from this she made 86 shirts, 3 of which were of a different pattern for serjeants. Based on the issuance of “ruffled shirts” noted earlier, the serjeants shirts probably had add cuff ruffles, which were standard on serjeants shirts in the French army.¹⁷⁴

Specifications

As very few useful specifications exist for 2nd Regiment shirts, we must look to standard 18th-century practice. Here is a quote from Cuthbertson on the construction of British enlisted men’s shirts:

*It is mistaken oeconomy in Officers, to buy very coarse linen for their soldier's shirts... four shirts...are as few as a soldier can dispense with, to support that neatness, which at all times should distinguish him: less than three yards and a half ought never to be put in one... care must be taken, that they are worked both neat and strong, with buttons at the collar, which should not be allowed to turn over the stock, above an inch, to prevent its being entirely hid: the ruffle at the bosom, need not exceed two inches in breadth...*¹⁷⁵

Drop-sleeve shirts were mostly of the same basic design found in modern reproductions or patterns. Hearts were traditionally sewn at the bottom of the breast split as reinforcement. As per Cuthbertson and the S.C. Treasury Records, most military shirts for all ranks had “bosom” or breast ruffles. Wristbands of privates were made of the same material as the shirt; alternately, cuffs were made by folding linen tape over the ends of the sleeves, making for very sturdy construction.¹⁷⁶ Serjeants shirts, having cuff ruffles that were extensions of the sleeve, probably featured cloth wristbands, gathering the cuff at the wrist.

174. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 418.

175. Cuthberston, *A System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry*, 59.

176. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 3, #47, March 20, 1779.

Shirt cuffs in the 18th century were generally closed with sleeve buttons. Similar to modern cufflinks, sleeve buttons consisted of two small buttons attached by a link of brass chain in an oval or “S” pattern. The buttons were usually pewter for the lower-class or enlisted military, and were of better materials (brass, silver or German silver) for the wealthier citizen or military officer.¹⁷⁷ French army shirts were constructed to use sleeve buttons into the Napoleonic era.¹⁷⁸ Whether used on local or French shirts, the privates of the 2nd Regiment definitely used sleeve buttons, as documented in Marion’s order book:

*June 27 1778
 ... an Offr of each Company to Attend & Apply to Q Mastr. for Caps Shirts, Shoes,
 Stockings, Shoe Buckles & Slev Buttons who is hereby Orderd, to deliver & distribute
 them by companys...*¹⁷⁹

Both sleeve buttons and thread buttons are listed in an inventory of the Southern Department Continental store in 1779.¹⁸⁰ Thread collar buttons were standard in both civilian and military shirts as being the most comfortable against the neck, and held up well to the rough clothes-washing techniques of the time.¹⁸¹ Shirt collars typically closed with thread buttons through a

177. Carolyn L. White, *American Artifacts of Personal Adornment, 1680-1820* (Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press, 2005), 61-62.

178. Jean-Marie Teller, “Les Patrons, page 1,” Waterloo-Reconstitution, http://www.waterloo-reconstitution.com/les_patrons.htm (accessed September 15, 2010).

179. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 326.

180. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel #3, # 47 March 20, 1779.

181. Hazel Dickfoss and Laura Dickfoss, “Thread and Covered Buttons,” William Booth Draper, http://www.wmboothdraper.com/Buttons/buttons_main.htm (accessed September 15, 2010).

buttonholes.¹⁸² Extant examples of 18th century British military shirts suggest that collars of between 3” and 3 ½” were standard¹⁸³; French shirts typically had shorter collars.¹⁸⁴

Based on the above documentation, reproductions of locally-made shirts should have:

- 1) a white shirt linen (medium or low-grade for enlisted men)
- 2) a collar of 3-3 ½” in height, closing with two thread buttons through a buttonholes
- 3) wristbands of no more than 1” in width, closing with sleeve buttons via two buttonholes
- 4) breast ruffles for privates and corporals; added cuff ruffles for serjeants and officers
- 5) a heart sewn at the base of the breast slit

French-made shirts should be made of a period-correct pattern (in possession of the author) in medium-grade linen.

In truth, most any white linen shirt from recommended 18th century sutler is probably acceptable for use in the modern 2nd Regiment, though most of them are machine sewn. The collar button should be of thread, and the cuffs should close with sleeve links; these are very easy changes that can be done in half an hour. Shirts should be adjusted to feature breast ruffles, with privates NOT having cuff ruffles.

Members should procure a white linen shirt at first. Checked linen shirts of proper 18th century pattern (most commonly of blue or black check) are a good choice for a second shirt, or for use as a militia shirt. Hand-sewing of all visible seams (especially in the cuff-collar-breast areas) is highly recommended for authenticity.

182. Judith Wicker, “A Typical Eighteenth Century Military Shirt,” The Northwest Territory Alliance, <http://www.nwta.com/patterns/pdfs/261MensShirt.pdf> (accessed September 15, 2010); “Making a Men’s Shirt,” La Couturière Parisienne Costume and Fashion Site, <http://www.marquise.de/en/1700/howto/maenner/18hemd.shtml> (accessed September 15, 2010).

183. Judith Wicker, “A Typical Eighteenth Century Military Shirt,” 3.

184. Teller, *Les Patrons*, Page 1.

VIII. NECK STOCKS

There are few references to the neck stocks worn by the S.C. Continentals. The first is from the 4th Regiment, early in the war:

Feb. 13 1776

*Regimental Orders – On Saturday next will be delivered one hundred suits of regimental clothing, wherefore 'tis expected by the commandant that officers commanding companies will provide their men with the following necessaries immediately; shirts shoes, stockings and black leather stocks...*¹⁸⁵

A directive from the S.C. Assembly in March 1778 further states that all soldiers who serve in enlist in the S.C. Continentals would receive “2 Leathern stocks” per year.¹⁸⁶

Based on this scant information, it is recommended that the modern 2nd Regiment wear plain black leather neck stocks. Based on the size of original stock clasps and typical shirt collar dimensions, the stock should be approximately 2” in height.¹⁸⁷ Stock clasps may have been used, as they are possibly indicated on Continental store inventory in March 1779, though ties are more likely from an economic standpoint.¹⁸⁸

185. Elliott et al., *Year Book, City of Charleston for 1889*, 189.

186. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude: Francis Marion's Orderly Book*, 297.

187. George C. Neumann, Frank J. Kravic, and George C. Woodbridge, *Collector's Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* (Harrisburg, P.A.: Stackpole Books, 1975), 54; Judith Wicker, “A Typical Eighteenth Century Military Shirt,” 3.

188. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 4, #47, March 20, 1779.

VIII. LEGWEAR

The re-created 2nd Regiment wears black half-gaiters. As with most of our impression, this practice is based on Fitzhugh McMaster's article "The First and Second South Carolina Regiments, 1775-1780" in the *Journal of Military Historians*, summer 1977. Although his documentation has been lost, he evidently based the use of half-gaiters on: 1) extant portraits of three 2nd Regiment officers, showing all of them in black half-gaiters, and 2) excerpts from several extant order books. In addition, 19th and 20th century paintings of the regiment at the Battle of Sullivan's Island invariably show soldier in half-gaiters. Thus popular history has reinforced the idea that the regiment wore short gaiters.

But are both popular history and Captain McMaster correct? Based on a close reexamination of period documents, put in a chronological order and etymological context, I believe that the enlisted men of the 2nd Regiment NEVER wore half-gaiters. At various times in the regiment's existence, the men wore 1) either stockings or linen leggings, or 2) linen spatterdashes ending below the knee, 3) traditional full-gaiters ending above the knee, and 4) overalls.

Definitions

There is a great deal of confusion amongst historians and re-enactors concerning 18th century leg-wear terminology. The following definitions are based on numerous period and secondary references (see Appendix III).

Leggings – wool or linen full-leg coverings; also called "Leggins", "Leggens", "Indian Leggins", "Indian Spatterdashes", "Indian Stockings" and "Indian Boots"; used by Indians and co-opted by the British, French and American armies in North America; simple tubes of cloth, fitted to the leg; secured by ties or garters below the knee and possibly above the ankle; sometimes had an added tongue over the shoe buckle, and a leather strap under the instep of the shoe, secured by a button. They were either side or front center-seamed, depending on location

and if of military use. Military leggings may also have featured a split on the lower side seam, fastened with either buttons or hooks-and-eyes.

Gaiters – full-length leg coverings or wool or linen; covering the top of the shoe and *rising above the knee*; secured by buttons along the outer side of the leg; held up with a leather garter under the knee; usually with a leather strap under the instep similar that found on leggings.

Spatterdashes – essentially another term for “gaiter”, though generally indicated a buttoned-up leg covering *ending just below the knee*. In the 18th century, this term did NOT generally indicate short or half-gaiters, according to many period and secondary sources.

Half-Gaiters – also called “short gaiters”, “short spatterdashes”, “half spatterdashes” and “spats”; these were gaiters that extended from the top of the shoe to the mid-calf. Modern terminology and “reenactorism” has frequently and erroneously labeled these as “spatterdashes”, possibly due to their seemingly logical relation to the term “spats”, a type of short gaiter more familiar to modern Americans due to their use in early 20th century civilian and military clothing.

Overalls – long trousers extending over the shoe, with a tongue over the shoe buckle, a five-button closure at the bottom of the outer seam, and a leather strap under the instep (sewn on both sides of the trouser leg).

Usage

The first mention in period sources of leg coverings in the S.C. Regiments comes from the letters of Captain Thomas Pinckney, posted with the 1st Regiment on Sullivan’s Island, to his sister in Charleston:

March 13 1776

*...please send ... White Waistcoat and Breeches, and Stockings – The enclosed Measure is for a Pair of gaiters to be made of Black Casimeer or Broad Cloath to be bespoke for me at any Tailor.*¹⁸⁹

Based on the portraits of S.C. Continental portraits and order books, the “gaiters” Pinckney mentioned were probably the half-gaiters worn by officers, for which he would need long stockings. On May 20 1776, Pinckney wrote again:

*... endeavour to get me some Stockings Knit or wove in the Country as I am now wearing chiefly my Wool Stockings which are my Dernier [last] Resort. If you can procure any of the same Stockings for the Soldiers we shall be very glad of them.*¹⁹⁰

So both officers and enlisted men of the 1st Regiment were running out of stockings. And again on August 27 1776, Pinckney wrote his sister:

*Please to send me down . . . some clean stockings. I shall esteem it a Favor if you send out for some Table Linen or any that will suit to make me some Gaiters and Socks, as I despair of getting any Stockings soon and those I have do not amount to a change.*¹⁹¹

Since Pinckney was running out of stockings, he could not wear his existing pair of short-gaiters. He needed some home-made white linen gaiters (below the knee or higher) to cover his legs, with short socks for his feet.

The shortage of stockings was apparently chronic among the S.C. Regiments at this time. In the same month, Capt. Barnard Elliott of the 4th Regiment recorded in his order book:

*...[the men’s] shoes [to be] brushed and buckled, and their stockings or leggings well tied.*¹⁹²

This again indicates that the men had EITHER stockings or leggings, not both. With a shortage of stockings, the troops were issued leggings, presumable of a simple design more easily made than woven or knitted stockings.

189. Cross, “Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780,” 27.

190. Ibid., 31.

191. Ibid., 75.

192. Elliott et al., *Year Book, City of Charleston for 1889*, 240.

The first mention of leg wear in the 2nd Regiment comes on October 20 1776, in Marion's order book:

*No soldier to mount guard or appear on the parade without his split shirt & Regimental Leggens.*¹⁹³

Between 1775 and mid-1777, the OFFICERS of the 2nd Regiment are frequently recorded as wearing "black half-gaiters"(never "leggings" or "gaiters"), but the privates are always described as wearing "leggings" or "stockings" (not both, and never "half-gaiters").¹⁹⁴ Evidently, leggings were not half-gaiters.

The leggings were issued every summer (a practice that would continue even after the actual item changed):

*June 27 1777
Commanding Offrs of companies ... tomorrow to supply their men with Leggens; all who have had a pair for last year to give Colo Marion their names...*¹⁹⁵

That summer, the French ship *La Marquis de la Chalotais* arrived in Charleston.¹⁹⁶ Her cargo of war material, shipped from Nantes, included 947 pair of "spatterdashes".¹⁹⁷ By late summer, these spatterdashes would make their way to the 2nd Regiment:

*July 21 1777
The Commanding officer of each company to give in a return tomorrow morning by 10 PC: to the quarter master of the number of coats waistcoats & breeches & spatterdashers received by them from him.*¹⁹⁸

193. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 111.

194. *Ibid.*, 1, 128, 176.

195. *Ibid.*, 207.

196. Brian N. Morton and Donald C. Spinelli, *Beaumarchais and the American Revolution* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2003), 147.

197. *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*, #1617.

198. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 215.

This is the first use of the term “spatterdashes” in 2nd Regiment records; never again would the term “leggings” appear in the order books of any S.C. regiment. Clearly, the spatterdashes were a different item from what the men had received prior.

During the same period, not knowing if the limited supply of spatterdashes would be replenished, the S.C. Assembly issued another resolution; this one confirms that “leggings” were an item issued in lieu of stockings:

August 23 1777

*Resolved, that every Soldier who hath or shall Enlist in any regiment of this state in the Continental Service shall receive Annually ... two p^r Stockings or Leggins & two p^r. of Shoes...*¹⁹⁹

Meanwhile, the new spatterdashes were making their way to the S.C. Regiments:

5th Regiment

*Huger, Col. Isaac ... for hats & spatterdashes recd. from the Public Store (in Sepr. 1777) ... 324.11.8*²⁰⁰

2nd Regiment

November 21 1777

*Commanding Officers of Comp^{ys}. ... to make a return ... of what necessaries they have received & what are wanting Such as caps, shirts, Coats, waistcoats, Breeches, Spatterdashers, Shoes, Blankets, Axes, Knapsacks, Haversacks, Camp Kettles, Arms & Accoutrements...*²⁰¹

Note that “stockings” are not listed, possibly indicating: 1) a possible shortage of stockings, and 2) full-length spatterdashes somewhat negated the necessity of stockings.

By 1778, the shortage of stockings had been addressed, as the promise made by the Assembly of 2 pair per year was met in the winter and summer clothing issues:

January 1 1778

An Inventory of Arms, Accoutrements, and Cloathing Delivered Captain Blake’s Company in 2 Regiment

199. Ibid., 266-267.

200. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Public Ledger*, 62.

201. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 258.

[includes]...23 pr. Stockings²⁰²

June 27 1778

...an Offr of each Company to Attend & Apply to Q Mastr. For Caps Shirts, Shoes, Stockings, Shoe Buckles & Sleeve Buttons.²⁰³

July 7 1778

...the Quarter Master serve out to every man Comd Officer and Private in the Regiment 2 pair Shoes 2 pr. Hose 2 Shirts 2 Jacketts 2 pr. Britches 1 Hatt and one Stock this Day.²⁰⁴

Based on the previous three orders, and the lack of “leggings” being mentioned, the state had made inroads in providing stockings to the troops. This is also suggested by the following entry in the S.C. Treasury Records:

July 16 1778

Public Store, pd. B. Sack Cooke for 17 doz. Pr. Men’s Woollen Stockings . . . at 65 pr doz. . . . 1105. _ _²⁰⁵

Spatterdashes should have been issued about this time, but for some reason were not. Failure to replace the worn-out spatterdashes on time forced men to do without:

August 17 1778

...those Soldiers who are found without their shoes & stockings on parade may depend on being confined.²⁰⁶

When the 2nd Regiment was finally issued leg wear in the fall, they were not spatterdashes, but a different item:

September 27 1778

As the men are completed with Gaiters it is Orderd that they mount guard all ways with Gaiters & the Top over their Knees of their Breeches & not under, the Sarg^{ts}. Will be particularly carefull not to permit any man to mount guard, but as above.²⁰⁷

202. A.S. Salley, ed., “Records of the Regiments of the South Carolina Line in the Revolutionary War,” *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 5 (1904), 1.

203. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 326.

204. 3rd Regiment, *Order Book 1778 June 23-1779 May 1*, entry for July 7 1778.

205. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Cash Book, 1778-1780*, entry for July 16 1778.

206. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 340.

207. *Ibid.*, 352.

Obviously, the men now had traditional full-length gaiters, extending above the knee. Never again does the term “spatterdashes” appear in Marion’s order book, nor any other records of the S.C. Regiments.

Possibly, only privates and corporals wore the gaiters, with serjeants possibly wearing half-gaiters, like the officers:

February 5 1779

*Commanding Officers of Companies are tomorrow Morning to Apply the Q^r. Master Serj^t. for a Pair of Shoes for Each Man of their Respective Companies & for a Pair of Stockings for Each Serjeant...*²⁰⁸

This is the last mention of gaiters in any S.C. Regimental records, though on March 20 1779, the Continental storehouse for the Southern Army had “one cask of Shoe and Gaiter Buckles”, the latter probably for use on garters supporting the gaiters below the knee.²⁰⁹

By July 16 1779, a new item was issued that would eliminate the need for gaiters, as per Marion’s OB:

... [Troops to apply] *for one Shirt one Overhalls & 1 Lining Jacket pr. Man...*²¹⁰

From this point on, overalls were issued to the men. In summer of 1779 these were linen, and were to be woolen for the winter distribution. This was delayed, however, due to supply problems.²¹¹ Many men did not receive woolen overalls until January or even February of 1780, continuing to wear their ragged linen overalls or possibly leftover woolen breeches until then.²¹²

208. Ibid., 389.

209. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 3, #47, March 20, 1779.

210. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 441.

211. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution Consisting of Letters and Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, from Originals in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources*, 4-5.

212. Ibid., vol. 3, 9.

By then, the British had invaded South Carolina, and with so much to worry about, virtually no other clothing was issued to the S.C. Regiments prior to their surrender in May 1780.

Specifications

Stockings

In the late 18th century, stockings were either knitted or sewn. Unlike modern reproductions (which are essentially long knitted tubes), authentic 18th century knit stockings were fitted to the shape of the leg. Stockings were either knitted or woven. Sewn stockings were usually made from either knitted fabric or bias-cut fabric. Knit stockings were most commonly made from wool, cotton, linen or blended yarn.²¹³

In the hot climate of the Lowcountry, wool was not the preferred material for stockings:

May 20 1776

*... endeavour to get me some Stockings Knit or wove in the Country as I am now wearing chiefly my Wool Stockings which are my Dernier [last] Resort. If you can procure any of the same Stockings for the Soldiers we shall be very glad of them.*²¹⁴

August 27 1776

*Please to send me down . . . some clean stockings. I shall esteem it a Favor if you send out for some Table Linen or any that will suit to make me some Gaiters and Socks, as I despair of getting any Stockings soon and those I have do not amount to a change.*²¹⁵

So stockings of linen, cotton or a blend were apparently a common enough item, at least in peacetime. Unfortunately, no authentic reproduction stockings of these materials are currently available, though some appropriate wool stockings are being made by a few select mills. The regiment should explore the possibility of commissioning a run of linen/cotton stockings.

213. Rebecca Manthey, "Making 18th Century Fitted Stockings," Published by Author, Knit stockings were most commonly made from wool, cotton, linen or blended yarn. (accessed September 15, 2010).

214. Gibbes, Documentary History of the American Revolution Consisting of Letters and Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, from Originals in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources, 4-5, 31.

215. *Ibid.*, 75.

Leggings, 1775 – mid-1777

It seems clear that the leggings issued to the men of the 2nd Regiment, 1) covered the entire lower leg, and 2) were of one-piece construction, without buttons (save perhaps a few at the ankle). As of now, however, I can find no solid documentary evidence of the construction of the 2nd Regiments leggings. Were they wool or linen? Were they front-seam, side seam (in Indian fashion), or even rear-seam? Or were they just a piece of fabric wrapped around the leg?

As the leggings were apparently used as replacements for stockings, they probably would not have had tongues over the buckles or straps under the instep to secure the shoe. This would have noticeably clashed with the soldiers who had stockings alone. At any rate, the purpose of the leggings was to cover otherwise naked legs, not to protect against briars, sand, etc.

Documentation exists for center-seam leggings being used by the British Army in the French and Indian war, but this is from units serving near Canada, where Algonquin Indians used center-seam leggings. Documentation for the S.C. Cherokees largely (though not entirely) indicates that only side-seam leggings were in use by them at this period. And it seems unlikely, given the mostly low-country garrison duty of in the early war, that the 1st and 2nd Regiments would have used Indian-style leggings. There are also first-person accounts of men wearing wrap-around, open leggings (unseamed), tying them closed at the knee and the ankle.²¹⁶

216. Buck Conner, "18th Century Leggings," Buck's Base Camp, <http://buckconner.tripod.com/leggings.html> (accessed September 15, 2010).



Fig. 23

Based largely on the same sources found by the author, Fitzhugh McMaster and artist Darby Erd, in their article on the 3rd S.C. Regiment (published two years after their article on the 1st and 2nd Regiments), depict a private in 1775 wearing a loose, non-descript linen legging, tied over the breeches at the knee band and around the ankle, slightly and evenly overlapping the shoe (no split or tongue over the buckle), and with no seams visible from the front (see Figure 24).²¹⁷ This representation of S.C. “Regimental Leggens” remains as good as any at the present time. More research may shed further light on the

leggings. Should the modern 2nd Regiment choose to depict this time period (which at present we do not), decisions will need to be made on the construction of this item.

Spatterdashes, mid-1777 – mid-1778

In the late summer-fall of 1777, the S.C. regiments were issued spatterdashes that came from France. The French army did not use short or half-gaiters. These must have been some kind of long gaiters. But why call them “spatterdashes”? If they were half-gaiters, familiar to the officers, then they most likely would have called them just that. If they were full-length gaiters, why uniformly call them “spatterdashes”, only the next year call them “gaiters”? And why were they then instructed to wear the gaiters over the knees, if they already had long spatterdashes the year before. Clearly, these are two different items, but in what way?

The spatterdashes came on a ship from France, *La Marquis de la Chalotais*, courtesy of Count Beaumarchais’ clandestine dummy Spanish firm of Hortalez et Cie. In this first wave of

217. McMaster and Erd, “The First and Second South Carolina Regiments, 1775-1780,” 70-73.

supplies destined for American troops, four other ships, from various French ports, were at sea during the same period. These were bound for northern American ports. The manifests from two of these ships lists cloth for “spatter dashes”.²¹⁸ The only ship bound for Charleston, *La Marquis*, however, was the only one carrying ready-made “spatterdashes” (the actual term used in the shipping manifest).²¹⁹ This is the only extant record of any ready-made leg coverings shipped to American troops during this period.

La Marquis sailed from Nantes under contract from a French shipping agent, Jean Peletier-Dudoyer²²⁰; the cargo itself was procured by Jonathan Williams, Jr., the American purchasing agent in Nantes. Mr. Williams would receive no patterns for uniforms from Congress until the next year, and was reluctant to produce ready-made clothing without specifications.²²¹ These spatterdashes were almost certainly of French design. But what did they look like?

The answer most probably comes from the uniform regulations of the French Army. Before 1776, French soldiers were issued two sets of traditional long gaiters: white linen for camp and parades, black wool for winter or field wear. In May 1776, as part of a series of sweeping changes in the French military establishment after the disastrous Seven Years’ War, a new defense minister ushered in regulations designed to modernize the French Army. This included radical changes in the uniform specifications, among which was a change in the gaiter configuration. The soldiers were still issued a white and black pair, but the new model only came

218. Morton and Spinelli, *Beaumarchais and the American Revolution*, 84, 111.

219. *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*, #1617.

220. Morton and Spinelli, *Beaumarchais and the American Revolution*, 111.

221. Benjamin Franklin et al., *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, ed. Ellen R. Cohn, 39 vols. (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1959-present); vol. 24, 281.

up to the first button of the breeches, i.e. below the knee. It was fastened to the knee band button of the breeches, so no garters were worn over the spatterdashes (see Figure 24).²²²

Unfortunately, the 1776 regulations were not changes the soldiers could believe in; these new uniforms were thoroughly despised by the French army, and the public in general. The clothes were considered too Prussian-looking, not in the French style. The regulations were so unpalatable that many units never fully adopted the new regulations. So great was the dissatisfaction that another Regulation in 1779 undid most of the changes, including a reversion to the old over-the-knee gaiters.²²³

But the 1776 regulations were in effect when the cargo bound for Charleston was assembled. Williams most likely had spatterdashes made according to these current regulations, or perhaps the Colonel of some French regiment sold off his stock for the upcoming summer issue. In any case, the French were quite familiar with the sub-tropical climates like that in South Carolina, and they uniformly issued linen gaiters to their troops serving in the West Indies, etc. The S.C. Continentals most likely received French white linen spatterdashes of the 1776 pattern.

Based on the French Regulations of 1776 and the above documentation, I suggest that possible spatterdashes of the re-created 2nd Regiment be designed as follows:

- 1) made of white linen (not oznaburg)
- 2) be lined in linen (cotton may be acceptable)
- 3) extend from one inch over the shoe to the knee band of the breeches
- 4) have a 7/8-inch stitched band at the top (will overlap the knee band of the breeches)



Fig. 24

222. Rene Chartrand and Francis Back, *The French Army in the American War of Independence, Men-at-Arms 244* (Oxford: Osprey, 1998), 19.

223. *Ibid.*, 18-21.

- 5) have nine buttonholes and eight cloth-covered buttons, the ninth button hole to be secured to the knee band button of the breeches
- 6) have a center-seam, two piece tongue covering the shoe buckle
- 7) have a leather strap under the instep of the shoe, sewn on both sides
- 8) have no visible garter (may be worn under the spatterdash to secure stockings)

Gaiters, mid-1778 – mid-1779

No record has been found as to the origin of the full-gaiters. More and more French supplies found their way to South Carolina, either from ships or sent to the Southern Department from the northern armies. There is no record in the order books for gaiters being made locally, and there is no record of them being blackened. In lieu of direct evidence, I suggest that these were most likely French full-length gaiters of the traditional 1779 pattern.

Based on French regulations, possible gaiters of the re-created 2nd Regiment should:

- 1) be made of white linen (not oznaburg)
- 2) be unlined
- 3) extend from one inch over the shoe to three inches above the knee
- 4) have a 7/8" stitched band at the top
- 5) be secured with cloth-covered buttons and buttonholes, 1 1/2" apart
- 6) have a center-seam, two piece tongue covering the shoe buckle
- 7) have cloth strap under the instep of the shoe, sewn on both sides to the spatterdash
- 8) have a black leather garter under the knee band (the French would have wore a white garter, but these were unlikely to have been supplied)

Overalls, mid-1779 – May 1780

see section on Waistcoats and Breeches

IX. SHOES

As opposed to stockings, shoes seem to have been commonly available in South Carolina, and were generally issued twice per year to the troops. Again, leather was relatively plentiful in South Carolina, and Charleston had many cobblers. Only during the autumn of 1779, after the Savannah campaign, were the men seriously in need of shoes; they had missed their late-fall issue and were in dire straits by winter. General Lincoln had shoes made up in Charleston and sent to the first three S.C. Regiments in their camp at Sheldon in early 1780.²²⁴ Records show that in the 4th Regiment, its compliment of 124 men received 166 pair of shoes during the last six months of their war, ending in May 1780 at Charleston.²²⁵

Soldiers' shoes would have been straight-lasted, and made with leather rough-side out for enlisted men; this was standard practice in European armies of the period. The shoes were routinely polished, and definitely had buckles, as opposed to ties:

August 18 1776

[4th Regiment]...*Orders in Camp by Major Elliot – . . . The non-commissioned may then be taught that it is their duty not only to drill men, relieve guards and sentries, but to see their soldiers brought clean upon parade, with their arms bright and in good order, their clothes well put on, their hair combed, their shoes brushed and buckled, and their stockings or leggings well tied up.*²²⁶

December 26 1777

[1st Regiment] ...*The Cap.ts & Commanders of Companies are to make a Return tomorrow Morning of the Number of Men in their Respective Companies who wants Shoe & knee Buckles & on this being provided for them, stoppages will be made in their pay on next pay day...*²²⁷

224. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution Consisting of Letters and Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, from Originals in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources*, vol. 2, 4.

225. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, "Clothing Served to the Artillery Regiment from the 1st October 1779 to the 12th May 1780," (?).

226. Elliott et al., *Year Book, City of Charleston for 1889*, 240.

227. Salley, "An Order Book of the First Regiment, South Carolina Line, Continental Establishment," vol. 7, 130.

June 27 1778

[2nd Regiment] *The Regiment to be on the parrade this Afternoon without Arms at 4 OC: - an Off^r of each Company to Attend & Apply to Q Mast^r. for Caps Shirts, Shoes, Stockings, Shoe Buckles & Slevve Buttons who is hereby Orderd, to deliver & distribute them by companys beginning with the grenadiers & finishing with the Light Infantry the remainder to be Deliver'd tomorrow morning at 6 OClock.*²²⁸

March 20 1779

[Return of items in the Continental store includes]
*1 Cask containing Shoe & Gaiter Buckles*²²⁹

Based on the above documentation, shoes of the re-created 2nd Regiment should;

- 1) be straight-lasted (optional)
- 2) have rough-out leather
- 3) feature simple buckles for enlisted men, silver buckles for officers

228. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 327.

229. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 3, #47, March 20, 1779.

X. HAVERSACKS

We have no documentation of haversacks being issued to the men in the early-war period. As the 2nd Regiment did not leave the Charleston area, it is possible that haversacks were issued on an as-needed basis, as in these undated instructions in Marion's order book:

When the guard is delivered to the Officer who is to Command it he is to examine the men's Arms, see if they are in order, and if the men are shaved & dressed, & what ammunition, haversacks, tin kettles, etc., which they may have, agreeable to orders
 ...²³⁰

By mid-war, haversacks were definitely part of the men's' regular issue of clothing and gear, as per Marion's order book, and the S.C. Treasury Records:

November 21 1777
*Commanding Officers of Comp^{ys} ... to make a return as soon as possible of what necessaries they have received & what are wanting Such as caps, shirts, coats, waistcoats, breeches, spatterdashers, shoes, blankets, axes, knapsacks, haversacks, camp kettles, arms & accoutrements...*²³¹

February 5 1778
The 2:d Regiment has been also supplied out of the Public Store with the undermentioned articles which are not included in the Account to wit,

*400 Havre Sacks*²³²

It is possible that the haversacks were kept in storage, and subsequently issued to the men when on the march:

230. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 416.

231. *Ibid.*, 258.

232. *Auditor General Accounts*, 100.

September 23 1778

[3rd Regiment] *Camp neat the 10 Mile House – ... every night on a Marching the provisions are to be cooked for the next Day – The men who want Haversacks, the Officers of the Different Companies they belong to will give receipts for and report the Quantity wanted...*²³³

October 1 1778

[3rd Regiment] *The detachment to be furnished with 24 Rounds of Powder and ball one pair of flints pr man - The tents and haversacks to be delivered up to the Qr Mater untell futher orders and then Distributed agreeable to the Strength of each Company...*²³⁴

February 24 1779

[2nd Regiment] *The troops going to head Quarters to be Completed with havre sacks...*²³⁵

May 5 1779

[2nd Regiment] *...the Light Infantry Comp^y. to hold themselves in readiness to March ... The Adjutant will see them well Armed & Accoutered, to be furnished with one p^r. Shoes & a havre Sack p^r. Man & 15 rounds, 1 spare flint...*²³⁶

September 5 1779

[2nd Regiment] *... Captⁿ. Ramsey will give in a return immediately the number of men he has capable of Marching – the Officers & men are made Acquainted that no more baggage than what they can carry in their havresack, can be carried...*²³⁷

There is no documentation as to the construction of the haversacks of the 2nd Regiment. As per standard practice in both the British and Continental armies, they are recommended to be constructed from heavy oznaburg, of a common pattern agreed upon by the members. They should have either a two-button or three-button closure, be properly fitted to each man (about a hand width above the elbow, per period paintings)²³⁸, and feature visible hand stitching.

233. 3rd Regiment, *Order Book 1778 June 23-1779 May 1*, entry for September 23 1778.

234. *Ibid.*, entry for October 1 1778.

235. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 396.

236. *Ibid.*, 413.

237. *Ibid.*, 462.

238. David Morier, *Grenadiers, 46th, 47th and 48th Regs. Of Foot*, ca. 1751-1760, oil on canvas, The Royal Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, <http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/egallery/object.asp?category=276&pagesize=40&object=405587&row=1169> (accessed October 15, 2010).

XI. KNAPSACKS

Usage

The first mention of knapsack in any S.C. records comes from the 1st Regiment:

December 28 1775

*The Captain and Commanders of Companies and detachments are desired to put their men under stoppages in order to purchase their knapsacks; every detachment they are sent upon proves how much they are wanted.*²³⁹

It is unknown whether the 2nd Regiment issued knapsacks to the men, though based on the above statement, it is probable that the men had some kind of knapsack, especially those serving out of Charleston. The construction of the early-war knapsacks is wholly conjecture, but they were probably made of linen (possibly painted) and of simple construction.

On May 23 1777, a shipment of military stores arrived in Charleston from France. It included “1600 Knap Sacks”.²⁴⁰ These were almost certainly French calfskin knapsacks of the French army’s 1776 regulation pattern. The new knapsacks probably made their way to the S.C. regiments later in the year:

November 17 1777

*[5th Regiment] Col. H. has been supplied out of the Public Store for the use of his Regiment with ... 14 knapsacks...*²⁴¹

November 21 1777

*[2nd Regiment] Commanding Officers of Comp^{ys}. ...to make a return as soon as possible of what necessaries they have received & what are wanting Such as caps, shirts, Coats, waistcoats, Breeches, Spatterdashers, Shoes, Blankets, Axes, **Knapsacks**, havresacks, Camp Kettles, Arms & Accoutrements...*²⁴²

239. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution Consisting of Letters and Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, from Originals in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources*, vol. 2, 244-246.

240. *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*, #1617.

241. *Auditor General Accounts*, 64.

242. O’Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 258.

Knapsacks were intended to last for several years, especially tough, well-made calfskin knapsacks.²⁴³ It is likely that soldiers who were in the 2nd Regiment in the late-1777-1778 era carried these knapsacks throughout the war. There was, however, a fairly high turnover rate of men in the 2nd Regiment; the officers were constantly recruiting new men to replace those lost to death or desertion. As the supplies of French knapsacks were limited, recruits were probably again issued linen knapsacks by late-war.

In December 1778, Benjamin Lincoln, newly appointed commander of the Southern Department, requested his Deputy Quarter Master General, Stephen Drayton, to provide “3000 knap sacs” for the army. Drayton replied that he could have these made before the end of January.²⁴⁴ At the time there was not anywhere near 3000 Continentals in the army, so Lincoln must have wanted knapsacks for his most active militia as well. And by late spring, most of the army probably had knapsacks, as per this field order:

May 2 1779

*...The Army is to march tomorrow Morning at Six oClock... The soldiers are to carry their Blankets & Knapsacks.*²⁴⁵

In July, the munitions laboratory, manned by soldiers of the 4th Regiment, had “47 knapsacks” in their stores.²⁴⁶ But by September, as the Southern Army was preparing to march to Savannah, these had apparently been issued; the ten men assigned to the laboratory required an

243. Vincent Kehoe, *A Military Guide*, 2nd ed. vol. 2 (Somis, CA: by author, 1993), 221.

244. Lincoln et al, *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 2, Dec.22, 1778.

245. A.S. Salley, ed., “Order Book of John Faucheraud Grimke, August 1778 to May 1780,” *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 13-19 (1912-1920), 132.

246. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, “Return of Ammunition, Stores, &c.a at the Laboratory in Charles-Town,” July 14, 1779.

additional “7 Napsacks” prior to their march.²⁴⁷ There is no further record of knapsack issues prior to May 1780.

Specifications

Early-War, 1775-Spring 1777

With no real documentary evidence, the possibilities for the early-war 2nd Regiment knapsacks are wholly conjecture. The possibilities range from a British-style double pouch knapsack, a simpler double-pouch knapsack (a la the Warner pattern; see Figure 25) to a basic double-strap bag similar to a haversack. It is unlikely, however, that the more complicated British-style double pouch knapsack would have been made locally. Any version would probably have been painted for weather proofing (McMaster supposedly found documentation for this; it has since

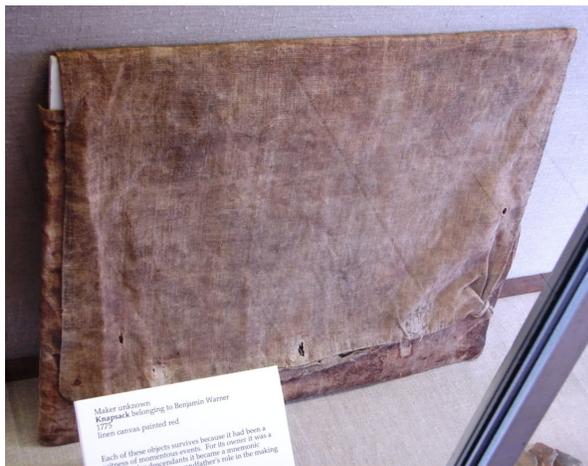


Fig. 25. Benjamin Warner Knapsack, Fort Ticonderoga Collections, Fort Ticonderoga, N.Y.

been lost).²⁴⁸ The most likely color would have been Spanish Brown, a brownish-red linseed-oil paint that was easily the cheapest and most common paint in colonial America, and is documented to have been used by the S.C. Continentals.²⁴⁹ Should an early-war impression be attempted, the modern regiment will need to make decisions as to which style of knapsack is most appropriate.

247. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, “A Return of those things Wanted by the men belonging to the Continental Laboratory in Order for their march”, September 6 1779.

248. McMaster and Erd, “The First and Second South Carolina Regiments, 1775-1780,” 70-73.

249. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 4, #763, Nov. 30, 1779.

The French Knapsacks, late 1777-1780

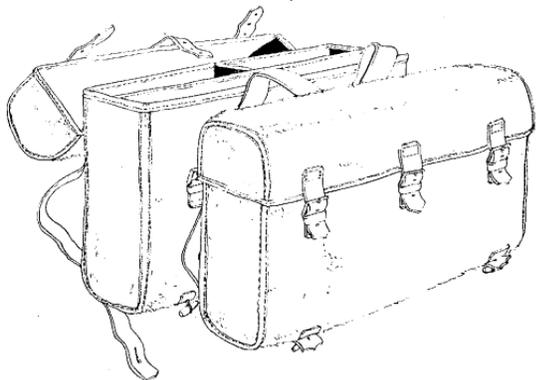


Fig. 26

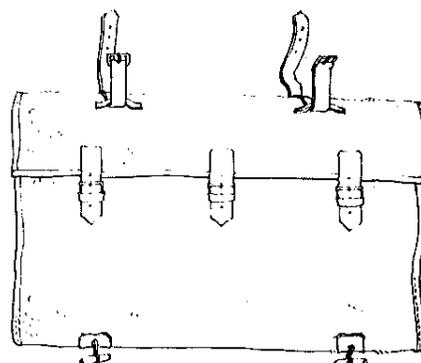


Fig. 27

As discussed in the earlier section on leggings, the knapsacks that arrived in Charleston in May 1777 from France were almost certainly of the French Army 1767 or 1776 pattern (see Figures 26 and 27, respectively).²⁵⁰ A pattern for these is in the possession of the author. These are among the most easily documented pieces of equipment from the 2nd Regiment, and are (unfortunately) among the costliest knapsacks to reproduce. Should the modern regiment decide to equip members with this item, it would be most cost effective to acquire the materials and produce them in-house, possibly at a regimental workshop.

Other Late-War Knapsacks 1779-1780

Again, we have no evidence for the construction of these knapsacks. They would almost certainly have been of stout linen, possibly Russia drilling or sheeting. Lacking any documentation, a simple double-pouch knapsack could be used for both early and late-war impressions, save those who wish to interpret a veteran from mid-war, still using his beaten French knapsack.

250. Michel Petard, *Equipements Militaires, de 1600 a 1870*, vol. 2 (Olonne sur mer, France: Achever d'Imprimer, 1984), 93-94.

XII. CANTEENS

There is absolutely no mention of canteens in any S.C. records prior to the summer of 1778. Based on later documentation, however, it can be safely assumed that, in the early-war period, canteens were not generally issued to individual soldiers of the 1st and 2nd Regiments, but would have been issued to men with a specific need: guard duty, detachments, etc. This system was probably due to the largely garrison duty of the two regiments in 1775-1777, where water was readily available in and around the posts. By the beginning of 1779, however, as the Southern Army prepared for more vigorous field duty, canteens were probably issued to every soldier.

Usage

The first direct mention of canteens comes from the participation of the 1st Regiment in the ill-conceived and disastrous invasion of East Florida by General Howe, then commanding the Southern Department. The men were simply not properly outfitted for a summer campaign. Col. C.C. Pinckney, commanding the 1st Regiment, wrote General Moultrie, describing the plight of his men, and urgently requesting canteens:

May 24-25 1778

Camp at Port Howe on the Altamaha

... I cannot help lamenting to you...that you have been much too parsimonious in your fitting us out for this expedition. What can be more cruel than ... in this hot climate, to have one small canteen to six or eight men? We think no expense too great to procure men, but we do not think after we have got them, that we ought to go to the expense of preserving their health ... I could wish, and the Gen. requested me to desire, you to send round in a boat...500 canteens...²⁵¹

Moultrie subsequently sent 250 canteens from state stores, stating that that was all he could find. These had apparently not arrived by June 18, when Thomas Pinckney wrote home:

Camp at Red Gap 5 Miles from Great Sitilla [sic]

251. Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, vol. 2, 213.

*We have [had] tremendous hot Weather here in the Day but cool Nights, Marched 12 miles this morning without a Drop of Water, the Officers who had Canteens fared tolerably but the Soldiers, who had by the Oeconomy of our Style but one Canteen to Six Men, suffered considerably. Some gave out entirely...*²⁵²

After this experience, canteens became a higher-priority item for the men. In December 1778, Benjamin Lincoln, newly appointed commander of the Southern Department, requested (and probably obtained) “5000 Canteens of Wood” for his army.²⁵³ This number would have been sufficient to supply the entire Southern Army, regulars and militia, with wooden canteens.

In May 1779, while on the march, Lincoln issued the following order, indicating that most men had canteens:

*...On the March, Officers will be constantly with their Platoons, & take particular care that the men do not leave the Ranks, but in cases of absolute Necessity; and to prevent its being done for Water they will cause the men to fill their Canteens in the Morning before they leave the Grounds...*²⁵⁴

Though the large majority of canteens issued to the Southern Department troops were wooden, a significant quantity of tin canteens was commissioned by the South Carolina government, as noted in these entries in the S.C. Treasury Records:

*Beard Robert for [Tin] Kettles & Canteens del:d Jn:s Creighton Q.M.G. June 28 1779...£792.._*²⁵⁵

*Pincell & Comp:y for Camp-Kettles, Canteens & Cups, & Cannisters for Field pieces, delivered in April & May 1779 ... £1108.10.*²⁵⁶

Wooden canteens, however, were also being manufactured. Most wooden canteens of the period were painted to aid in prevention of leaking, as per this entry in the Treasury Records:

252. Cross, “Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780,” 155.

253. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 2, Dec. 22, 1779.

254. Salley, “Order Book of John Faucheraud Grimke, August 1778 to May 1780,” vol. 15, no. 4 (October 1914), 166.

255. *Auditor General Accounts*, 118.

256. *Ibid.*, 130.

October 13 1779

*Righton McCully & John for 808 Wooden Canteens ... @ £5 each . . . £4040._._
for painting them . . . £24.12.6*²⁵⁷

The ratio of tin-to-wood canteens is probably best summed up by an inventory of the State Arsenal in October 1779, which lists:

38 *Tin Canteens*
160 *Wooden Canteens*²⁵⁸

Canteens were such an essential item in the field that they continued to be issued to the men manning the lines during the siege of Charleston:

[Undated; approximately April-May 1780]
Accoutrements &ca. delivered to the Artillery Regiment [21 Men]
[includes]
*18 Canteens*²⁵⁹

Specifications

No canteens have been discovered with provenance to S.C. troops; therefore, generics of canteen design in the Revolutionary War must be discussed. The documentary evidence does suggest, however, that, in the Southern Department, roughly 80% of the canteens were wooden, with the remaining 20% made of tin.

Wooden canteens would have been of hoop-and-stave construction (see Figures 28-31)²⁶⁰.

257. *Ibid.*, 141.

258. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 4, #763, Nov. 20, 1779.

259. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, "Accoutrements &ca. delivered to the Artillery Regiment," (?; probably April-May 1780).

260. American Wooden Canteen Carried by Asahl Parmele, C.T., in the Revolutionary War, Military and Historical Image Bank, http://www.historicalimagebank.com/gallery/main.php/v/album02/album21/album45/RWq32d_wooden_canteen_copy.jpg.html, accessed Sept. 15, 2010; Canteen (Carried in the Revolutionary War by William Joyner, N.C.), The North Carolina Museum of History, <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/MOH/vfpcgi.exe?IDCFile=/moh/DETAILS.IDC,SPECIFIC=155301,DATABASE=38908034>, accessed Sept. 15, 2010; Revolutionary War Wooden Drum Canteen, ca. 1775, Live Auctioneers, <http://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/6135802>, accessed Sept. 15, 2010; Wooden Canteen dated 1776, Military and Historical Image Bank, <http://www.historicalimagebank.com/gallery/main.php/v/album02/album21/album45/RWq48d-Wooden+Canteen+dated+1776+copy.jpg.html>, accessed Sept. 15, 2010.



Fig. 28. Revolutionary War
Wooden Drum Canteen, c. 1775



Fig. 29. Canteen carried in the Revolutionary War
by William Joyner, N.C.



Fig. 30. Wooden Canteen dated 1776



Fig. 31. American Wooden Canteen carried by Asahl
Parmele, C.T., in the Revolutionary War.

Most extant original canteens have wooden hoops, though some have iron bands instead (NOT tin bands as featured on canteens from most modern sutlers). “Cheese-box” style canteens were primarily native to New England, and are inappropriate for S.C. troops. Civilian-style canteens such as rumlets and swigglers (both small barrel-type canteens) were common amongst militia, but were not usually issued to regular troops.²⁶¹

The wooden canteens would have been painted, as documented above. The most likely color would have been Spanish Brown, a brownish-red iron oxide linseed-oil paint that was easily the cheapest and most common utilitarian paint in colonial America²⁶², and is documented to have

261. Michael J. O'Donnell, *U.S. Army and Militia Canteens 1775-1910* (Alexandria, VA: O'Donnell Publications, 2008), 18, 21, 30-32, 36.

262. Robert Foley, *Paint in 18th-Century Newport* (Newport, RI: Newport Restoration Foundation, 2009), http://www.newportrestoration.org/sup/files/paint_18th_century_newport.pdf (accessed September 15, 2010).

been used by the S.C. Regiments.²⁶³ The canteens would most likely have been branded or otherwise marked as regimental property; a painted regimental distinction (“2d Regt.,” etc) is possible but not documented. Canteens issued after 1778 were mostly likely purchased by the Continental Army, and most probably would have been stamped as such; most extant late-war Continental Army canteens are stamped “U.STATES.” Leather straps were most commonly used on wood canteens, but hemp webbing or linen is also documented particularly by 1779 due to the rampant inflation in S.C. by that time.

As for tin canteens, lacking any specific documentation, these should be of the “kidney” or “half-moon” style, commonly documented in use during the Revolutionary War.²⁶⁴

Based on the above documentation, the modern 2nd Regiment should require all members to acquire a wood canteen, featuring:

- 1) typical design/dimensions of extant period hoop-and-stave canteens
- 2) wood or iron (NOT tin) hoops
- 3) stamped “2d Regt” or “U.STATES” (by 1779)
- 4) painted in period Spanish Brown paint (or appropriate modern equivalent)
- 5) leather strap (particularly by 1779), hemp webbing or sewn linen strap

The membership should search for the best wooden canteens possible, as most currently made by well-known sutlers are either inappropriately made, poorly made, or both. Recruits should use kidney-style tin canteens from the loaner locker; this will adequately represent the low proportion of this item in the line.

263. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 4, #763, Nov. 30, 1779.

264. Neumann, Kravic, and Woodbridge, *Collector's Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*, 59; O'Donnell, *U.S. Army and Militia Canteens 1775-1910*, 23, 28.

XIII. BLANKETS

In colonial South Carolina, stout blankets of the type required for soldiers were not widely produced locally, and were thus typically imported. This created an immediate problem for the S.C. regiments, which would only increase as the war dragged on. As result, blankets were at a premium throughout the war. Despite the difficulties in procuring blankets, however, numerous entries in S.C. regiment order books indicate the men of the S.C. regiments appear to have had a more-or-less sufficient supply of blankets at any given point in the conflict, save in late 1779, in the aftermath of the siege of Savannah.

Supply and Issuance

In the first days of the 2nd Regiment's existence, Col. Moultrie recognized the supply problems with blankets. His recruiting instructions of June 22 1775 authorized a "one dollar" bonus to each recruit who supplied his own blanket.²⁶⁵ This was not much of an enticement; in early 1776, blankets were sold to the 4th Regiment for approximately £10 apiece, roughly the same price offered for a musket at the time.²⁶⁶

The first mention of blanket issue comes from the 1st Regiment:

October 29 1775

*A return of the number of blankets wanted by the four companies of the first regiment to be made to the commanding officer as soon as possible.*²⁶⁷

The state aggressively sought to import blankets for their troops. Several ships were dispatched early in the war, with orders to sell their cargo for military supplies; blankets were very high on the list of priority items to be obtained.²⁶⁸ Some ships were successful in importing

265. William Moultrie, *General Orders of William Moultrie, 1775-1779*, Microfilm (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1971), microfilm, June 22, 1775.

266. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Public Ledger, 1775-1777*, 13.

267. Elliott et al., *Year Book, City of Charleston for 1889*, 173.

268. Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 10, 112-113.

blankets; in January 1777, the receiving firm of North and Truscott sold a large quantity of imported blankets to the 6th Regiment.²⁶⁹ The British Navy, however, made it difficult for ships to reach Charleston harbor; accordingly, the price of blankets steadily increased throughout the war.²⁷⁰ They eventually became the most expensive item issued to the men. As mentioned earlier, the cost of both muskets and blankets was approximately £10 each in 1775-1776. By January 1779, the cost of muskets with bayonets was £16; the price of blankets had jumped to roughly £40.²⁷¹

Marion's order book records that the men of the 2nd Regiment were issued blankets in the fall of 1776, in early 1777, and in the winter of 1777-1778.²⁷² No documentation exists for further 2nd Regiment blanket issues until 1780, but the men probably continued to receive blankets in late-autumn or winter, as did the 3rd Regiment:

October 29 1778

*You wrote me some time past that the Blanketts & other Clothing the Remainder of what is Due to the 3rd Regiment was Ready for them I have Sent a wagon for them – Please to deliver them to Corporal Daniel Shannon...*²⁷³

As 1779 dragged on, though a series of exhausting field campaigns, the price of blankets soared, as evidenced by the following entry in the S.C. Treasury Records:

List of Accounts of sundry Persons, for [Equipment lost] in the late Expedition to Georgia, and at Stono, in the Militia, Commd. Col. Andw. Pickens –

Crawford George for a Blanket, Lost 80.-.-
McMullen John a Blanket, Lost 86.-.-

269. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Public Ledger*, 65.

270. Franklin et al., *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 23, 338.

271. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Journals*, 91; *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Cash Book, 1778-1780, January (?)*, 1779.

272. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 278.

273. Salley, *The History of Orangeburg County, South Carolina, from Its First Settlement to the Close of the Revolutionary War*, 463.

<i>Patterson Josiah a Blanket used for the wounded</i>	89.7.6
<i>Sanderson John a Blanket</i>	75.-.-
<i>Turk William for a Blanket</i>	80.-.-
<i>Wilson Gilbert for a Blanket, Lost</i>	160.10.- ²⁷⁴

Blankets issued in late-autumn 1778/early-winter 1779 were reaching the end of their lifespan just as the southern army began the Savannah campaign. The ten men of the 4th Regiment who were assigned to the munitions laboratory required blankets prior to their march:

September 6 1779

Excerpts from "A Return of those things wanted by the men belonging to the Continental Laboratory in Order for Their March"

7 Coats
0 Shirts
0 Overhalls
6 Shoes
0 Waistcoats
7 Blankets
9 Canteens
7 Napsacks
*6 Arms*²⁷⁵

Upon their return from the siege of Savannah, the men of the S.C. regiments, refitting at Sheldon, S.C., were in serious need of clothing after the exhausting campaign. Blankets would have been a pressing need as well, but they were in short supply. The state impressed 272 blankets from one John Christian Smith, paying the exorbitant price of £68,000 for the lot, at £250 per blanket.²⁷⁶ Still, blankets remained scarce. Some of the men received clothing in December 1779-January 1780²⁷⁷, but coats and blankets were not generally issued until after the

274. *Auditor General Accounts*, 160-163.

275. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, "A Return of those things wanted by the men belonging to the Continental Laboratory in Order for Their March," September 6, 1779.

276. *Auditor General Accounts*, 149.

277. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution Consisting of Letters and Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, from Originals in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources*, vol. 2, 4-5; vol. 3, 9.

men fell back on Charleston to begin their defense against the British invasion forces, as noted in this entry in the Treasury Records:

*Oct. 20 1779 – May 12th 1780
Private Samuel Cross, 3rd Regt.
Received at Sheldon ??????. 1 Shirt, 1 pr. Overalls, 1 Jacket, 1 pr. Shoes & 15 dollars
Currency. At Charleston 1 Cloth Coat & 1 Blanket*²⁷⁸

Further records show that while besieged in Charleston, all but two of the 124 men of the 4th Regiment were issued one blanket each.²⁷⁹ So, despite the hardships of providing supplies during this critical time, the men of the S.C. regiments probably received their final winter blanket issue.

Usage

Blankets were an indispensable item for the soldiers. They were regimental property, like muskets, and considered just as essential. Each soldier was expected to personally carry his blanket when on the march, whether on campaign or simply transferring posts. In January 1778, the 1st Regiment, being relieved by the 2nd Regiment after six months garrison duty at Fort Moultrie, marched back to Charleston:

*January 6 1778
...The whole Reg.t are to be Powdered clean Shaved & in a Soldier like Dress in Order to Make a proper appearance in their march Throught the Town, their Blankets are to be neatly Roaled & fastned at their Backs, the Reg.t will land at Ropers wharf...*²⁸⁰

The practice of carrying blankets on blanket slings (military tumplines) was common amongst the S.C. regiments. Here, from the 3rd Regiment, is an order specifying that men on

278. *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856.*, #1656.

279. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, "Clothing Served to the Artillery Regiment from the 1st October 1779 to the 12th May 1780," (?).

280. Salley, "An Order Book of the First Regiment, South Carolina Line, Continental Establishment," 136.

campaign were expected to carry their blankets and haversacks, while probably throwing their knapsacks into wagons:

September 23 1778

*Camp neat the 10 Mile House ... That every night on a Marching the provisions are to be cooked for the next Day – The men who want Haver Sacks, the Officers of the Different Companies they belong to will give receipts for and report the Quantity wanted – No Soldier to be suffered to put his blanket or Provisions into the Waggon.*²⁸¹

Even at morning assembly the troops of the 1st Regiment wore blanket rolls:

March 1 1779

Camp at Puryzburg

*...We rise here a little before Day break, the Men turning out with their Haversacks and Blankets on the Backs...*²⁸²

When preparing to march on short notice, the 2nd Regiment was told to carry no baggage, save blankets:

May 7 1779

*The Regiment to hold themselves in readyness to march at a minutes warning, they are to carry nothing with them but their Blankets – all their Baggage must be put in one of the Regimental Stores...*²⁸³

Even when serving extended duty as marines in the ships of the South Carolina Navy, the men carried no knapsacks or haversacks, only blankets and arms.²⁸⁴

The scarcity and expense of proper blankets brought serious repercussions to men who lost or sold theirs:

October 22 1776

*...According to the last court James Allwell for selling his shirt & Blanket recd 200 Lashes & stoppages to replace them- Robt. Potts for the same crime recd 350 & stoppages to replace his Blankets & shirt...*²⁸⁵

281. 3rd Regiment, Order Book 1778 June 23-1779 May 1, entry dated September 23 1778.

282. Cross, "Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780," 229.

283. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 421.

284. *Ibid.*, 322.

285. *Ibid.*, 421.

February 24 1777

*Commanders of Companies to have their men going on the Command ... apply for Shoes & Blanketts & stop the price out of their Pay if they had them before...*²⁸⁶

March 20 1778

*NB by Sentence of Last court this day. John Robertson of Mazycks Comp^y for Losing his Blanket to be put under Stoppages to replace it...*²⁸⁷

November 30 1778

*The Officers to be Particular in Examining & have their men's Arms in the Best Order – Agreeable to the court martial Nicolas Flin of Capt Lesesnes Comp^y. to recv^d 30 Lashes on the Bare Back with a cat of Nine Tails for Selling his Regimital Blanket...*²⁸⁸

January 12 1779

*Agreeable to the above court martial Daniel Crabb – and Hardy Flowers both of Cap^t. Dunbars comp^y. confind. by Lieu^t. Rouse for loosing their Regimental Blankets the court Sentence the prisoners to be put under Stoppages for to make good their Blanketts...*²⁸⁹

January 20 1779

*...Agreeable to the Last Court Marital Boses Bruce of cap^t. Bakers comp^y . Rec^d. 50 Lashes on the bare back with Switches for Selling his Regimental Blankett – Peter Fagan of the Same comp^y Rec^d. 50 Lashes on the with Switches for Selling his Regimental Blankett...*²⁹⁰

Specifications

Ideally, soldiers' blankets of the Revolutionary War period were typically of rugged fulled or duffel wool, though many types of blankets and other materials could be pressed into service through expedience.²⁹¹ We have very few records of the types of blankets issued to the S.C. Regiments, though the few we do have are significant:

286. Ibid., 160-161.

287. Ibid, 302.

288. Ibid., 371.

289. Ibid., 384.

290. Ibid., 386.

291. John U. Rees, "White Wollen," "Striped Indian Blankets," "Rugs and Coverlids"; <http://www.revwar75.com/library/rees/variety.htm> (accessed September 15, 2010).

September 17 1776

*The 2d Regiment ... out of the Public Store with ...359 French Brown Blankets*²⁹²

1777 (undated)

*Col. Issac Motte his General Account for the 2d Regiment ...100 [French Brown] Blankets...*²⁹³

The French Army did not typically issue blankets to their soldiers during this period (they were provided either an overcoat or slept in a canvas sleeping bag²⁹⁴), so the blankets issued to the 2nd Regiment would have been civilian. Based on a number of period paintings (including Figures 32 and 33)²⁹⁵, brown blankets were common in France. They were generally caramel-colored, and frequently featured dark brown bars at each end.



Fig. 32. Jean Baptiste Greuze, detail from *The Complain of the Watch*, 1775.



Fig. 33. Etienne Aubry, detail from *Paternal Love*, ca. 1775.

292. *Auditor General Accounts*, 100.

293. *Ibid.*, 100.

294. Petard, *Equipements Militaires, de 1600 a 1870*, 95.

295. Etienne Aubry, *Paternal Love*, ca. 1775, oil on canvas, National Gallery of Art, <http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/2003/genre/158-115.htm>, accessed September 15, 2010; Jean Baptiste Greuze, *The Complain of the Watch*, 1775, oil on canvas, Back to Classics Virtual Art Gallery, <http://www.backtoclassics.com/gallery/jeanbaptistegreuze/thecomplainofthewatch/>, accessed September 15, 2010.

A letter from Count Beaumarchais to Ralph Izard, representative of the Continental Congress to the Court of France, describes blankets Izard ordered for his slaves back in S.C.:

September 10 1777

*PARIS ...I have the honor to inform you, sir, that I have ordered according to the note you sent me, 500 blankets. They will be 6 ½ feet long, by 4 ½ feet wide...*²⁹⁶

Duffel blankets (coarse wool with thick nap²⁹⁷) were issued to the S.C. regiments, including those of a checked-pattern:

September 1 1778

Kingsley, Zeph. for Sundry Merchandise . . .

*N.B. apart of the [aforemention sundry] Goods, to wit 7 pcs. Ozenbrigs, 62 Coarse Hats, & 3 pcs. Duffils were recd. into the Public Store by Mr. Calvert, & the Checks, Hats & Ozenbrigs were deld. To the 3^d Regt. as Certif.d of Wm. Ship, Qr. Mr. of that Regt...*²⁹⁸

November 17 1778

*Col. [Huger] has been supplied out of the Public Store for the use of his Regiment ...30 Duffil Blankets...*²⁹⁹

Based on the scant available evidence, no real timeline of blankets used by the 2nd Regiment can be produced. However, it is recommended that the majority of the blankets used by the modern 2nd Regiment fall into one of these categories:

- 1) reproduction French blanket
- 2) checked duffel (a modern equivalent)
- 3) white British army blankets
- 4) white point blanket

296. Anne Izard Deas, *Correspondence of Mr. Ralph Izard from the Year 1774 to 1804*, vol. 1 (New York: Charles S. Francis, 1844), 341-342.

297. Barbara Delory, "Of Silk, Cotton, Linen and Wool," 18cNewEnglandLife.org, <http://www.18cnewenglandlife.org/18cnel/ofsilkm.htm> (accessed September 15, 2010).

298. *Auditor General Accounts*, 38.

299. *Ibid.*, 62.

It is recommended that a common source for these blankets be found and agreed upon by the modern 2nd Regiment.

Unless knapsacks are carried on the march, blankets should be carried at the back by a blanket sling. There are many possible configurations for a sling, ranging from leather belts to webbing to rope. It is recommended that the modern regiment agree upon the materials and design of this item.

XIV. ARMS

Usage

At the start of the war, the S.C. Regiments (except the 3rd Regiment of “Rifle Men”) were issued arms from the state armory, as per this portion from Moultrie’s memoirs:

In the Council of Safety, June 17 1775

Ordered – That Col. Moultrie, do make a return to this council, of the public arms already received, and now wanted for the two regiments of foot.

The reason for a return of arms being called for, was, that the council had just entered upon the duties of their office, and wished to know the number of arms that were already given out, and what remained in store; as we had drawn arms from the store-keeper as fast as we enlisted the men...³⁰⁰

These arms would almost certainly have been any of a number of variants of the British First Model “Long Land” pattern muskets, the standard arm of the British military since 1718.³⁰¹

They were soon issued to the men:

July 20 1775

A Return of the arms receiv'd from the Publick by the 1st & 2d Regts to be made to the Commanding Officer & Also what Arms are Wanted for each Regiment.³⁰²

As the muskets had been in storage, possibly dating back to the early 1760s, some were found to unserviceable:

September 5 1775

A Return to be made immediately of all the Arms that have been Received by the 1st & 2nd Regiments and what number is fitt for service in each Regiment.³⁰³

There were not enough serviceable arms to provide for all the men of the 2nd Regiment:

300. Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, vol. 1, 81.

301. Anthony D. Darling, *Red Coat and Brown Bess*, Historical Arms Series No. 12 (Alexandria Bay, N.Y.: Museum Restoration Service, 1971), 19.

302. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 5.

303. *Ibid.*, 12.

September 30 1775

*...the Small Arms in general very bad and not one half of the Men provided with Cartridge Boxes...*³⁰⁴

To supplement the state arms, muskets and bayonets of any variety were purchased from private individuals, as per these entries in the S.C. Treasury Records:

<i>Sept. 4 1775</i>	<i>Bonneau & Wilson for 4 guns</i>	<i>26._._</i>
<i>Sept. 7 1775</i>	<i>Thomas Ferguson for 4 muskets</i>	<i>40._._</i>
<i>Dec. 1 1775</i>	<i>John Bonsall Gunsmiths ... for Bayonets</i>	<i>218.2.6</i>
<i>Dec. 2 1775</i>	<i>John Markal for 50 [Iron Rammers]</i>	<i>50._._</i>
<i>Dec. 8 1775</i>	<i>Jno. Simpson & Co. for 9 Muskets @£8</i>	<i>72._._</i>
<i>Dec. 21 1775</i>	<i>James Parsons for 4 muskets</i>	<i>52._._</i>
<i>Jan. 8 1776</i>	<i>Danl. & Isaac Bourdeaux for Muskets, etc.</i>	<i>143.2.4</i>
<i>Jan. 17 1776</i>	<i>Tho.s Bee for 2 muskets & 2 Blunderbusses</i>	<i>43._._</i>
<i>Mar. 23 1776</i>	<i>Wm. Tennet for 2 muskets</i>	<i>40._._</i>
<i>Apr. 19 1776</i>	<i>Hugh Crawford for Guns & Bayonets</i>	<i>253.17.6</i> ³⁰⁵

Despite these local procurements, the expanding S.C. forces needed many additional arms, preferably modern muskets with bayonets. To that end, over the first few months of 1776, the S.C. government dispatched several ships, laden with rice and indigo, to trade for war material. In all these ships' sailing orders, the top priority item to procure was stands of arms.³⁰⁶

In the meantime, S.C. regiments were frequently ordered to keep their aging, mixed collection of muskets in good order:

April 28 1776

*All the arms of the Regiment to be sent to the Armourers by Company, beginning by the Granidiers, an Officer of a Compy to attend the armourey frequently in the day to have the arms finished as soon as possible.*³⁰⁷

August 18 1776

304. Ibid., 19.

305. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Public Ledger, 1778-1780*, 3, 6, 11-12, 15-16, 31-32, 43.

306. Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 10, 112-113.

307. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 59.

*The non-commissioned may then be taught that it is their duty not only to drill men, relieve guards and sentries, but to see their soldiers brought clean upon parade, with their arms bright and in good order...*³⁰⁸

September 9 1776

*...the Commandg. Offrs. of Compys. to Apply to the Quartr Master this after Noon at 5 OClock for arms & accoutrements wanting to compleat their companys Agreeable to returns given in Last week for which they are to give receipt...*³⁰⁹

September 17 1776

*When ever the men Appear under Arms they are always to have their Bayonets & in good Order, those who neglect shall be severly punished - an Offr. of a Compy. to make know this order.*³¹⁰

October 5 1776

*To polish the barrel of the fusee and keep it bright after being cleaned, every soldier must carry in his pouch a thick piece of buck skin, with which he is to rub the barrel well, as soon as he is relieved from his post as sentry or comes off guard; by the frequent repetition of this the polish becomes so long lasting as at length not to be spotted even by rain. Each man must also have in his pouch a worm and a wire pricker and 2 spare flints. It is recommended tat the stock of the gun be rubbed over with oil and wax, which will give it a gloss and prevent the wet from damaging it. The quartermaster will furnish the wax and oil and worm.*³¹¹

November 15 1776

*The Arms of each Company to be immediately put in good Order the men to be so employ'd all this Afternoon The Regiment is not to turn out to exercise this After noon.*³¹²

February 24 1777

*Commanders of Companies to have their men going on the Command compleated in arms & accoutrimts. they are to exchange their musketts if not in order with those that are to stay taking care of ye Exchange that is made in their own Companies & the Arms wanting for those who have not had any to apply to the Qr. Mastr. & give a receipt for the Same.*³¹³

308. Elliott et al., *Year Book, City of Charleston for 1889*, 239-240.

309. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 101.

310. *Ibid.*, 103.

311. Elliott et al., *Year Book, City of Charleston for 1889*, 247.

312. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 120.

313. *Ibid.*, 160-161.

April 2 1777

Commanding Officers of Companies are desir'd to make their men clean their arms & keep them so; any Soldier who shall appear on Parole, or Guard wth. their Arms dirty or rusted, to be confin'd for disobedience of Orders- & suffer accordingly- Majr Horry & Adjutant D'Ellient will be particular in confining such Soldiers who do not comply wth this Order-³¹⁴

April 16 1777

No Officer to absent himself from exercise in the Afternoon without Leave from the Commanding Officer of the Regiment- who expects that the Offrs. Commdg. Compns. will immediately provide such men with arms & Accoutrements want them & that they see them well cleaned & in good order...³¹⁵

April 23 1777

The Majr. is desir'd to see that the Armourers are Constantly Imploy'd in Repairing the Arms of the Regt. & if he finds them neglect their duty to report them to the Commdg Offrs of the Regt...³¹⁶

June 9 1777

Commanding Officers of Compys. are desired to make their men gett their Arms in good order & keep them so, The Colo. is really ashamed to see the men on parade with their arms so very dirty Which proves a neglect of duty & Disobedience of Orders many time repeated & hope the Officers for their own Credit will be perticular in this point of their duty for the future...³¹⁷

Clear evidence of the S.C. regiments' polyglot muskets comes from a general order recorded in Marion's order book:

July 21 1777

Commanding Officers of Corps & Batalions are Immediately to have a strict survey of the arms of their men and to report to the general the exact state of them, he is anxious to receive their reports for perticular reasons; Officers of Companies having long since Issued to be carefull that each man of their Company had a form exactly fitted to his gun, & as the Calibars may not be equal, Commanding Officers of Battaliona were directed to have Boxes made prepared to deposit cartridges in separate Bundles which Bearing some mark to distinguish to which gun they belonged, that no mistake, confusion or delay might happen in serving them out; the Genl. wishes to be informed if those orders were complied with and therefore desires Commanding Officers of Batalions will examine &

314. Ibid., 173.

315. Ibid., 178.

316. Ibid., 180.

317. Ibid., 199.

*report to him as immediately as possible & why it has not been comply'd with/ if that can possible be/ that it may be immediately done...*³¹⁸

In the summer of 1777, new shipments of arms from overseas finally began to arrive:

May 23 1777

Sold to The State of South Carolina by Jo. Cripps & Mey

[includes]

1089 Musquetts with bayonets & Gun Worms

*828 Musquetts*³¹⁹

August 16 1777

*...Mr. Galvan arrived Yesterday & has brought 10 Field pieces, 7000 Stand of Arms & fifty thousand weight of Gunpowder also 2 Mortar... he expects soon another Vessel...*³²⁰

The shipment from Messr. Galvan was misstated in the above reference. Galvan actually arrived with some 3263 muskets (with bayonets), 18 cannon and 3 mortars.³²¹ The muskets were almost certainly from the St. Etienne arms factory; its owner, Messr. Montieu, sold virtually his entire stock of some 80,000 firearms to American purchasing agents. Most of the arms sold by Montieu were probably some combination of Model 1763, 1766 or 1768 muskets; the French Army had adopted a new model musket in 1777, and he was probably clearing out his stocks of the older models. Of the muskets imported by Galvan, only 333 muskets were actually factory-fresh; the rest were older muskets which either had been repaired or were in need of a gunsmith.³²² The American agents did their best to refit these arms prior to shipping them to the states³²³; still, some 1000 of Galvan's muskets were found to be irreparably defective.³²⁴

318. *Ibid.*, 215.

319. *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*, #1617.

320. Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 11, 460.

321. Morton and Spinelli, *Beaumarchais and the American Revolution*, 219.

322. *Ibid.*, 220.

323. Franklin et al., *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 23, 545.

324. Morton and Spinelli, *Beaumarchais and the American Revolution*, 220.

The new arms were served out to the 2nd Regiment in late 1777; great care was taken to insure proper records of the muskets:

December 4 1777

As new Arms will shortly be served out to the Continental Regim^{ts}. in the state, the Commanding Officers of each Corps are upon the receipt of them, to report to head Quarters the number they receive the number Distributed to each Company and the Names of the Officers to whom Deliverd ~ Officers of Company, are to make known to their men, that any Arms lost or Injured Otherways then in the Course of Service by Enevitab^le Accidents will be replaced or Repaired by Stoppages from their pay and that besides this they will most Certainly be punished, Off^{rs} of Comp^{ys} will be Attentive to Carry into execution their Order whenever necessary or they may depend upon being Themselves made Answerable for the loss & repair of Arms, when Commanding Off^{rs}. of Companies are by promotion or otherwise removed from their Comp^y. they are immediately to report to the Commanding Off^r. of the Reg^t. for the time being the Exact state of of the Arms when they were Appointed to when they left the company that Either they, the Off^r. in charge of the Comp^y. or the Off^r. Succeeding to it may be made answerable shoud Occasion require it, Commanding Off^{rs} of regim^t. for the time being are to take Certificates from the Off^{rs}. of Companys for the Arms which they have been served which with the reports to be made by those Orders are to be Carefully filed that they may be referred to Occasionally or if Entered in a book kept for that purpose would be Better.³²⁵

As indicated earlier, additional new muskets may have arrived from overseas sources. These may have been a mixed lot, as indicated by the following orders to the army:

December 5 1777

When the new arms are served out Care to be taken that as many of Equal Calibars be Chosen as possible it is supposed that Each Reg^t. may furnish itself with such as have bores alike; Bullet moulds is to be then provided to fit them & if the bores are Equal; to Each Reg^t. the mould Carrying four or five Bullets on each side will be sufficient, Commanding Off^{rs}. of Reg^t. will have them made as soon as Possible, the Reg^t. they belong to is to be Marked on the moulds.³²⁶

As one of the senior regiments, the 2nd probably received better-quality French arms in standard .69 caliber. The arms were issued in “as-is” condition, as they needed to be proofed; those found serviceable were quickly branded and marked:

325. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 263-264.

326. *Ibid.*, 264.

December 16 1777

The new Arms Latly rec^d. for the regim^t. to be proved as soon as possible...L^t. Bush will Apply to the Quart^r. Master for powder & Ball to prove the Arms, who is orderd to Deliver what may be wanting a report to be made by L^t. Bush of what muskets may not stand proof & the number that is proof.³²⁷

January 4 1778

The new arms to be Deliverd out ... the Officer who receive the Arms for their Comp^y. to Enter the mans name in a book and the number on their muskets to be put opposite there names...[the arms] will be numbered...[and] Branded immediatly with 2^d Regt.³²⁸

May 15 1778

Return of Arms & Accoutrements & Blankets from on board the Ship General Moultrie Commanded by Capt: Blake³²⁹

<i>Companies</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Muskets</i>	<i>Bayonets</i>	<i>Scabard</i>	<i>Belts</i>	<i>Frogs</i>	<i>Pouches</i>	<i>Blankets</i>	<i>Number of firelocks</i>
<i>Harleston . .</i>	3	3	1	1	1	1	“	2	19 – 13 – 22
<i>Mottes . .</i>	4	4	3	“	“	“	2	“	50 – 44 – 53 – 57
<i>Charnocks</i>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	159 – 165.
<i>Lesesnes . .</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	188.
<i>Moultries . .</i>	3	3	2	“	“	“	2	4	250 – 230 – 222
<i>Mazyck .</i>	6	5	5	4	3	1	5	6	269 – 268 – 256 – 271 – 87
<i>Dunbar . .</i>	5	4	4	4	4	“	2	4	33 – 31 – 30 – 32
<i>Halls . .</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	92.
<i>1st Vacant</i>	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	136 – 118.134.117.113.139.111
<i>2nd Vacant</i>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	“	“	<u>2</u>	293 – 296.
<i>Total</i>	<u>34</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>	

327. Ibid., 268.

328. Ibid., 275.

329. Ibid., 317.

Possibly a few of the newest French muskets, Model 1777, reached the 2nd Regiment, courtesy of an enterprising French gun-runner, as per this order from the Continental Board of War to General Lincoln:

December 2 1778

*Mons^{rs}. Pierre Savarit informs the Board that he had imported into Charles Town...[Five] hundred Stands of best Charleville Arms, as an Adventure by way of Sample from the Company who Conduct the Factory at Charleville, and who as he says, empowered him to contract with us for the Supply of our Troops with Arms from the Factory...We Authorize you to Purchase for the United States all Arms appearing to be the Property of Mons^r De Savarit at Charlestown.*³³⁰

The French arms appear to have almost exclusively replaced earlier English muskets. At the surrender of Charleston in May 1780, over 6000 French muskets were surrendered to the British, with smaller quantities of unspecified firearms also falling into enemy hands.³³¹

Specifications

Early-War, 1775-1777

The firelocks initially issued to the 2nd Regiment were almost certainly variations of the First Model “Long Land” Pattern British muskets. Some may have been cut down, and many probably had their wooden rammers eventually replaced with iron rammers.³³² Additionally, muskets of any variety were purchased from local owners; most were likely to have been older military-grade weapons from any number of foreign sources: French, Spanish, Belgian, Prussian, etc.

330. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 2, Dec. 2, 1778.

331. Banastre Tarleton, *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces of North America* (London: T. Cadell, 1787), 47.

332. Grimke Family, *Grimke Family Papers, 1761-1866*, “Invoice of the Military Stores Ship’d on board the Schooner Dove”, December 6 1779.

Mid-to-Late-War, 1778-1780

The majority of later-war muskets would have been French 1763, 1766 or 1768 models, predominantly from the St. Etienne factory.³³³ A few Charleville Model 1777 muskets may have been issued as well.³³⁴ It is unlikely that any other types of muskets were used by the 2nd Regiment during this period.

Modern 2nd Regiment Usage

Due to practical limitations of members procuring multiple muskets, it is recommended that members be required to procure French Model 1763 or 1766 muskets. The loaner muskets are largely British 2nd Model “Brown Besses”; these should be used by recruits, and they should also be temporarily issued to full-members during early-war events. Members should feel free to acquire other appropriate foreign muskets for early-war impressions.

The 2nd Regiment used simple integer rack-and-stack numbers for their muskets, i.e. “131”, “132”, “133” etc. The current practice in the modern regiment of last-name initial/last two digits of musket serial number is more appropriate for re-enacting identification. Additionally, muskets were branded “2d Regt”; the modern regiment should procure a branding iron for members to use on their muskets, per individual member’s discretion.

333. Franklin et al., *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 23, 545.

334. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 2, Dec. 2, 1778.

XV. CARTRIDGE POUCHES

Nomenclature

British infantrymen were issued two types of ammunition carriers. The “cartridge box” or “belly-box” was a curved block of wood with approximately 16 holes for cartridges, the top being covered by a flap of leather. The box was worn under the soldier’s belly via a waistbelt, though the boxes were frequently converted to a shoulder carriage, with the box suspended on the soldier’s hip. The cartridge box was issued by the government as part of a soldier’s “stand of arms”, which included a musket and bayonet.³³⁵ The “cartridge pouch” was a leather pouch containing a wood block featuring 16 to 36 holes for cartridges. It was worn on the hip via a shoulder carriage. The pouches were made of soft leather during the French and Indian War; by the Revolution, pouches were generally of hard “jacked” leather.³³⁶ The cartridge pouch was provided by colonels of regiments to their own men, so there was some variation in pouch patterns between units.³³⁷

The general consensus among scholars is that the American army, never being issued proper “stands of arms” used the term “cartridge box” to denote both boxes and pouches. While this may be true in the northern colonies, the records clearly indicate that the South Carolina military establishment (with almost no exceptions) retained the British nomenclature. Shoulder-carriage leather pouches were called “cartridge pouches”; belly-style wooden blocks with a leather flap were called “cartridge boxes.” After September 1775, the 2nd Regiment is always described as having “cartridge pouches”.³³⁸

335. Don Troiani et al., *Don Troiani's Soldiers of the American Revolution* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2007), 4.

336. *Ibid.*, 2.

337. *Ibid.*, 22.

338. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 16.

Usage

Initially, the S.C. regiments were probably issued older British-pattern soft pouches, left in store since the French and Indian War. These were in relatively poor condition, and new pouches were quickly produced by local saddlers, along with modern shoulder bayonet carriages:

Oct. 3 1775	John Callaghan for 36 Pouches @4.50 each	162. _._
Oct. 4 1775	Wm. Denny for 50 Pouches @ £4	200. _._
Oct. 6 1775	Daniel Rupell for Belts & Frogs	100.7.6
Oct. 6 1775	Hugh Pollock for 12 Pouches @£4.50 each	54. _._
Oct. 13 1775	Wm. Denny for 150 Pouches @ £4	600. _._
Oct. 16 1775	John Callaghan for 100 Pouches	400. _._
Oct. 16 1775	Hugh Pollock for 130 Pouches	549. _._
Nov. 15 1775	Wm. Denny for 100 Pouches @80/	400. _._ ³³⁹

The 2nd Regiment quickly received the new pouches, having them promptly fitted to each soldier, and the pouches were eventually marked as regimental property, and probably numbered as well:

October 8 1775

Order'd that a General Return be made to morrow of what Arms are fit for Service, & also what Arms are carried off by deserters & how many Bayonets are wanted & to examine all the old Pouches (& be nice in the Examination) & make a report tomorrow.³⁴⁰

October 18 1775

The commanding officer of the companies encamped to apply tomorrow morning to the gunner of the fort, for as many new pouches as they may want, giving him receipt for them. The old pouches to be put into the store in the fort.³⁴¹

September 19 1776

All the Officers to turn out in Afrnoon with their arms & Gorgetts - the Captns. of the day to frequently visit the Armourers shop & if he finds them Idle to report them Emediately - The Commandg Offrs of Compys. to have their men's arms put in Complete Order as soon as possible & to have the pouches properly fitted & marked.³⁴²

339. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Public Ledger*, 6-7, 9-10.

340. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 20.

341. Elliott et al., *Year Book, City of Charleston for 1889*, 169.

342. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 103.

There is no further record of pouches again being issued to the 2nd Regiment until early 1779, though this does not necessarily indicate that additional new pouches may have been issued. In late 1777, the S.C. regiments received new muskets from France.³⁴³ Some of these may have been accompanied by French cartridge pouches, which probably would have found their way to the two senior S.C. regiments, the 1st and 2nd. Regardless, any possible French pouches were not of sufficient quantities for all the S.C. troops; there was still clearly a need for locally-produced pouches:

May 13 1777

*Wm. Denny for Pouches [for the 5th Regt.]...[no amount listed]*³⁴⁴

May 4 1778

*Denny, William, for 6th Regiment, 45 Pouches at £9 each, which is considerably above any price charged in his former acco., and which he says is occasioned by the great advance of the price of leather from 10/ to 40/ per lb.*³⁴⁵

December 1st 1778

*Callaghan, John for 66 Pouches, Cross Belts & Scabbards for the 5th Regiment.....1084.10._*³⁴⁶

These records indicate that a minority of men in the 5th and 6th Regiments received these locally-made pouches. Whether they were replacements for veterans or new items for recruits is unclear.

Pouches were definitely provided to the 2nd Regiment in early 1779. Unfortunately, these had some kind of construction flaw or condition problem:

February 20 1779

*Commanding Officers of Companies are...to Receive from their Recruits the New Pouches & to deliver the Same to the Q^r. Master Serj^t. who is to Return them to Town as unfit for Service...*³⁴⁷

343. *Accounts Audited of Claims Growing Out of the Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1856*, #1617; Brian Morton, *Beaumarchais and the American Revolution*, 219.

344. *Records of the South Carolina Treasury, 1775-1780, Public Ledger*, 64.

345. *Auditor General Accounts*, 2.

346. *Ibid.*, 67.

The regiment's older pouches must have been in sorry condition; rather than continue using the old pouches temporarily, the men were sent into the field with powder horns and loose ball until new pouches were ready:

February 23 1779

Gen^l. Moultrie to Col. Marion

...You will order from your Regim^t one field Off^r. 21 Capt^{ns}. 4 Subalterns 10 Serg^{ts}. 2 Drums 2 fifes with one hundred & fifty rank & file to March to Purisburgh with all Expeditious ...This Detachment to be ready to March by Thursday morning Early, when they are to be furnished with a powder horn, 1/4 powder & 12 dozen Ball p^r. Man, pouches will be given them as soon as ready – ³⁴⁸

These records seem to indicate that a set of locally-made pouches were unsuitable, and that replacements were being made. However, there are no extant records of locally-produced pouches beyond this point.

The price of leather (along with most other goods) had dramatically increased by this time. To address the situation, it seems probable that pouches had been shipped down from northern Continental supplies. An inventory of the Southern Department's Continental store in July 1779 shows that approximately 60% of the pouches were French, the remainder being listed as "American" pouches. This is the final documentation on cartridge pouches prior to May 1780.³⁴⁹

Specifications

Locally-Produced Cartridge Pouches, 1775-1780

Early in the war, before any combat had occurred, the 2nd Regiment was issued locally-produced cartridge pouches to replace their initial, aged French and Indian War-era soft pouches.³⁵⁰ No

347. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 394.

348. *Ibid.*, 395.

349. Lincoln et al., *Benjamin Lincoln Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Reel 4, #288, July 17, 1779.

350. Elliott et al., *Year Book, City of Charleston for 1889*, 103.

documentation exists as to the design of these pouches. However, orders dated March 1776 from Stephen Bull, colonel commanding the Charles Town militia, discusses issues with his men's cartridge pouches prior to a march:

*...an officer of each detachment before embarkation do examine and see that the cartridges are not too deep in the boxes, but that the caps may be so far out, as to be readily taken out, in time of action. Should the cartouch boxes be too deep for the cartridges, then in that case let there be a wad of moss put to the bottom of each so as to raise them to a proper height...*³⁵¹

The reference to putting moss under the wooden blocks indicates that these were hard leather pouches, possibly ones designed to have tins under the block, but which were unavailable.³⁵² Additionally, the men of the 2nd Regiment were almost always issued rounds in groups of three; 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 and 18 rounds are by far the most common issue.³⁵³ In almost every situation where more rounds were issued, the extra rounds were ordered to be put into ammunition chests; here is one of a number of examples, this one from S.C. Continentals doing duty as marines on vessels of the South Carolina navy:

*January 11 1778
Each Regt. to provide their men with 18 Rounds each & 50 Rounds per man to be put into a Military Chest on board the Vessels they go in...*³⁵⁴

It seems likely that the locally-made pouches held a maximum eighteen rounds. No extant cartridge pouches of S.C. provenance have been found; however, an American 17-round cartridge pouch in the collections of the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park is likely similar to those made in South Carolina (see Figure 34).

351. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution Consisting of Letters and Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, from Originals in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources*, vol. 2, 262-263.

352. Jay Howlett and Stuart Lillie, Interviews with author, August 2010.

353. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 413.

354. Salley, "An Order Book of the First Regiment, South Carolina Line, Continental Establishment," vol. 7, 130.



Fig. 34. Cartridge Box and Pouch, H 16.0, W 9.0, L 26.0 cm, GUCO 1498, National Park Service Museum Collections, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/exhibits/revwar/image_gal/gucoimg/guco1498cartridgebox.html, accessed September 15, 2010.

The cartridge pouches made in Charleston would probably have had adjustable straps attached via buckles on the bottom of the pouch, and may have featured a slightly scalloped flap, in keeping with the design of the 2nd Regiment's caps and coat cuffs.

Based on the above documentation, reproductions of locally-produced cartridge pouches for the 2nd Regiment should feature;

- 1) hard leather construction
- 2) wooden block with 18 cartridge holes
- 3) conform to general construction practices of similar American pouches, circa 1776

French and "New Model" American Pouches, 1777-1780

French cartridge pouches and "New Model" American pouches are well-documented and available commercially; some, however, are of incorrect construction. The membership should decide upon sources for properly-constructed pouches.

XVI. BAYONET AND CARTRIDGE POUCH CARRIAGES

Usage

There is little record of bayonet carriages in the extant S.C. records. The first mention comes in 1778, from the 1st Regiment:

April 16 1778

*A Return of what Frogs & belts is wanting in each Company to be made tomorrow morning...*³⁵⁵

On May 15 1778, Marion's order book lists equipment issued to men serving as marines on a ship of the S.C. Navy; the men were issued "Scabbards," "Frogs" and "Belts".³⁵⁶ The S.C.

Treasury Records has the following entry for the 5th Regiment:

December 1st 1778

*Callaghan, John for 66 Pouches, Cross Belts & Scabbards for the 5th Regt...1084.10.*³⁵⁷

The treasury records also contain several other references to crossbelts, frogs and scabbards being made for S.C. troops, including cavalymen.³⁵⁸

Specifications

There is scant evidence as to the specifications for bayonet carriages used by the 2nd Regiment. The S.C. Treasury Records contain references to "cross belts" being made for other regiments, indicating shoulder bayonet carriages.³⁵⁹ The self-portrait of Private Charles Floyd of the St. Helena volunteers shows himself wearing crossbelts (his written description states that

355. Salley, *An Order Book of the First Regiment, South Carolina Line, Continental Establishment*, 87.

356. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 317.

357. *Auditor General Accounts*, 67.

358. *Ibid.*, 110, 114, 144.

359. *Auditor General Accounts*, 67, 114.

they were white in color).³⁶⁰ There is no evidence that bayonet carriages were imported from France, though the term “stands of arms” was used in some imports; this term denoted muskets with bayonets, and may possibly have included French carriages.³⁶¹ The majority of bayonet carriages seem to have been made locally by saddlers, hence of leather construction.³⁶²

There is absolutely no indication in any extant records as to the color of the shoulder belts in the 2nd Regiment. However, the absence of any directives to the men to whiten their belts or of any mention of whitening materials (i.e. pipeclay, buff ball, etc.) is notable. Middleton’s Regiment of 1760, the inspiration for the 2nd Regiment’s uniform, appear to have had belts of tanned leather dyed black.³⁶³ Further, the 2nd Regiment was styled after light infantry. British regulations specified tanned leather belts for all light infantry companies; though this order was not always followed.³⁶⁴ Buff leather was more expensive than tanned leather, especially by later in the war. Though it is quite possible that the bayonet carriages and cartridge pouch belts were white (as per the early-war cross belts of the St. Helena Volunteers), black leather shoulder belts seem to be the better educated guess for the 2nd Regiment.

Based on the above research, the bayonet and pouch carriages for the modern 2nd Regiment should be of black tanned leather, of dimensions and construction similar to British carriages of the period.

360. McMaster, “St. Helena Volunteers, South Carolina Militia, 92-93.

361. Laurens et al., *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, vol. 11, 460n.

362. *Ibid.*, 67, 110, 114, 144, 148.

363. McMaster, *Soldiers and Uniforms*, 43-46.

364. Strachan, *British Military Uniforms, 1768-1796*, 187, 203-205, 209.

XVII. SHELTER

The 2nd Regiment spent most of its service in garrison duty. Early in the war, before barracks were available, the men lived in tents. Barracks were quickly built, however, both in Charleston and at Fort Moultrie. When the full regiment was deployed in the field, they used tents, carried by wagons. Only when deployed in small detachments, or in unusual circumstances, did the men resort to alternate types of shelter, which included:

- 1) local buildings (homes, barns, etc.)
- 2) bowers constructed from tree branches
- 3) just blankets

There is absolutely no documentation for painted ground cloths or oil cloths being issued or used by any S.C. regiment.

Usage

The first mention of tents in the 2nd Regiment comes from within the first few weeks of the units' existence:

July 5 1775

Officers of the 1st & 2d Regiments to provide themselves with Tents Lt Colo & majors Tents to be 10 feet ridge pole & 8 ft upright pole Captains & Subalterns Tents 8 ft ridge pole & 7 ft upright pole. the two Subalterns of each Company to one Tent.³⁶⁵

Even at this early stage, the majority of the men slept in barracks, with tents provided for the guard, or those troops deployed:

July 31 1775

Order'd the two Sergts Guard of the 1st & 2d Regts be Joined & one Subaltern to take the Command. This guard to be mounted between the pump & the gate five tents to be pitchd for that purpose. this guard to be as a Barrack guard & to Send 1 Corporal & 2 men between every Relief after Tatoon beat round the Barrack yard to prevent the men

365. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 4.

*sleeping out of their barracks at night. beginning tomorrow no orderly Subaltern to be appointed till future orders.*³⁶⁶

September 20 1775

*Order'd that Captn Edmd Hyrne do go over to Fort Johnston with his Co. & to encamp on the spott where the new Battery is to be built near Fort Johnston Captn Hyrne must apply to Majr Roberts for tents for his Compy...*³⁶⁷

William Moultrie mentions that, by this time, the men on deployment had tents:

*We had now [November 17 1775], a camp on James' Island, near Fort Johnson, of at least five hundred men, well armed, well accoutered, and well clothed with a sufficient number of regular good tents...*³⁶⁸

The fast-moving, mounted men of the 3rd Regiment frequently traveled light. On at least one occasion in the field, they did not have tents, finding shelter as best they could on plantations:

March 5 1777

*On a march – Camp near Pocatligo Bridge – Order'd that the Officers do see that the men do Shelter themselves immediately in the Best manner possible from the inclemency of the weather and that they are in readiness to march at 8 o'clock to morrow morning, the men are desired not to do any kind of mischief in or about the Plantations during their march on any pretence whatsoever, nor to molest any person but behave themselves decently and Quietly Like good Soldiers.*³⁶⁹

While serving in the East Florida campaign of 1778, the men of the 1st Regiment were short of tents. These were needed at night or in inclement weather, but in the extreme heat of the day, men and officers used bowers:

May 23 1778

*Fort Howe [on the Altamaha River in Georgia]... I am writing in a Spacious Bower erected before a Soldier's Tent which I make use of, on an extemporaneous Table and sitting on a bench...*³⁷⁰

366. Ibid., 7.

367. Ibid., 23.

368. Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution so Far as It Related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia*, vol. 2 , 93.

369. *Records of the Regiments of the South Carolina Continental Line in the Revolutionary War*, comp. A.S.Salley and Alida Moe (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1977), South Carolina Department of History and Archives, Columbia, S.C., 21.

370. Cross, "Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780," 151.

June 4 1778

To General William Moultrie

*Charleston – I received your favor, and immediately laid before the council, who desired me to give orders for fifty tents, 250 canteens and tow doz. Kettles, which are all we can spare. The pork you say you have already ordered. Enclosed is the order for the above articles which will be charged to Congress. I am &c.*³⁷¹

June 4 1778

*Fort Tonyn St. Mary's [River] ... when we are settled for a few Days at any place we build elegant Bowers, which we find a very good defense against the Heat, and upon the whole we fare very well.*³⁷²

By late 1778, the 3rd Regiment had transitioned from mounted rangers to a more conventional infantry regiment.³⁷³ As such, they now required tents:

October 1 1778

*The detachment to be furnished with 24 Rounds of Powder and ball one pair of flints pr man - The tents and haversacks to be delivered up to the Qr Mater untell futher orders and then Distributed agreeable to the Strength of each Company...*³⁷⁴

Detachments from the 2nd Regiment were issued tents:

October 18 1778

*Orders by Gen^l. Howe One Subaltern one Sarg^t. & Eight Rank & file from Fort Moultrie one Sarg^t. & 12 Rank & file from fort Johnston to hold themselves in Readyness to go upon a Command they are to Act as a Covering to some Publick works upon Dewee's Island & are to be furnished with Tents twenty Rounds & a weeks provisions they will Rec^d...*³⁷⁵

When the 6th Regiment was deployed in late 1778, tents were provided:

November 22 1778

371. Richard Walsh, *The Writings of Christopher Gadsden* (Columbia, S.C: University of South Carolina Press, 1966), 66.

372. Cross, "Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780," 153.

373. Fitzhugh McMaster and Darby Erd, "The Third South Carolina Regiment (Rangers) 1775-1780," *Military Collector and Historian*, Vol. 32 (Summer 1980), 73.

374. 3rd Regiment, *Order Book 1778 June 23-1779 May 1*, entry for October 1 1778.

375. O'Kelley, *Unwaried Patience and Fortitude*, 359.

*The Sixth Regiment is to be put into immediate readiness for Marching: Brigr: General Moultrie will give orders to have them Supplied with wagons, ammunition, Tents, Canteens etc: & will Report to the General when they are ready.*³⁷⁶

In camp at Purisburg, the 1st Regiment used tents, as noted by Thomas Pinckney:

March 1 1779

*Camp at Purrysburg...We rise here a little before Day break, the Men turning out with their Haversacks and Blankets on the Backs, they immediately are sent to their Tents to wait 'till the Sun Rises to dispel the Fog.*³⁷⁷

The 4th Regiment, on campaign with the main Southern army in May 1779, used tents:

May 2 1779

*The Army is to march tomorrow Morning at Six oClock; the reveille will beat at four & the Assembly at half-past five, at which time the Tents will be struck & the necessary Baggage put into the Waggon. Each regiment will leave a sufficient Guard for the protection of that part of the Baggage which will be left behind. The soldiers are to carry their Blankets & Knapsacks.*³⁷⁸

Again, nowhere in the extant records of ANY S.C. regiment is use of a ground cloth or oil cloth mentioned, or even suggested.

Specifications

The current theory amongst researchers is that the tents currently in use by most Revolutionary War reenactment groups, including the 2nd Regiment, are of incorrect construction, both in design and materials. However, due to financial constraints, the procurement of new “correct” tents is problematic, and is a relatively low priority concern.

Due to modern and logistical constraints, if the modern 2nd Regiment decides to portray a “campaign” style impression, if no shelter is available on site, or if bowers cannot be constructed, the recommendation is to “fudge” history. Members should be provided with

376. Salley, “Order Book of John Faucheraud Grimke, August 1778 to May 1780,” vol. 13, no. 4 (Oct. 1912), 205-206.

377. Cross, “Letters of Thomas Pinckney, 1775-1780,” 229.

378. Salley, “Order Book of John Faucheraud Grimke, August 1778 to May 1780,” vol. 15, no. 3 (July 1914), 132.

portions of the old regimental tents, cut into personal-sized coverings. Alternately, members could procure personal oilcloths; these were commonly available in the period, are light-weight, and could possibly have been procured by individual soldiers. This would also be a good crossover item for militia impressions.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Images of South Carolina Continental Officers



Fig. 35. Capt. John Blake, 2nd Regiment, c. 1775-1777, by Henry Benbridge, miniature, oil on ivory, private collection of Lewis D. Blake, Belton, S.C.



Fig. 36. Col. Benjamin Cattell, 1st Regiment / Aide-de-Camp, c. 1780-1782, by Henry Benbridge, oil on canvas, private collection of James M. Harris, Baltimore, M.D.



Fig. 37. Capt. Barnard Elliott, 4th Regiment, c. 1776-1778,
by Henry Benbridge, miniature, oil on ivory, Gibbes Museum, Charleston, S.C.



Fig. 38. Lt. John Harleston, 2nd Regiment, c. 1775-1776, by Charles Willson Peale, oil on canvas, Peale Museum Collection, University of Maryland, College Park, M.D.



Fig. 39. Maj. Benjamin Huger, 5th Regiment, ca. 1779-1780, by Henry Benbridge, oil on canvas, Wintherthur Museum, Wilmington, D.E.



Fig. 40. Capt. Charles Motte, 2nd Regiment, ca. 1778-1779, by Henry Benbridge, oil on canvas, private collection of Mrs. Maurice E. Harrison, Jr., reproduced from *Henry Benbridge: American Portrait Painter* by Robert G. Stewart, 65.



Fig. 41. Capt. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, 1st Regiment, ca. 1773-1776, by Henry Benbridge, oil on canvas, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.



Fig. 42. Capt. John Purvis, 3rd Regiment, ca. 1775, by Henry Benbridge, oil on canvas, Henry Francis du Pont Collection, Winterthur Museum, Wilmington, D.E.



Fig. 43. Col. Owen Roberts and Capt. Brooke Roberts, 4th Regiment, ca. 1779-1780, by Henry Benbridge, oil on canvas, Samuel M.V. Hamilton Building, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts School & Museum, Philadelphia, P.A.



Fig. 44. Capt. Jacob Shubrick, 2nd Regiment, ca. 1778, by Henry Benbridge, oil on canvas, Anderson House Museum, The Society of the Cincinnati, Philadelphia, P.A.

Appendix II: Hat Definitions

Hat – a wool or felt head-covering with rounded or flat crown and a full-around brim

Cap – a head-covering made of either felt or leather with either 1) no brim, 2) a small brim in front, possibly turned up, or 3) a separated piece of the brim (if felt) or a piece of leather, sewn to the front of the crown

Helmet – a leather cap for horsemen, reinforced with either leather or steel inside the crown, intended to deflect saber blows. Though some horsemen's helmets are called "caps", infantry caps are almost never referred to as "helmets"

Crown – the rounded-part of a head-covering sitting directly over the head

Brim – flat part of a hat extending horizontally around the base of the crown

Front Plate – the upturned or sewn-on piece of felt or leather in the front of caps; also known as a "shield"

Visor – as today, this is a horizontal projection in the front of the hat, intended to shade the eyes. Most helmets and some caps had visors projecting under the front plate

Turban – a strip of cloth tied or sewn around the base of the crown, usually not extending behind the front plate (if used); some were tied in bows at the back, or hung down some length down the wearer's neck or back. Some caps/helmets featured false turbans made of leather. Turbans were also known as "sashes".

Lining – open fabric dome sewn into the inside base of the crown, usually of linen or similar weight material, frequently featuring a drawstring at the top to adjust fit of the hat, cap, etc.

Sweat Band – soft leather strip sewn into the inside base of the crown, usually 1-2" high. If a sweat band was used, a lining most always was not.

Appendix III: Gaiters/Spatterdashes/Legging Definitions

- Spatterdashes: These were gaiters of leather or canvas, shaped to the leg from above the knee to the ankle with an extension over the foot. They were laced, buttoned or buckled down the outside and a buckled strap under the instep secured them to the foot. (*Handbook of Eng. Costume in the 18th-C.*)
- Spatterdashes: Coverings for the legs by which the wet is kept off. (Johnson's *Dictionary*, 1756)
- Spatterdashes: Coverings for the legs to keep them clear of mud; gaiters. (Smart's *Walker*, 1849)
- Spatts: a small sort of spatterdashes, that reach only a little above the ankle; also called half gaiters. This word is seldom used, except among the ... soldiers (*New and Enlarged Military Dict.*, 1810)
- Spatterdash: a kind of covering for the legs of soldiers, made of cloth, or coarse linen waxed over, and buttoned tight; by which the wet is kept off: now called long gaiters. (*Ibid.*)
- Leggings: December 12th, 1758 – Colonel is ordered to provide the regiment with ... leggers, or Indian stockings; here follows a description of them: Leggers, Leggins, or Indian spatterdashes, are usually made of frieze or other coarse woolen cloth; they should be at least three quarters of a yard in length; each Leggin about three quarters wide (which is three by three) then double it, and sew it together from end to end, within four, five or six inches of the outside selvages, fitting this long, narrow bag to the shape of the leg; the flaps to be on the outside, which serve to wrap over the skin [shin?], or fore-part of the leg, tied round under the knee, and above the ancle [sic], with garters of the same colour; by which the legs are preserved from fatal accidents ..." (Col. John Knox, 43rd Foot)
- Spatterdashes: Coverings for the legs...; long gaiters. (*Webster's*, 1913)
- Spatterdash: a long gaiter or legging, worn especially when riding (*O.E.D.*, 11th Ed.)
- May 28 1772: "Battalion Orders — The Men to be in white breeches, white stockings, black half-spatterdashes, and their hair clubbed. The Officers in plain frocks, half-spatterdashes, and queues, and to wear white cotton or thread stockings under their half-spatterdashes. (*List of Officers of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, 1716-1899*; 1900)
- Leggings/Gaiters: The Guards to mount in leggings or cloth gaiters, till further orders. (*General Sir William Howe's Orderly Book, 1775-1776*)
- Leggings: 29 June 1775 – The Men's Leggings are also to be sent for and to be wore on Duty, & a proportion of Watchcoats sufficient in severe weather to Shelter the Men on Guards (*Ibid.*)
- Leggings: 28 September 1775 – The Commanding Officers of Corps will take care to provide their Men Immediately with Leggins, Caps, & other warm Cloathing against the Winter. (*Ibid.*)
- Leggings & Gaiters: November 17 1775 – The Guards to Mount in Leggins or Cloth Gaiters...(*Ibid.*)
- In his general orders of July 24 1775, General Washington specifically recommended "Indian Leggings" to be worn by his troops as they were more durable than stockings.
- Spatterdashes: Gaiters of leather or canvas shaped to the leg, covering from the knee to the ankle (Colonial Williamsburg)

- Spatterdashes were protective coverings that were attached over boots and went up to the knees, to cover stockings (Kearly Family in England)
- Items sent to America with the Brigade of Foot Guards, 1776: Two Pair of Half Gaiters ... Three Pair worsted Stockings ... a pr. of Leggens ... Two pair of Socks (Brigade of Foot Guards, *Loudoun Papers, LO 6514 / Brigade Orders*, 13 March 1776)
- Spatterdashes, Scottish *Leggins*, cover the whole leg (*Jamieson's Dictionary*, 1867)
- Spat: a short spatterdash, reaching to a little above the ankle (*Univ. Dict. of the Eng. Lang.*, 1897)
- Spat: "short gaiter covering the ankle," 1779, shortening of spatterdash "long gaiter to keep trousers or stockings from being spattered with mud" (1687) (*Online Etymological Dictionary*)
- "...Captain Harsin's New York Grenadiers ... dressed in ... black spatterdashes, buttoned close from the shoe to the knee..." (Description of Troops at Washington's Inauguration, 1789)
- In full dress, white spatterdashes with black straps beneath each knee would be worn. In service dress ... black gaiters. (Osprey's *The Coldstream Guards*)

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