

The Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards

Origins of the Regiment

Oliver Cromwell, whilst campaigning in Ireland, was impressed with the military qualities of Colonel George Monck and promised him his own regiment. To create this regiment, men were taken from two other regiments that had been in existence since the raising of the New Model Army in 1645, five companies from George Fenwick's regiment and five from Sir Arthur Hazelrigg's.

The regiment was formed on 13th August 1650 at Berwick upon Tweed, becoming the oldest English regiment and called Colonel Monck's Regiment of Foot.

Battle of Dunbar 1650



The exiled Prince Charles, later Charles II, landed in Scotland in June 1650 and tried to reclaim the throne. One of the regiments to offer him support was the Earl of Argyll's which was the original title of the Scots Guards. Cromwell marched north and fought Charles's army at Dunbar on 3rd September 1650. Cromwell's army was suffering from hunger and sickness and would have had to retreat if the Scots had only waited. But Cromwell outsmarted them and after heavy fighting put them to flight. Monck's Regiment fought their first battle 3 weeks after they were formed, and won. To celebrate the victory, Cromwell had a special medal struck to give to every officer and man in his army.

Coldstream

Coldstream is a town on the river Tweed that divides Scotland from Northumberland. It was here, in 1659, that General Monck had assembled a force of 7,000 men which included his Regiment of Foot, his newly raised Regiment of Horse, two other cavalry regiments and three more of infantry. Oliver Cromwell had died in 1658 and the Rump Parliament had been recalled. Political confusion reigned and civil unrest was everywhere in London. Monck took upon himself to bring order to the country. He marched south and arrived in London on 3rd Feb 1660. He managed to break the army's domination of Parliament and bring about the election of a new Parliament of which he was member for Devon. One of the first acts of the new House of Commons was to vote for the restoration of the Monarchy.

As General Monck was largely responsible for the return of Charles II, it was fitting that he should be at Dover to greet him and provide the escort back to London. One of the rewards that Monck received was to be made Duke of Albemarle so that his Regiment became known as the Duke of Albemarle's or The Lord General's Regiment. Unfortunately, Parliament passed an act on 26th Aug 1660 ordering the disbandment of the New Model Army which included Monck's Regiments of Foot and Horse. But it was decided that these two regiments should be the last to go.

Venner's Revolt, 1661

In January 1661 a revolt arose led by Thomas Venner. His followers called themselves the Fifth Monarchy Men and were causing trouble in the city. The King's Regiment of Guards led by John Russell were unable to cope with the situation so Parliament called on the Lord General's Regiment to restore order. The rebels were soon rounded up and the situation defused, proving that Monck's men should not be disbanded. Because of this, Charles issued a warrant authorising the establishment of a standing army, on 26th Jan 1661. This was the birth of the British Army.

The Lord General's Regiment of Foot Guards

The disbandment was still on the Statute Book and had to be formally complied with. And so it came about that The Lord General's Regiments of Horse and Foot paraded at Tower Hill on 14th February 1661 to lay down their arms as men of the New Model Army and take them up again as Royal troops. The regiment was now a regiment of Foot Guards. They were ranked in seniority below Lord Wentworth's and John Russell's Guards but always regarded themselves as 'Second to None'.



New York 1664

The regiment were part of a detachment that captured New Amsterdam from the Dutch, This was led by Captain Robert Holmes who was both a Royal Navy captain and a Coldstream Guards captain. This was not so unusual at the time, General Monck won several naval battles, famously ordering the fleet to 'Charge!' After the capture of New Amsterdam it was named New York after the Duke of York.

When General Monck died in 1670 the regiment received the title of the Coldstream Regiment of Guards. Up until then the various companies were known by their commander's name but the companies were now formed into battalions. A composite battalion of 1st Guards and the Coldstream were sent to fight in the Second Dutch War of 1672-4.

Tangier 1680

The chief city of Morocco was given to Charles II as a wedding present when he married Katherine of Braganza. The Moors resented it's occupation by infidels and attacked it constantly, cutting off the water supply. So reinforcements were sent in 1680, consisting of the composite battalion, led by Colonel Sackville. The struggle with the Moors ended in victory for the British and the Guards earned their first battle honour.

Grenadiers 1678

Around this time the Guards regiments were reorganised to include a Grenadier Company. The 1st and Coldstream Guards were the first regiments in the British Army to have them. The men were equipped with fused grenades and a hatchet to act as shock troops in battle. Their uniform differed from the other companies, mainly being distinguished by a fur cap. See Grenadier 1680 This later changed to a cloth cap with an embroidered front.

Double Ranking

In 1687 the Foot Guards followed the Horse Guards arrangement of double ranking whereby a Guards officer would have an army rank higher than his regimental rank so that a Captain in the Guards would be a Lieutenant-Colonel in the army. This was extended to Lieutenants in 1691, having the rank of Major, and eventually, in 1815, Ensigns carried the rank of Lieutenant. This system was abolished in 1871.

Divided Loyalties

When William of Orange landed in Devon on 5th Nov 1688 the country and the army was divided between those who supported the Catholic King James II and those who supported Protestant William. James did not want a civil war and fled London on 11th December. The Earl of Craven, Colonel of the Coldstream Guards wanted to take his regiment to confront William but James forbade him. When William became king he was naturally wary of the Guards regiments and moved them out of London. The Earl of Craven was replaced as Colonel at the end of April 1689 and the regiment sent to Flanders.

War of the League of Augsburg 1689-97

Landen 1693

The 1st Battalion were part of the 2nd Guards Brigade at the Battle of Landen on 29th July 1693, which was a defeat for the British and Dutch forces fighting a numerically superior French army. The Guards defended the village of Neerwinden together with the Royal Scots, the 7th Fusiliers and some Hanoverians. The defense lasted all day until ammunition ran out. They lost 4,000 men and were forced to withdraw and cross the river by night under cover of a British cavalry action. King William proved himself a brave commander under fire and had to be rescued at one point.

Namur 1695



Namur

The Coldstreamers' second battle honour was gained at Namur which was a victory for William's army. On August 30th, preceded by their grenadier companies, the two Guards Brigades advanced steadily with shouldered arms across half a mile of flat, open country, against the concentrated fire of the French defenders. On reaching the palisades, they thrust their flintlocks through, fired one volley, then flung themselves over the ramparts and stormed the defences. Lord Cutts commanded both Guards Brigades with great bravery and afterwards was appointed Brigadier of the Guards.

Brest 1694

Lieutenant-General Thomas Tollemache suggested the idea of an attack on Brest to William and it was approved, with Tollemache leading the expedition. Thomas Tollemache (also Talmash or Tolmach) being a staunch supporter of William III, was made Colonel of the Coldstream Guards in place of Lord Craven in 1689. The plan to attack Brest was leaked to the French via Jacobite informers. It has been suggested that William told The Duke of Marlborough in the hope that he, in turn, would tell his Jacobite friends so that King Louis would divert his troops to Brest while the real attack took place elsewhere.

A composite Guards battalion sailed into Camaret Bay but was met by stiff resistance from the forewarned French. The attack failed and Tollemache was wounded. He was taken to Plymouth but died soon after.

War of the Spanish Succession 1702-13

A dispute that started in 1700 with the French claim to the vacant Spanish throne broke out into open warfare two months after Queen Anne came to the throne (8th March 1702). The Duke of Marlborough took the army on his march to the Danube but the Coldstream Guards did not go on campaign until 1708 when they were part of a composite battalion with the 1st Guards and took part in the Battles of OUDENARDE (11th July 1708) and MALPLAQUET (11th Sep 1709). Before that however, the regiment was involved in Spain and Gibraltar.

Gibraltar 1704-5

A composite Guards battalion of 200 First Guards and 400 Coldstream Guards was sent to reinforce the Rock after it had been captured from Spain. They successfully repelled several attacks and earned another battle honour. They then pushed on into Spain and captured Barcelona in 1705 but after suffering from

sickness and hunger lost the Battle of Almanza where they were forced to surrender. During this campaign they were commanded by Colonel Andrew Bissett.

War of the Austrian Succession 1740-48

Dettingen 1743

Dettingen is well known as the last occasion that an English monarch took part in a battle. On 27th June 1743, King George II led an army of British, Hanoverians and Austrians along the north bank of the Main as part of a general withdrawal. The presence of French troops at Dettingen was a surprise to the Allies and they were in a bad place between the river and the wooded hills. The infantry and cavalry fought very well considering their lack of experience and the fact that French artillery were pounding them from the south bank of the river. The French were led by the duc de Noailles at Dettingen. He sent word to the duc de Grammont who was on the south bank to move some men around behind the Allies from Aschaffenburg. On seeing this, the Hanoverian General Ilton sent his troops and the Foot Guards to the rear to face any threat from that direction but it never came and the Guards were disappointed to have been removed from the fight. In the event the French were disorganised and lost the battle, suffering 8,000 casualties, many of them drowning in their retreat across the river.



Dettingen

Fontenoy 1745



Fontenoy

The Battle of Fontenoy, which took place on 11th May 1745, was not classed as a battle honour for the Guards but it certainly should be. It was a magnificent display of valour on the part of the whole brigade and heavy losses were sustained.

Fontenoy, 8 kilometres southeast of Tournai in Flanders, lies on the river Scheldt. The French, 52,000 strong, were commanded by the Comte de Saxe, and the Allies, 50,000 strong, composed of British, Hanoverian, Dutch and Austrians were under the Duke of Cumberland in his first overall command. The Dutch and Austrians attacked the French on their right, while the British and Hanoverians went up against the well-prepared French left. The Coldstreamers were on the left of the Guards Brigade which was commanded by Colonel George Churchill of the Coldstream Guards.

They advanced with muskets shouldered taking many casualties, until they reached the ridge, behind which were four complete, unscathed battalions of the French Guards. It was at this point that Lord Charles Hay of the 1st Guards addressed the French before both sides blasted away at each other. The British came off best but even though they advanced into the French camp they had to retreat through lack of support. The Brigade lost more than half their number and Marshal Saxe went on to conquer Flanders.

The Jacobite Rebellion 1745

The Guards brigade was ordered home when news was received of an uprising led by Charles Stuart, grandson of James II. The Scottish Jacobites had defeated the English at Prestonpans in September 1745 and were moving south. A scratch force was sent to head them off. This included the Grenadier Companies of the Guards battalions that were in London. When the threat faded, Cumberland pursued the

Scots with mounted troops and relieved Carlisle. The Guards were part of this force in the role of mounted infantry. They returned home before the Battle of Culloden.

Cumberland returned to Flanders in 1747 after defeating the Jacobites, and took with him a fresh Guards Brigade made up of the 2nd Battalions of each regiment. They stayed until the end of hostilities in 1748 after the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

The Seven Years War 1756-63

St Malo 1758

The raid on St Malo was one of several abortive attacks along the north coast of France. This was the first time the Guards had been involved in this war. They were formed into a brigade of the 1st battalions of each regiment. The attack on St Malo was in September 1758 and proved disastrous. The rearguard consisted of the first battalion of the 1st Guards but included the Grenadier Companies of the Coldstream and Scots Guards. They were cut off and had to fight against superior numbers until ammunition ran out. 800 were killed and the same number wounded.

Wilhelmstal 1762

A Guards Brigade of 2nd Battalions from each regiment led by Coldstream General Julius Caesar was sent to Germany in 1760. The grenadier companies of each regiment were formed into a composite battalion, a practice that was followed for the next 50 years. The Battle of Wilhelmstal took place on 24th June 1762 and mostly involved the cavalry. The Guards returned home in 1763.

The War of American Independence 1775-83

A composite battalion of men from the three Guards regiments commanded by Colonel E Mathews of the Coldstream Guards, set sail in March 1776, arriving in North America five months later. They had to fight almost immediately and helped capture New York. They were involved in most of the campaign and served two years in New York on garrison duty. By 1777 they were re-organised as a brigade. They were at a disadvantage in their red coats and a decision was made to form a light company. These men acted as skirmishers and fought an unconventional type of warfare that was new to the British army. The formation was only a temporary measure and they were absorbed back into the other companies after the war.

In February 1781, the Brigade distinguished itself at the flooded Catawba river in North Carolina and six weeks later, on March 15th defeated a numerically superior force of Americans at the Battle of Guildford Court House, losing half their number.

Yorktown 1781

The Brigade had only 500 men at the siege of Yorktown. The Americans were led by Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben who directed the practical and engineering aspects of the siege with such success that the British were forced to capitulate. The Brigade of Guards went through the humiliating surrender of Lord Cornwallis and the British Army in Yorktown on 19th October 1781.



Yorktown

The French Revolutionary Wars 1793-1802

The Guards Brigade at the beginning of hostilities consisted of the 1st Battalion of each regiment and a Flank Battalion made up of Grenadier Companies and the newly re-formed Light Companies. They sailed for Holland in February 1793, very ill-prepared, with no transport, no reserve ammunition and few stores.

Lincelles 1793

Major General Lake was sent to re-take Lincelles from the French after it had been given up by the Dutch. He had with him 1,200 men from the three Guards regiments but was supposed to have reinforcements from the Prince of Orange. According to Dutch reports of the battle, the Dutch took part and suffered heavy casualties, but the British account insists that only the Guards stormed the town. The French were well fortified with 5,000 men and artillery at the top of the hill so the advancing Guards were an easy target. The 1st Guards bore the brunt of their fire but the hill was taken and the bayonet was used with great enthusiasm. The French were unused to such robust treatment and fled. The Coldstreamers lost Lt-Col Bosville and 9 others, with 44 wounded.

Egypt 1800-01

The 1st Battalion served under Sir J M Pulteney at Ferrol and Vigo, in north-west Spain and then on to Gibraltar where, in September 1800 they joined Sir Ralph Abercromby's expedition to Egypt. They were brigaded with the 1st Battalion Scots Guards and formed part of a force of 16,000 men. In December, they sailed to Minorca and then on to Marmorice Bay in Turkey, where they trained hard at landing from boats under fire.

Aboukir Bay 1801



Aboukir Bay

The site chosen for a landing was Aboukir Bay on the Nile delta, 10 miles east of Alexandria. The fort of Aboukir overlooked a beach two miles wide and was manned by 2,000 French troops. Abercromby made a personal reconnaissance and planned for a dawn attack on 8th March 1801. They were to assault the beach in three lines of boats, fifty men to a boat. The Guards Brigade was in the centre under Major General the Hon George Ludlow of the 1st Guards.

The men were ordered not to load their muskets, 'to keep their powder dry'. The boats approached the beach in silence with the men sitting in an orderly fashion. When the French had recovered from their astonishment, they opened fire with round-shot, grape-shot and chain-shot. The first boat to be hit was full of Coldstreamers. On landing the remaining men formed up as if on parade but were in disarray after a French cavalry charge. They were helped by the 58th Foot who gave them covering fire to drive off the cavalry and enable the Guards to advance. The French withdrew and a bridgehead was established.

The Coldstream Guards were also present at the battle of Alexandria on 21st March 1801 where Abercromby received a thigh wound which became gangrenous and caused his death. In June, Cairo was captured, but Alexandria didn't capitulate until September. The Guards sailed to Malta in December and after three weeks came home. The battle honour for Egypt was granted on 6th July 1802 and a Sphinx has been emblazoned on their colours ever since.

Hanover and Copenhagen

England and France made peace in 1802 but by May the following year war broke out again and England was under threat of invasion. But the Navy ensured that this did not happen. The Coldstream Guards were again brigaded with the Scots Guards. In 1805 the 1st Battalions of each regiment went to Hanover to

take part in an abortive foray. But in 1807 the Brigade had more success at Copenhagen where they captured the port and the whole Danish fleet.

The Peninsular War 1808 – 1814

Talavera 1809

The 1st Guards were in the Peninsula from the beginning but were reinforced by the 2nd Guards Brigade (Coldstream and Scots) in May 1809. In overall command was Sir Arthur Wellesley, under whom they successfully crossed the Douro, captured Oporto and covered themselves in glory at Talavera on 28th July 1809. They were part of Sherbrooke's 1st Division, in the centre of the line. They suffered a severe artillery bombardment and then an attack by 15,000 French infantry. They held their fire until the enemy were at a range of 50 yards and then fired a withering volley. As the French struggled to recover, the Division charged them and drove them back. Unfortunately they pressed on too far and had to be rescued by the 48th Foot. The Coldstreamers lost 300 out of 1,000 men. They were awarded a battle honour for Talavera on 12th Feb 1812 and a special medal was struck for 'meritorious officers'.

Fuentes d'Onoro 1811

Wellesley withdrew to his well prepared defensive lines of Torres Vedras for the winter. 1810 was not a very active year but in the spring of 1811, after a long march, the Guards Brigade were present at Fuentes d'Orno (3rd-5th May 1811) where the 1st Division was now under the command of Maj-Gen Miles Nightingall, a hypochondriac who managed to get himself wounded in the foot. Only the Light Companies saw action, while the rest of the Brigade remained on the crest of a ridge overlooking the village, also suffering casualties from artillery fire. It was a victory against the French, led by Massena, but Wellesley, who was now Viscount Wellington of Talavera said that 'if Boney had been there we should have been beat'. However, it was a battle honour for the Coldstreamers.

Barossa 1811

A composite Guards Battalion was sent to Spain in March 1810 which included 3 companies from the 2nd Battalion, all commanded by Maj-Gen W T Dilkes. They were garrisoned in Cadiz but found themselves under siege for two and a half years. In 1811 they were part of a sortie under Maj-Gen Thomas Graham which turned out to be a hard 15 hour march to Barossa followed by a desperate fight, lasting an hour and a half, against a well-rested force that was twice their number. They suffered the loss of a third of their number but earned a battle honour and another gold medal for the officers. They returned to Cadiz where the siege continued.

Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz 1812

Although the Guards Brigade were part of the 1st Division which was present at all the major battles of this year they did not have a central role. In the unwritten rules of war, armies were supposed to rest during the winter months but Wellington stole a march on the French and besieged Ciudad Rodrigo in January. The siege lasted from 8th January to 19th and Viscount Wellington received an Earldom as a reward. He moved on to Badajoz, in April, which was not so easy. Another unwritten rule of war at the time was that during a siege, if the walls are breached, the besieged must surrender. But the French Governor, Armand Philipon decided to make life very difficult for the British. As a result, when the town was finally captured the soldiers went on the rampage that lasted for two days.

Salamanca 1812

The Battle of Salamanca was fought on 22nd July 1812. The action took place south of the Spanish city of Salamanca which is on the River Tormes, 100 miles north-west of Madrid. Wellington commanded an

army of 50,000 British, Portuguese and Spanish against Marmont's French. It was a brief battle lasting less than an hour, resulting in a resounding victory for the Allies and the shattering of the French Army of Portugal. The Allies marched triumphantly into Madrid on 12th August and then moved on to besiege Burgos in September. But this had to be abandoned on receipt of news of the impending approach of King Joseph and Marshal Suchet. Wellington was forced to withdraw to Portugal on a march that brought considerable suffering to his hungry troops.

Two Guards Brigades, 1813

When the siege of Cadiz was lifted after Salamanca, the composite Guards Battalion were free to join Wellington's army. There were now two Guards Brigades, both of which had Coldstream Guards. The 2nd Brigade was composed of the 1st Battalions of the Coldstream and Scots Guards while the 1st Brigade was composed of the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 1st Guards and the composite battalion of Coldstream and Scots Guards. After a quiet winter they moved north-east to drive the French from Spain. They crossed the Duoro on 4th June and won the Battle of Vittoria on 21st June 1813.

San Sebastian 1813

The last two obstacles to Wellington in Spain were Pamplona and San Sebastian. The task of storming the fortified coastal town of San Sebastian was given to Lieut-Gen Thomas Graham who had commanded the Guards at Cadiz. The siege took 9 weeks from 12th July to 8th Sept and resulted in heavy casualties. The Guards battalions offered a volunteer party of 200 which suffered the loss of 160. The first storming of a breach took place on 25th July and failed, but on 31st August the attack succeeded and the town was taken. The French still occupied the castle which was not surrendered until 8th September. Much of the horror of Badajoz was repeated at San Sebastian and this time the looting, raping and killing lasted a week.



Storming Party, San Sebastian

Adour 1814

The Guards Brigades were involved with the crossings of various hazardous rivers. These were the Bidossa 7th Oct 1813, the Nivelle 10th Nov 1813, the Nive 9th Dec 1813 and the Adour 23rd Feb 1814.

The 2nd Guards Brigade distinguished themselves on this last operation when 6 companies of the Scots Guards and two of the Coldstream crossed the river before dark and held a precarious bridgehead all night, until relieved the next morning. The operation is also of interest because this assault force used a new rocket battery against the French and it apparently had a very discouraging effect on them.

Bayonne 1814

The Guards were not involved in the battle of Toulouse but Bayonne proved to be a final and tragic chapter in the Peninsula War for them. The French commander of Bayonne, Thourenot made a sortie from the town with 6,000 men and was met by both Guards Brigades. This was a confused battle in the dark on the night of the 10th April 1814 (5 days after Napoleon had abdicated), and 506 men from the Guards were lost, including Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Sullivan. These men lie in a special Guards cemetery which still exists today.

Bergen-op-Zoom 1814

In March 1814 a composite Brigade of Guards, numbering 1,000 men, from all three regiments joined an unsuccessful expedition against Antwerp. The fortress of Bergen-op-Zoom was the scene of a disaster when a failed attack ended in the death or capture of two thirds of the Guards Brigade.

The Waterloo Campaign 1815

The leaders of the Allied nations were assembled in Vienna, carving up Napoleon's empire when they heard of his escape from Elba. When it was realised that this was a serious comeback the four countries, Britain, Austria, Russia and Prussia agreed to contribute 150,000 men each to an army to be led by Wellington. In the event, only Britain and Prussia provided troops although the British Divisions included a large number of Hanoverians and King's German Legion.

The Coldstream Guards were represented by their 2nd Battalion in this campaign. They were in the 2nd Guards Brigade with the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards under Major-General Sir John Byng. The two Guards Brigades were in the 1st Division under Major-General George Cooke. On Thursday 15th June 1815 the Guards brigades were camped at Enghien. Many of the officers were at Lady Richmond's Ball in Brussels with Wellington. Some time after midnight, news came through that Napoleon's army was two and a half miles away from Quatre Bras, so everyone had to move fast.

Quatre Bras 1815

The Guards had very little sleep that night and set off at a brisk pace, arriving at the cross roads at 1700 hrs on 16th June by which time the battle had been going for three hours. It was a hot day and the men were exhausted and thirsty after their 26 mile march but they had to go straight into battle as they arrived. Despite this they managed to fight bravely against the French in Bossu Wood. The battle was a long hard struggle and the men were exhausted.

Waterloo 1815

The hot weather turned into a severe thunderstorm and torrential downpour on the evening of the 17th. The army spent the wettest night many of them had ever experienced and woke up on sodden, muddy ground. It was 18th June 1815. The two armies were occupying ridges with 1,200 yards between them along a frontage of about 4,200 yards. Napoleon delayed the start of the battle in the hope that the ground would dry out, so little happened until 11.30am.

Hougoumont



Map of Hougoumont

From Wellington's viewpoint the three main buildings that formed landmarks on the battlefield were La Haye Sainte in the middle, Papelotte on the left, and Hougoumont on the right. The chateau of Hougoumont was a manor house and farm with ornamental garden, orchard and woods. The 1st Guards were posted on the ridge behind the chateau and some of them had been involved in a skirmish around Hougoumont on the evening of the 17th. But the defense of the buildings was given, initially, to the Light Companies of the Coldstream and Scots Guards under the command of Coldstreamer, Lieut-Col James Macdonnell, the personal choice of Wellington. They spent the morning barricading all the gateways into the enclosure of buildings, except for the north gate which had to remain accessible to supplies and reinforcements.

The first attack came from troops in Reille's Corps under the command of Jerome, who was ordered by his brother Napoleon, to take Hougoumont at all costs. He took the order literally and many Frenchmen died in the attempt, by the end of the day the number was 8,000. The first attack was repulsed by firing from within the chateau and outside. More attacks came, but thankfully without artillery which could have destroyed the walls of the enclosure. Those guardsmen who were still outside managed to withdraw into the chateau and the north gate was shut, but before it could be barricaded it was rushed by a party of 12 brave Frenchmen led by Lieutenant Legros, a large man with an axe. They barged in but all died fighting. Only a young French drummer was allowed to live. The closing and barricading of the gates was accomplished by Macdonnell and nine others.



Closing the North Gate



Fighting Outside Hougoumont

take command away from him.

Sir John Byng ordered three companies of the Coldstream Guards under Lt-Col Dan Mackinnon to go down and support the beleaguered garrison. They drove the French from the west wall and entered the enclosure. Napoleon himself became involved and ordered howitzer fire to be used. Incendiary shells were fired at the buildings and they caught fire, killing many of the wounded who were inside. Colonel Alexander Woodford entered the struggle with the remainder of the Coldstream Guards, leaving two companies on the ridge to guard the Colours. They fought their way into Hougoumont to reinforce the defenders. Woodford outranked Macdonnell but at first declined to

The situation became critical at one stage so that the King's German Legion were sent forward to counter-attack on the outside of the building. This effectively proved the last straw for the French who gave up their attempts to take Hougoumont. Woodford was commanding the garrison at the end of the battle when Wellington ordered a general advance to pursue the French. The force inside the enclosure ranged from 500 to 2000, but they managed to keep a whole French Corps occupied all day. The casualty figures for the Coldstream Guards on the 18th June was one officer and 54 other ranks killed, 7 officers and 249 other ranks wounded. Four men were unaccounted for.



The End of the Battle

The Cato Street Conspiracy 1820



The Conspirators

talk from their leader.

Arthur Thistlewood was the leader of this revolution that never was. His plan was to burst into the house of Lord Harrowby and kill him and members of the Cabinet who were dining there. The heads of Lord Sidmouth and Lord Castlereagh were to be cut off, stuck on poles and carried down Oxford Street. Thistlewood promised his followers 'anarchy and confusion'. The conspirators met in a hay loft over a stables in Cato Street, off the Edgware Road. Most of them had doubts and some of the men had been tricked or coerced into taking part in the mad scheme, so they all needed a serious pep

talk from their leader. But the whole thing never got off the ground because the police had been tipped off and reinforcements were sent for in the form of a platoon of Coldstream Guards. On the 23rd February 1820 Lieutenant Frederick Fitzclarence, three NCOs and 30 men of the 2nd Battalion marched off from Marylebone's Portman Barracks. The men were issued with 20 rounds of ammunition but not told where they were going. The stables was already surrounded by 12 policemen but shooting had already started as the soldiers approached.

Fitzclarence dashed into the building and would have been shot if Sergeant Legg had not thrust his arm against the pistol. Fitzclarence and Private Muddock climbed the ladder to the loft which was in darkness. Muddock bumped into one of the plotters who tried to shoot him but the gun misfired and the man pleaded "Use me honourably!" Muddock arrested him and was later asked by his officer why he had not stuck him with his bayonet. "Why, your honour, I had him by the heels, and I took his pistol from him, and I wanted no more."

Thistlewood and a few others managed to escape but nine men were taken to Bow Street with an assortment of home-made weapons and bombs. The escapees went to the house of a 'friend' called Harris who betrayed them. They received a call from the police and six of the Guards. Thistlewood and four others were hanged publicly outside Newgate Prison on 1st May. The rest were sent to the colonies.

Canada 1839-42



Jacob the Goose

The time between Waterloo and the Crimean War was called the long peace, lasting 38 years. There were no serious campaigns in that period but in 1839 a Guards Brigade was sent to Canada. This was made up of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards and the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards. They were required to deal with a revolt by the French element of the population. They were not involved in serious fighting but their stay lasted until 1842.

One snowy night the rebels tried to launch a surprise attack on the Coldstream Guards. The attack was foiled because a white goose called Jacob gave the alarm. The regiment was so grateful to the goose that they took him back to England as a mascot. He was said to have paraded up and down alongside the sentry. He died in

1846.

The Crimean War 1854-6

Since the revolutionary year of 1848, Europe had changed. There had been uprisings in Italy, Germany, Austria and Hungary. Now France had a new Emperor Napoleon (1852) and Tsar Nicholas I was watching the decline of the Ottoman Empire in the hopes that he might gain control of Constantinople, an important port and gateway to the Mediterranean. The Ottoman Turkish Empire included Greece, the Balkans, Wallachia (Rumania), Moldavia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine.

The Turks provided Muslim policemen to guard the Christian holy places in Palestine, notably the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the Tomb of the Virgin at Gethsemane. The police were kept busy maintaining the peace between fighting monks from the Greek Orthodox on one side and Catholics on the other. This squabble became a pretext for the superpowers to start a war. France sided with the Catholics, Russia sided with the Greek Orthodox and blamed Turkey for not providing proper protection. Britain acted as intermediary.

The argument escalated when the Russians invaded Moldavia and Wallachia, but these were north of the Danube, and only nominally part of the Ottoman Empire so war could still have been averted. However, they were given an ultimatum to withdraw which went unheeded so the Turks went on the attack and won the first battle of the war at Oltenitsa. But the real world-shaker was the ruthless destruction of the Turkish fleet at Sinope on 30th November 1853 by Russian ships using explosive shells for the first time in naval history.

Britain was not prepared to have her naval dominance threatened and was worried about Russia having access to the Mediterranean as well as getting too close to India's north-west border. Napoleon III of France was itching for a fight so Britain and France, the age-old enemies joined forces and declared war on Russia on 28th March 1854.

Scutari



Scutari

The Coldstream Guards left Malta on 21st April 1854 and landed at Scutari on 29th April. Seven companies travelled on HMS Vulcan and one company with the Grenadier Guards on the Golden Fleece. They left there and sailed up to Varna on 13th June.

Varna

The British, French and Turkish force numbered 61,000. In May 1854 they established a base at Varna on the west coast of the Black Sea, the French arriving first. Lord Raglan, a former Grenadier Guards officer, commanded the British Army. The 1st Division was commanded by the Duke of Cambridge and comprised the Brigade of Guards and the Highland Brigade. The Guards Brigade was commanded by a Coldstreamer, Brigadier-General Bentinck. The 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards was brigaded with 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards and 1st Battalion Scots Guards. The plan was to capture the port of Sevastopol by land so the force set sail for the Crimea and landed at Kalamita Bay on 14th September.

Battle of Alma 1854

This was the first major action of the war, 20th Sept 1854. The Russians were in a fortified position on hills overlooking the Alma which is a small fordable river. The Allies had to cross the river and ascend the hill to get to them. The main objective was the Great Redoubt where the Russian Battery was. While French and Turkish troops made a flanking movement from the seaward side, the Light Division crossed the river and fought their way up. The Guards and Highlanders of the 1st Division were sent in to support them, the Grenadiers and Coldstreamers reached the other side of the river and paused to form ranks but the Scots Guards went straight on up, meeting the Light Division coming back down. The Guards' advance, combined with the French and Turkish push, caused the Russians to withdraw and the Allies claimed a victory. The British losses were 2,000, the French 1,000 but the Russians lost 5,000.



Storming the Redoubt

Battle of Inkerman 1854



Inkerman

The battle took place on a hill not far from where the Battle of Balaklava took place. The Guards were not involved in that battle but their main area of action in the Battle of Inkerman was on the north-east corner of the battlefield at the Sandbag battery on 5th November 1854. The siege of Sevastopol was under way and a large force of Russian troops attempted a night-time sortie under cover of fog. There were 40 battalions of Russian infantry split into two groups. Because of the fog, however, they were unable to link up and confused fighting broke out in isolated areas. The Sandbag battery exchanged hands many times and hand-to-hand fighting became desperate. But the Allies won the day (or night) and the Russians retreated back to Sevastopol having lost 11,000 men compared with 4,500 Allies. The Coldstream Guards lost eight officers and 64 other ranks.

The Siege of Sevastopol 1854-5

The supply vessels needed a harbour and Balaclava was established in September. A southern attack on Sevastopol would have been the best option because of the proximity of supply but the Russian engineer

Todleben had made effective defenses against land attack. Entrenchments, rifle-pits and gigantic earthworks were built in the space of a fortnight. But the worst aspect of the siege was the terrible weather and lack of warm clothing. A storm on 14th November wrecked ships in the harbour depriving the army of vital supplies. Cholera and other illness claimed many lives. Things improved in the spring of 1855 when a railway was built between Balaklava harbour and the camp. But the siege was the longest in military history and only ended on 9th Sept 1855. During the time spent in trenches some unorthodox methods were adopted such as the organisation of a group of Sharpshooters led by Major Goodlake of the Coldstream Guards. Both he and Private Stanlake won VCs for their efforts. Another VC was won by Private Strong in the last days of the siege. The war officially ended in March 1856 so the Guards Brigade did not reach England until July.

Badges

Garter Star Badge



The Garter Star badge is not unique to the Coldstream Guards but it is more associated with them than any other regiment. It's origin dates back to 27th May 1660 when Charles II bestowed the Order of the Garter on General George Monck, the first Colonel of the regiment.

Back of Officer's Bearskin c1835



A silver plated beaded garter star with gilt garter and blue enamel. The cross of St George is silver with red enamel. The dimensions are 3.5 x 3.5 ins. This was worn on the back of the bearskin while the rose and crown badge was worn on the front.

Officer's Bearskin Badge c1835



This special badge was worn on the front of officers' bearskins during the 1830s. The rose was the other symbol of the Coldstream Guards along with the garter star. It is gilt with red enamelled petals and green leaves. The gilt crown has scarlet velvet cushions.

Officer's Shako Badge 1816-31



Garter star badge worn on the Regency shako which was worn by Battalion Company and Light Company officers until 1831 when the whole regiment adopted the bearskin. It is 3 inches high by 2.25 inches wide.

Officer's Shako Plate 1815

Gilt and silver badge worn on the Waterloo shako.



Shako Plate 1800-1814

This brass plate was worn by other ranks on the stovepipe shako that was adopted in 1800 and replaced by the Waterloo shako in 1814. The style of plate was universal but the Coldstream Guards had a garter star in the middle.



Shako Plate 1829-31

An elaborate badge for the bell-topped shako worn by other ranks at the end of the 1820s. In 1831 the whole regiment adopted the bearskin and shakos were dispensed with. This badge has oak leaves on one side and laurel on the other. A drawing of the badge appears in the Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research Vol XXVIII.



Colour-Sergeant's Arm Badge 1813

The rank of colour-sergeant was instituted in 1813 and this badge is a rare surviving example. It is 5.5 inches deep and 3 inches wide. This style is still worn by colour-sergeants today in the Household Division except for the shape of the crown. The crown is Georgian, as George III was still alive but the Prince Regent was ruling as from 1811. The Coldstream and 3rd Guards had similar badges for this rank apart from the shape of the star. The 1st Guards had different swords crossed below the flag, being pointed instead of scimitar shaped. Also the gold cords and tassels lie on the flag for this badge but the 1st Guards badge has the cords hanging away from the flag. The wreathed sphinx is a battle honour for Egypt 1801. This particular badge was worn by Colour-Sergeant John Biddle. He was in the Light Company which was made up of 4 sections. Biddle was second in command of the 1st Section at the battle of Waterloo.



Colours

From the time of the Civil War it was common practice for each company of an English regiment of Foot to have a Colour. The companies were commanded by an officer referred to as a captain, but this was not a regimental rank because the colonel, lieutenant-colonel and major were each captains of the first three companies. The Colour of the 1st or Colonel's Company were of a plain colour, the lieutenant-colonel's Colour was the same colour but had the St George's cross in the upper corner near the pike. The major's

Colour was similar but had a pile wavy issuing from the upper corner. All the other companies had similar Colours but with varied devices.

At the time of the Restoration the St George's Cross covered the whole Colour instead of being confined to the top corner. The senior company Colour, or King's Colour in the case of the Guards, was of the colonel's colour, (plain crimson for the Guards, later adding the crown and cypher). Under William III the line regiments had their Colours restricted at first, to the three field officers, later just the colonel and lieut-col. But the Guards continued with a Colour for each company. In 1707 the Union Flag replaced the cross of St George.

There were new regulations in 1747 which ruled that each line regiment or battalion should have two Colours without any personal devices of the colonel. The King's Colour was to be the Union Flag and the Regimental Colour was to have a small union flag in the upper canton, the rest of the flag being in the facing colour with either the number of the regiment in the middle, or a badge. The Guards have traditionally differed from the line regiments in that the former field officers' Colours were the King's Colours for each battalion, and the Regimental Colour was one of the Company Colours used in rotation.

Company Colours

The Coldstream Guards were not issued with Company Colours until 1750 whereas the 1st Guards were granted theirs by Charles II. Their strength was half that of the 1st Guards so consequently their Company Colours were fewer. By the early 19th Century there were 16 Companies with colours based on the Union Flag but displaying the following Company badges

1st Company	Silver Lion sejant guardant (seated with paws up), on green mount
2nd	Prince of Wales's Feathers
3rd	Silver Panther spotted in colours, flames from mouth and ears
4th	Crossed swords with gold hilts and pommels
5th	St George slaying dragon
6th	Red rose within garter
7th	Centaur on green mount
8th	Crossed Golden sceptres
9th	Golden knot from collar of garter
10th	Escarbuncle of gold*
11th	Silver boar passant (standing) with golden bristles, on green mount
12th	Dun cow on green mount
13th	Union Rose impaled with golden pomegranate, green leaves and stalk
14th	Silver Horse courant (running), on green mount
15th	Golden 'Charlemain' crown
16th	The Brunswick crest**

*Sometimes spelt Escarboucle - looks like the hub of a wheel with 8 spokes but no rim.

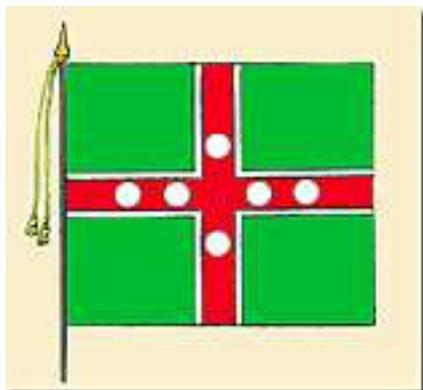
**Out of a ducal coronet a pillar, the top adorned with a coronet and plume of 3 peacock feathers charged with a silver star on either side of the pillar. Out of the coronet a silver sickle with red handles, the backs

adorned with small tufts of peacock feathers. Between the sickles before the pillar, a running horse in silver.

A further eight companies were granted badges in 1901 by Queen Victoria.

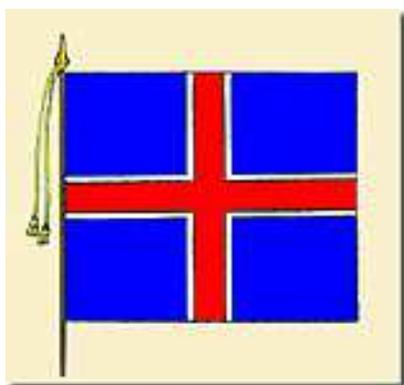
Regimental Colours

Sixth Captain's Colour 1669



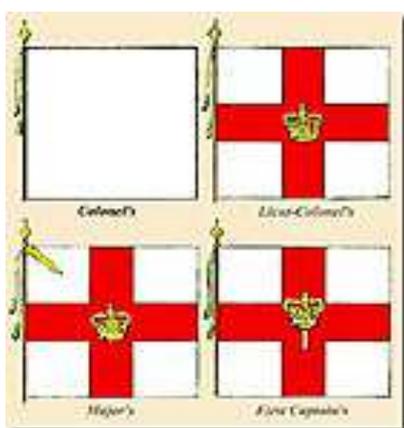
This illustration is based on a description by Cosmo Duke of Tuscany who was present at a review in Hyde Park in 1669. He said that the 1st Guards Colours were white with a red cross and that the Coldstream had a green colour with six white balls and a red cross. In his book on The History of the Uniforms of the British Army, C C P Lawson says that the six white balls seem to indicate the colours of the 6th Captains Company in which case it is possible that the white balls were placed on a red cross. A green flag with a red cross features in the illustration of the Lord Generals Regiment laying down their arms at Tower Hill on 14th February 1661.

Colour 1680



This Colour is to be seen in the painting of the Coldstream Guards at Horse Guards Parade 1680. It is not known exactly when the Colours were changed from green, white and red to blue, white and red. A description of a review on Putney Heath in 1684 says that the Coldstream Colours were flying a St Georges Cross bordered white on a blue field.

Colours 1685



King James II took a keen interest in the military and brought about radical changes in the Colours of the two regiments of English Foot Guards. He abolished the company badges of the 1st or King's Guards and replaced the blue flags of the Coldstream with white ones. In fact, the Coldstream Guards were required to conform more to the appearance of the 1st Guards in uniform and equipment as well. These changes were expected to have been completed in time for James's coronation on 3rd May 1685.

There are two sources of information; 'History of the Coronation' by Francis Sandford, and coloured drawings stored at Windsor Castle upon which this illustration is based. Unfortunately there are discrepancies between Sandford's detailed descriptions and the drawings. The drawings show plain white for the Colonel's ensign, with which Sandford agrees, but the Lieutenant-Colonel's ensign has the cross of St George with a crown painted in the middle. Sandford states that there was a red cross, but no crown, also no crown on the Major's flag, only the cross and pile wavy. Both sources agree on the First Captain's Colour. The remaining companies had the same, but numbered accordingly, II to IX.

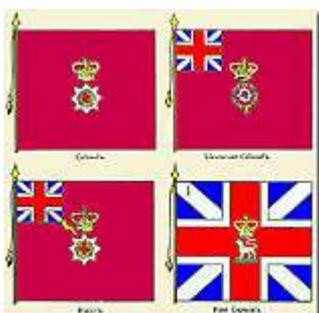
It is not until 1695 that the Colonel's Colour became crimson. The Garter Star badge was granted at that time and it seems that six of the Colours bore this distinction while the other six had badges and crowns.

It may be of interest to mention a petition concerning the King James Colours made to the crown in December 1686, by the manufacturers. Thomas Holford, Portcullis Pursuivant at Arms wrote:

"I have considered... this petition and being not able to give your Lordship a true estimate of what the Petitioner may deserve for the alterations of the Colours mentioned therein. I have proceeded in the best manner I can... and do find by the certificate of Charles Fox, Esquire, Paymaster of the Forces, that there was a contract made with the Petitioner by the late Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the furnishing 36 Colours for the two Regiments of Foot Guards at the rate of £6 each Colour, amounting in all to the sum of £216, and by Colonel Strode it is certified that the same Colours by reason of their alterations are of much more work and charge than formerly. The Petitioner has likewise produced a paper under the hand of William Gerish, the painter employed in this work, who values the Colours at £9 apiece, which is 20s. More for each than is demanded, the whole being £288 for the Colours and alterations."

It would seem that although the original contract stated £6 per Colour (£216 in total), the actual bill must have demanded £8 per Colour (£288 in total), justifying the increase by saying that the painter considers £9 a fairer price.

Colours 1750



The first three Colours were for the field officers and became the King's Colours for the three battalions. There were 14 other company Colours at this date based on the design of the First Captain's Colour, but with a different badge for each company. These were used in rotation as the regimental Colour of each battalion.

6th Company Colour c1820



The Union Flag is the basis for this regimental Colour. Since 1801 this now has the three crosses. In the middle is the Lancastrian red Rose within a garter. Above it is the Hanoverian crown and below is the sphinx within a laurel wreath. Battle honours are emblazoned: LINCELLES, TALAVERA, BARROSA, PENINSULA and WATERLOO. The devices and honours are painted on and there is no fringe around the edge. That was added to the King's and Regimental Colour by order, in 1868, in which year the pike was topped with a Lion and Crown (Royal Crest) instead of a spearhead.

State Colour c1830



William IV presented the Coldstream Guards with two State Colours. These had gold fringes round the edge unlike the King's and Regimental Colours which did not have a fringe until 1868. These Colours were only to be carried by a Guard of Honour on State occasions when the Sovereign was present.

Corps of Drums and Musicians

Fife and Drummer, 1745



This detail is taken from Hogarth's *March to Finchley* which shows the Guards marching north to oppose the Jacobite Rebellion. The drummer is drunk but still manages to beat the drum. His flask is visible under his right arm. He has ginger hair like the boy tugging tearfully at his hanging false sleeve who must be his son.

We cannot be sure which Guards regiment they belong to as both regiments were involved. In the same way there is no way of telling which regiment is depicted in *Fifer and Drummer, Foot Guards 1751*. There are interesting differences between the two paintings. The caps are similar except that here the flap at the front with the white horse on, is blue. This changed to red in 1749. In this painting we have a view of the white tuft at the back of the cap. The figuring and grenade badge on the back look as if they are yellow or gold instead of white as we would expect. The coat is basically red with blue cuffs and ornamented on each side with a gold and blue wide stripe. The sleeves are blue down the front and red at the back with gold chevrons on the upper part and a buttoned flap on the fore-arm. The blue cuff is laced with gold.

They are armed with swords that are hung from blue and gold waistbelts. The fifer's fife case is brass and slung from a blue and gold shoulder belt and a red, white and blue cord.

Fifer and Drummer, Foot Guards 1751



Painting by Morier in the Royal Collection. There is no colour photo of the painting but the illustration by Pierre Turner is a good colour guide. The title of the painting does not specify which regiment but it is fair to assume that there was little difference in the uniforms. There were no military bands at this time. The drummers and fifers were picked from the ranks and went into battle with the rest of the troops. Generally the colour of the coats of drummers and fifers was in the facings colour of the regiment but in royal regiments they wore red coats faced blue with special royal lace. The coats had false sleeves which hung behind, from the shoulder. They wore similar caps to grenadiers, highly decorate with drums and Colours and a crown. A false turned up peak displayed the white horse of Hanover. The fife is carried in a cylindrical case. Fifers had been discontinued earlier in the century but were reintroduced in 1748. The drummer was essential in that he transmitted orders with special drum beats.

Drummer, 1790



Here is the first appearance of the Guards drummers' lace which has lasted until the present day (2006). It is white with blue fleur-de-lys designs. The lace is laid in double rows and the sleeves have six chevrons all the way up. The shoulder wings lie close to the shoulder and have a fringe along the edge. The collar is blue edged in white but it is difficult to make out whether there is a fringe on the collar. The blue lapels and cuffs have button loops in a plain white lace, placed in pairs. He has crossed belts in white leather with a brass beltplate in the middle. The belt under his left arm holds a sword and the other holds a white pouch.

The bearskin is of black fur with white plaited caplines and tassels and a white plume on the left side. At the back of the bearskin the top is squashed in and has a red circle of cloth with a garter star badge in the middle. The plate on the front is a royal coat-of-arms in white metal. It is small in comparison with the badge on the drummers' bearskins of the 1st and 3rd Guards. The drum is similar in pattern to that used today, with the distinctive white hoops with red edge and blue worm along the

middle. The drum sling that goes round the drummer's neck is a special design also, it is decorated like the lace, with blue fleur-de-lys. Drummers of the 1st Guards had a plain white leather sling and the 3rd Guards had a yellow sling with blue fleur-de-lys designs.

John Fraser, c1800



All the Guards bands employed black percussion players, see Time Beater 1829 of the Grenadier Guards and Jean Baptiste of the Scots Guards. They originated from the West Indies and were invariably bandsmen, although the Coldstream Guards did have one black man who 'carried arms as a private' around this time. The Turkish influence is seen in the style of head-dress but the rest of the outfit is of special design for this man. The practice of having 'exotic' bandsmen ceased in 1837.



Drum-Major, 1815

This copy of a contemporary caricature shows a portly drum-major of the Coldstream Guards appearing to slow-march. He has a Waterloo shako which differs from those worn by the rest of the regiment in that it has a gold edge to the false front and a special badge made up of a trophy of arms around a garter star. Some sources show the edging decorated with gilt vandykes. There is gold lace round the top and base, and gold cord festoons and tassels. On the left side is a black cockade with a red plume.

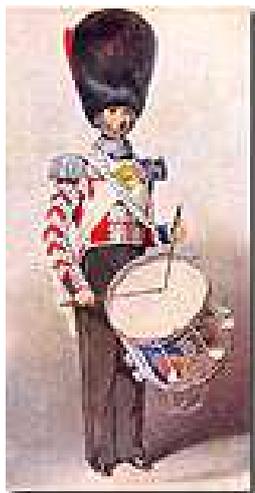
The red coat has gold lace button loops across the chest and chevrons down the sleeve. The blue drum-major's sash is fairly plain but has drum sticks held in gold loops. His special pattern sword is straight and quite long. He carries an unusual staff which is brown with gilt chains and a flat top.

Drummer, Marching Order 1815



This figure gives good detail of the special drummer's coat worn at Waterloo. The white lace is decorated with blue fleur-de-lys. I don't know if this is based on an actual coat but it seems to me that there are too many chevrons on the sleeve. The drum coats of 1792 and 1850 both have six chevrons (of double lace) whereas this coat has eight. It seems unlikely that they would have increased at this date. The broad strap that holds the drum, called the carriage, is under the straps of his knapsack and water-bottle so he cannot put the drum down without first removing these items. There are two leather loops on the carriage to hold his drumsticks. His brass beltplate can be seen with its garter star badge and his buff haversack is slung over his left shoulder. The shako has a red and white plume showing that he is in the battalion company. His trousers are tucked into short spats. The drum itself is decorated with the Coldstream hoops which are white, edged red with a blue worm. The slings hanging below the drum are white leather straps. These are usually plaited ropes but perhaps they were reserved for parades.

Drummer, c1851



This lithograph was used on the front cover of a music sheet but is fairly accurate in its depiction of the uniform of a Coldstream Guards drummer apart from some of the colouring. The image is taken from the Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research no. 135 which was published in 1955. The late Bill Carman wrote about the uniform.

At first glance, the coat is little different from that worn by all the Guards regiments at this time. It is waist length at the front and has long tails at the back. To get an idea of the back of the coat see Scots Fusilier Guards Drummer's Coat c1845. The white lace has blue fleur-de-lys designs along the whole length. Across the chest are four double rows of lace decreasing in length from top to bottom. The print, here does not show buttons on the chest but they supposed to be there. They were pewter with the garter star device. The double rows of lace are also used on the sleeves in the shape of six chevrons. The strip down the front of the sleeve was also doubled. The cuff is shown here as bright blue and plain but should be dark blue with a single row of lace round the top. There is a red slash flap on the cuff with two double button loops in a slimmer lace. The buttons here are coloured yellow but should be white metal.

The shoulders are decorated with large fringed epaulettes, a feature of the Coldstream Guards; the other regiments had tufted wings. The epaulettes are basically white but the fringes are a mixture of blue and white. The same colours are used in the collar fringe which obscures the blue collar. As well as carrying a drum, the drummer has to have similar crossbelts to those worn by the rest of the rank and file. The brass belt plate has the garter star badge and the broad belts support a white pouch behind his right hip (some sources show a black pouch), and sword on the left.

Another distinction of the Coldstream Guards was the strap, or carriage, holding the drum that goes around his neck. It is decorated with a double row of the royal lace. The Dayes print of a Drummer of 1792 has a similar carriage but with single lace. The drum is also similar to that used in 1792, having white hoops with red edges and a blue worm. The plaited white cords look a little too small and thin. The drummer wears dark trousers which are not the dark blue as worn these days but Oxford mixture. There is no leather leg protection to prevent the drum rubbing against his leg which must have made marching quite uncomfortable. His shoes are small and close-fitting.

Drummer, 1790



Here is the first appearance of the Guards drummers' lace which has lasted until the present day (2006). It is white with blue fleur-de-lys designs. The lace is laid in double rows and the sleeves have six chevrons all the way up. The shoulder wings lie close to the shoulder and have a fringe along the edge. The collar is blue edged in white but it is difficult to make out whether there is a fringe on the collar. The blue lapels and cuffs have button loops in a plain white lace, placed in pairs. He has crossed belts in white leather with a brass beltplate in the middle. The belt under his left arm holds a sword and the other holds a white pouch.

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of the 1st Guards had a plain white leather sling and the 3rd Guards had a yellow sling with blue fleur-de-lys designs.

Drum-Major and Bandsmen 1851



A drawing from life by Ebsworth which gives us a valuable look at band uniform in the middle of the 19th century. The Drum-Major, in the middle was a very senior NCO and was dressed richly in a special uniform. His coatee had double rows of gold lace across his chest like the others but framed by a border of gold lace. His shoulders have fringed epaulettes and his sleeves are decorated with inverted gold chevrons all the way down to his slashed cuff. His upper arms are also covered by four gold chevrons of rank. His sword belt is white leather with a gilt beltplate but this is obscured by the wide drum-major's sash to which are attached two drumsticks. His bearskin has a red officer's plume on the right side.

The band corporal on the right of the picture holds a Euphonium and wears a curved sword of special band pattern. His coatee has 5 rows of double gold lace across the chest and a gold patch on the collar and a silver garter star on that. His epaulettes are stiff brass other ranks style. Next to him is a bandsman obliging us with a view of the back of the coat, revealing two pockets with four gold button loops.

The band drummers on the left are not to be confused with the drummers that belong to the Corps of Drums. See Drummer 1851. These men have similar uniforms to the band corporal but have inverted gold chevrons down the sleeve. The blue cuff is pointed to fit in with the lowest chevron and does not have a slash flap like the band corporal and the Drum-Major.

The drummer next to the drum-major is the bass drummer, having a short strap round his neck. The man second from left is hidden but we can see his drum carriage which looks blue with gold lace edges. All the bandsmen wear the undress forage cap which is, in essence, the same as that worn by the Guards of today, blue with white cap-band and welt round the top edge and a garter star badge.

Band Master and Bandsmen 1851



The Band Master had officer status but was probably more of a musician than a soldier at this time. He is the one third from the right with a clarinet and gold fringed epaulettes. Apart from that his uniform looks very similar to the bandsmen who all wear coats with plenty of gold lace on the chest and tails of the coat. The curved swords all look similar, worn on leather frogs from waistbelts. It seems that the Drum-Major was the only band member to have his sword on a shoulder belt.

The man standing at the Band Master's right hand is the Band Sergeant wearing a crimson sash round his waist, next to him is a band corporal with a strange looking black instrument. On the far left is a bandsman with a serpent. All the men are in full dress, summer order, which meant white trousers instead of the winter Oxford mixture trousers.

Band at Wellington's Funeral, 1852



The Duke of Wellington's funeral took place in London on 18th November 1852. The band wear dark winter trousers and show a variety of instruments as well as black muffled drums (not seen in this detail). The drum-major has black crepe around his bearskin and over his right shoulder. The uniforms are not very accurate in this print but show the gold lace of the band as opposed to the blue and white lace of the Corps of Drums. The drum-major had gold wings while the bandsmen have shoulder scales. The special bandsmen's swords are well observed with their gold hilts.

Drummer and Drum-Major 1856



This is a detail from an drawing in The Illustrated London News dated April 1856. The double-breasted tunic that replaced the old coatee is to be seen on the barrack guard at the back. This was out of date in 1856, being replaced by the single-breasted type. The Corps of Drums, however had single-breasted tunics at this stage. The drummer's tunic now has wings instead of fringed epaulettes and the skirts are quite full. The Drum-Major has gold lace across his chest, framed by a single line of lace, in the same style as the front of the pre-1855 coat. The gold chevrons cover his sleeves and point upwards. His four rank chevrons are on the upper sleeve and point down. He has shoulder wings of gold lace and The drum-major's sash looks quite plain and has two drumsticks tucked into it.

The caption to the illustration describes the mace he is holding as a silver-mounted blackthorn stick, six feet high, 'presented by Captain Charles Baring to the Drums of the Coldstream Guards 1855'.

Bandsman 1857



The musician holds a bassoon and has a music stand supporting the score of *Il Trovatore*. In another print in this series of the Grenadier Guards Bandmaster, the music is *La Traviata* so it would seem that the artist, W Sharpe, likes Verdi. The tunic is less ornate than the bandmaster's but has gold lace across the chest, and blue and gold fringed wings on the shoulders. What is striking is the lack of a waist-belt. His special pattern band sword must be supported by a waist-belt worn beneath the tunic. The hilt emerges through the skirt where a leather frog is attached. The back of the tunic has two brass buttons at the waist and gold laced vertical pocket flaps. The bearskin shows the left side so we cannot see his red plume on the right. The trousers have a thin red stripe down the outer seam.

Drummer and Fifer, Undress 1850



A sketch from life by Ebsworth. The drummer on the left and the fifer on the right are members of the Corps of Drums, not the band. Between them stands a pioneer, leaning on his musket. They are in undress drill order. The white jacket was worn in this order for many years in the Guards, all year round, but the white trousers were only worn in the summer months. The undress cap is similar to the modern day forage cap, having a white cap-band and peak. They have their greatcoats folded on their backs as they would in full dress.

The drummer has a drum carriage round his neck which is decorated with blue fleur-de-lys. He has two shoulder belts, one is for a sword but the other is puzzling because there is no visible pouch. The fifer holds a trumpet in his right hand. He has one chevron on his left arm, this is black on a red cloth backing. He has a straight sword which is very different from the sword carried by bandsmen. His other shoulder belt carries a fife case which is silver and decorated with a silver garter star badge.

Drummer 1856



The young drummer is in full dress but the drum is not a Coldstream Guards drum. It is probably a Russian drum brought back from the Crimea as a souvenir or because his own drum was damaged. His Crimea Medal can just be seen. The tunic he is wearing is single breasted and decorated with white lace that has blue fleur-de-lys all along it. He has fringed wings on his shoulder which are blue with the same lace. There is a fringe round the top of his collar. He is wearing the same black stock under the collar as he wore with the old coatee but it was soon dispensed with. The drum is slung on the special strap with a double row of fleur-de-lys patterns like the lace. He has no shoulder belts. The sword should be hung from his waistbelt but it looks as if he is not wearing it.

Band Drummer 1866



There are men from all three Guards regiments in this excellent print by J Ferguson. The man in the middle however, is titled 'Drummer Coldstreams, Full Dress'. He is in band uniform rather than being a member of the Corps of Drums which sounds a little confusing. The tunics of bandsmen normally had plain sleeves but this bass drummer has gold lace all the way up except on the right sleeve which seems to display four good conduct stripes. The shoulder wings are blue with gold lace and the button loops on the cuff flaps are gold.

The carriage for the drum is round his neck and is of blue cloth with a gold edge. The bass drum has the special pattern Coldstream Guards hoops.

The other men in this group are, from the left, a Grenadier Private in marching order. A private of the Scots Guards in fatigues. Behind our drummer is a Grenadier in barrack guard order. Then the drummer in a strange costume, he is a time-beater for the Scots Guards band. Then a private of the Coldstream in forage cap. The last two are a Sergeant of the Coldstream in fatigues and a Sergeant of the Grenadiers in full dress.

Uniforms 1650 – 1881

Horse Guards Parade, 1680



The Company formed up is sixty strong with pikemen in the middle and musketeers on either side. We can see two halberds held by NCOs, at either end and a drummer on the near corner of the formation. The men appear to be wearing red coats and green breeches and stockings and black hats. There are three officers in front of them, two holding long pikes and one ensign holding the Company Colour. The Colours had been approved by General Monck before he died in 1670. See Colours 1670. The uniforms of the officers look green with orange or gold sashes.

Officer c1738



Portrait of Viscount Southwell by C Gervas. It is rare to find a portrait of an officer in uniform at this early date. The red coat has gold lace around the edge of the collar and down the front. The right-hand edge of the coat has gilt buttons, just visible. The rest of the coat is quite plain. The way he stands prevents us from seeing his right shoulder which may have a gold and crimson aiguillette hanging from it. His blue cuffs are very large, edged in gold and three buttons. His red waistcoat is long and also edged in gold lace. A gilt gorget hangs round his neck, it has the coat of arms engraved on it. The crimson sash hangs from the right shoulder at this stage. It is difficult to see how his sword is attached to him but we can just see the hilt protruding from the coat tails. The tricorne hat under his arm is gold-laced and the black cockade is secured by a gold cord loop. The hair is unpowdered but tied back with a black ribbon. He holds a spontoon in his right hand and has light brown leather gauntlets. White gaiters cover his lower legs and are fastened with white buttons. We can just see that the breeches are red.

Battalion Company 1742



As first glance, the uniforms of the Foot Guards look very similar in the 1742 Cloathing Book, but the skirts of the coat are different in the Coldstream to the other two regiments. The vertical slash pockets with loops of white lace can be seen here whereas the 1st and 3rd Guards had horizontal pockets. The waistbelt, carrying the sword and bayonet goes over the coat but is worn under the coat in the 1747 painting of a Grenadier. See Grenadier Company 1747 Battalion Company men wore the tricorne hat with white lace edge and black cockade. The waistcoat is red with white edging and the breeches are blue, worn with white gaiters and black shoes.

Grenadier Company 1747



This watercolour by Thomas Sandby was made while the Coldstream Guards were on campaign in Holland from May 1747 and October 1748. The grenadier mitre cap is painted in detail with the garter star in the middle. The upturned flap under the star is blue with the white Hanoverian horse. In 1749 this flap was changed to red. The back of the cap is red with a blue band that has a white grenade embroidered as well as other floral decoration. The hair is unpowdered and turned up under the cap. The coat is full skirted and not pinned back as would be the case in marching order. The blue lapels have plain white lace loops, eight on each side, with pewter buttons. The turned up blue cuff has slim and broad white lace and there is a red slash flap with four small visible buttons. The back view of the coat shows pleating and pockets placed on the side with buttons and

loops. The buff belt across his chest supports a black leather pouch and has a brass match case to hold the grenade fuse although grenades were not used so much at this time.

The red waistcoat has white button loops which appear not to reach down to the waist. He has a buff waistbelt to support his sword and bayonet. On his legs are blue breeches and white stockings. White gaiters would normally be worn, black ones in marching order. The white shoes are puzzling as black is normally the colour worn in Guard Order or on campaign.

Grenadier 1751



The paintings by Morier in the Royal Collection are well guarded so only a black and white photo is available but the coloured illustration by CCP Lawson is useful. There are some differences with the painting by Sandby. See Grenadier Company 1747 The coat skirt is pinned back front and rear but we can still see the vertical white laced pocket which still differs from the other two Guards regiments. The blue lapels have plain white lace button loops which at this stage are indistinguishable from the other Guards, being spaced evenly. The lapels only reach to the waist and three button loops appear below that. This man is a private, corporals were denoted by a white shoulder knot that hung behind the arm. The waistcoat is red and well covered in loops. The belts are described as buff which looks paler in the photo than on Lawson's illustration. There is the brass match case on the upper part of the pouchbelt. The top of the case has a chain attached to prevent it's loss. In the photo of the original painting we can see the brush and picker hanging from the loose end of the pouchbelt. These are to clean the pan and vent of the musket. The buff waistbelt is worn under the coat. The grenadier mitre cap is blue-fronted and now has a red flap at the front. He wears white gaiters which come quite high up the leg. They are fastened with black buttons and a black garter.

Grenadiers and drummer c1775



The grenadiers, by this time had exchanged their cloth mitre caps for these bearskin caps. The fur runs upwards and the metal plate over the eyes is red for the Coldstream Guards, with a white metal design, the coat-of-arms with a scroll. The red patch on the back has a white embroidered garter and crown with a white metal grenade below it. The lapels now have the plain white button loops in pairs. Also appearing for the first time are grenadiers' shoulder wings in blue with white lace. The belts are of whitened leather and the pouch is plain black.

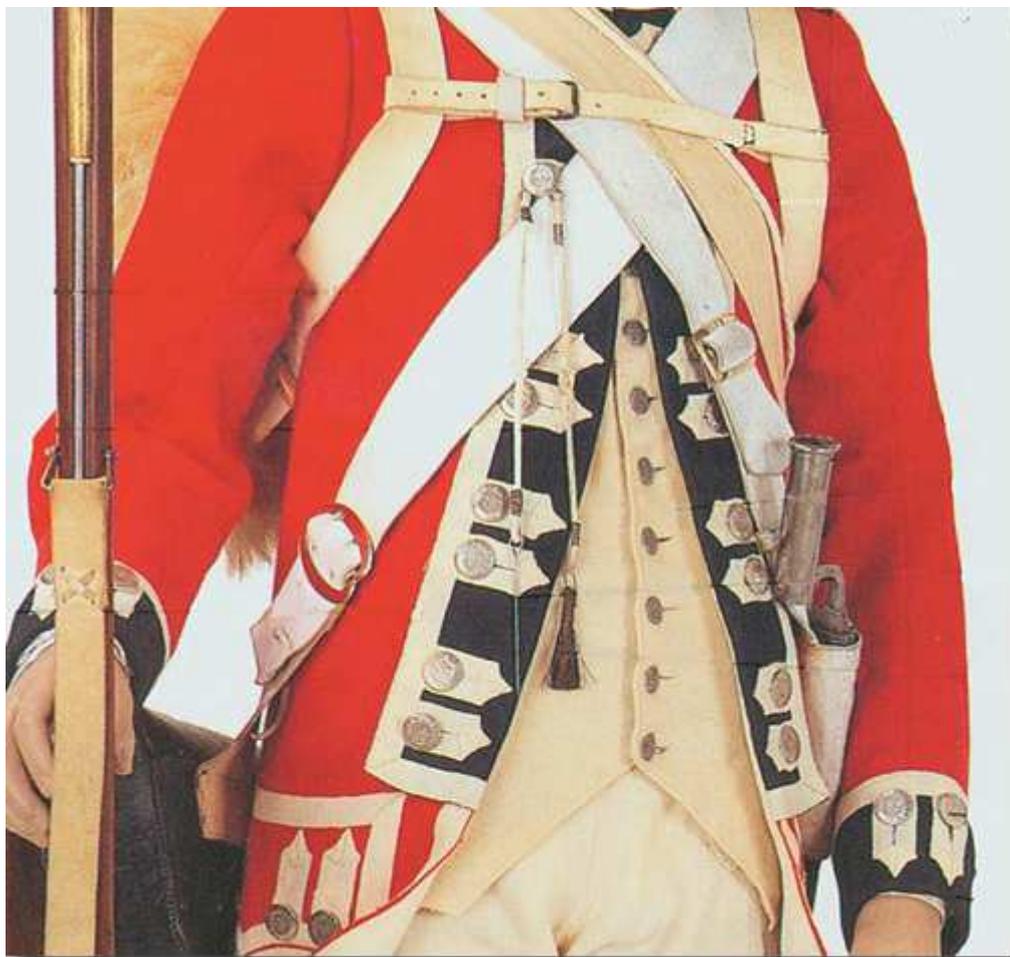
The drummer has lace on his coat but the design for it is unclear. The blue fleur-de-lys design does not appear at this time. It was traditional for the drums and fifes to wear similar head-dress to the grenadiers. So where before they wore the cloth mitre cap, they now wear the fur cap.

Private, 1777



Changes to the uniforms of infantry were established in 1768 but the Coldstream Guards did not put them into effect until 1773. The lapels have ten buttons and plain white lace loops, in pairs. The pockets are horizontal and laced all around. The collar is plain blue with a white edge and turned down. The cuffs are round, blue and edged in white and he has blue epaulettes also edged white. He is in marching order with a goatskin knapsack on his back. His pouch belt has a black ammunition pouch. The brush and picker for clearing the pan and vent of the musket seem to hang from a button just above this belt. See [Detail](#) On this model there is a belt on the right shoulder for the bayonet, but other sources state that the bayonet was carried on a waist belt with a brass belt clasp bearing the letters CG.

When the Guards were sent to North America in 1776 there was an order of March 12th which specified that all ranks should have white lace. This included the officers as well as the sergeants who had been given gold lace in 1773 but they were to have an fringed epaulette on the right shoulder. The white breeches and waistcoat were retained for the war but they now had black spatterdash gaiters (spats) to cover their shoes.



This close-up shows the cords hanging down with the brush and picker for clearing the aperture on the breech of the musket. We can also see the pewter buttons with CG in the middle of a star. The white worsted lace loops are in a pointed shape that later develops into a bastion shape.

Sergeant, Grenadier



the wings.

This fine picture from a series of prints by E Dayes gives us a clear idea of the uniform which laid the foundation for many years to come. The black bearskin cap has a gold festoon and tassels and a brass plate at the front of the royal arms. There is a scarlet patch at the back of the head-dress and a brass grenade badge underneath. Hair is powdered, plaited and turned up under the cap. The coat is red faced blue with gold lace and buttons. The most interesting aspect of this uniform is the gold fringed epaulettes laid on top of the blue and gold wings. This is seen in later uniforms of the 1820s but only on field officers. Grenadier officers of this period only had the epaulettes without

the wings. The turnbacks of his coat are fastened with brass grenades. The two cross belts support an ammunition pouch on the right hip which is black polished leather with a brass garter star badge. This strap also has the brass match case which by now is small and only decorative. The other belt which was formerly on his waist is now on the right shoulder and carries a bayonet and sword. He has a brass beltplate in the

middle of the belts. The cane under his arm appears to be hooked onto his crossbelt. A crimson sergeant's sash is tied round his waist with the ends hanging on the left. We can also see a small fob on his left side.

Shirt frills show at the neck and cuffs. The white waistcoat has brass buttons. The breeches are also white and the black gaiters reach his knees.

Private. Grenadier Company 1792



The blue lapels have plain white lace arranged in pairs. The shoulder wings worn by flank companies are blue with white lace stripes and fringes. The collar is the stand-up type with white lace round the edge. The coat only fastens at the top, showing the white waistcoat and breeches. The black bearskin has a small plate at the front and white caplines and tassels, also a white grenadier plume on the left side. His knapsack is on the ground. It is covered with blue canvas and a garter star badge painted on.

Other Ranks' Coats 1788



There are two coats here. The middle picture is the rear view of the left-hand coat which is a Battalion Company private's coat similar to the Private's Coat 1793. It could well be the same coat but the date for this and the two photos Waistcoat and Breeches 1788 and Equipment 1788, was established by Percy Sumner in the Journal of the Society of Army Historical Research no. 92 in 1944. The rear view gives us a good idea of the size of the black leather ammunition pouch and clearly shows the brass garter star badge which has an oval garter. There are distinctive

buckles and tips on both sides of the pouch-belt but none on the bayonet belt. The brass belt-plate on the front of the belts is domed and has a Garter star badge engraved on it.

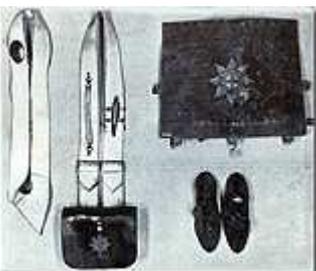
The right hand coat is for a private of the Grenadier Company and has been placed to show the shoulder wings which are blue with white lace and fringes. There are three sets of double lace on each wing. The lapels of the coat have five pairs of white lace button loops with pointed ends. The buttons are pewter and have the garter star with the wording COLDSTREAM GUARDS in the garter.

Waistcoat and Breeches 1788



These items were worn by all other ranks of the Coldstream Guards at this time. They are of white material and cut to fit closely. The waistcoat has 12 pewter buttons with garter star on and a stand-up collar. The breeches have four buttons up the side of the knee and a flap at the front. Officers also wore similar garments but of finer material and with gilt buttons.

Equipment 1788



A bayonet belt hangs on the left with its oval belt-plate. The pouch-belt, next to it, is for a private of the Grenadier Company. There is a brass match fixed to the belt with clips. It has holes in it to provide air for the smoldering match inside. On the other side of the belt is a length of match (rope made of combustible material that stays alight) which is pipeclayed. The buckles and tips on the ends of the pouch-belt are brass and a feature of Guards equipment. The pouch itself has a garter star badge with a circular garter in the middle, not oval as on the pouch displayed on Other Ranks' Coats 1788.

The knapsack is canvas, painted black, not blue as in the Dayes print Private, Grenadier Company 1792. It has a painted garter star badge with COLDSTREAM GUARDS inscribed in the garter. The shoes are very small and light compared with the modern day drill boots. It's hard to imagine then coping with the rigours of military training.

Officer, Battalion Company 1792



The black hat worn by the Battalion Companies had turned into a bicorne with the front cock flattened out. It is plain, with a black silk edge and cockade. The only gilt decoration was the button loop below the cockade and small fringes at the two extremities. Hair was still powdered at this time, until 1795. The coat is the frock, not the full dress version which had more gold lace. The collar is stand-up, but with gold lace edge. He has a black stock and shirt frill showing. The single epaulette on his right shoulder is blue with gold edge and fringe. Field officers had two epaulettes. His cuffs are plain blue with gold lace edge. All buttons are gilt, including the small buttons on his waistcoat. His sword belt is 2 inches wide and decorated with a beltplate. See Beltplates.

There is a silk crimson sash round his waist with the fringe on the left side. The gorget is gilt with silver coat-of-arms in the middle and attached to him with a blue ribbon which is formed into rosettes on each side. His white breeches have gilt buttons on the side of the knee and the boots are black leather. He is holding his sword which has a gold hilt and a gold and crimson sword knot. Up until 1786 officers carried a spontoon (long spear) but that became the staff of office of sergeants only. This uniform can be seen in the painting of The Duke of York, Colonel of the Coldstream Guards at this time.

Field-Marshal HRH Frederick Augustus, Duke of York & Albany KG GCB GCH



Born in 1763, the second son of George III, he was trained for the army from an early age. He commanded the British contingent for the allied army of the First Coalition in Flanders in 1793. His ineffective leadership made him an object of ridicule and prompted the famous rhyme *The Grand old Duke of York, He had ten thousand men, He marched them up to the top of a hill, And he marched them down again.* Another of his expeditions failed at the Helder.

From 1798 he was Commander-in-Chief where he proved more useful as an administrator. But a scandal arose when it was revealed that his mistress was profiting from the commissions trade. He had to resign in 1810 but continued to have influence in military affairs. He died in January 1827.

This portrait shows the Duke in 1784, the year he became Colonel of the regiment. He is wearing the uniform of a senior officer of the Coldstream Guards. Junior officers had only one epaulette, on the right shoulder. He has a gilt and silver gorget round his neck, and buff coloured leather gloves. His sword belt hangs loosely across his chest, free of the weight of the sword and scabbard.

Sergeant, Battalion Company 1792



The sergeant's hat is plain black with stiffeners in the front and back. At this time line infantry regiments still had white lace round the edge of the hats but from 1790 the Guards had black silk edging. The plume is white with a black tip and a black silk cockade at the base. His hair is powdered, clubbed and tied with a black ribbon. His coat is finer quality than the privates and has gold lace edging and button loops. His shoulders have blue and gold epaulettes with a fringe on the right side only. All his buttons are brass, including waistcoat and breeches. His sword belt has a brass beltplate in the middle of his chest. The sash round his waist is of coarser material than the officer. He has buff leather gloves and holds a halberd which was the sergeant's staff of office until later that year when it was replaced by a 9 foot spontoon or pike. The artist, Edward Dayes has included the detail of his cane hung from a button on his coat.

Private, Marching Order 1790



The bicorne hat has stiffeners that appear as white, which is not the case with the sergeant's hat. His plume is similar to the sergeant, white with black tip. His coat has blue facings and white button loops in pairs. His knapsack which is blue with painted badge, is held on by shoulder straps that are kept in place with a cross strap, all in whitened leather. His Battalion Company epaulettes are pushed back on his shoulders but are blue with white edges and tufts. All his buttons are pewter. His musket is a muzzle loading flintlock with a 17 inch socket bayonet. The pouch, hanging behind his right hip is black leather with a brass garter star badge, holding 56 rounds of ammunition.

Officers' Beltplates 1790 - 1830



Two types of beltplate worn by Coldstream Guards officers over a period of 40 years until replaced by a rectangular style. The left hand version has a silver garter and white cloth centre intersected by a silver and red enamel cross. The right-hand plate is a later version with a gilt garter and silvered centre.

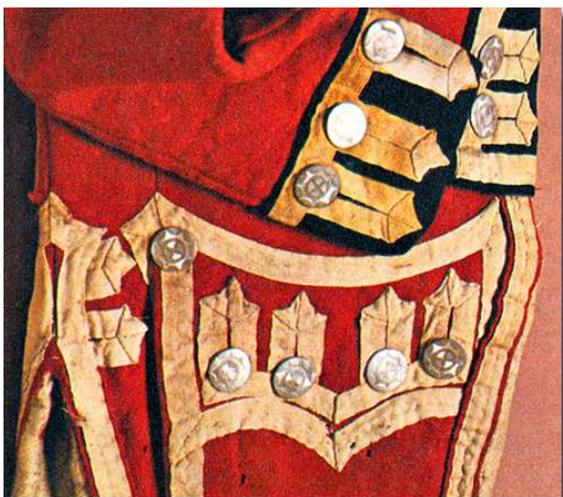
Private's Coat 1793



The sergeant's hat is plain black with stiffeners in the front and back. At this time line This actual example of a private's coat shows how the white lace was sewn on at the back. The cross-pocket has four buttons and loops and is framed all around. The turnbacks are edged with lace and tied back with a simple blue shape, framed in thin white lace and having a central pewter button. Where the tails of the coat meet, the lace forms a bastion loop with two loops either side.

The cuffs and lapels have pointed loops in pairs. The epaulettes are blue with white lace edges, a small button at one end and a tuft at the other. For a close up view of the pocket and cuff see Detail.

Detail of Private's Coat 1793



The white lace can be seen clearly here. The pewter buttons have a garter star device.

Privates, Light Company 1797



The light troops that had been raised and disbanded in North America were ordered to be put on a permanent basis on 15th April 1793. Each Guards battalion had to have a Light Company so the Coldstream Guards had two.

The head-dress was not very practical, being a top hat with a fur crest extending from front to back and a green plume on the left side. The hair was a natural colour, plaited and turned up and tied with black ribbon. The coatee had shorter tails than the battalion company but was similar in other respects. The shoulder straps were blue, edged white and had white fringes on both shoulders. The pocket flaps on the skirts were set diagonally and laced around. The crossed belts had a belt plate with a garter star badge but no bugle horn badge at this stage.

The legs were covered by gaiter-trousers which were only worn by light troops. They were a one piece garment and must have been quite difficult to put on. White trousers were worn on campaign.

Officer's Gorget c1800



Gorgetes were worn by infantry officers in the British Army from 1660 to 1830. Up until 1796 there were many different patterns engraved on them but after that date there was a universal pattern that was worn by infantry officers which was gilt with the royal arms engraved in the centre. The Guards, however, had their own patterns. The Coldstream Guards gorget, seen here, was plain gilt with the Hanoverian royal arms raised in silver. The 1st Guards had a similar pattern but with engraved patterns in the upper extremities. The Scots Guards had an engraved royal arms and the lettering 3rd GDS engraved in the extremities. Officers continued to wear them until 1831 and in the case of officers serving abroad, until 1832. It was tied round the neck with blue ribbons which were formed into rosettes.

Officer, Light Company 1800



Watercolour in the Royal Collection by Robert Dighton. It is inscribed 'An officer of the Foot Guards, taken from life at St James's' and 'Coldstreamers' added later by someone else. Because this is a caricature the shako which had been introduced at this time, is made to look faintly ridiculous, rammed hard onto the head. The first version was a stiff lacquered 'stovepipe', later changed to felt in 1806. There is a bugle-horn gilt badge on the front and a tall green feather.

Normally, officers wore the cocked hat while the rank and file wore the shako but the officers of the Light Company chose the distinction of wearing the shako. The hair was tied up in a plait with this large black ribbon which is probably exaggerated. By this time, coats were worn buttoned to the waist with short tails behind. The lapels could be worn three ways, buttoned over, as here, buttoned but open at the top, or folded back to reveal a blue plastron fastened with hooks and eyes. There is a gilt Gorget at his throat. His buttons are in pairs forming two rows down the chest. The flank company wings on his shoulders are red and gold and should show a silver embroidered garter star badge and a silver embroidered bugle horn.

The sword is very curved and oddly shaped, but the curved sword was another distinction of the Light company officer. The crimson sash holds the swordbelt in place and The tassels look very full. Later it was changed to cords and tassels. The breeches are white kerseymere and the black boots have turnover tops.

Officer, 1814



This miniature is dated 1814 and is by Horace Hone ARA. The Bonhams sale catalogue, from which the picture was taken, states that the sitter is the Hon William Crofton. But Crofton was a Grenadier officer and was killed at Bayonne in April 1814. The officer here has an epaulette which means that he is in a Battalion company.

The coat he wears is the frock and is scarlet with blue cloth collar, lapels and cuffs. The strap of the epaulette reaches half way up his collar which indicates that there must be a button on the collar. Perhaps he had unusually narrow shoulders because there is no other portrait showing this. The lapels of his coat are partially buttoned over so that only the bottom two buttons are fastened, allowing a glimpse of white shirt below the gorget. Usually there are more buttons fastened as in the portrait of Colonel Gomm. We cannot see if the buttons are grouped in pairs but we can tell that he is Coldstream Guards because of his Belt-plate with garter star badge and his special pattern Gorget. The shirt collar is worn high on his cheeks in the fashion of the period and his black stock ensures that his chin is kept well up.

Private, Marching Order 1812



The dress for the British Army during the Peninsular War had to adapt to conditions but this is how it should have looked. The shako was the stove-pipe version, but made of felt rather than lacquered. The brass badge was the universal pattern for all infantry. The white over red plume is for a Battalion Company man, as are the blue shoulder straps which form white tufts at the point of the shoulder. The coat is waist length at the front and has white lace pointed button loops in pairs. These are obscured by all the straps and belts. The blue cuffs are edged in white and have four buttons with white loops also in pairs. His trousers are white and worn with black spats and boots. This illustration is by Bryan Fosten.

Sergeant, Light Company 1815



The Waterloo shako had a false front to give it height. The plume was placed on the left side and was green for the light company. Sergeants had gold cords instead of white and the Coldstream Guards badge was surmounted by a brass stringed bugle badge. He is in marching order and his bayonet belt has a whistle, a distinction of light company NCOs. He carries a short rifle instead of a pike.

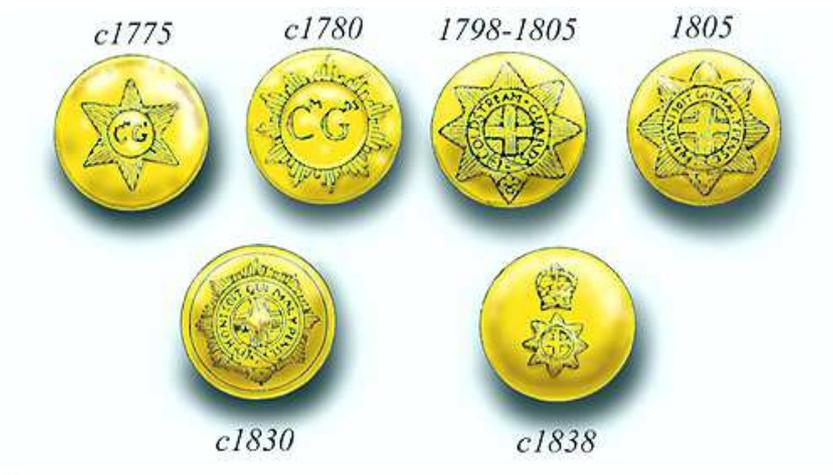
His coat is laced with gold lace instead of white for the button loops, and they are in pairs. All buttons are brass instead of pewter. The wings on his shoulders are blue with gold lace and edged with gold fringes. The grey trousers are tucked into black gaiters and he has a crimson sash round his waist.

Sergeant, Marching order 1815



The back view of this sergeant of a Battalion Company shows the black knapsack with painted garter star in the middle. His mess tin is kept in a canvas cover on the top. The blue water-bottle has lettering to indicate that he is in the 3rd Company. The straight sword is in a frog on his white leather shoulder belt. The greatcoat would only have been worn on the march in cold weather, normally it would be rolled up on top of the knapsack. His shako is covered in a black oilskin cover. The pike or spontoon was carried by sergeants instead of a musket, so he would have had no need for an ammunition pouch belt.

Buttons



The officers had gilt buttons, sergeants had brass, and the men had pewter buttons up until 1855 at which date the men were issued with tunics and brass buttons. The earliest known buttons had a six pointed star around Cm Gs. During the War of American Independence the number of points increased and the letters Cm Gds appeared in the middle.

On 7th June 1785 officers were ordered to have the same pattern as

the men which was the eight pointed garter star with the words COLDSTREAM GUARDS. But on 11th January 1805 they were ordered to change the words to HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE.

The 1830 button is very similar to that worn by the regiment today and did not change because it has no crown or cypher. The last button appears on the portrait of Colonel W L Walton who commanded the Coldstream Guards from 1839-46, but there is little evidence of it elsewhere.

Officer, Grenadier Company 1816



This painting in the Royal Collection is by Alexander Ivanovitch Sauerweid. We have a clear view of the bearskin worn by the Grenadier Company. The plume here is white over red but should be all white. The coat-of-arms badge on the front agrees with paintings by Dayes, of Grenadier Company other ranks in 1792. The wings on the shoulders of his coat are red with gold lace edging and his collar and cuffs are dark blue cloth also with gold lace. There is a Waterloo medal on his chest almost covering two of the buttons which are gilt and placed in pairs. The white sword belt is kept in place by a crimson silk sash.

Officer, Grenadier Company 1821



The officer here is a Lieutenant and Captain in the Grenadier company of the Coldstream Guards. He is one of a group in a fine water-colour by Denis Dighton in the Royal Collection. The bearskin was only worn by the Grenadier Company at this time, the other companies wore a shako. The 1822 Dress Regulations describe the bearskin as '16ins deep, a gilt plate with king's arms in front, gold bullion tassels on the right side, gilt scales and grenades, black leather peak. Plume - white hair, twelve inches long with a gilt grenade socket.'

His coat is the undress frock with the blue cloth lapels buttoned back with gilt buttons in pairs. The shoulder wings are red and gold with a silver grenade badge in the middle. Field officers of the Grenadier Company would wear epaulettes over the wings. The tails of the coat are edged in white kerseymere. A crimson sash ties around the waist holding the white sword belt in place. The sword is curved and has a black leather scabbard with gilt fittings. The belt-plate is still the oval type at this stage. The trousers are dark blue with no sign of a red stripe or piping down the outer edge.

Colour-Sergeant, Grenadier Company 1821



The coloured image is from a water-colour by Denis Dighton. The monochrome drawings were made by Dighton from life as a basis for the painting. The colour-sergeant is in dress uniform with a blue-faced red coat with brass or gilt buttons and gold lace across his chest, arranged in pairs. The collar has a gold lace edge and a gold loop. The wings are fringed with gold and his chevrons have a Colour badge superimposed on them. The crimson sash round his waist is a mark of his rank. He wears white gloves and carries a spontoon or pike to denote his rank. Because he does not carry a musket he has no need of an ammunition pouch, so only one white belt is needed, for his sword. He has white breeches and white knee gaiters which have black buttons.

The drawings show black calf gaiters worn with the white breeches. The sword belt has a beltplate which is brass. The sword hangs behind him rather than at his side. The lace on his coat seems to be evenly spaced between the buttons but is meant to be in pairs. The profile view shows the peak of his bearskin and the way the gold festoon falls at the back. Unfortunately we don't get any idea of where the ends of his crimson sash fall. The chevrons are on the right arm only and seem at first to be five rather than three but each chevron is made up of a double row of gold lace.

Sergeant, Light Company 1821



The painting of the sergeant is a distinct improvement on the pencil sketches. The shakos were worn by battalion and light companies. For other ranks, there was no lace around the top edge, although the drawing suggests it. There is a black turned-up peak at the back of the cap. The chin scales are hooked up over the plume holder which has a brass badge in the form of a stringed bugle. Below this is a brass garter star badge. The plume is green for light companies, white over red for battalion companies. The wings on his shoulders are for flank companies and are blue and gold. His coatee is gold laced except for the button loops on his cuff flap which are white. Unlike the Grenadier Company colour-sergeant, he has two white belts, one for the sword and bayonet, and one for the ammunition pouch. He carries a short musket instead of the pike carried by sergeants in the other companies.

The pencil sketches give a very interesting and unusual view of the rear of the uniform. The coatee has shorter tails than coats worn in the other companies. The cloth badge placed where the turn-backs meet is probably a garter star. The crimson sash has falling fringed ends almost in the middle of his back. The sword is quite short and the bayonet scabbard can just be made out above it. The ammunition belt has a buckle but we cannot see one on the sword belt. The ammunition pouch is high on the hip and of polished black leather with a brass garter star badge. The sergeant in the sketches has black gaiters while the painting shows full dress white gaiters.

Adjutant, Battalion Company 1821



It is unusual for a painting to give us a view of the back of a uniform so I am grateful to Denis Dighton for painting the group of officers and men of the Coldstream Guards on Horse Guards Parade, from which this detail is taken. The only regimental officers to appear on horseback on parade were the commanding officer and the adjutant. This officer is wearing riding boots and spurs so must be in mounted order. We know that he is not a commanding officer because he has only one gold fringed epaulette. On the other shoulder is a shoulder scale which is the adjutant's badge of office. The bell-topped shako replaced the unpopular Waterloo shako in 1816 and was quite low at first but became higher by this time. There is a two inch wide gold lace band around the top. Gold cap lines were purely ornamental and went around the cap four times ending in gold acorns on the right side. A white over red plume denotes Battalion Company.

The coatee is the undress frock. The front of this coat can be seen on the Grenadier Company officer. It has less gold lace than the full dress coat and has a blue collar. The full dress coat can be seen in the picture of Colonel Daniel MacKinnon. The long tails of the coat have white turn-backs edged in gold lace. There is also a line of gold lace extending from the waist to the point where the turn-backs meet. Also at this point is an embroidered spray of foliage on blue cloth backing. There are pocket flaps just below his crimson silk sash, which have gold lace edges. The white sword belt has a frog for the straight sword to slot into. Battalion company officers had straight swords whereas those carried by flank officers were curved. The hilt of the sword is very carefully painted and has a gold and crimson sword knot with gold fringed end. His horse, with its elaborate bridle and horse furniture can be seen also in the picture of Colonel Daniel MacKinnon.

Daniel MacKinnon



This painting by Denis Dighton was painted in 1821 and depicts a group of officers and sergeants on Horseguards Parade. MacKinnon is the only person named in the painting perhaps because he was a well-known dandy of the period. It seems that he was also an athlete and a practical joker because whilst in Spain he dressed up as a nun and performed a handstand in front of an astonished Mother Superior and the Duke of Wellington. On another occasion, also in Spain, he impersonated the Duke of York and attended a function laid on by the local Mayor in his honour. A large bowl of punch was brought out and he plunged his head into it. The famous clown, Grimaldi said of him that if MacKinnon were to take up clowning professionally then he, Grimaldi, would be eclipsed.

He joined the regiment in 1804 and served at Copenhagen, in the Peninsula from 1808-12 and in Holland. He was Captain of the Grenadier Company at Waterloo where he was severely wounded. He commanded the Coldstream Guards from 1830 for six years until he died in 1836. During this time he wrote a history of the regiment, published in 1833.

In this painting he is the Dress uniform of a captain of the Battalion Company. His coat is well covered with gold lace and is very similar to that worn in the Grenadier Guards. See [Officers Full Dress Coat c1821](#) It is a blue faced coat but has a red collar. He has gold epaulettes and a gorget round his neck, attached by a dark blue ribbon. His Waterloo medal is clearly shown as is the oval Beltplate on his swordbelt. He has white breeches and white gaiters. His shako worn at a rakish angle has a tall white plume with a red base. The top of the shako has a band of gold lace and the garter star badge on the front. The gold caplines, forming a V at the front, are purely decorative, and the olivet ends hang on the right side.

Sergeant, Battalion Company 1821



This man is one of eight figures in a group painting of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards by Denis Dighton. Two other sergeants are featured in the painting but they are from the two flank companies and wear wings on their shoulders. The battalion Company sergeant, here, has shoulder scales. The coat is laced in gold and he has chevrons, in gold lace, on the right arm only. The cuffs have a red flap with 4 gold lace button loops. This style was introduced around 1818 and is still a feature of guardsmen's uniform today. The high blue collar is also gold-laced and is open at the front to reveal a black stock. The shako is black all over with a tooled leather black cockade at the top, from which a brass plume holder sticks up, holding a white over red plume. The chin-scales loop over the cockade and a brass garter star is in the middle of the cap.

The white leather sword belt has a brass belt-plate decorated with a garter star. The sword hangs behind him and is the straight type. He has no ammunition pouch since he carries a spontoon instead of a musket. The black gaiters were worn in drill order and marching order.

Private, Grenadier Company 1821



This is the only figure in the foreground of Dighton's painting showing a private, unfortunately half concealed. But we can clearly see the plain white lace on his coat and the pewter buttons. The shoulder wings are blue edged white and at the point of the shoulder there is a crescent of white tuft. This style was adopted by line infantrymen in the 1830s after the Guards took on the white fringed epaulette. He has a brass belt-plate in the middle of his crossed white belts. The bearskin has the brass plate at the front with a garter star badge. The white festoon is placed diagonally on the cap with a white tassel on the right. The plume is all white. There is no chin strap or chin-scales to hold the bearskin on his head.

Privates, Battalion Company 1821



These figures in the background of Denis Dighton's painting are of interest for several reasons. The other ranks in the foreground all wear breeches and gaiters but these men are in white summer trousers. The man with his back to us is in marching order with a blanket rolled neatly on his shoulder. The socket bayonet hangs on his left hip while a black ammunition pouch hangs on his right. It is of polished leather with a brass garter star badge and carried 60 rounds. Their shoulder straps are blue and white with white tufts. The shakos are all black with the turned up back-peak flattened against the body of the cap. The plume is white over red. The building in the background is Horse Guards.

Officer 1832



In 1831 it was decided to issue bearskins to all men of the Guards regiments to conform to the image of the Grenadier Guards. But the bearskin was a symbol of the grenadier, and the three regiments couldn't all be grenadiers because that would devalue the premier regiment, so a submission was made that the 2nd and 3rd Regiments of Foot Guards should be termed the Coldstream Fusilier Regiment of Foot Guards and the 3rd Fusilier Regiment of Foot Guards. Fusilier line regiments also wore bearskins so by naming them Fusilier Regiment they would be entitled to dress in a similar way to the Grenadiers.

The 3rd Guards accepted the submission but the Coldstream Guards regarded it as a humiliating compromise. They took on the bearskin anyway, and instead of having the expected white plume on the left side, defiantly plumped for a red plume on the right. The bearskin was far from plain as it is today; the gold tassels were retained on the right side, a rose and crown badge was adopted for the front, and the garter star used as a back badge.

In this painting by Dubois Drahonet, the officer wears the coat adopted in 1830, double-breasted, without lapels. Officers' rank was indicated in the size of the epaulettes and the embroidered badges placed on them. Subalterns had a silver rose badge which appears to be the case with this officer. Captains had, in addition, a crown badge. Field officers had a garter star above both the crown and the rose. Round his waist is the gold and crimson sash worn on state occasions. The ends of this sash hang at the back of his curved sword scabbard which is of black leather and gilt fittings. The summer trousers are white with no stripe.

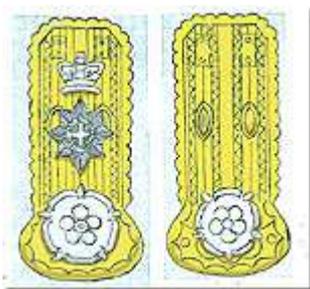
Colour-Sergeant, Marching Order 1832



The uniform of the senior NCOs was very similar to the officers in that the collar was embroidered with gold and has a silver and coloured garter star badge. The epaulettes were also gold but not like the officers'. The fringes were made up of thin gold cord, not formed into spirals. The cloth of the coat was described as scarlet, not red like the other ranks. The artist, Dubois Drahonet has given us a clear view of his chevrons and colour badge, which appear on both sleeves. The chevrons are gold lace on dark blue cloth but placed separately. The slash flaps on the blue cuff are of scarlet cloth and have gold lace button loops. These loops would be repeated on the vertical pocket flaps at the back of the coat, and there are silver embroidered garter star badges on the turn-backs.

The bearskin, now worn by every man in the regiment, was similar in all respects to the officers', having the rose and crown badge at the front and a garter star badge at the back, although I doubt that the quality of these badges matched those of the officers. His belt-plate is half way between officer quality and other rank quality in that the star badge has yellow metal rays instead of silver, but does have blue and red enameling. Other ranks belt-plates were all brass. He has two white belts crossed on his chest, one for the sword and bayonet and one for his ammunition pouch which he needs for his carbine, a musket that is shorter than those carried by the men. No spontoons were carried by sergeants at this stage. He has a crimson sash round his waist and Oxford mixture trousers for winter wear. On his back are a knapsack and rolled greatcoat covered with an oilskin protector.

Officers' Epaulettes 1830



Sketches made by Percy Sumner of the pattern for officers epaulettes. The right-hand one is for subalterns with just the silver embroidered rose badge. The left-hand epaulette has all the badges as worn by a Lieutenant-Colonel, crown, garter star and Tudor rose. Captains had the crown and rose.

Officer, 1831



This reproduction of a Spooner print is poor quality, for which I apologise but it shows the uniform as it was for only one year. The only reason that this uniform was so short-lived was because the shako was soon to be made obsolete in the Guards regiments. Later in 1831 the bearskin was adopted for the whole regiment. The shako seen here is of a different design to the one worn ten years earlier. It is still a bell-topped shape and there is still a gold lace band around the top but the badge at the front is placed on a rectangular plate so that it looks like his belt-plate. The cap-lines are cavalry style, with a plaited festoon draped across the front. There is a tassel high up on the right side, then the lines fall down his back and up under the left arm, ending in flounders which hook onto the coat. The gilt chin-scales are worn under the chin instead of being hooked up.

The new coat was introduced in 1830 to replace the dress coat and undress frock. This coat is scarlet, double-breasted with two rows of gilt buttons spaced in pairs. The collar is red but the front part is blue but covered in gold embroidery, having the garter star badge either side in silver. There are bars of gold embroidery placed two and two on the vertical pockets at the back and the garter star badge on the points of the plain white turn-backs. The cuffs are plain blue with a red slash flap embroidered in gold.

The sword belt is decorated with a gilt rectangular belt-plate bearing the garter star. The gold epaulettes look enormous and the fringes are now given a shape by having a stiff piece of leather placed behind them. Epaulettes were worn by the flank company officers as well. The sash is probably the crimson silk one with tassels hanging on the front of the left hip.

Pioneer Corporal 1832



At this time the Coldstream Guards had 11 Pioneers including the Pioneer Corporal who was the most senior. Every pioneer was issued with a leather apron, a calfskin knapsack, a pouch, a sling, a breastplate, a billhook, and cases. In addition the group were issued with three saws, three broad axes (seen here), two felling axes, eight spades, eight mattocks and three pick-axes. His bag would contain tools like an auger, cold chisel, socket chisel and hammer. The corporal has a saw-case on his back while the saw itself is leaning on the fence. He also has to carry a musket, which is on the ground, and a bayonet. The broad belt which we can see on his shoulder is black leather, pioneers did not have the white belts that were used by the rest of the regiment. He has a dark blue blanket, neatly rolled and carried over the right shoulder. It seems inconceivable that he should be able to wield an axe whilst wearing a huge bearskin, a tight-fitting coat with three inch collar and stock, as well as all the equipment.

Officer, Undress c1832



A Spooner print in the Upright Series no. 41 by L Mansion and St Eschausier. This gives us a detailed view of the officer's dark blue frockcoat. The collar has black silk lace round the top and bottom with braid figuring in between. There are five visible loops across the chest in black lace with 20 olivet buttons. The lace is sewn on to half way across then hangs down in the middle. There is lace and braid on the back, following the seams, and plain lace on the pointed cuffs with no black braid figuring. His sword belt is black leather with gilt snake clasp, worn over his crimson silk sash. The sword, which he is holding in a white gloved hand, is a field officer's type in a brass scabbard. He has dark Oxford mixture trousers worn for the winter months (15th October to 30th April). They have a scarlet stripe, 1.5ins wide, down the outer seam.

The shako style forage cap is black, although the 1834 Dress Regulations state blue cloth. There is black silk lace around the top and a black cockade at the front, probably made of silk ribbon. Below that is an embroidered garter star badge.

Private, Marching Order 1831



The new bearskins had only been issued in this year for the whole regiment of the Coldstream Guards and Scots Guards. The chin-chain for this new headwear was made up of brass links whilst the bearskins of the Grenadier Guards at this time had a plain slim black leather chin-strap. The officers had a fine enameled rose and crown badge at the front and an enameled garter star badge at the back. I have not seen any evidence of privates having a badge at the back but they almost certainly did, and they definitely had a brass rose and crown badge at the front.

Drahonet's painting clearly shows the equipment carried by this soldier. The blanket is neatly packed away in a waterproof cover and strapped to the top of the Trotter knapsack which has a garter star badge painted on. The knapsack is made of canvas painted with black gloss and reinforced at the corners with leather. The D-shaped mess tins are awkwardly strapped in a painted canvas cover just below the greatcoat and rather spoil the whole effect. The bayonet is kept in a black leather scabbard on the left hip and the cartridge pouch which is seen here in profile, on the right hip. There is a

chain dangling from his belts at the front which has brush and picker for servicing his musket. The trousers are the dark coloured Oxford mixture type worn in the winter months. They have no red stripe or piping down the outer seam at this stage.

Belt-plates c1828-1855



Around 1828 the oval belt-plate was replaced with the rectangular type seen here. The officers' belt-plate on the left was more ornate. The plate itself was gilded brass, seeded not smooth. The silver star is mounted on a gilt step and has a gilt garter with rich blue enamel between the letters. The centre is silver with translucent red enamel forming the cross of St George.

The right-hand belt-plate is for privates and corporals and is brass. The plate is smooth.

Officers, 1844



This engraving from a painting by Henry Martens and was published on 20th Aug 1844. The officer in the foreground has a very similar uniform to the one introduced in 1830 except that the bearskin is different. It is the same height as before (12 inches according to Dress Regulations) but has no badges front and rear, and no gold tassels. The plume is scarlet cut feather, ten inches long compared with the 7 inches long white goat hair for the Grenadier Guards.

The coatee is scarlet with a blue collar and cuffs. The collar is blue all the way round whereas the 1830 collar was red at the back. Rank badges were still the same. The officer has dark trousers for winter and a crimson sash with long tassels on his left side.

The rear view of an officer in dress shows the absence of a back badge on the bearskin, also the blue collar. The colourist has given him gold garter stars on the coat-tails which is wrong, they should be silver like the stars on the collar. The other officer, in undress, wears the dark blue frock coat with summer trousers. This must be artistic license because all ranks were required to wear summer trousers only between 1st May and 14th October. His forage cap does not conform to Dress Regulations 1834 or 1846 which both stipulate an embroidered garter star badge, although it does now have an embroidered gold edge to the peak.

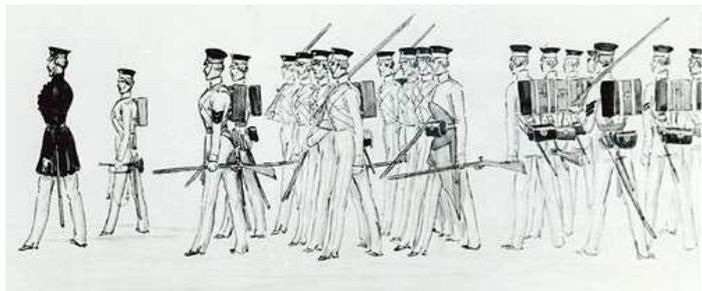
Other Ranks, Guard Order 1844



These figures are in the background of the Martens print Officers 1844. They are in the process of changing guard. They have their great coats folded on their backs, a custom that remained in the Guards regiments until 1936. The artist seems to have remembered to include a sergeant at the last minute because the figure on the right, although he wears a sergeant's red sash round his waist (obviously painted over the belts), and white stripes on his sleeve, does not have a sword and bayonet on his belt, only a bayonet, like the privates. There is also confusion about the belts on the sergeant's back. He has a brass buckle on both the bayonet belt and the pouch belt. The buckles were only ever on the pouch belt, not on the bayonet belt.

All Ranks, Undress 1850

A sketch by Ebsworth that gives us a very useful idea of what the Coldstream Guards looked like when not parading in their dress uniforms. At first glance this looks like an informal stroll but they are marching in column of four, preceded by two sergeants, an officer and a trumpeter. What strikes me as strange is the fact that although they are in ranks and marching in step, they are very casual about the way they carry their muskets. Some are at the slope and some carry them by their side or under their arm.



They are all in undress summer order which means white trousers and short white jacket. The white jacket was a feature of Guards dress up to the early part of the 20th century and had its origins in the white waistcoat that was worn under the coat in full dress but was worn on it's own when drilling or performing menial work. The forage cap at this period has a peak and looks very smart so it is odd that it was transformed into the peakless pill-box by the time they were in the Crimea and which was retained until 1900.

The officer, at the front, wears his blue frock coat, sash and sword. His cap has a black lace band whereas the men have the white cap-band. The trumpeter has a knapsack like the others but no pouch belt, only a belt for his sword. The sergeants have the same equipment as the men. They have gold cap-band and a crimson sash round their waist. The chevrons are black on red backing cloth. The pioneer in the middle has a tan leather apron and a pouch on the front of his waist-belt with a badge on it. He has no shoulder belts, knapsack, axe or saw, so is the pouch for work tools or ammunition?

The men at the back are performing a wheeling movement which requires the inside man to march slower than the outside man. We can see the badge on the back of the knapsack which by this time is a brass garter star badge instead of the painted type. The man at the back, carrying his musket on his shoulder, is a sergeant who has a sword as well as a bayonet on his shoulder belt. It looks as if his ammunition pouch is a different shape to the ones worn by the privates and corporal.

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Officer, 1854



Lieutenant and Captain The Hon William Archer Amhurst. This photo was probably taken in Scutari where the Coldstream Guards were, from 29th April to 13th June 1854. Amhurst is wearing white summer trousers and full dress coat which is basically the same pattern as that introduced in 1830 but with a collar that is blue at the back. The gold embroidery at the front of the collar has four raised lozenge shapes and the silver embroidered garter star is placed in the middle. The lozenge shapes are also on the cuff next to the gilt buttons. His heavy epaulettes are not clear but probably have a silver embroidered rose and crown on them. His waist sash is also unclear, it could be the crimson silk sash or the gold and crimson one. The sword belt over his right shoulder is referred to as white buffalo leather 3 inches wide, with a frog. The belt-plate can be seen at Belt-Plates c1828-1854.

Private's Coat, c1852



The coat or coatee was worn by the Coldstream Guards when they fought at the Alma and Inkerman. It was designed more for parade than for fighting. There are 42 buttons in all, 20 on the chest, in pairs, four on each cuff, two on the waist at the back, four on each false pocket, one on each skirt ornament and one on each collar badge. Details of these can be seen at Cuff Detail, Private's Coat 1852 and Collar and Skirt Detail 1852. The epaulettes are white worsted.

Corporal, November 1854



This is how the Coldstream Guards looked at the Battle of Inkerman. The wearing of the bearskin helped the combatants recognise the Guards in the fog and darkness, since the Russians wore flat forage caps. The greatcoat gave them some warmth but they were of poor quality compared with the thick material of the Russian coats. In fact the British soldiers were advised to use their bayonets on the Russians' faces as they would not be able to penetrate the coat material. Belts and equipment were worn over the coat for easy access. He has a thin strap over his right shoulder for his waterbottle. The Minie rifle he is holding is a percussion, muzzle-loader capable of firing two rounds a minute. The small white pouch on the front of his pouchbelt is for percussion caps.

Sergeant, Undress 1855



The field cap was a popular item for the Guards, even in full dress it sometimes replaced the bearskin. It could be worn in different ways; sideways with the flap pulled down as a peak or with both flaps down to keep the ears warm. Beards were commonplace in 1855 during the long siege of Sevastopol. The white drill jacket is worn with winter trousers and belts. The chevrons are thin and black at this stage. Later they were wider and sewn on a red backing.

Crimean Veterans 1855



These bearded and weather-beaten soldiers wear the new functional tunic which replaced the coatee. It is double breasted with blue collar and cuffs. There is white piping around the edges of the collar and cuffs and down the front edge. Their pouchbelt and haversack are slung over the left shoulder and waterbottle on the right shoulder. The new waistbelt carries the bayonet on the left hip. The middle man has three good conduct stripes and all of them have the Crimea Medal with four bars for ALMA, BALAKLAVA, INKERMANN and SEBASTOPOL.

Sergeant-Major 1855



Regimental Sergeant-Major Carter wears a post-Crimean tunic of special pattern for his rank and he would have been the only man ever to wear it because it was a short-lived design, being replaced the following year by a single-breasted version. The collar looks as if it is covered in gold lace but there is a space at the back showing between the top and bottom rows of lace. The cuffs are heavily laced, having two rows around the top of the blue cuff and an extra large slash flap to accommodate the lace that follows the edge. The four gold chevrons are covered by an ornate coat of arms embroidered badge which stands proud of the material due to being well padded. His blue epaulette has an

embroidered silver rose and is edged in white. He has a special pattern sword with a gold sword knot. The buttons are gilt and placed in pairs.

He has three medals for his service in the Crimean War. The middle one is his Crimean Medal with four clasps for ALMA, BALAKLAVA, INKERMANN and SEBASTOPOL. The medal on the left is the Turkish Crimea Medal and the one nearest his left arm is the French Medal Militaire.

Sergeants, Undress 1856



The sergeant on the left is in the white undress drill jacket. He is in fact a Colour-Sergeant although there is no Colour badge on his stripes. He does have a crown over his stripes which is of Russian style. His forage cap has a gold band instead of white, and a brass cap-badge.

The right-hand figure is a sergeant of more senior standing as shown by the peak on his cap. He has gold chevrons and gold cuff flaps but the collar is blue, edged with gold lace. He has a sword attached to his white leather waistbelt. In his right hand is a sergeant's cane and in his left a pair of white gloves.

Other Ranks 1857

This print by Ferguson has men from all three Guards regiments although two of them are Coldstreamers.



They wear the single-breasted tunic that replaced the first post-Crimean one. But the man on the left, in a gold-banded forage cap is a Coldstream Guards sergeant in a special undress tunic. There are no blue epaulettes and no cuff flaps. And although there is white piping down the front edge and along the top of the cuffs, there is none on the collar. This type of tunic lasted at least until c1900.

The next man is a Scots Guards Sergeant-Major, then there is a Coldstream Guards private in a greatcoat carrying a knapsack and wearing black gaiters round his ankles. The pioneer on the right is a Grenadier Guard. Pioneers in the Coldstream did not have arm badges like this man.

Pioneers 1858



This photo was taken in Dublin in 1858. It is interesting to note that there are 11 men here including the Pioneer Corporal. That is the same as the number of Pioneers in the regiment in 1830, so little had changed. Here the men carry various tools but no rifles. They are distinguished, by beards in some cases, but also by the black leather strap on the left shoulder instead of the white pouchbelt carried by the regiment. This strap holds the tool bag.

Captain's Tunic c1860



The coats and tunics of Guards officers had changed many times up to this period but from this point there would be no more change for 150 years. Minor alterations would take place. The shoulders, at this time did not have shoulder straps but a single scarlet silk cord and small gilt button on the left side, to retain the crimson sash. This lasted until 1868 when it was replaced by slim gold cords on each shoulder.

The collar is of blue cloth with gold embroidery at the front and a silver and coloured embroidered garter star. A line of gold lace followed round the top of the collar for all

officers, and another line along the bottom of the collar for officers above the rank of Brevet-major. So ensigns (crown) and lieutenants (crown and star) would have one line of lace. Lieutenants who are brevet-majors (star), Captains (crown) and field officers (crown and star) would have two lines of lace. This tunic has two lines of lace and a crown which makes it a captain's tunic. For his rank, there is also two lines of gold lace along the top of his blue cuff.

The pocket flap at the back of the skirt is red with four gilt buttons and gold lace loops, in pairs, surrounded by a line of lace and white piping. This piping also follows the top edge of the collar, the front edge of the tunic, along the top of the cuff, round the cuff flap and on the edges of the vent at the back of the skirt. The ten buttons down the front of the tunic are in pairs but the pairing is not very obvious. The button at the bottom is flat so that the waistbelt can lie properly.

Dress Waistbelt c1870



The gold belt was worn for dress occasions from 1855, the time of the introduction of the tunic, up to 1902, the year that the officer's sash was taken off the shoulder and worn round the waist. Since the sash covered the swordbelt there was no point in having such an expensive item so it was replaced with a web belt, but retaining the smart sword slings. The dress belt is 1.5 inches wide and made of red morocco leather and covered with gold lace.

The buckle is a round clasp with the title of the regiment in the outer silver circle and the enamelled garter star on the gilt round part that slots into it. On less formal occasions a white leather belt was worn but with the same buckle.

Private 1870



Although the bayonet was worn on the waistbelt at this time, the old ammunition pouch belt was still worn over the shoulder even after the uniform changes of 1855. In 1871 new equipment was introduced, transferring the pouches to the front of the waistbelt. The knapsack was carried to the upper back with the greatcoat folded and strapped on the outside. The mess tins had a waterproof cover and went on top. He is holding a Snider Enfield rifle which is a breech-loading weapon with metal cartridges.

Corporal and Officers 1880



A watercolour signed and dated R Simkin 1880. The Corporal is in marching order with valise equipment introduced in 1871, having the ammunition pouches on the front of the waistbelt. Unfortunately there was a great deal of blanco-ing of white straps to achieve smartness. His knapsack is worn lower on the back while the greatcoat was folded and strapped to the upper back. In full dress the greatcoat was carried but not the knapsack. He is holding a Martini-Henry rifle, introduced in 1874, with a 22 inch socket bayonet. For marching and field days, black gaiters were worn round the ankles.

The officer in a similar order of dress is a lieutenant as he only has one row of lace on his cuff and collar. He has a star badge of rank on his collar. From 1881 the rank badges were transferred to the shoulder straps. His crimson sash is over his left shoulder, kept in place by one of his gold shoulder cords. His trousers have a broader red stripe than the other ranks but he has black gaiters like the corporal. The sword, suspended from a white leather waistbelt, has a white sword knot with a gold acorn.

The other officer is in undress with a peaked forage cap and blue patrol jacket. The garter star badge on the cap is embroidered and the cap-band is embroidered black silk. He wears white kid gloves and carries

a silver-topped cane. The private marching in the background shows the knapsack more clearly. His title is still Private at this time, the title Guardsman was not instituted until after World War I. Another man, on the right, who looks as if he has fallen over is probably resting but looks strangely over-dressed for it.

Pioneer Lance Sergeant



This cabinet photograph of Pioneer Lance Sergeant Harry Tesh of the Coldstream Guards and his wife was taken by S. Jedwabnitsky, of 138, Brompton Road, London SW. He is in the 1882 pattern dress of a pioneer lance sergeant of his regiment.^[1] The scarlet tunic is of other ranks quality with dark blue facings on the collar and round the lower cuff. The cuff design reflects the cuff pattern used on the 1856 pattern tunic which remains as a distinction for the Guards Regiments to this day. The buttons down the tunic front clearly show the two button spacing pattern that is a regimental distinction of the Coldstream Guards. You will also see his watch fob with the second group of buttons.

His badge of rank worn on the right arm consists of three white chevrons, with crossed axes, and a small rose badge above. Lance Sergeant strips were white instead of gold as would be worn by a sergeant. A sergeant would also have worn a sash. The collar badge is a smaller version of the Garter Star cap badge. Notice that his wife is wearing a brooch pin that is the Garter Star. His tunic also has his campaign medals: an Egypt Medal with the clasp for Tel-el-Kebir and the Khedive's Star medal.

His pill box forage cap is dark blue a band of white lace round the bottom and a white cord round the top with the regimental cap badge worn between the band and the cord.

He has a walkout stick and a sawback sword carried by pioneers. A general order of 1856 allowed for one pioneer per company in each regiment. The tools carried by the pioneers included a sawback sword, pickaxe, billhooks, shovels, and axes.

Harry Tesh was appointed Pioneer Sergeant on the 10th of June 1890. He was discharged as "medically unfit" due to tuberculosis on the 2nd of September 1897 after 15 years and 33 days of service.

Foot Guards RSM Pre-1952

Warrant Officers were first introduced into the British Army on the 1st January 1879. A class of Warrant Officers was constituted, "to assist in the discharge of the subordinate duties of the Commissariat and Transport and of the Ordnance Store Departments of our Army, to be denominated 'Conductors of Supplies' and 'Conductors of Stores' respectively.



Their position in our Army shall be inferior to that of all commissioned officers and superior to that of all noncommissioned officers. Conductors shall at the same time have full power to exercise command over any subordinates of the Departments of our Army, or noncommissioned officers or soldiers of our Army, who may be placed under their orders ". For the purposes of this article

I shall call these first Warrant Officers Group (i)

So successful was the introduction of Conductors of Supplies and Stores that further Warrant Officers were introduced, Master Gunners to the Royal Artillery, Schoolmasters and Paymasters. All appointed to Group (i)

A new class of Warrant Officer, Group (ii) was soon to follow, and with the onset of World War One a class of Warrant Officer. as described by the following Royal Warrant:

Badges of Rank of the Colour Sergeant in the Coldstream Guards, 2003.



In recent times the crossed swords have been re-instated for Colour Sergeants in Rifle Regiments in the UK.



Historically, Colour Sergeants of British line regiments were tasked with protecting Ensigns, the most junior officers who were responsible for carrying their battalions' Colours (flag or insignia) to rally troops in battles. For this reason the Colour Sergeant rank was considered a prestigious one given normally to courageous Sergeants who had attained accomplishments in battles. This tradition continues today as Colour Sergeants form part of a Colour Party in military parades.



Soldiers

Private George Strong VC



In September 1855, only days before the end of the year long siege of Sevastopol, Private Strong, aged 19, was on duty in a trench when a live shell fell in. Well aware of the extreme danger, he picked up the shell and threw it over the parapet, thus saving many lives. He was awarded the VC on 24th Feb 1857. George Strong was born in Odcombe, Yeovil in Somerset on 30th Nov 1835. He died on 25th August 1888 aged 53, at Sherston Magna in Wiltshire. There is a memorial to him in the churchyard of the Church of the Holy Cross, Sherston.

Sergeant James Graham



Sergeant Graham was one of the Coldstreamers who closed the north Gate at Hougoumont during the Battle of Waterloo. Both he and Sergeant Fraser of the Scots Guards were awarded a special medal for their gallantry at the north gate. Graham was also nominated by Wellington for an annuity of £10 a year which had been offered by a patriotic citizen, the Rev John Norcross of Framlingham Rectory in Suffolk: 'To one of his brave countrymen who fought in the late tremendous but glorious conflict.'

Unfortunately, after only two years, the annuity ceased when the rector went bankrupt. But when he died, he left £500 to be given to the 'bravest man in England'. Wellington was now asked to nominate this person and he wrote: 'The success of the Battle of Waterloo turned on the closing of the gates [at Hougoumont]. These gates were closed in the most courageous manner at the very nick of time by the efforts of Sir James Macdonnell.' So the commanding officer received the prize but he gave half to Sergeant Graham.

Graham is seen here in the new post-Waterloo shako. He has a green plume and a stringed bugle badge at the top, to denote Light Company. His jacket has flank company wings on the shoulder which are blue

with gold lace loops in pairs. He has one medal which is probably supposed to be his Waterloo medal but it has a crown device on it instead of the head of the Prince Regent. The shape could represent the reverse side with winged Victory on a plinth. The medal was awarded early in 1816. The date of Graham's special medal may have been later, after this portrait was made.

Waterloo Medal



This was the first of the medals as we know them today, being awarded by the British Government to officers and other ranks alike. The medal was for the whole campaign including Ligny, Quatre Bras and Waterloo. Every soldier receiving it was credited with an extra two years service. They were issued in early 1816 and had either a ring or a bar attachment. The obverse side had the head of the Prince Regent, and the reverse side had winged victory on a plinth marked WATERLOO.

Sir Henry Sullivan



Sir Henry Sullivan was killed at Bayonne in 1814. In 1812 he was a Lieutenant and Captain but rose to Lieutenant-Colonel by 1814. He has the new shako that became known as the Waterloo shako, and he has field officers' epaulettes on both shoulders.

Colonel Andrew Bissett



Bissett was born in 1660 and commissioned into the Coldstream Guards in 1688. He commanded the regiment at the fateful Battle of Almanza in 1707. He reached the rank of Lieutenant-General and was Colonel of the 30th Foot from 1717 to 1742 when he died. He is buried in Westminster Abbey. The painting shows him in a red coat which may be his uniform. The facings of the regiment were blue but his coat has no lapels or collar for the colour to show. The white turned-back front of his coat is not a lapel as such. And cuffs at this period were usually the same colour as the coat. His wife Constance and infant daughter, also Constance, are next to him. There is a shadowy figure of a boy in the background which is his son Andrew who died young in 1702. The girl in yellow is his niece Marjorie, the daughter of George Winram who was a Coldstream officer and married to Bissett's sister. Winram was taken prisoner at Almanza.

Colonel Julius Caesar



Caesar was born around 1709, in London. His family was descended from an Italian doctor called Cesare Adelmare who came to England to attend Queen Mary in 1553. Everyone called him Dr Caesar and his descendants adopted that name. Charles Caesar, father of Julius, was a Jacobite and an MP for Hertford. He was imprisoned in the Tower at one point for conspiring with the King of Sweden to invade England to restore the Stuarts.

Julius Caesar was commissioned as an Ensign into the Coldstream Guards on 18th June 1731. He spent the first 8 years in London. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1739 and was sent abroad in May 1742 when the Guards Brigade went to the Low Countries. He was wounded at Fontenoy and came home with the regiment in September 1745. Soon after, the

Coldstream were sent north to fight the Young Pretender, and Caesar went with them and also had to attend the execution of Jacobites on Tower Hill. His father, who died in 1741, must have been turning in his grave!

He was now in command of his own Company which again went abroad and fought at Lauffelt in 1747. Back in England, Julius suffered a period of ill health. He had been a sickly child and as an adult would take to his bed for weeks on end. He managed to stay out of bed long enough for this portrait to be painted by Arthur Devis. He was a Lieutenant-Colonel by this time and appointed 1st Major of the Regiment. As a senior field officer he was on a roster to do duty as Field-Officer-in-Waiting, responsible for the preservation of good order and discipline near the Royal Person.

The portrait shows him holding the rod of office and wearing his dress coat. The year must be around 1755 and there are many aspects of the coat that relate to the dress coat worn in the Foot Guards until 1830. See Officer's Full Dress Coat c1821 Although the lapels are buttoned over, the turned back tops reveal the rich gold lace which is in the form of close-set pointed button loops showing only a little of the blue facing colour. When the lapels are buttoned back the loops would continue below the lapel on the red cloth of the coat, but the 1821 coat is cut away at the waist. The pockets are very similar with a border of wide gold lace all around, forming points at the upper corners. There are three half concealed buttons under the flap. The cuffs have the broad gold lace with a narrower lace above it and three buttons sewn on the blue light between the lace. The collar is covered in gold but the inside indicates that it is of red cloth. His waistcoat is buff, laced with gold and the breeches match. He is wearing black knee boots and there is a hint of silver at his left heel which means he is wearing spurs. We can also see his sword hilt and his gold laced hat.

In 1758, Caesar was sent with the 2nd Battalion on a series of raids on the French coast. When he returned home he had domestic problems. He had been having an affair with Peg Woffington, a beautiful actress, since about 1739, but she was very ill and came to live in Caesar's house until her death in March 1760. It is not known if they were secretly married or not. Soon afterwards, he was sent on his last campaign, to protect Hanover from the French. After the battle of Wilhelmstal, the Coldstream Guards had to provide protection for the artillery at Melsungen on the River Fulda. On 7th August 1762, while Julius was making his rounds, visiting the battalions, his horse slipped and he was killed in the fall. He was buried at Elferhausen.

Gerald Littlehales Goodlake VC



Brevet-Major Goodlake and two other Guards officers were put in charge of the group of sharpshooters which numbered 69 in all, from different regiments. During the Siege of Sevastopol, it was decided to form a small force of sharpshooters or snipers to pick off any Russians manning the guns and defenses of the city. The main reason for this radical change of tactics was the introduction of the Minie rifle which although still slow to reload, had a rifled barrel and improved ammunition. It was accurate up to a range of 1,000 yards but troops had no time to practice with it and there was no time to adapt the tactics to this new capability.

One of the sharpshooter officers was wounded and the other was involved in a disciplinary enquiry so Goodlake ended up as the only officer. There were ten NCOs and the men took a pride in their work so they were not difficult to command. Goodlake was allowed to operate independently and was doing so on 28th October 1854 in front of the 2nd Division picquet. They were in a ravine below the Inkerman Heights and saw some caves ahead that needed to be investigated. Goodlake and Sergeant Ashton went ahead to the caves and left the rest of the patrol to keep watch. Unfortunately a large Russian column marched past the caves while they were inside, and they were heading towards the sharpshooter group. When the group saw the Russians coming towards them, they assumed that their officer and sergeant had been caught.

They opened fire on them and began to withdraw to a ditch from where they could hold off the superior force. Goodlake and Ashton came out of the cave and ran in amongst the Russians, pushing their way to the front where the two sides were exchanging fire. Goodlake shouted out to his men to let them know they were there and he and the sergeant dashed over to them. They held off the Russians until relieved by 2nd Bn Rifle Brigade.

On another occasion, Goodlake's sharpshooters surprised a Russian picquet and captured their weapons and knapsacks which won another Coldstream Guards VC for Private Stanlock. Goodlake's VC was for his bravery and leadership throughout the 42 days that the sharpshooter group existed.

Gerald Littlehales Goodlake was born in Wadley, Berkshire on 14th May 1832 and died in Denham, Middlesex on 5th April 1890. There is a memorial to him in Harefield Churchyard, Middlesex.

Private William Stanlock VC DCM



William Stanlock (or Stanlake or Stanlack) was born in Halwill near Okehampton, Devon on 31st October 1830. He was one of the Crimean sharpshooters led by Brevet-Major Goodlake VC in October/November 1854. He was sent on a risky mission to reconnoitre the Russian picquet. He crawled within six yards of the Russians and was able to bring back information that led to a successful surprise attack. Stanlock died on 24th April 1904 in Camberwell.

Sir James Macdonnell



Macdonnell achieved fame as the Coldstreamer who commanded the Light Companies of the Coldstream Guards and Scots Guards in Hougoumont at the Battle of Waterloo. Wellington had great confidence in him because when General Muffling, Blucher's liaison officer, remarked that Hougoumont was a difficult place to defend, the Duke replied 'Ah, but you do not know Macdonnell'. He was in the thick of the struggle to close the gates on the French as they rushed the gate that had been opened to let in the remaining Foot Guards. Private Matthew Clay of the Scots Guards, in his account of the battle remembers seeing Macdonnell carrying a large piece of wood, or tree to help barricade the gates of the chateau. The fight lasted 8 hours and saw most of the buildings destroyed. After the battle, Wellington was riding past the blackened ruins of Hougoumont, again with General Muffling, 'You see,' he said 'Macdonnell held Hougoumont.' This engraving shows James Macdonnell c1835 having received many awards for his bravery.

**This page consists of a collection of useful information about the
2nd Battalion,**

Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards

as it was during the Waterloo Campaign.

Copy of a letter from Waterloo written the day after the Battle (19th June 1815)

by

Lieut. C.W.Short, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards.

Monday 19th June

Nivelle

My dear Mother,

I hope you will excuse my not writing to you before, but since we left Inghien on Friday morning at 3 o'clock, I have not had the least opportunity. We received orders to march at one in the morning, in consequence of Bonaparte's having crossed the Frontiers and attacked the Prussians. Col. Woodford was at a Ball with Lord Wellington at Brussels when the news came and they all set off directly for their different posts and arrived at them about the time we were ordered to start, in their Ball dresses. We marched at 3 o'clock (the 16th) thro' Briene-le-Compte, where we halted for about 4 hours and then towards Nivelle and were going to bivouac, when we heard cannon firing on the other side of Nivelle. We then marched forward and reached the place of action at Quatre Bras at about half past 7 - having marched 25 miles since 3 in the morning - the men were very much fagged indeed. The 1st Brigade of Guards being in the front, went into action immediately, and in a very little time lost 500 men and nearly 30 officers killed and wounded between the 2 Battalions. (Promotion for Glanville at least 10 steps or perhaps 15) our Brigade was drawn up in a road on the left of a thick wood, (Bois de Bopie) to be ready to relieve the 1st Brigade and about half past 8 we received orders to march thro' the wood in line and charge the French on the other side. However they retired, beat throughout the day by the English, Brunswickers and Dutch tho' not half our army had arrived. The Belgians ran at the 1st shot. We then retired to our position and I being first for Duty went on the out-lying piquet it being the first time I was on this duty and nobody to direct me. I kept a sharp look out and did the best I could by placing my Sentries to give the alarm in case any attack should be made. The night however passed off very well, tho' the groaning of the wounded was rather disagreeable or so, for the first time. I was very hungry the next morning having had nothing to eat since 10 o'clock the day before, but a ship biscuit. I was called in about 4 o'clock. I then went to sleep and awoke about half past 5, when I found Whitaker had sent me some Bread and Meat and a bottle of Brandy, which I assure you was a great comfort, not being able to draw Rations. Lord Wellington who had not pulled off his Ball dress commanded and we found it necessary to make a retrograde movement, rather to the left to communicate with the Prussians, who had been also attacked and beat the French back, but they made an attack in the middle of the night with the whole of the Cavalry and broke the Prussians who retreated in

consequence. We also retreated (the 17th) to a position about 8 miles to the other side of Genappe in the direct road to Brussels. The name of the place I do not know, you will see it in the Gazette, and it will be remembered by Europe as long as Europe is Europe. We had just arrived and pitched our blankets etc. and the men began to make themselves comfortable, when commanding was heard and the Rear Guard was engaged with the French. The Rear Guard was composed of Cavalry who came up in the night. The French took up a position opposite ours. Our Right rested on a wood in which the Light Infantry of our Division was posted it being most likely that we'd be the point the French would make their attack on. Our Brigade was on the right of the first line, on a hill above the Wood. We were under arms the whole night expecting an attack and it rained to that degree that the field where we were was half way up our legs in the mud.

Nobody of course could lie down and the ague got hold of some of the men. I with another officer had a Blanket, and with a little more Gin, we kept up very well. We had only one Fire and you cannot conceive of the state we were in. We formed a hollow square and prepared to receive Cavalry twice but found it was a false alarm both times. Soon after Daylight, the commissary sent up with the greatest difficulty some Gin and we found an old cask full of wet Rye loaves which we breakfasted upon. Everybody was in high spirits. We broke up the Cask and got some dry wood and made some fine Fires, got some straw and I went to sleep for a couple of hours. About ten we were formed, finding that the French were advancing to the attack in very large columns. We opened some Artillery and checked them a little by shells, but soon after the Light Troopers commenced the attack on the Wood in which our Light Infantry were posted and the Firing commenced in prime style some Belgian Light Troops were in the wood and when one man was wounded, at least a dozen would carry him out so that the Chief of the work was left for our men. The French were too strong for us and after about a couple of hours, they succeeded in driving us back to a large Farmhouse in the Wood (Houjourment) and the rest of our Battalion moved on to support the Light Infantry when the 2 rear companies were ordered to remain with the Colors. General Byng thinking that the Battalion would be too much cut to pieces, as the Firing was so very rapid. The 7th and 8th Companies stopped with the Colors and 2 Companies of each Battalion of our Division - (I believe I told you in my last of my being recently appointed to the 7th Company) we were ordered to Lie down in the road, the musket shots flying over us like Peas. An officer next to me was hit on the Cap but not hurt as it went thro', and another next to him was also hit on the plate of the Cap, but it went thro' also without hurting him. Two Sergeants that lay near me were hit in the Knapsacks, and were not hurt, besides several other shots passing as near us as possible. I never saw such luck as we had.... The Brigade Major was wounded by a Cannon ball which killed his horse and broke his arm and General Byng was wounded slightly while standing opposite to me about 5 paces. General Byng did not leave the Field. Lord Wellington with his Ball dress was very active indeed, as well as Lord Uxbridge and the Prince of Orange both severely wounded, the former having lost his leg, and the latter being hit in the Body. General Cooke commanding our Division lost his arm. The Battle kept up all day in this Wood where our Brigade was stationed. The Farmhouse was set on Fire by Shells, however we kept possession of it, and several wounded men were actually roasted alive. The Cavalry came on about 5 o'clock and attacked the rest of the Line, when the Horse Guards and the other Regiments (except a few) behaved most gallantly. The French charged our hollow squares and were repulsed several times. The Imperial Guards, with Napoleon at their head, charged the 1st Guards, and the number of killed and wounded is extraordinary, they lie as thick as possible one on top of the other. They were repulsed in every attack and about 7 o'clock the whole French army made a general attack for their last effort and we should have had very hard work to have repulsed them when 25,000 Prussians came on, and we soon drove them like chaff before the wind, 20,000 getting into the midst of them played the very devil with them and they took to flight in the greatest possible hurry. The baggage of Bonaparte was taken by the Prussians and the last report that has been heard of the French says that they have repassed the Frontiers and gone by Charleroi hard pressed by the Prussians. The French say that this Battle beats Leipsic hollow in the number of killed and wounded. Our Division suffered exceedingly. We are to follow on Thursday. Today we bivouac nr. Nivelles. Lord Wellington has thanked our Division thro' General Byng and says that he never saw such gallant conduct in his

Life. The 7th Hussars behaved very badly on Saturday, they were ordered to charge the Polish Lancers, and when they got to them (the Lancers remaining steady) they turned about and away they went, the Lancers then charged them and the Horse Guards and Blues charging the Lancers overthrew them and cut them nearly all to pieces. The Horse Guards and Blues have behaved famously. Lord Uxbridge would have been taken only for our Infantry, in consequence of some of the Cavalry running away and he rode up to the Company and said he owed his life to them and that the French were beyond the Frontier before 12 o'clock. There never was such a glorious day. Everybody agrees. Send me the Gazette. It will tell you more than I can. You must excuse the mistakes I have made I am in such a hurry. I will give a fuller account of some little things relative to myself, the narrow escapes we had and so on when I have time. I had my Horse killed. It was very beautiful to see the engagement tho' horrid afterwards. The French killed a great number of our wounded soldiers. We have taken 120 pieces of cannon. The Prussians are coming up every hour and cheer us as they pass. I have a great deal more to say, but I have not time as I must be back at the Camp by 8 o'clock. All the Baggage was sent to Antwerp in case we should have been defeated yesterday. The number of prisoners is immense. I must conclude. God grant that I may live to see you again. We have only 2 officers killed but several severely wounded. My love to you. I have heard nothing of Major Hodge.

I remain your dutiful and affectionate son.

C.W.Short

With the Guards at Hougoumont

by

Matthew Clay

Late Sergeant-Major of the Bedfordshire Regiment of Light Infantry,

and formerly Sergeant in

Her Majesty's Regiment of Scots Fusilier Guards

(This account was written by a member of the 3rd Foot Guards but as he was working along side the Coldstream at Hougoumont I just had to include it)

With the Guards at Hougoumont

I being then in the Light Company of the 3rd Foot Guards, was with the Coldstream Company under Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonell (*Now Lieutenant-General Sir James Macdonell*) as Light Infantry of the Second Brigade, commanded by Major-General Sir John Byng.

It was early on the morning of the 16th June, 1815, we marched from a Chateau situated on the environs of the park of Enghien, from whence having marched some miles, we halted near Braine-le-Comte for a considerable time, owing to some arrangements that were being made relative to our future movements, (as we supposed amongst ourselves) we afterwards marched on without knowing anything as to our destination, until we arrived in sight of Nivelles, when we ascended a field on our left, took off our knapsacks, and sent out watering parties, expecting to remain there for the night; we could hear distinctly the report of canon firing, the meaning of which we were no longer at a loss to find out. Having now received the order to march with all speed (*The men whose wives had followed us to our halting ground were permitted to take farewell of them; they being ordered to the rear, and going a short distance apart from the throng; in the open field were joined by others, who delivered to them for security their Watches, with various other small articles they held in esteem, also others whose families were absent desired that their expressions of affection might be communicated to their absent wives and families; now the parting embrace although short was sincere and affectionate and expressed with deep emotions of grief as though a state of widowhood had suddenly come upon them, while the loud thunder of the destructive cannon was sounding in their ears.*) we proceeded accordingly, leaving our watering parties to join us on our way. We marched through the town before mentioned and were joined by our watering party - the man belonging to my mess having been fortunate enough to obtain a little table beer for us instead of water, was most gladly received by us; we then marched hastily on, the sound of cannon and musketry became more distinct and being nearer at hand, (we also met with some wounded) as we approached the field of action our two Light Companies led off into the field on the left, and the 1st Foot Guards entered the Bossu wood (*Whilst at our defensive post in the Wood of Bossu on the 17th, we were led to admire the heroism of the wife of a soldier of the Coldstream Light Company, she having fearlessly passed*

over the slain bringing a supply of provision for her husband and companions in defence of the wood.) on the right of the road: where I now leave them, and confine myself to the two Light Companies commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonell as above. We now loaded our muskets and very hastily advanced up the rising ground in the open field; (the shots from the enemy now whizzing amongst us,) we quickly attained the summit and bringing our left shoulders forward, the enemy retiring before us. We had now arrived near to a building against the walls of which the shots from the guns of the enemy (intended for us) were freely rebounding; being just within range of their guns, our skilful Commander led us through an enclosed yard, (where several bodies of the enemy's Cavalry lay, slain previous to our arrival,) also an adjoining garden a short distance to our right which concealed our advance from the enemy's view, and passing singly through a gap in the hedge, at the extremity of the garden nearest to the enemy, we immediately formed in the field into which we had entered, and were at the same time joined by our light guns, (which had been brought round the outside of the enclosure through which we had passed) they immediately opened their fire upon the enemy who hastened their retreat, and we at the same time advancing, after having advanced some considerable distance through the rye (that was trampled down) and passed over numerous bodies of the slain, more particularly near to a fence enclosing a house and garden, which clearly showed there had been a very severe contest for the possession of it: (I particularly noticed a young officer of the 33rd Regiment, laying amongst the slain, his bright scarlet coat and silver lace attracted my attention when marching over his head-less body), for the most part English, Brunswickers, and Highlanders, more especially of the latter; we halted for a short time whilst our Brigade of Guns which, a little further to the left exchanged shots with the enemy; Lieutenant-Colonel Dashwood being in command of the 3rd Regiment, Light Company, took the opportunity of placing himself in front of the same, and with cheerful countenance and manner addressed us, saying, "Now men let us see what you are made of".

We continued pursuing the enemy over the slain which were thickly spread around us: by this time our Commander found it necessary to form us into square to oppose the enemy's Cavalry, who were constantly menacing our advance, our square being compactly formed and prepared to receive Cavalry; their Cavalry now bearing off, the enemy's Artillery would alternately annoy us with their shells which were skilfully directed, but were equally skilfully avoided, through the tact of our Commander: our movements now for a time were performed whilst in square, (for the reason above stated) being drawn compactly together, the Officers being in the centre, I had frequent opportunities of observing the keen watchfulness of our Commander, he being mounted on his Charger, could, undoubtedly from his elevated position distinctly see the preparation of the enemy for the renewal of attack on us by the united force of the Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery; being foiled by the timely movements of our square, ever obedient to the Commander, we escaped the destructive effects of the well directed shells of the enemy, who, no doubt having observed our repeated escapes from the galling fire of their Artillery. Their Cavalry now menaced us more daringly and prevented our taking fresh ground until their Artillery had thrown their shells amongst us, by this means we had a more narrow escape than before, being compelled to remain longer in our position to resist Cavalry. I being one of the outward rank of the square, can testify as to the correct aim of the Enemy, whose shells having fallen to the ground and exploded within a few paces of the rank in which I was kneeling, a portion of their destructive fragments in their ascent passing between my head and that of my comrade in the rank; its force and tremulous sound causing an unconscious movement of the head not to be forgotten in haste.

The evening was now approaching and with loud cheers we drove the Enemy before us, who now took up their position for the night on a rising ground adjoining a wood; the firing gradually ceased, and their Camp fires were quickly lighted; we were extended in line and lay down on our arms amongst trampled corn: all being quiet, and diligently watching during the night, the only sounds we heard arose from the suffering wounded (in their different languages,) who lay as they had fallen, some in the adjoining wood, others distant, and others nearer to us; in different parts of the plain or corn field where we were posted the deep and heavy groans of the more faint and expiring, with the loud calls for water from others less exhausted, whilst many hundreds of slain lay

on every side, and a very formidable and watchful enemy before us - but this is only a very faint picture of the night of the 16th of June, 1815, we passed on the plains of Quatre-Bras.

Being now settled in our position for the night and there being numbers of wounded men laying close around my post begging for water and assistance, my comrade with myself being on duty were also suffering severely from thirst; he being the older soldier of the two, proposed to keep watch whilst I attended to the wounded, and I went (in the dark) to search of water - groped my way about among the sufferers and placed them in as easy a position as I could; many having fallen in very uneasy postures, and being altogether helpless, increased their sufferings - some having fallen with their legs doubled under them, others, with the weight of the dead upon them, and the like - having afforded them all the ease that lay in my power, and all being quiet around us, and taking a Camp kettle from off the knapsack of a dead man, wended my way a short distance to the rear of our posts, (where I had observed the appearance of water when advancing after the enemy on the afternoon previous,) and finding a narrow channel of water in a ditch, which I traced into the wood, (from where our brave comrades the 1st Guards had driven the enemy in the evening) - there was a pond from which I filled my kettle and drank freely from its contents, enjoying it much, whilst in the dark I found my way back to my post, where my comrade and the poor sufferers from wounds gladly partook of the contents of the same.

I believe it was after this that some slight move amongst the troops in our line, caused the enemy to commence a fire of musketry in the dark, and it was reported that several of our men were wounded by them - there was one man of my company whom I did not see after. All being again quiet, just before the dawn of morning, my comrade wished me to go again for water, which I did; on my arriving at the pond, the light of day enabled me to see that in and around lay the bodies of those who had fallen in the combat on the evening previous, and the liquid we had partaken of was dyed with their blood, for so I saw the remainder.

I do not remember whether I returned with a further supply, although I am quite aware that I lost all relish for any more of it; having hastened back to my post being just in time to fall in and stand in column as the light disclosed us to the view of the enemy; - from our position in column we proceeded to our different posts keeping as much as possible concealed from the enemy, and having a watchful eye upon them, were prepared to oppose their advance; the enemy not being disposed to disturb us except by a few straggling shots from their skirmishers, which were mostly brought upon us by some of our German Allies, who appeared desirous to be at them (*And frequent encounters also took place at an advanced post in possession of the British at the foot of the rising ground near the wood in the enemy's position, which was gallantly maintained, and defended by our troops*). We took up our position within a loose sort of hedge dividing the wood from the rye field, which we had previously occupied, and where the contest had been most severe, the spot where we were posted was in a hollow track within the wood, we lay on the rising bank covered by the loose fence. This I presume is the place where the Grenadier Guards met with such a severe reception from the enemy, when in pursuit of them from the wood on entering the corn field; on the slope from the field to the hollow track within the wood, the dead bodies of the same regiment were laying very thick on the ground, all the wounded that were found were collected together, and with the blankets of the dead (made into a sort of bed) under the shade of the trees in the wood, in the hope of their being safely taken to the hospital, but unfortunately at a late hour of the day, we were suddenly withdrawn from our position without being able to render any further assistance to them.

We found our way through the wood, and having entered a close or field on the opposite side from the plain or corn field which we were marching across, when suddenly an Aide-de-Camp rode up to the Commanding Officer, and apprized him that we were approaching the enemy's lines, they being concealed beyond a distance hedge; we immediately brought our left shoulders forward, and stepped off in double quick time until we reached the woods side, and continued to move on quickly until we were more concealed from the enemy. We shortly entered a narrow and rather deep lane where we met a party of English Light Dragoons (under the charge of a Sergeant) going to fetch the

wounded from where I have before described. We now proceeded along a footpath across a field, the situation being higher than the lane, and from whence we could distinguish at a distance to our right a body of English Cavalry dismounted standing by their horses. We had now arrived at a brook which crossed our path, and being extremely thirsty, for the moment forgot the danger we were in and drank most eagerly from it, being a little refreshed, we passed on until we had overtaken some of our returning troops when we halted for a short time by the road side near Genappe. We then proceeded until near the plains of Waterloo; we then passed along a path through some fields to our left, where we again halted for a short time.

A heavy thunder storm came on, and the enemy having gained ground on us, we marched on until we reached the summit of an eminence in a clover field before us, - there we halted and took off our knapsacks, the storm still continuing with dreadful violence, and we thinking of remaining there for the night, were ordered to pitch our blankets (they having been prepared for such purpose, having six button holes with loops of small cords, and lined with pieces of duck at each corner, also on each side of the centre). The company having been previously told off in fours, cast lots to see which two of each four should unpack their knapsacks and pitch their blankets, myself being one of the unlucky two; we fixed our muskets perpendicular at each end of the blankets, passing the knob of the ramrods through the two button holes at the corresponding corner of each blanket, then slipping the loop of the cord round the muzzles of both muskets, keeping them upright at the full stretch of the blankets and pegged down the bracing cords at the opposite ends, whilst the other two men, first at one end, then at the other end tightened and pegged down the lower corners of the blankets, the upper edges being kept close; all four creeping under the cover taking the remainder of our equipment - the storm still continuing with equal force, our covering became very speedily soaked with wet, and by this time the shots from the enemy's Artillery began to fall among us.

Our guns being in position on the rising ground near by us, opened on the enemy; we were immediately called upon to assemble, and those whose knapsacks were ready packed, instantly fell into the ranks and hastened down to a large orchard (belonging to the Chateau of Hougoumont) leaving us wet blanket-men to strike, pack up, and follow them, which we found to be no easy matter; the blankets being exceedingly wet, and the buff straps of the knapsacks being very slippery, were (when open to so heavy a storm) very difficult to pack and slip on the shoulders, the straps becoming quite or nearly useless. Having eventually succeeded in putting on my knapsack I hastened after my comrades (although unacquainted with the way they had proceeded to the orchard) I perceived our Artillery were keeping up a brisk fire. I descended the hill a short distance below, and stopping, ran under the range of their shots until having passed their front, where, on arriving at an opening in a fence on the inside of which was a deep ditch, and the ground being wet, I could distinguish that my company had gone that way; in making a spring to leap the ditch, the ground being slimy, and the increased weight of my wet blanket caused me to slip into the same, which being neck deep I found very great difficulty in getting out, which having succeeded in accomplishing, I quickly joined my company who were extended along the upper side of the orchard in a shallow ditch, sheltered by a high bushy hedge-row, which separated us from the enemy, who were close at hand, the weather still continuing very stormy and had become very cold, from which we suffered much during the night, as we remained in our position, and without food, we having been deprived of our rations which did not arrive early enough to be distributed amongst us, at the time of our sudden retreat from the wood, we were kept continually on the alert, being frequently visited by a Field Officer, (Lord Saltoun) during the darkness of the night, and who invariably asked some questions, and received answers from one or other as he rode past in rear of our line, within the hedge-row enclosing the orchard. When day light appeared, all being quiet on Sunday morning, we procured some fuel from the farm of Hougoumont, and then lighted fires and warmed ourselves, our limbs being very much cramped sitting on the side of the wet ditch the whole of the night. The Sergeant of each section gave a small piece of bread (about an ounce) to each man, and enquiry was made along the ranks for a butcher, one having gone forward, he was immediately ordered to kill a pig, (there being cattle at the above me named farm-house, which having been slaughtered, was divided amongst the company, a portion of the head, (in its rough

state), being my share and having placed it upon the fire the heat of which served to dry our clothing and accoutrements, and to cook our separate portion of meat which having become warmed through and blackened with smoke I partook of a little, but finding it too raw and unsavoury (having neither bread or salt), I put the remainder in my haversack, and taking my musket to put it in order for action (which having been loaded the day previous and the enemy not having disturbed us during the night), I discharged its contents at an object which the ball imbedded in the bank where I had purposely placed it as a target, while so employed we kept a sharp look out on the enemy (who were no doubt similarly employed) at the same time having well attended to those things usual for a soldier to do, (in the presence of an enemy) when not actively engaged, viz., examining the amount and state of ammunition remaining after previous engagements, also putting his musket in fighting trim, well flinted, oiled, &c. (Bye the bye the flint musket then in use was a sad bore on that occasion, from the effects of the wet the springs of the locks became wood-bound and would not act correctly, and when in action, the clumsy flints became also useless; the shortest way of amending these failures which were very disheartening, was to make an exchange from those that were laying about amongst the slain).

Being Sunday morning and well soaked in rain the previous night, I took from my haversack a change of linen which came to hand on passing amongst the dead bodies of some of our German Allies who had fallen (the linen had been evidently wet from the wash, and was home-made). Being now prepared for the day's encounter, I went to the farm yard of Hougoumont for straw to sit upon, the ground being very wet; I entered the gates facing the wood into the farm yard, and on my left was a building in which was a quantity of dry straw. It being yet early in the morning, some of our troops were yet taking rest on the top of a mow, the whole of the left side of the farm yard appeared to be composed of buildings suitable for farming purposes, such as a well of water, sheds for wagons, &c., and the whole presented a solid wall on the exterior, and mostly loopholed.

Having obtained what I thought would be useful to us in the orchard, I returned and found my comrades ready to receive a share of what I brought to them, imagining that we should have to contend with the enemy on our present ground, and employed ourselves (the hedge being thick) in clearing away branches on our side, and making clear openings through, by which means, without exposing ourselves, we could take a more correct aim at the enemy. Whilst thus employed, we were quietly instructed to face to our right and march in the direction of Hougoumont, known to us as the Farm House (*The cause of our movement from the orchard to the Kitchen garden was the result of the Duke's inspection of the defence of Hougoumont*). Passing the gates and round the upper corner of the building, our company led into a long and narrow kitchen garden, which was extended under cover of a close hedge, next to a corn field, through which the skirmishers of the enemy were advancing to the attack. We remained in a kneeling position under this cover, but annoyed by a most galling fire from our opponents' guns to the left of our position so near to us, indeed that the spreading of their small shots rarely escaped contact with our knapsacks and accoutrements, even the heels of our shoes (whilst kneeling) were struck by them. We remained in this position for a considerable time, and the enemy now advancing in greater force to attack the Chateau. Our Commanding Officer on his Charger remained on the road between the fence of the garden and the exterior wall of the farm to our rear, it being a higher position from whence he could more perfectly watch the movements of the enemy. The expected signal was given for us to retire from the garden; the front of the company was led by Lieut.-Colonel Dashwood, Captains Evelyn and Elrington into the wood; I being in the rear sub-division on quitting the garden, and reaching the road as above, Lieutenant Standon, with a very determined appearance, having his cap in one hand and his sword in the other, called our attention to join him and charge the enemy; we then went up the road towards the wood, the enemy's skirmishers being under cover about the hedge (*In right rear of our advanced sections, who drove the enemy from the.....?*) On the right of the wood; our party took advantage of cover, myself and a man of the name of R. Gann, having taken our position under cover of a circular built stack from whence we fired on the enemy. Being earnestly engaged, the intervening objects were the cause of our not perceiving the movements and retreat of our comrades. Now left to ourselves as we imagined by not seeing any one near us, and the enemy's

skirmishers remaining under cover continued firing at us, we likewise kept firing and retiring down the road, up which we had advanced.

We now halted, I unwisely ascended the higher part of a sloping ground on which the exterior wall of the farm was built, thinking of singling out the enemy's skirmishers more correctly, but very quickly found that I had become a target for them, my red coat being more distinctly visible than theirs.

Remaining in this position, I continued to exchange shots with the enemy across the kitchen garden, they having the advantage of the fence as a covering, their shots freely struck the wall in my rear. Our Company from which we were separated had now opened fire from within. My musket now proving defective was very discouraging, but casting my eyes to the ground, I saw a musket which I immediately took possession of in exchange for my old one. The new musket was warm from recent use, and proved an excellent one, it having belonged to the Light Infantry of the 1st Foot Guards. My comrade during this time had more wisely contended with the enemy on the low ground by the garden fence; he being my senior by some years and a very steady and undaunted old soldier, and although I was but a youth I felt as though I had partaken of his courageous spirit.

Being still annoyed by the shots of the enemy who were under good cover, we took advantage of a clover stack some distance off, and beyond the lower extremity of the farming premises from whence we exchanged several shots (During the time we were engaged with the enemy across the garden a party of their force had made an attack on the gates round the corner of the Chateau, but were repulsed, our comrades still maintaining possession of the same). My comrade now from his position by the stack, apprized me of the enemy's advances to renew the attack, and supposing ourselves shut out from the Farm, we were for a moment or two quite at a loss how to act, but on turning my eyes towards the lower gates I saw that they were open, and at the same time apprizing my comrade of so favourable an opportunity, we hastened towards that way, and before entering the Farm yard, saw several of the wounded of our company making for the rear, amongst whom I distinguished Lieutenant-Colonel Dashwood and Capt. Evelyn of the same Company, who were also wounded.

On entering the court-yard I saw doors or rather gates were riddled with shot holes, and it was also very wet and dirty; in its entrance lay many dead bodies of the enemy; one I particularly noticed which appeared to have been a French Officer, but they were scarcely distinguishable, being to all appearance as though they had been very much trodden upon, and covered with the mud; on gaining the interior I saw Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonell carrying a large piece of wood or trunk of a tree in his arms, (one of his cheeks marked with blood, his Charger lay bleeding within a short distance) with which he was hastening to secure the gates against the renewed attack of the enemy, which was most vigorously repulsed. I being now told off with others under Lieut. Gough, of the Coldstream Guards, was posted in an upper room of the Chateau, it being situated higher than the surrounding buildings, we annoyed the enemy's skirmishers from the window, which the enemy observing, threw their shells amongst us, and set the building on fire we were defending; our Officer placing himself at the entrances of the apartment would not permit any one to quit his post, until our position became hopeless and too perilous to remain, fully expecting the floor to sink with us every moment, and in our escape several of us were more or less injured.

The enemy's Artillery having forced the upper gates, a party of them rushed in who were as quickly driven back, no one being left inside but a drummer boy without his drum, whom I lodged in a stable or outhouse; many of the wounded of both armies were arranged side by side, having no means of carrying them to a place of greater safety. The upper gates being again made secure, a man (killed in this action of the name of Philpot) and myself were posted under the archway for its defence, the enemy's Artillery still continuing their fire, at length a round shot burst them open; stumps intended for firewood, laying within, were speedily scattered in all directions, the enemy not having succeeded in gaining an entry, the gates were again secured although much shattered. After

this we were posted to defend a breach made in the wall of the building, it being up stairs and above the gateway, the shattered fragments of the wall being mixed up with the bodies of our dead countrymen, who were cut down whilst defending their post; being at this time under the command of Captain Elrington of my own company, I was then posted within a projecting portion of the ruin, on the opposite side of the breach was Sergeant Aston of my company, (the late lamented Quarter Master). We kept a watchful eye upon the enemy whose attack now became less frequent as it was drawing towards the close of the action and the approach of evening; the firing shortly after ceased, and our complete victory being announced in our little garrison, we had a look around and saw the sad havoc the enemy had made of our fortress, the fire unobstructed continued its ravages, and having been unnoticed by us in the eagerness of the conflict, destroyed many of the buildings where, (in the early part of the action) many of the helpless wounded of both armies had been placed for security. On proceeding into a kind of kitchen, the wounded being arranged all around as far as possible from harm's way. (There was a great admixture of different countries) about this time some Belgian soldiers with others who were looking for their wounded or missing comrades, on seeing Frenchmen amongst the rest, began to menace the poor fellows with their bayonets, and would have acted violently towards them had we not have interfered in their behalf. On again going into the yard it being evening, and perceiving a clear glowing fire rising from the ruins of a stable or some other out-house, I took the opportunity of cooking the remaining portion of pork which I had stored away in my haversack as before stated, and after having placed it upon the fire and quietly awaited its being cooked, discovered that the glow of fire arose from the half consumed body of some party who had fallen in the contest; my meat which was unsavoury in the morning, became much more so by its re-dressing. Having now found a little veal (in a cooking pot hanging over a small fire) smothered with dust and fragments of the broken ruins, but sufficiently cooked, I most gladly partook of it. I having no recollection of our having any other refreshment either on that or the previous day, with the exception of our ration of liquor whilst in the clover field, and a small quantity of bread we found at Quatre-Bras amongst the slain.

The evening now closing upon us, we were ordered to take a supply of fuel and to proceed up the hill in the rear of the farm; agreeably to our instructions, myself with a man named Brooker (who was nearly blinded by an explosion of Gunpowder) proceeded together in the direction we were ordered, and on arriving at a bank, being heavily loaded and nearly exhausted, we had very great difficulty in passing over it, on proceeding some short distance further, found our company, and were in time to answer to our names at the evening Roll Call.

The sound of firing from the Prussians pursuing the retiring enemy now became fainter, and gradually became inaudible as they distanced us. We then lay on the ground in our blankets and had a refreshing night's rest until daylight the following morning, when we were aroused by the accidental discharge of a musket, and in a sitting posture I contemplated for some minutes on the scene before me. Being on a hill, we had an extensive view of the field of action, a just description of which, would baffle the skill of the cleverest writer or most proficient artist. Having now with others, received orders to accompany a Corporal to the burning ruins of Hougomont, which we found to be a more complete picture of destruction than we could have anticipated; (the fire having continued its ravages during the night) here we saw numbers of soldiers of different regiments, all surrounding the only well of water known to us on the premises, eagerly striving to obtain a drink of it, which had by this time become a mere puddle, and seeing no chance of obtaining any, we separated in the yard. I proceeded up the yard, where on a heap of ruins lay the body of a comrade of the Coldstreams, from whose mess-tin I took some biscuit; and turning to my left, entered the large garden, where I partook of some unripe fruit from a tree by the wall; on proceeding up the shaded avenue or garden walk, by the dead body of a Frenchman, I found a small portion of butter in a single stick basket, which having partaken off, with my biscuit, and being refreshed, returned again to the yard, and on my way was met by a large pig, from the same direction, there immediately appeared in pursuit several English soldiers of different regiments, one of whom fired his musket and shot the pig whilst passing me, and each one in pursuit claimed a share, which I left them to decide.

Having again joined the remainder of my party, we proceeded up the wood some distance, which was thickly strewn with the bodies of the slain, many of our comrades being of the number. The heaps of the enemy's slain laying about the exterior of the farm, showing the deadly effect of our fire from within, and on passing near to the site of the circular stack, as stated before. I found that it had been totally destroyed by the enemy's fire, and also that many of our comrades had fallen near the spot, and apparently entire, but on touching them, found them completely dried up by the heat. On passing down by the side of the garden we first entered, amongst the numerous bodies of the slain, was a wounded Frenchman in a sitting posture, (having no doubt fallen on the spot the previous evening) being unable to rise, we offered him our assistance, which he refused, and leaving him to his fate, we returned (*On the way to our bivouac on the hill we saw a party of English soldiers collecting the wounded commanded by their Officers, compelling some of the inhabitants (who appeared to be in search of plunder) to assist in carrying the sufferers in blankets, which were easily obtained from the knapsacks of the slain.*) Up the hill to our company and soon equipped ourselves, and marching down the hill, we passed by a numerous group of our wounded, who had been placed together in a circular space for the convenience of medical attendance and conveyance to hospital; we then proceeded on our march, and having arrived at a small grass field in sight of Nivelles, we halted for the night, and bivouaced in the same, near to which was a rivulet in which we cleansed ourselves from our uncomfortable state, caused by excessive perspiration; marching through the clouds of dust bespattered with dirt, laying on the wet ground by night, biting off the ends of cartridges, and being for many hours warmly engaged amongst spreading burning fragments of destruction in the Chateau of Hougomont. Now came the time for the distribution of rations, camp kettles all in requisition, and a general cooking along the hedge-rows, the issue of rations liquor, and buzz of congratulating interchange taking place with men of different companies with their townsmen and old acquaintances, sitting or reclining on the ground, each listening to the narrative of his comrade, having been separated from each other during the contest. Had any of our enquiring friends in England been present in this sad field in which was our bivouac, they would have listened with the deepest interest to the tales that were told on the night of the 19th of June, 1815.

1st Battalion Coldstream Guards



Regimental Colour



Officer's Cap Badge

The Colours of the Coldstream Guards conform to the usual custom in the Brigade of Guards, all the Battle Honours being emblazoned on each colour, while a Regimental Colour bears the Company Badge in the centre. The Badge shown is that of No 21 Company. The regiment was formed in 1650 from Fenwick's and Hesilrige's Regiments of Foot, and Monck was its first Colonel. When the Restoration was accomplished, the regiment was at Coldstream, and marched to London, hence the name "Coldstreamers" (*never* "Coldstreams").

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2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards



King's Colour



Cap Badge

The Badge of the Coldstream Guards is the Star of the Order of the Garter, the premier British Order of Knighthood. The King's Colour of the 2nd Battalion is different from those borne by the other two battalions (see [3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards](#)). While the Grenadiers were known as the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, the scornful motto of the Coldstreamers, "Nulli Secundus" (Second to None) was the result of the implication that they were the 2nd Regiment of

Guards. The regiment marches past to "Milanello", and air it shares with no other regiment of the British Army.

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3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards



King's Colour



Cap Badge

The King's Colour of the 3rd Battalion is similar to that borne of the 1st Battalion, except that the Union Flag appears in the corner, and with the "pile wavy" differences it, for the 1st Battalion has no Jack or pile, while the 2nd Battalion has the Jack and also has a different central device (see [2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards](#)). The buttons on the Coldstreamers coats are placed in pairs, the plume of the bearskin is red, and the band of the forage cap is white. As shown on this page, the Cap

Badges of the Officers, W.O.s and other ranks are different.

COLOURS AND CUSTOMS OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

Since earliest times, man has fought behind recognizable signs and symbols in order to have a mark distinguishing his own side and to have a rallying point during the melee of battle. These early symbols were often brightly coloured and thus became known as "Colours". The size and design of "Colours" has changed much over the years. However the design used today throughout Britain dates from 1868. A Regiment's Colours are no longer carried into battle (the last time this occurred was in South Africa in 1881). Today, the Colours represent the spirit and history of a Regiment and display the Battle Honours to which it is entitled. They act as a potent focus for the loyalty and pride of past and present members of the Regiment.



The State Colours

King William IV is thought to have presented the Regiment with The State Colours of the Coldstream Guards. They are carried by Guards of Honour (not formed from the Queen's Guard) mounted on Her Majesty The Queen on State occasions. The State Colours are kept at Regimental Headquarters in London.

The First State Colour, which is crimson, bears the Order of The Garter and has a Sphinx in each corner. In the centre, underneath the Garter Star, on a blue scroll, is the word "Egypt". The Battle Honours of Lincelles, Talavera, Barrosa, Peninsula and Waterloo are also shown.



The Second State Colour is similar. However, the word "Egypt" is not in blue and there are three additional Battle Honours: Alma, Inkerman and Sevastopol.

Battalion Colours Battalions have two Colours. They are known as The Royal, or First (usually called the Queen's) Colour, and The Second (usually called the Regimental) Colour. The Queen's Colours for both the 1st and 2nd Battalions have a crimson background and bear the star of the Order of the Garter in the centre with the Imperial Crown above. The 2nd Battalion Colour has a small Union Flag in the upper left corner. 47 Battle Honours are arranged in vertical rows on either side of the centre.



The Regimental Colours of both Battalions have as their background the Union Flag. In the centre is one of 24 Company Badges ensigned with the Imperial Crown (these Badges are borne in rotation. Again, both bear the Sphinx in base with the word "Egypt" superscribed. A further 47 Battle Honours are arranged in vertical rows on either side of the central Company Badge. In the upper left corner, next to the pike is the Battalion's number in Roman numerals. Each Regimental Colour has a different Company Badge in its centre.

Each Company in the Regiment has its own Company Colour. These are small Union flags with the respective badges and numbers of the various companies. They do not carry Battle Honours or other honorary distinctions.

Customs

Over the centuries, a number of Customs, or traditions, have developed within the Regiment. Often mystifying to outsiders (and to young officers!), the origins of many of these Customs can be traced directly to events in the past; the causes of others are obscured by the passage of time. A number of the better-known Customs are shown below.

- Members of the Coldstream Guards are known as "Coldstreamers" and never as "Coldstream".
- The Regiment should either be called the "Coldstream Guards" or "The Coldstream" and never the "Coldstreams".
- The Regiment's formal title is: Her Majesty's Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards.
- Never say "leave" when you mean "permission".
- During a roll call answer "Here" if the person calling the roll is a Sergeant or below. Answer "Here, Sir" if he is above that rank.
- The Regimental Sergeant Major is always referred to as "Sergeant Major" and never as "RSM".
- The nickname of the Coldstream Guards is the "Lilywhites".
- Officers below the rank of Captain are referred to as "Mr"; Captains and above are referred to by their rank.
- The emblem of the Regiment worn in head-dress is called a "Cap Star" and never a "Cap Badge".
- Members of the Corps of Drums are known as "Drummers".
- Drummers "sound" bugle calls, they do not "blow" them.
- The Regiment celebrates St George's Day, the 23rd April.
- Coldstreamers always parade 5 minutes before the stated start time of any parade.
- Coldstreamers stand still on the following occasions:
 - When the Point of War is sounded.
 - At Last Post
 - During the playing of the National Anthem.
 - Coldstreamers do not recognise "retreat".

Numbering of Companies

Companies in the 1st Battalion are numbered, 1, 2, 3, 4(Support) and Headquarter Company. The staff of Regimental Headquarters and the Regimental Band constitute No 15 Company. Coldstreamers at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and at the Army Training Regiment Pirbright constitute No 13 Company and Coldstreamers at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick constitute No 14 Company.

Definitions

The Guards Division comprises the five Regiments of Foot Guards.

The Household Division comprises the Guards Division plus the two Regiments of Household Cavalry (the Household Cavalry Regiment and the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment).

The rank of Lance Sergeant was granted by HM Queen Victoria to allow Lance Corporals to wear two chevrons, as only one chevron offended Her Majesty when seen on parade.

The designation "Guardsmen" instead of "Private" was granted by HM King George V on November 22nd 1918 in recognition of the services of the Brigade of Guards in the Great War (1914 - 1918).

The Regiment holds a memorial service on the first Sunday in May each year when Coldstreamers Past and Present remember those Coldstreamers who have fallen in war or conflict. The Day is generally called "Black Sunday". A service is held in the Guards Chapel followed by a march of past and present Coldstreamers to the Guards Memorial at Horse Guards where the Colonel of the Regiment lays a wreath.

Uniform

The Bearskin Cap, which formerly was worn only by the Grenadier Company of each battalion in the army, was made the Full Head-dress of the Regiment in 1831. The red plume (eagle's feathers for Officers, cock" feathers for Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs and horse hair for Other Ranks) is worn on the right side and was instituted at about the same time, but for reasons now obscure.

The Forage Cap.The brass piping on the peak of the Forage Cap represents rank, with one band for Guardsmen and Lance Corporals, two for Lance Sergeants and three for Sergeants and Colour Sergeants. Warrant Officers wear gold braid instead of brass. The reason for the white band is obscure but is of much older date than the red plume.

The Cap Star is an eight-pointed star of the Order of the Garter. In the centre is the cross of St George surrounded by the words "Honi soit qui mal y pense", which translated means "Evil be to he who evil thinks".

Buttons are worn in pairs, in denotion of our place as second senior Regiment in the Foot Guards.

The Rose is worn on the collar of the tunic by all ranks below Officers. Its origins are obscure, but it is probably the rose from the collar of the Order of the Garter, as the Regiment was early associated with this Order.

The shoulder title, "Coldstream Guards", is worn at the top of the sleeve in No 2 dress

Victoria Crosses held by the Coldstream Guards

Rank	First Name	Last Name	Coldstream Guards RHQ
Sergeant	Oliver	<u>BROOKS</u>	3rd Bn, Coldstream Guards
Brigadier General	John Vaughan	<u>CAMPBELL</u>	3rd Bn, Coldstream Guards
Lieutenant Colonel	John Augustus	<u>CONOLLY</u>	49th Regiment (Royal Berkshire Regiment)
Lance Corporal	Frederick William	<u>DOBSON</u>	2nd Bn, Coldstream Guards
Captain	Cyril Hubert	<u>FRISBY</u>	1st Bn, Coldstream Guards
Lieutenant General	Gerald Littlehales	<u>GOODLAKE</u>	Coldstream Guards
Lance Corporal	Thomas Norman	<u>JACKSON</u>	1st Bn, Coldstream Guards
Captain	Ian Oswald	<u>LIDDELL</u>	5th Bn, Coldstream Guards
Private	William	<u>STANLACK</u>	Coldstream Guards
Private	George	<u>STRONG</u>	Coldstream Guards
Private	Thomas	<u>WHITHAM</u>	1st Bn, Coldstream Guards - Towneley Hall Museum
Co Sergeant Major	Peter Harold	<u>WRIGHT</u>	3rd Bn, Coldstream Guards - not publicly held
Lance Sergeant	George Harry	<u>WYATT</u>	3rd Bn, Coldstream Guards - not publicly held