

Clothing Guidelines For British Army, Other Ranks

This clothing guideline is for use during the annual Battle of New Orleans Celebration at the Chalmette Battlefield. Please use the guidelines to assist you in putting together a wardrobe for your impression and that of your family. Included are several pattern suggestions, fabric sites, and where to buy footwear. This clothing guideline is compiled by knowledgeable individuals associated with the War of 1812.

This is a Basic Guideline for all regular British Army infantry - "redcoats". Below this basic guide is a list of the regular Regiments which were involved in the New Orleans campaign and their facing colours. Though it would be wonderful for everyone to create whole new uniforms for these impressions, we know realistically such would be improbable especially for established units portraying other Regiments. Hence the need for a Guide to the basic British Army uniform, then a list of the different Regimental distinctions so Units or individuals may have a better idea of which historic Regiment they will portray during the New Orleans 2015 event. *Separate* Guidelines are provided for other British units engaged, specifically: the 14th Light Dragoons, 95th Rifles, 93rd Highlanders, Royal Artillery and Royal Horse Artillery, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Engineers, and 1st and 5th West Indies.

Basic Army Guide, Other Ranks:

1800/1812 Pattern madder red wool jacket

Standard issue dark grey trousers

1812 Pattern shako (stovepipe pattern is allowed, especially for certain Lt Infantry units, or attach a false front)

Standard issue black wool spatterdashes/gaiters

White issue/period style shirt.

Black leather neck stock.

Period military shoes

Bayonet Sling: White buff leather. Black leather scabbard. Brass belt plate.

Cartridge box: White buff leather strap, black leather box.

Musket: 3rd Model Bess, white leather sling, bayonet, flints, whisk and pick. (2nd Model, Charlevilles acceptable)

Haversack: White cotton/linen military issue.

Canteen: British military issue, painted blue, round, wooden, with brown leather strap.

Greatcoat: Gray wool military issue (you WILL want to have this in case of cold temperatures!)

Blanket(s): Gray wool, military issue.

Optional:

Undress Jacket (white wool roundabout with Regimental facings).

British military backpack.

Oilcloth shako cover

Sergeants, Basic Guide

1800/1812 Pattern scarlet wool jacket

All else as above EXCEPT no musket, bayonet sling, or cartridge box

(Lt Infantry companies are an exception), And additionally: white buff leather sword baldric and brass belt plate, sergeants sash, 1796 pattern sword, and pike.

REGIMENTS AND FACING COLOURS:

7th Royal Fusiliers Dark Blue

4th King's Own Dark Blue

21st Royal North British Fusiliers Dark Blue

43rd Monmouthshire Lt Infantry White

44th East Essex Yellow

85th Bucks Volunteers Lt Infantry Yellow

Other British units at New Orleans:

Guidelines — Highlanders (93rd Regiment)

All Highland impressions will be brigaded into the “93rd” for all Battlefield and Park events. If you are a Unit of several members, your structure will remain intact, but will be combined into the larger “regiment” under command of the C.O. of the 93rd SHROFLHU. First and foremost, onsite at the Chalmette Battlefield NPS, there will be **NO** kilts. For over 25 years we have labored to dispel the myth of kilted soldiers at this battle, the only battle the 93rd ever suffered a defeat (and the only time wearing trousers into battle, ahem!). In 1814, by order of the GOC Plymouth, the 93rd took their new supply of tartan and sewed it into trews (trousers). They were also ordered to remove the feathers from their bonnets and only wear the plain diced Hummel/Kilmarnock bonnet. All of this is taken directly from the historical records of the Regiment. For any other activities or trips to the French Quarter, one may wear whatever one wishes!

Preferable Uniform-93rd

Other Ranks

Short Coatee (Highland/Light Infantry short tailed), brick-red madder wool, pale yellow facings (cuffs, shoulder straps and collar).

Trousers: Either tartan (government set/“Black Watch”) or gray wool. Preferably fall front.

White issue period style shirt.

Black leather neck stock.

Diced hummel/kilmarnock bonnet. No feathers, cockade, visor, hackle, or badge.

Period military shoes, black leather, low quartered, buckled.

Spatterdashes (gaiters/spats) of black wool.

Bayonet Sling: White buff leather. Black leather scabbard. Brass belt plate.

Cartridge box: White buff leather strap, black leather box.

Musket: 3rd Model “Brown Bess” white leather sling and bayonet, flints, whisk & pick.

Haversack: White cotton military issue.

Canteen: British military issue, painted blue, round, wooden, with brown leather strap.

Greatcoat: Gray wool military issue (you **WILL** want to have this in case of cold temperatures!)

Blanket(s): Gray wool, military issue.

Optional:

Undress Jacket (white wool roundabout with yellow facings).

British military backpack.

Acceptable Uniform-93rd

Coatee of brick-red madder wool, (pale yellow facings may be a temporary cover over another color).

Trousers: Gray wool.

Diced (any pattern) or plain hummel/kilmarnock bonnet.

2nd Model “Brown Bess” (Charleville acceptable)

All else as above.

For any other Uniform (Sergeants, Pioneers, Pipers, Drummers, etc.)

inquire or see the website <http://93rdhighlanders.com/>

Guidelines — 95th Regiment of Foot (Rifles)

Bottle Green wool coat with black facings and feathered in white (60th rifles please cover red facings with black)

Bottle green wool trousers

Black wool gaiters worn under trousers

Issue linen shirt

Leather stock with clasp

Woolen or other period stockings

Military bootees

White wool fatigue coat faced in black and hat

Pattern 1804 cartridge box on black sling

Black rifleman bayonet frog, waist belt with snake buckle and bullet pouch

Baker Rifle with bayonet, Extra flints and cleaning rags

Issue or period blanket(s)
Pattern Overcoat
Pattern shako with appropriate cap badge, pompon and cords
Pattern knapsack and mess kit
Wooden Canteen (blue military issue. brown strap)
Pattern Haversack

Guidelines -14th Light Dragoons

Coat, dark blue wool with orange trim, white epaulets and waterfall
Girdle, orange and blue
Buff saber belt with snake buckle
Trousers, Gray wool with orange stripe
Sabretasche
Haversack
Canteen, wood
Period Issue Ankle Boots
Pattern shako with appropriate cap badge, pompon and cords
1796 saber
Paget carbine
Buff carbine sling w/ cartridge box
Issue or period blanket(s)
Fatigue jacket – dark blue w/ orange trim
Fatigue hat

Guidelines - Royal Marines

Round hat with 1" white hat band - black edged - leather cockade w/small RM button centre on left side with white over red hackle (stays optional)
Standard British Army Jacket - Red with Blue Facings
Blue wool trousers
Black wool gaiters (worn under trousers)
Issue or civilian shirt
Black Neckerchief or Black Leather Stock
Woolen or other period stockings
Napoleonic era shoes/booties
3rd Model / India Pattern Brown Bess flintlock musket with bayonet
Pattern 1808 - 60 round cartridge box on white sling / RM Box plate optional
White bayonet belt with RM brass plate Oval or oblong - either with fouled anchor
Haversack, linen or canvas - worn close up under left arm
Wooden canteen, Issue, round, Blue, leather strap
White British Army Blanket
Backpack or Blanket carrier
Greatcoat

Guidelines - Royal Navy

Dark blue wool jacket single or double breasted, with functional cuffs with scalloped cover or non-functioning cuffs.
Dark blue wool trousers or unbleached linen/Russia sheeting trousers
Issue or civilian shirt - blue/white checked or striped, or white
Cravat, black silk
Woolen or other period stockings
Civilian low quartered shoes
Roundhats (tarred, plain, or straw) with black ribbons and ship's name, (Monmouth style) or other appropriate patterns
Issue or period blanket(s)
White Canvas Sea Bag
Black sword baldric with oval brass plate or two pronged brass buckle
British Pattern 1808 or similar cutlass *or*

Pattern 1808 cartridge box on black sling
Black bayonet baldric with oval brass plate
3rd Model Brown Bess flintlock musket with bayonet, whisk and pick
Extra flints and cleaning rags

Guidelines — Royal Artillery

Pattern Issue dark blue coat with red facings
Standard issue dark grey trousers
1812 Pattern shako
Standard issue black wool Spatterdashes gaiters
White issue/period style shirt.
Black leather neck stock.
Period military shoes
White Buff sword baldric
Royal Artillery sword
Haversack: White cotton/linen military issue.
Canteen: British military issue, painted blue, round, wooden, with brown leather strap.
Greatcoat: Gray wool military issue (you WILL want to have this in case of cold temperatures!)
Blanket(s): Gray wool, military issue.
Optional:
Undress Jacket (white wool roundabout with Regimental facings).
British military backpack.
Oilcloth shako cover

Guidelines — Royal Horse Artillery (Rockets)

Pattern Issue dark blue light cavalry coat with gold lace and red facings
Issue grey overalls with red stripe
Issue or civilian shirt
Tarleton Helmet
Black leather neck stock.
Pattern white leather sword baldric with brass plate
1796 light cavalry saber
Period Issue Ankle Boots
Issue or period blanket(s)

Guidelines — 1st and 5th West India Regiments

1800/12 Short Pattern madder red wool jacket with red collar and shoulder straps (1st: White facings, 5th: Green facings)
Issue blue serge gaiter-trousers
1812 Pattern shako (“Belgic”)
White issue/period style shirt.
Black leather neck stock.
Period military shoes
Bayonet Sling: White buff leather. Black leather scabbard. Brass belt plate.
Cartridge box: White buff leather strap, black leather box.
Musket: 3rd Model “Brown Bess”, white leather sling, bayonet, flints, whisk & pick Charleville acceptable)
Haversack: White cotton/linen military issue.
Canteen: British military issue, painted blue, round, wooden, with brown leather strap.
Issue or period blanket(s)

Royal Engineers

As this particular corps was all officers... if one does not know the correct Regs of RE uniform, one ought to have Lt Bromhead let his man clean your kit for you

WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE?

Being it is January in New Orleans you can expect either pleasant to warm days and cool nights or cold wet days and freezing wet nights! Take your pick, but be prepared. Average highs are 62 and average lows are 45. You may be sunburned during one day and wake up the next to find the water in your bucket frozen over! Please be mindful of the weather and pack accordingly! You can freeze and fry as well as get inundated with rain...all in the same day. Our location may be the Deep South, but it is still winter.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR MY PHYSICAL IMPRESSION?

Above is a partial list of impressions and uniform requirements for the event. During the New Orleans campaign there were soldiers, sailors, and marines in the British regular military, from a variety of the services. Due to this fact, some units were well dressed and others were showing the rigors of campaigning. In an effort to create an authentic look and feel for the period being portrayed we encourage participants to consider the history of their recreated unit when fine-tuning their impressions leading up to the event.

HOW MUCH PERSONAL BAGGAGE IS ALLOWED?

As we are portraying a campaign style camp please keep your camps appropriately furnished to that impression. Unfortunately for those of us portraying British, living in the exact conditions of Dec 1814-Jan 1815 is foolhardy even for the hardy! It is probable few if any tents made it from the fleet to Chalmette. However, there are no barns or huts or plantation houses (yet) to take shelter in as our predecessors did. So yes, bring all those tents! We would suggest at least two and more blankets. A waterproof ground cloth is vital for the weekend. Two hundred years ago this was a swamp. Though the land is drained today, you are still in a very damp location. The damp coupled with the chill can make for a most unpleasant experience if you are not prepared. Plan for some sort of overcoat, an extra shirt, several pairs of thick socks, extra drawers, toothbrush, soap, small towel, and any modern medicines are all one really needs to survive comfortably this time of year.

WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE IS EXPECTED OF ME?

This will be an intense but fun event. To get the most out of *New Orleans 1815* you should bring a good attitude. This will be a team effort. Everyone is vital to our success. This is also not a democracy. The event will be run in much the same way. Teamwork is expected. Your drill doesn't have to be perfect but you definitely need to be a team player. Confrontational style living history is neither needed nor wanted. (Including raiding the opposing camp, taking **PERSONAL** property — Law Enforcement Park Rangers **WILL** be called — and **NEVER** touch another Unit's Colours without permission!). If you know of someone who might be interested in *New Orleans 1815*, please forward him or her a copy of this packet. Thank you for your interest and we hope to see you on the "Plains of Chalmette" come next January.