

JUST WHAT HAVE YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO?**YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR REGIMENT**

When you joined the Yorkers, you were told that you're not under any obligation to attend events. That is quite true. You've also been told that the unit designates each campaign year one event in Canada and one in the US at which a maximum turnout is needed and important. Again, the choice is still yours - if you can't go, you can't.

However, there are a few obligations towards the organization that you've joined. For one, you have been accepted as a member of a group of highly motivated people who have invested lots of time and energy into building a great unit; you've received the benefit of years of careful research and you've purchased arms and kit at discounted prices which have been carefully sourced from quality suppliers.

Let's say that you instead joined a championship baseball team. You would now be part of a winning tradition; you would be wearing its uniform and using its approved equipment. You wouldn't love every member of the team and you might not appreciate, or like, its management methods or its schedule. But, you joined the team; it did not join you. Sure, you would be in it to enjoy yourself, but, the team has to get something in return from you. Just what is that?

RELIABILITY - When you say that you're going to attend, you should do it. No false promises, stick to what you say. If something comes up that prevents you coming, have the courtesy to phone your Section Leader and advise him. Remember, just like a baseball team, your unit is planning how to field the positions on the team and win the game.

To continue on this issue of reliability - you will soon discover that the various subunits of the Royal Yorkers represent only six of the 23 units portrayed by the Museum of Applied Military History. The non-Royal Yorker units are individual in their approach and structure. If you wish, you can belong to as many other units as your pocketbook & time allows. However, to each of these units you will bear responsibilities. While your membership in any of them is for your benefit and enjoyment, the pleasure of belonging has a cost, and I don't mean financial. Often, their schedules conflict and it will be extremely important for you to be up-front with the leaders of each unit about your intentions to attend. Many members have found it impossible to keep a valid membership in units which portray the same era of history as the schedules always overlap. There are important decisions to be made in this case - which unit will constitute your top priority for attendance. You should not, indeed cannot, hold a useful membership in overlapping units when your support is required by both. For the good of each unit, you must make some decisions. If you choose to maintain a membership in units which have conflicting schedules, you must recognize that your value to each unit is lessened and your utilization by both will be compromised. As a member whose interest appears marginal and purely selfish, you will likely get some nasty, or marginal, duty to perform while the plumb, more interesting roles go to the members who always support the unit.

DEBT - You've got to pay your financial debts to the unit, its suppliers and any of the members with whom you might do deals. You personally don't like getting hung out to dry by your debtors - well neither does anyone else! Stick to your promises - if you've got money problems, don't leave everyone guessing, tell them. If your problem is currently chronic, don't get into any more debt. Be sensible and reliable.

SPIRIT - There is a distinct tone in the Royal Yorkers that has developed over 18 years of operation - it's the regimental spirit or 'esprit de corps'. Hopefully this spirit fits with you. If it doesn't, you can put some effort into changing it; however, what you do has to be positive and not counter productive. No one sensibly joins the country club or a baseball league and thinks he's going to change the customs that have built up over decades or, for that matter, change the rules of the game being played. If you've given the whole thing a period of time and you still can't stand the organization, its members, its management, its modus operandi, then quit! No problem, the unit will buy back your kit at virtually no loss. You're richer for the experience and you're free of an aggravation.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SAFETY

In this hobby, the greatest danger to yourself and your fellows is incorrect or sloppy procedures during the loading and firing of the musket. While the regiment works very hard at training each new man, there are many who come into the ranks part-way through a season or from a location far away from the off-season training programmes. As a result, they often miss the individual coaching that perfects the drill and cements the safety procedures. While there are many procedures to learn, here's a few that are especially important.

1. Loading in two ranks at close order requires very specific foot & musket movements. In the rear rank, each man must be very conscious of where his muzzle is pointing at all times. While priming, the barrel is to be between the front rank men and is held on an angle that places the muzzle of firelock level with your hat. When loading the main charge into the barrel, the firelock is held in the right hand at the swell of the stock and the barrel is roughly vertical, coming up into the space that lies forward and to the front of your immediate right side. Don't look down the barrel, nor should the muzzle be pointed at the neck or ears of the men in front of you, or at the man on your right. You do not turn the musket to the rear and load in that position! For front rank men, the most serious safety consideration is keeping the muzzle from pointing at your right hand man while you load the main charge.
2. When a demonstration or battle is over, you must never randomly discharge your musket just to get rid of the charge. The unit will always proceed through a checking procedure and when your musket is found to be loaded, you will be led through a proper emptying procedure. One of our most serious accidents resulted from an random discharge after a battle. The reason for this discipline is that many pairs of eyes are available to keep you out of trouble.
3. A common failing of new soldiers is double, or heaven's forbid, triple loading of the musket because of misfires. A triple charge blank can cause the musket to leap out of your hands and send you on your rump, or worse. Keep a cool head and concentrate on whether your firelock has fired - not just the priming, but, for sure, the main charge. If you know that only the priming has flashed, when you reprime, don't put the extra powder into the muzzle. Put the partly used cartridge back into your pouch, or empty it carefully onto the ground. Never hold a partial cartridge in your hand. It can sympathetically explode when you fire and give you a terrible burn. Don't worry if you miss a volley or two!! Just get your firelock back into use, safely. And remember to fold over that part cartridge when things quieten down so that you won't have loose powder spilling into your pouch.
4. You will often experience a misfire of your musket due to a dull flint, dirty pan or wet & dirty frizzen surface. As a musketeer, your primary duty is to keep that firelock operational. BUT, servicing the firelock when you are in tightly packed ranks requires a clear mind and careful thinking. Remember to close your pan before you knap your flint with your musket tool. To be doubly careful, put your hammer stall on. Always think about where your muzzle is pointing when you're servicing your firelock.
5. You must never prime or load your musket on the march. If your section moves before you've finished, move with the Section and finish loading as soon as they halt. Complete your loading safely and get back into the action.
6. It is your duty as a soldier to level your musket crisply and well, in particular the rear rank men who can have difficulty doing so. However, at many events, and particularly with certain of the reenacting societies, it is necessary to elevate your musket when firing as this is perceived to be an important safety measure.

The nonsense of this is proven by simple physics. Elevation increases the range of anything that might be in the barrel including the burning powder; however, by the act of elevating, the apparent threat of pointing at an individual is reduced. Your NCO or Officer should be ordering elevation when the unit draws too close; however, you are personally capable of recognizing when the action is very close - say 25m - and you can elevate above the heads of the opposition.

7. While everyone who has joined the regiment understands that he is going to have firearms pointed at him and has accepted this perceived threat, our audiences have not. You must never point your firearm at the public, nor should you be ordered to fire towards the audience if the range is under 90m. It is your personal duty to avoid doing so and to inform your NCO or Officer of this danger, which in the heat of the moment, he may not have recognized.

YOUR PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF ROYAL YORKER REGIMENTAL HISTORY, THE PERIOD AND THE MILITARY

In a perfect world, all of us would know as much about the old Yorkers and the period we represent as the men who served during the Revolution. Obviously, this isn't a realistic goal. Even the most knowledgeable & highly motivated amongst us only knows a fraction of the detail.

However, in the Brigade of the American Revolution (BAR), the smaller units require each of their men to pass competency tests before they graduate to full membership. The Brigade holds competitions during which unit's members are examined to determine their level of expertise and awards are given to the units with the most knowledgeable base in their membership.

While few units can hold a candle to our Regiment's reputation for spirit and dedication, there are certainly many, many which can illustrate, man for man, a far better grasp of the period and their original unit. Only each and every one of you can do something about this gap. It's fun and personally rewarding to learn.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PUBLIC

To be sure, we're all in this hobby for our personal enjoyment and relaxation; however, there is a strong missionary element to our activities and I think all of us enjoy sharing our knowledge and experiences with the public. This sharing does bear some responsibilities.

While the Museum has a substantial third party liability insurance policy, we must recognize that we are not protected for certain occurrences. Most important, you and we are not covered if you give your musket to a non-member to fire a round or snap a flint and something goes wrong. Or, if your bayonet is fixed to the musket and they hurt someone, you are out of luck. Once you've surrendered control of that firearm, the insurance for you is void and any lawsuits that may occur will be your total responsibility.

Also, our coverage is for an involuntary accident to someone other than a participant. So, the insurance coverage does not protect either yourself, other members of our unit or members of other units. We have additional coverages; but, the third party accident is the most significant. *NOTE WELL, "third party", not your fellow members or other participants AND not yourself!!*

Our other public responsibilities can be enjoyable. That is, the 'missionary' factor of trying to educate the public and dispel the many erroneous myths and offset the plain lack of knowledge that the average Canadian exhibits. BUT, it is a responsibility. If you don't know the answers to questions posed by genuinely interested people, have the courage and common sense to direct the questioner to someone who does. Don't forget, you are not an instant expert simply because you're wearing the kit. Of course, the public doesn't know that. Any of us in uniform is a likely target for some questions; but, you know whether you're capable or not.

And another thing, if you find yourself too shy to answer questions, please be polite and introduce your questioner to someone who enjoys the contact.

SOME MORE INFORMATION ON OUR LIABILITY INSURANCE

One of the stipulations of our insurance coverage is that only official, unit-sanctioned events will be covered. Each event must be approved by an Officer of the unit involved. This is to prevent some inexperienced members getting themselves in over their heads, or some disinterested members from misrepresenting their units. All events that appear on the unit calendar are covered. Events which are not on the calendar, but are added to the schedule through the newsletter are obviously 'official'. All others need Executive approval. For example, a unilateral decision by yourself to visit a Scout Troop to demonstrate your musket and kit will not be covered by our policy if an Officer doesn't sanction it. Should something go wrong, it's your problem entirely. If you have any questions about this requirement, please write to me or give me a phone call. (Gavin K. Watt, President MAMH - 905-833-6435)

YOUR WIFE, KIDS, GIRLFRIEND, ETC...

The regiment is a family oriented organization. Of course, your lady friend and relatives are welcome and they do have a distinct role to play; however, don't make the mistake of dragging them kicking and screaming into the hobby just so you can get away on the weekends. And, don't get your kids all kitted up so you can attend as a baby-sitter because you won't have the time to do it. And whatever you do, don't assume that the other women in the regiment will want to look after your kids.

You've got to use your head. Be sure that your lady, and your kids, will enjoy the hobby; will enjoy wearing the correct kit, camping in tents, won't mind the bugs and dirt AND will enjoy fitting into the female roles like you want to fit into the male. Members wives & girl friends are not automatic members in the unit. Like a guy coming in, they go through a screening and have to understand their role and be prepared to meet standards.

When your lady would like to investigate membership, she, or you, contacts the female 'NCOs' who inform her of the correct procedures to follow so that time and money aren't wasted. Phone 'Sjt' Nancy Watt at 905-833-6435 or 'Cpl' Cyd Paul-Girdwood at 715-778-7207.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR EQUIPMENT**A: CLEANING OF THE MUSKET**

All small arms which use black powder as a propellant are subject to extensive rusting caused by a salt residue which is a byproduct of the explosion. In the case of our Brown Bess, this problem is aggravated by the lack of a protective treatment on the steel surfaces of the musket such as the browning, blueing or parkerizing found on more modern firearms. Such surface treatments are incorrect for our period. (unless you're in the Light Infantry where browned barrels are a requirement) Therefore, it is necessary to take particular care in the cleaning and storage of our arms in order to avoid corrosion which can lead to pitting.

AFTER FIRING- ALL STEEL PARTS

As soon as possible after firing, the musket should be thoroughly doused with water both in the barrel and on the outside surfaces, hot preferably; but, cold is adequate. A lot of the guys don't do this at the event and instead completely spray inside and out with WD-40, or a similar compound, and then perform the cleaning at home. The choice is certainly yours; but remember, immediate action is best. For reliable firing, cleaning at the event between days is recommended.

A shotgun cleaning kit is ideal for scouring inside the barrel, using the bronze brush to dislodge caked residue; however, you'll find that one kit probably doesn't have enough sections to make the rod long enough to reach the chamber of the musket and you might have to buy two kits to get enough length. Of course, as many other recruits have faced this same problem, if you ask around you may find someone who has some extra sections for sale.

It is best to remove the lock first. Put the lockplate screws into their holes in the lockplate so that you won't lose them. If your brass sideplate readily falls out of the stock, it would be wise to attach it to your lock for safekeeping.

If you have something like a matchstick to plug the touch-hole, so much the better. If

not, be sure to turn the hole away from your legs or you'll get filthy trousers and wet feet! And be careful not to pour dirty water all over your sling. In fact, removing it first is the best policy.

Simply pour the water down the barrel and run the brush up and down. Keep at it until the water coming out the touch-hole is clear. It won't hurt the weapon to wash off all of the outside steel surfaces to remove salt. Pay particular attention to your ramrod; you have likely 'sprung rammers' or 'searched arms' at the event and the button on the end will be covered in salt.

Thoroughly wash the lock, both inside and out. *NOTE WELL: Do not give in to the temptation to disassemble the innards of the lock; you will only risk stripping screws or breaking springs.* You can carefully take apart the outside parts of the lock for better cleaning; but, you will need advice as to how to accomplish this. Springs are easily snapped and not easily replaced.

Now that you have washed all of the parts, take a solvent/lubricant like WD-40 and spray all the steel, especially inside the barrel from the muzzle end and into the chamber via the touch-hole.

Note well, you do not need to remove the barrel from the stock. To do so erodes the wood around the barrel pins. So much damage is caused because of this procedure, it just is not worth it. However, you should try to avoid soaking the wood in the lock and trigger openings as they may swell and cause binding of the lock parts and trigger.

If you're worried about corrosion between the barrel and stock, spray some WD-40 into the slits along each side or you can dry out moisture with a hair blowdryer. Oddly enough, there is not much reason to be too concerned about corrosion as very little water seems to work its way into these gaps.

On a frequent basis it really pays to do a very thorough job of cleaning at home. In this case use SOAP (better than detergent) and hot water. This has the advantage of getting into every crook and cranny of the barrel, leaching out any salt deposits. Your lock can be immersed in this solution and scrubbed with a toothbrush. When through, remember to rinse with very hot tap water to remove any residual soap.

A regular inspection of your efforts when the weapon is in storage is a wise move. Even the salt from your hands can rust the steel. This rust is very easy to remove if caught quickly; but, if left, there is a real danger of surface pitting.

While many of the guys like to have a highly polished barrel and lock, this is certainly not necessary, nor is it accurate. What is a requirement for an accurate portrayal is metal that is free of rust and carbon deposits. If you don't wish to leave a film of oil on the steel, another route is to wax all of the steel with Treewax. (available as a paste wax at Hardwares) Another advantage of waxing is that you can coat steel, brass and wood. It protects all.

If you're unlucky enough to have serious rusting on the steel, remove this with Steel Wool or a 3-M green abrasive pad soaked in oil. The metal cleaning compound, Autosol, is excellent for restoring the metal's surface after this abrasive treatment.

Remember, the men you are recreating had to rely upon the firelock for the preservation of their lives. In your case, due care also protects your investment!

YOUR BRASS FITTINGS & THE MUSKET'S WOODEN STOCK

You will find it all too easy to make a mess of your brass during the cleaning of the barrel. Any contaminated water that spills on it will leave a stain. Of course, the brass also gets very dirty from sweat. It is certainly not necessary to have all of your brass gleaming like mom's candle-sticks at Christmas; but, it is expected that it will be clean, free of stains and verdigris. *NB: This is true of the brass on your accoutrements as well.*

The wood of the stock will also take a beating from normal use, your sweat and cleaning-water spills. Giving the stock a light wash with soapy water and a rinse will get all the dirt off and after drying, a very light application of Tung Oil (not on the brass or steel!!) will restore life to the wood. A day or so later, you can then use a hard wax, like Treewax, applied over the dried oil, to give some lustre to the wood.

B: YOUR BAYONET

This arm is every bit as important as the musket. You must keep it clean, free of rust and residue. That includes the socket and neck as well as the blade. (Light Infantrymen have a browned socket; but, the blade should shine) When our bayonets are fixed, each and every blade should gleam for the honour of the Regiment and strike fear in the hearts of our opponents. Remember, British Infantry, old country & Loyalist alike, were masters of the bayonet charge and none would fail to care for their arms.

C: LEATHER ACCOUTREMENTS**BLACK COLOURED**

You have two distinct types of leather goods to maintain. The easy type is the blackened leather found on your shoes, the cartridge pouch and the bayonet scabbard. Shoes require very simple maintenance, a blackened surface and a moderate polishing. *It is inexcusable on Parade to have shoes so scuffed that the white of the leather is showing.* Lion brand black shoe dye by Kiwi is available in shoe repair shops. It is applied with a woollen tipped swab. You can touch-up any 'white' scars and restore shoes that have been so wet that the blackening on the sole edges has disappeared, etc... etc...

Your scabbard will be one of two varieties, either smooth or rough side out. If smooth, just keep it blackened and shone. If rough, ie. the flesh side of the hide is out, (which is the historically accurate type), you will need to periodically repair its waxed surface by applying a substantial layer of Kiwi shoe polish to the scars. Using your finger is a good method. After the wax has dried a bit, you then buff it with a cloth and bingo, you have a good-as-new surface.

The reason for rough-out and smooth-in is to protect your bayonet from rusting, as the smooth inner surface doesn't trap salt residues.

Most of our cartridge pouches are manufactured with the smooth side of the leather oriented to the outside. Consequently, you have a nice smooth surface to keep polished and good ol' Kiwi is just the ticket. You do not have to have a spit shone surface on the pouch flap (although British Regulars did.) What is required is a well blackened, nicely polished treatment on flap and sides. For those with the shoulder slung pouch, the white thread used to sew the pouch is to be left unblackened. The roughside out pouch flaps can be restored just like the scabbard. Original pouches had the roughside out as the flap keeps closed far more readily.

BUFF COLOURED

Regarding the buff leather, the first thing to realize is that it's going to get dirty. It is NOT to be whitened!! While many of the guys have stripped the dirt off with Naptha and other exotic cleaners, the old method, and one of the best, is to sand the marks off. For this you use a fairly coarse grade of sandpaper such as #50 or #80 Garnet or the like, available from Hardware stores. You shouldn't worry about really going at the leather. The original rough surface of the repro buff is either the flesh side or is produced by an abrading process during its manufacture. Yes, the sandpaper treatment sometimes spreads the greasy dirt around as much as removes it; but, it is the correct treatment.

For those who want cleaner buff than sanding will deliver, a mild detergent solution in warm water and a scrub brush will do a good job. Allow the leather to air dry. The detraction of this method is the removal of natural oils from the leather and at best a gradual, quite noticeable stiffening. If you try this method once and find a discernible hardening or stiffening... *STOP!* Next time, go back to sanding.

D: MAKING CARTRIDGES

You need 2F Black Powder. (3F will do, but burns very hot and 1F will also do, but burns slow and leaves lots of residue) The unit sells powder at a small mark-up substantially below retail prices. Currently LtCol Watt; Capt Reg James; Ens John Moore; Sjt Dave Putnam; Sjt Eric Lorenzen & Cpl Ron Maybee have this in stock.

You also need a supply of cartridge paper which Capt Reg James has available. You then

have to get a suitably sized measuring device of 100 to 125 grains capacity (ask your Sjt what's good) and ideally a 7" length of copper or brass tubing, filed smooth, inside and out, at the forming end so that you won't tear the paper as you twist it shut. Lots of other devices work as well, such as a large felt-tip marker; but, these lack the ability to tuck in the tail.

You then roll the cartridge around the former and twist the tail like a toffee wrapper, tucking the tail into the hollow bottom of the former. Put the empty tube into your box and keep rolling. The tube length is correct when there's about 1" above the box hole.

After you've rolled the number you need, carefully pour out about 1/4 can of your powder into a bowl and then fill your measure; then pour the powder into the formed tubes through a funnel. When the tubes are filled, twist the top closed, leaving the tail 'up' as this is what you will grab when pulling the cartridge out of the box for use. There is a neat method of folding the cartridge tale which is too hard to explain in writing - it needs to be observed. Its advantage is that the folded over tail can be entered into the mouth of the box hole which prevents the cartridge from tumbling out of your pouch when you're running in the bush.

Don't use modern printed paper for your cartridges. The effect is very detrimental to an 18C appearance when you show the audience what a paper cartridge looks like. Also, printed empties lying on the ground leave this same negative impression. It should go without saying that no holy books of any faith will be used for cartridge paper. Of course, if you have a supply of 18C printed matter, this is very acceptable for cartridge paper.

NOTE WELL: Black Powder is a highly sensitive explosive. It can explode with the slightest spark, including one generated by static and, unlike more modern powders, does not need confinement to generate power. This is the reason for only decanting a moderate amount during cartridge making. Keep your powder and cartridges safely stored away from children and the uninformed.

Don't bang a can of powder about. Don't smoke while you're rolling and don't let smokers stand around you while you're doing it. Use spark free loading tools of copper, brass and glass. Always respect this powder. Don't take chances. As long as you are careful, you have nothing to worry about; but, black powder won't forgive stupidity.

E: MAINTAINING YOUR CLOTHING

As an expedient, you may have been sold items of used kit in order to get you equipped and into the field expeditiously. If you find that you're dissatisfied with any of those items, you are very welcome to turn them back into the unit and draw better items or have new one made. You will find that the regiment has the best prices and quality for most things that you need.

Your clothing is going to get wet with sweat & rain and will get dirty with food, mud, grog, gun-oil & black powder. You cannot, indeed should not, prevent this. Let's face it, that's the way it was. The troops were issued one uniform annually for all purposes. On campaign, they rolled up in a blanket under the trees and slept in their clothes. It takes little imagination to visualize just how their uniforms looked 3-4 months after being issued, let alone after a year.

However, we do face at least two 20th Century realities. First, most of us simply do not want to be grubby, no matter how accurate it may be; and, second, our public which we are trying to theoretically educate through our appearances, will only be repelled by filthiness and will have no faith in our portrayal. In short, we must bend history to win 'the hearts & minds' of our audiences and maintain our self pride and pride of Regiment. So, there is a balance to achieve.

It is patently ridiculous to be rushing our dirty uniforms off to the dry cleaners after an event. Don't try to return dirty waistcoats or trousers to their original pristine white.

Your shirts and trousers, being of cotton or linen, will wash very well. Don't go adding great slugs of bleach; it only weakens the fibres and shortens the life of the garments. A collar ring that won't budge is just fine. A good wash in normal detergent at normal temperatures is all that's needed. If they come out spotted and stained...SO WHAT?!

Unless you have an abnormal perspiration problem, don't dry clean your Regimental coat. For one thing, your pewter buttons are relatively soft and could be destroyed in the process and there's so many of them that removal is a real pain. And, of course, don't wash it! You can try to sponge off bad stains on the white turnbacks; but, the best treatment is to hang it up on a strong, contoured wooden or plastic hanger in good air circulation until it dries out and then put it in the closet for next time. I have a coat that has been in regular use since 1977 and it's never been drycleaned. It doesn't smell at all and it drapes beautifully.

Washing your woollen waistcoat is OK. Use cool water with appropriate detergent and don't dry it in the Dryer!!! Either lay it on a nonrusting surface to dry, or hang it up on a wooden or plastic hanger. Watch your pewter buttons in the Washer as they get beaten to hell. It is possible to cushion them with a wrapping of plastic film, but, it really is easier to wash the garment by hand.

You will have noticed that unlike modern garments your Regimental Coat is made with raw edge. This is historically accurate. However, in the 18th Century the weave of the wool was so tight that the edges were very resistant to unravelling. Some of our cloth that we've used over the years hasn't been very good in this regard and edge ravelling is quite common. While some ravelling is accurate, a badly whiskered garment is inaccurate and not to be tolerated. This whiskering effect is very easy to correct with a pair of SHARP scissors. *SUCH MAINTENANCE IS A REGIMENTAL DUTY.*

Don't be too eager to replace lost buttons or patch worn sections. A little evidence of hard use is SO accurate. On the other hand, clothing that's falling apart is not correct as it's clearly unserviceable. Also, large tears in your coat, waistcoat and trousers are unacceptable.

When patching is necessary on any garment, the patch should be applied on the INSIDE of the garment and should be of the CLOSEST match possible to the original cloth for type and colour. White clothing would not have been patched with coloured bits and pieces. The raw edges of the wound being repaired are rolled under and sewn neatly to the patching material.

In cases where patching from the inside is impossible due to multiple tears - put the patch over the outside of the tears and sew neatly around the turned-under edges. Again, no oddball coloured patches. In our period, every attempt was made to match the garment.

F. THOSE CUTE LITTLE ADDITIONS TO KIT

Something that all of us have had to resist over the 14 years of our recreation is additions to our uniform and accoutrements intended to add dash and "combat-readiness" to our appearance. Or, at least, that's what we think they are going to add. Thus, lots of exciting supposedly Indian, goodies get made or purchased; very pretty, big bladed knives with rosewood and mahogany grips get bought to hang from our waistbelts and very fancy accessories grace our campgear. Unfortunately, not much research goes into these decisions; but, a great deal of assumption and Rambo-ism does.

A very strong word of caution! Not everything sold by the Sutlers at the big events is correct. And, not everything that is accurately made to 18th Century patterns is correct for our unit. Don't go spending lots of money on new stuff without talking it over with some of the old guard. And, don't make the assumption that just because you've seen a couple of our guys wearing or using some fancy toy, that it's accurate and OK for you to do the same. Because it is impossibly difficult to tell one of our people that his expensive new gizmo isn't correct, we do have quite a few bad choices represented amongst our membership. Don't you be the next one to make a similar mistake.

If you're absolutely in lust and a passion over some exotic accessory, and you can't get a clear story from any of the senior members, please give the Colonel a telephone call. (905-833-6435)

Every once and a while, a new member buys from one of the suppliers/Sutlers an item of dress that is intended for Officers and NCO's only. Of course, he then expects the unit to allow him to wear it. The NCO's and Officers of the Royal Yorkers are the management of the unit. Due to their responsibilities and the importance of them being recognized for who and what they represent, they alone wear insignia of rank. Don't buy this stuff and expect to wear it as a Yorker. Some other unit might chose to accept you in your assumed role; but, the KRR will not!