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Uniforms of the Royal Marine Artillery

By Carl Franklin

Key to Plate 1 – Other Ranks of Royal Marine Artillery, circa 1813

(Facing)

1. Front view, marching order
2. Marine fatigue hat
3. Grenadier, Round Hat
4. Round hat, left side
5. Marine Artillery fatigue hat
6. Rear view, marching order
7. Early cartridge pouch badge
8. Musket lock Picker and brush
9. Gunner in Fatigue dress
10. Gunner, marching order
11. Gunner, Parade order
12. Cross belt plate
13. India Pattern sea musket
14. Other ranks Tunic, front view
15. Pistol Igniter for rockets
16. Other ranks pewter button
17. Other ranks, Laced buttonhole
18. Royal Marine regimental lace
19. Other ranks jacket, rear view
20. 32-pr-carcass rocket

Key to Plate 2 - Officers and Senior NCOs of Royal Marine Artillery,

(Back Cover)

1. Un-laced short jacket
2. Bicorn
3. Gilt button
4. Round hat
5. SNCO kit in marching order
6. Officer in parade order
7. Officer in campaign dress
8. Officer in dress order
9. Senior NCO in Dress order
10. Belt plate of a royal regiment
11. Spontoon
12. Front of dress coat
13. Tails of dress coat
14. Dress braid
15. Officers rank epaulettes
16. Senior NCO rank chevrons
17. Senior NCO sash
18. Officers sash
19. Officers gorget
20. Officers un-laced buttonhole
21. Officers undress coat
22. Marine Officers Belt Plate

Introduction

The Royal Navy had been using Congreve rockets since 1805, particularly for the bombardment of targets from the sea and the Royal Marine Artillery, as the naval ordnance experts had been much involved with these operations. In 1812, the Admiralty, jointly with the Board of Ordnance, arranged to form a rocket service establishment for shore operations with detachments of the Royal Marine Artillery. A temporary school for rocket instruction and practice under Congreve's personal supervision was established at Woolwich in 1813 and all personnel employed on rocket duties were trained there until the formation of the Naval Gunnery Establishment at HMS *Excellent*.

To start the special training, Lieutenants GE Baldchild and JA Stevens, were to proceed to Woolwich with 50 NCOs and gunners RMA "for six weeks instruction in the Rocket Equipment under Colonel Congreve" They were followed in March, by a second detachment from Chatham, under the Acting Adjutant at headquarters Lieutenant R Gilbert, who had volunteered to join the rocket service. Lieutenant Baldchild's party completed their training in March, where upon they were ordered for the operations in Chesapeake Bay. The Rocket Company was made up of 2 subalterns, 8 NCOs and 40 gunners. The officers were 1st Lieutenants GE Baldchild and John H Stevens. They joined the fleet and sailed on April 7th 1813. In April a third detachment from Chatham took the place of these at Woolwich under Lieutenant Beauchant RMA " to learn the rocket service". A small detachment of RMA under the command of Lt. Robert Gilbert RMA was attached to the Rocket Troop serving with the Swedish army and was present at the Battle of Leipzig.

According to the manning returns of June, 1813 the strength of the Marine Artillery included:

"On Rocket service with Royal Marine Battalions; 2 First Lieutenants, 3 Sergeants, 1 Corporal, 4 Bombardiers and 41 gunners. On Rocket Service in Sicily; 1 Captain, 1 First-Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 20 gunners. On Rocket Service in the Baltic; 1 First-Lieutenant, 1 Corporal, 2 Bombardiers and 25 Gunners. Training at Woolwich 8 NCOs."

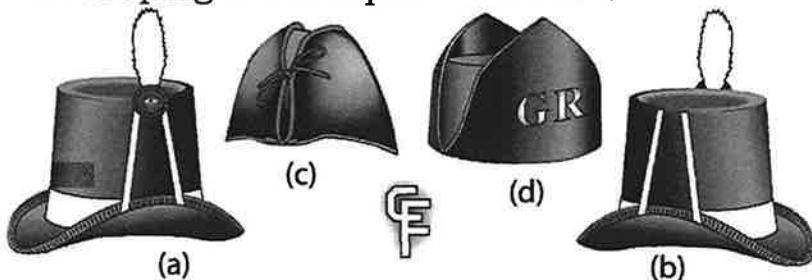
Prior to 1816 the Royal Marine Artillery wore the same uniform as the Royal Marines and there is little to suggest in what manner the men who manned and used rockets were actually dressed or equipped during the Napoleonic period.



Uniforms of the other ranks of the Royal Marine Artillery

Hats

The hat, made of tarred leather or lacquered felt, was a black "round hat" about seven inches tall. The crown tapered to the top with a white band at the base. The hat had a broad curved brim, edged with tape and supported at each side by two looping to the top of the crown.



The Marine round hat. Left side view (a) and right side (b). The standard Marine fatigue cap (c) similar to that of line infantry and the Marine Artillery fatigue hat (d) of the style associated with gunners.

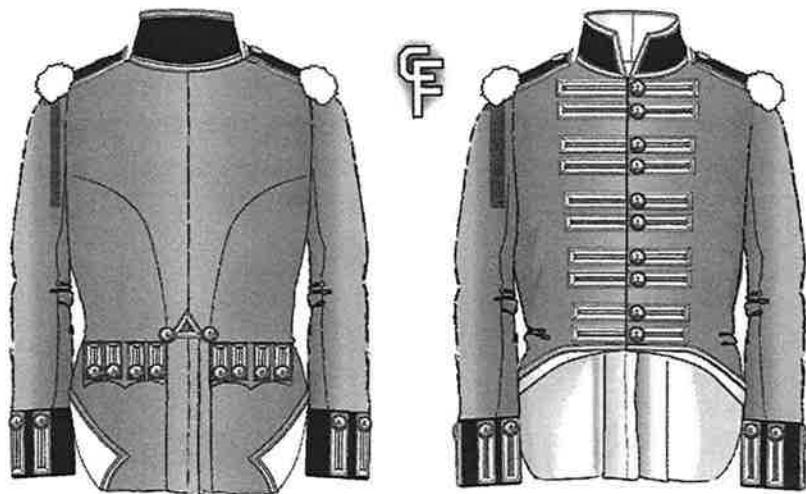
At the top, on the left side, was a short white plume with a black cockade at the base with a small regimental button at the centre. Company distinctions were indicated by the colour of the tape on the brim of the hat, the plume and the loopings. Grenadier companies wore black braid to the brim, white loopings and a white plume. Battalion companies had white brim, black loopings and white over red plume. There is no record of what distinctions were allocated to the Marine Artillery but as an elite group they probably adopted grenadier distinctions. The fatigue hat adopted by the RMA was after the style worn by the Royal Artillery and not the more usual form usually attributed to the marines. It was described by an officer of the time as being of; "*pork pie shape with a flap at the back and front having a brass GR on the front flap*".

Other ranks jacket

Other ranks wore the short-skirted jacket, of a royal regiment – red with royal blue (very dark blue) facings. The regimental distinctions were square ended lace loops, grouped in pairs and the regimental lace for the rank and file was white woven worsted braid with a blue and a red line, the blue line always being worn to the outside. The jacket was lined with white linen and the front skirts or turn backs were sown back and the white serge edged with one strip of lace.

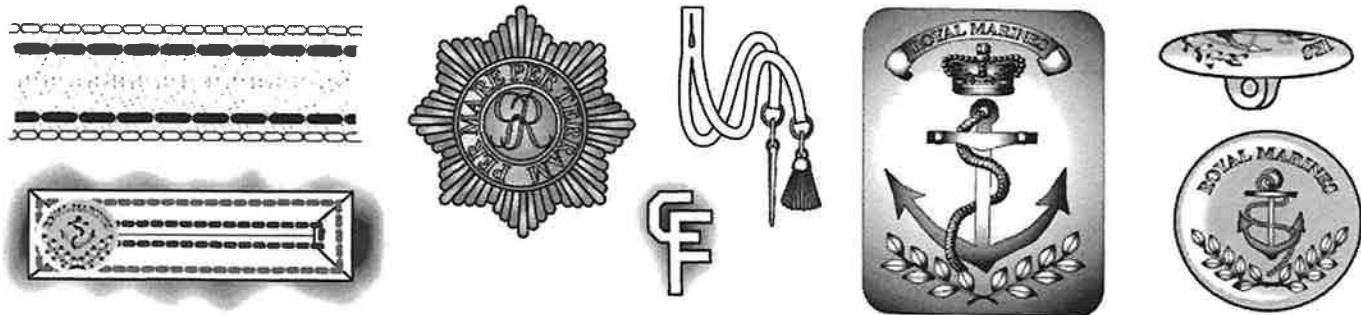
The coat front had ten laced buttonholes, grouped in pairs, four inches long at the neck reducing to some three inches long at the waist. At the rear, the pocket flaps were horizontal, as for battalion and grenadier companies, with four buttoned lace loops set in pairs. A triangle of lace, with a large button at

each end, was sewn on the back of the jacket at waist height, just above the vent of the skirts.



The dark blue collar was some three inches tall and lined about with lace, under the collar was worn a black leather stock. The blue shoulder straps were edged about with lace and had a white woollen crest or roll where they were sewn to the shoulder of the jacket and pointed at the other where they were secured, close to the collar by a small button.

The cuffs were dark blue and some three and one half inches deep, each carried four-buttoned lace loops grouped in pairs, with the front pair astride the front seam. Rank badges were worn on the right arm as in the army regulations. Junior NCOs wore worsted chevrons of regimental lace on a blue ground, Corporals; two and Lance Corporals; one.



Marine cartridge pouch badge, regimental braid, belt plates, buttons and picker and brush to clean the musket lock.

Buttons

The flat pewter buttons carried a relief design with the words "ROYAL MARINES" over a fouled anchor under which were two laurel sprays. There were eighteen large buttons; four on the each pocket and cuff and two at the rear waist. The ten on the front of the jacket and the two on the shoulder straps were smaller, some 0.7 inches in diameter.

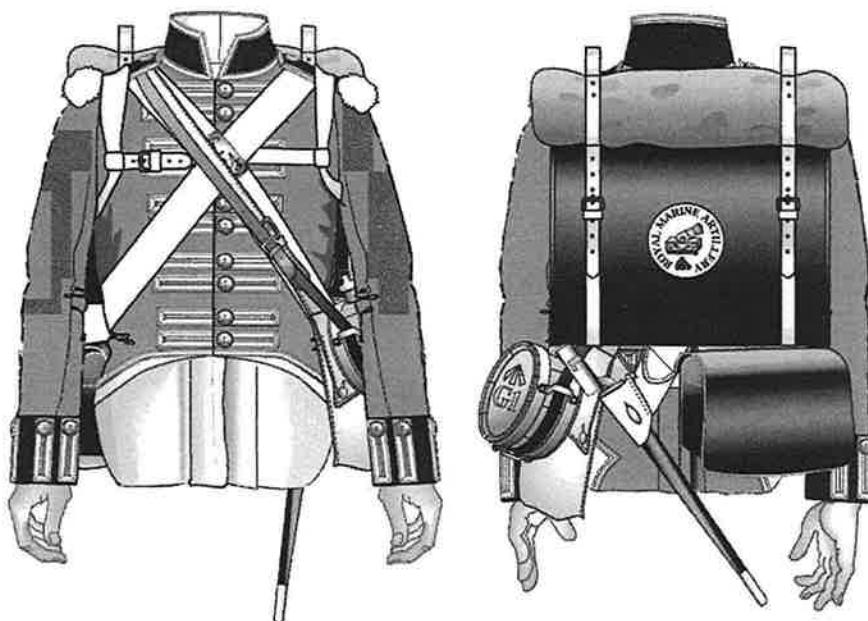


Belt Plate

The cross belt carried a white metal, breastplate. That for the Royal Marines bore a fouled anchor surmounted by the royal crown under a scroll bearing the words "ROYAL MARINES" and two laurel sprays below, a similar design as the buttons but other variant are recorded. It is not known what plate was worn by the RMA

Breeches, Trousers and Boots

For dress and ceremonial occasions breeches, gaiters and boots were worn. On other occasions linen trousers, these were initially white but in December of 1808 they were ordered to be "fast blue" rather than grey. They were later changed to mixed cloth (grey) trousers and gaiters in December 1814, as for line infantry.



Marine marching order circa 1813, with 60 round cartridge pouch, Trotter knapsack and blanket, Bayonet, water bottle and knapsack; the standard accoutrements of the period.

Fatigue Jacket

Orders of 14th June, 1805, gave leave for the private purchase of blue fatigue jackets with red collar and cuffs and the wearing of such clothing in lieu of the red undress jacket furnished to all marines, but an Admiralty ruling in 1807 forbade its wear when on board ship. In 1812 the Admiralty assented to officers of RMA wearing the "blue undress jacket and a caps" when employed on artillery service. It is recorded that some of the detachments in the war of 1812 had blue jackets, grey trousers and half gaiters issued but the date makes it clear that these were reinforcements for the artillery rather than the troops engaged in rocket duties. The author has failed to find any further description or illustration of the special fatigue jacket adopted by the RMA.

Breeches

By 1810 breeches were usually only worn for dress occasions. They were made of a similar material to the coats and fitted to come well up over the hips and below the knees to the calf. At the bottom, each leg had a small regimental button and tapes to secure it to the leg and prevent it riding up, a further small button at the rear to support the woollen gaiters. To cover the open fly the breeches were fitted with a flap front that buttoned at the waist. They usually had a pocket at the right side sometimes on each side. Adjustment to the waist was by tapes at the rear and when worn under a jacket, suspenders of linen or light canvas supported the breeches.



Standard issue knee length breeches and the black gaiters worn by other ranks for dress. Officers would have worn knee boots or in dress white silk stockings. The straight lasted boots of the other ranks.

Gaiters

With the breeches, non-cavalry other ranks wore black woollen gaiters buttoned up to the kneecap and held up by a button at the back of the knee of the breeches. They were strapped under the shoe and buttoned on the outer side with small equally spaced white metal buttons. Officers attending levees, balls and the dining room in breeches wore white silk stockings.

Footwear

Each man was supposed to have two pairs of boots but the boots of the time were generally badly made and survived for only a short time. Most shoes and boots of the period were made on straight lasts and were supposed to be worn on the opposite foot each day, a practice generally ignored. For dress, shoes with gilt or gold buckles were often worn, particularly when wearing stockings.



Trousers and Overalls

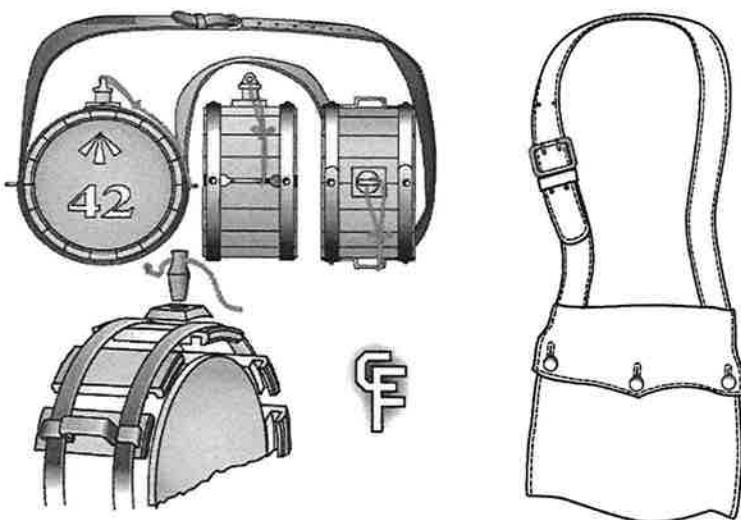
For campaign, working duties and fatigues white or grey trousers were usually worn. Originally they had a buttoned fly up each side to make it easier to put them on. Later they were worn in their own right as trousers and the buttoned side fly was abandoned. Linen trousers were initially white but in December of 1808 the marines were ordered to be "fast blue" rather than grey and later changed to the style of the infantry, mixed cloth (grey) trousers and gaiters in 1814. Short, grey, gaiters were worn under the trousers and strapped under the instep of the boots. The trousers were fitted with the same front flap fly as the breeches and they were supported in the same manner.

RMA Accoutrements

Accoutrements were army style and it is assumed that the rocket detachments, under the patronage of Congreve, The Comptroller of the Royal Laboratory, may have had the opportunity to equip themselves with the most suitable.

Haversack

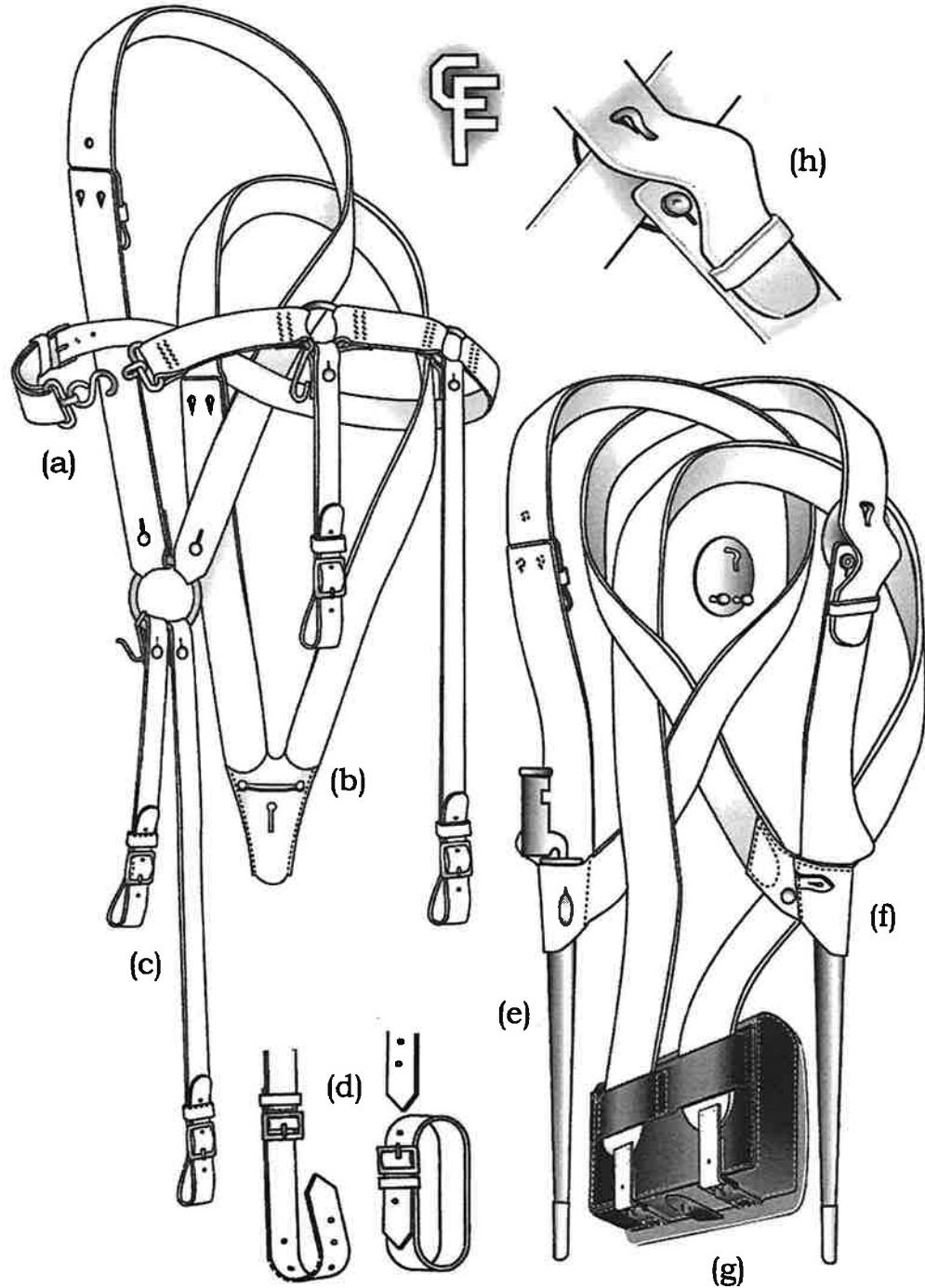
Designed to carry three days of rations it was made of light canvas or course, un-bleached linen. It was worn on a two-inch strap of the same material and secured by a buckle and runner. The flap was fastened with buttons and the exact style varied from maker to maker. The colour seems to have varied between fawns to off-whites.



Water Bottle

The standard water bottle was a flat, wooden barrel about four inches deep and seven inches in diameter. Around the outside were two metal bands that also carried the staples for the strap. The cork was secured by a cord or fine chain. Usually painted pale blue it was often marked with the ordnance arrow and often some other unit identifying details. It was carried on a brown

leather strap, one inch wide and sixty inches long, secured by a buckle and runner. The bottle weighed some three pounds when full.



Belts. The waist belt (a), the cross belt and frog (b), the cross belt with sword slings (c) and the different ways of attaching the sword to the slings (d). The front view of the bayonet belt (e) with rear view (f) showing the flap and button. The cartridge pouch and strap (g) and the method of securing the cross straps behind the belt plate (h).



Sword Cross Belt

Non-cavalry officers and Senior NCOs usually wore the sword on a two piece cross belt worn over the right shoulder. The sword was carried in a frog to which it was secured by a stud on the scabbard. The belt was made of white buff (buffalo) leather some two inches wide and consisted of a short, seventeen inch, front strap and a long, forty-six inch, rear strap. Normally the two belt straps were clipped together by the studs and hook on the rear of the cross belt. An alternative belt often adopted was similar but, instead of a frog for the sword, the belt had a large metal ring with a hook to wear the sword up and two sword slings to wear the sword down or when in the saddle. The front sling was one inch wide and some eleven inches long; the rear sling was some thirty-six inches long. The method of attaching the scabbard varied. Some patterns had the sling terminating in a buckle and strap in the manner of a harness billet, the strap passed through the rings of the scabbard and back through the buckle of the sling. Another style had the sling as a plain strap. A separate, seven inch, strap and buckle was attached through the sword ring and both the strap and sword sling passed through the buckle.

Sword Waist Belt

The standard issue of the period was made from three straps of white buff (buffalo) leather; some one and a half inches wide, joined together by two rings. It had a brass snake clasp buckle and a buckle and runner on the right side to adjust the length. The first section was some ten inches long; the second, which connected the two rings, some nine inches and the third some sixteen inches plus the adjustment. A sword sling, one inch wide, was suspended from each ring; the front sling was some eleven inches long and the rear about thirty-six inches. The slings were attached to the scabbard in the same manner described above. The belt carried an extra ring and three additional straps were suspended from the rings of the belt to carry the Sabretache.

Bayonet Belt

The bayonet belt was made of white buff (buffalo) leather some two inches wide. The cross belt consisted of a short, seventeen inch, front and a long, forty-six inch, rear strap with a bayonet frog with a loop and button at the rear. Normally the two belt straps were clipped together by the studs and hook on the rear of the cross belt plate but military artificer and the early artillery belts were fitted with buckles and runners. When dressing the bayonet belt went over the right shoulder, under the shoulder strap, and fastened by the flap on the rear of the frog, to a waist button on the back of the jacket. The cartridge pouch was put on over the left shoulder. The two belts were then clipped between the plate and strap of the bayonet belt. The flap on the rear of the cartridge pouch was attached to the button on the bayonet belt or the other waist button. In this way the equipment was secured together and to the jacket. When action was expected the cartridge

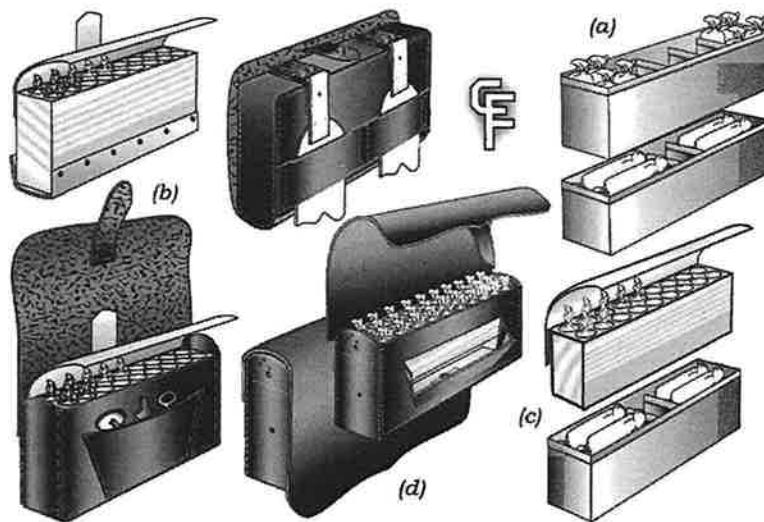
belt was most probably unbuttoned at the rear to allow it to move to a more accessible position on the right hip.

Cartridge Pouch Belt

The cartridge belt was made of white buff (buffalo) leather some two inches wide. It was of one piece with two short, one-inch wide, straps stitched to each end.

Cartridge Pouches

There were many styles of cartridge pouch and some from the 18th Century were still in use. The 32 round, Tin Tray Pouch, was introduced by the 1784 regulations. It carried twenty cartridges in an upper tin tray, divided into five compartments to take four vertical rounds each. Under this was a shallower tray that carried twelve rounds horizontally in two compartments of six rounds each (two across and three high). The cross belt was attached by the small straps at the ends, via a keeper on the rear of the pouch and secured through buckles on the base. The early pouch itself was just over 2 inches thick, 5.5 inches high and 8.5 inches wide, with a large front flap 10 inches wide and 8.5 inches deep. The flap was plain with rounded corners. A front pocket held the turn screw, worm, spare flits and lead patches etc.

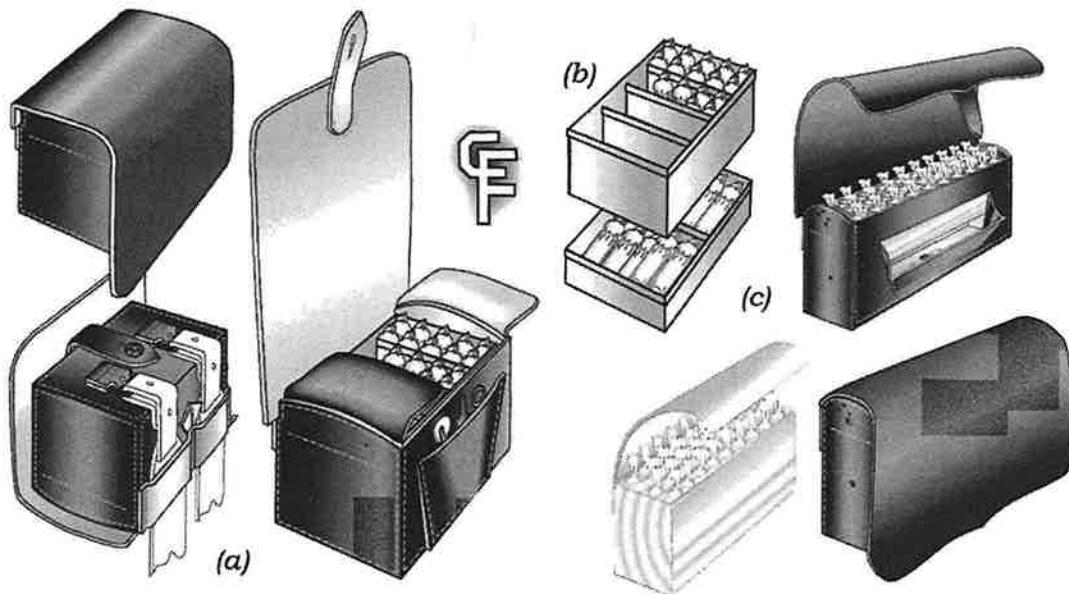


The early cartridge pouches. The 32 round, tin tray pouch (a), the reversible block pouch (b), The combination pouch (c and d).

The tin tray pouch was replaced in the 1798 regulations by the reversible block pouch of very similar size. This had a wooden block with eighteen holes (two rows of nine) drilled down from the top and up from the bottom. A leather flap was folded over the bottom layer and protruded above the block. When the top cartridges were expended the flap was used to pull out and reverse the block, giving access to the bottom cartridges. It seems this pouch was not a great success and many units reverted to a half the wooden block, with eighteen or so cartridges and an old metal tray underneath for the remainder.



The 1808 regulations introduced the 60 round pouches that carried the cartridges in tin trays. When full it weighed some seven pounds and it is doubtful if the units employed in rocket duties used such a heavy item.



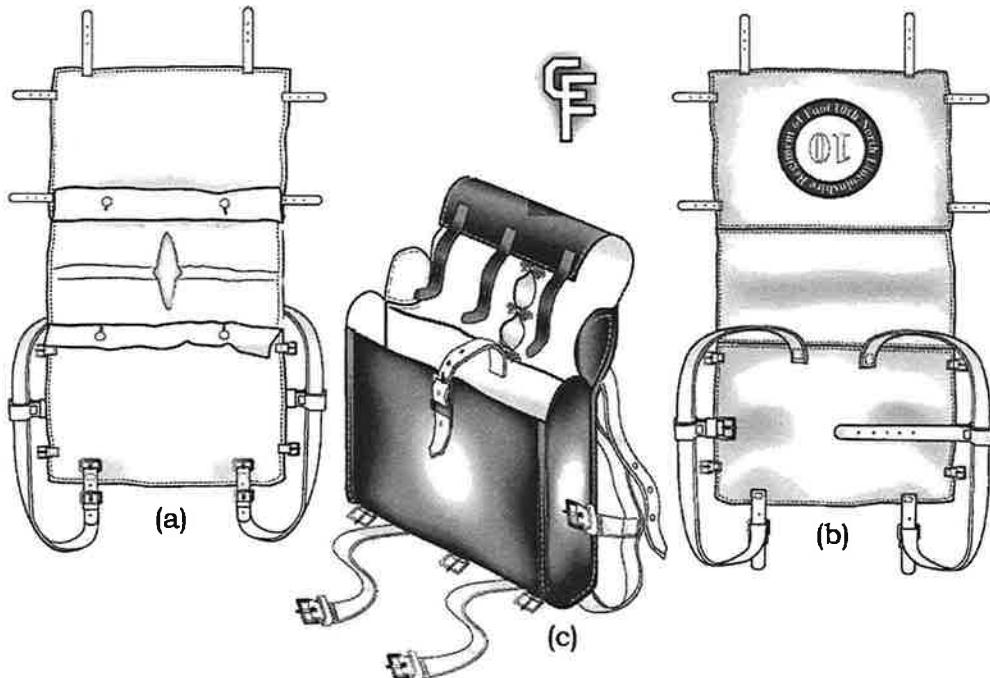
The 60 round ammunition pouch. The method by which the pouch was attached to the cross belt (a), the tin trays for the 60 rounds (b) and a possible alternative, but lighter, 30 round pouch.

There were several interim versions and one taken from a surviving example, carries 29 cartridges, two rows of ten and a central row of nine, stored in a wooden block retained in the pouch by screws and nails. A gusseted pocket allows access to the space underneath where tools and spare flits were stored. The attachments for the belts are similar to those described above. This pouch was of a similar size but thicker at three inches. The flap had a shaped end.

Knapsacks

The ubiquitous, and unpopular, British pack had been in service for many years. This early issue was made of canvas or coarse linen, the interior had two main pockets with buttoned flaps and a central hollow compartment that usually held shoes and brushes. When folded flat it was some 20 inches wide and 16 inches deep. When packed it was some 18 inches wide, 13 inches deep and 4 inches thick. The outside was painted to make it weatherproof and the rear face was usually embellished with a regimental badge or identity. The straps were white buff leather although versions with brown securing straps are known. Several styles existed many having extra straps. It had no stiffening or rigidity and was usually worn over the cross belts and shoulder straps. The knapsack shoulder straps were secured across the chest by a strap that often accorded acute discomfort to the wearer. Several variations in pattern are known and these are probably due to the different

manufacturers and the modifications applied by the regiments and troops in the field.



There were many versions of the standard envelope pack. This was folded in half and then strapped together. Also the newer Trotter pack with the stiffened sides. Both were painted to make them waterproof.

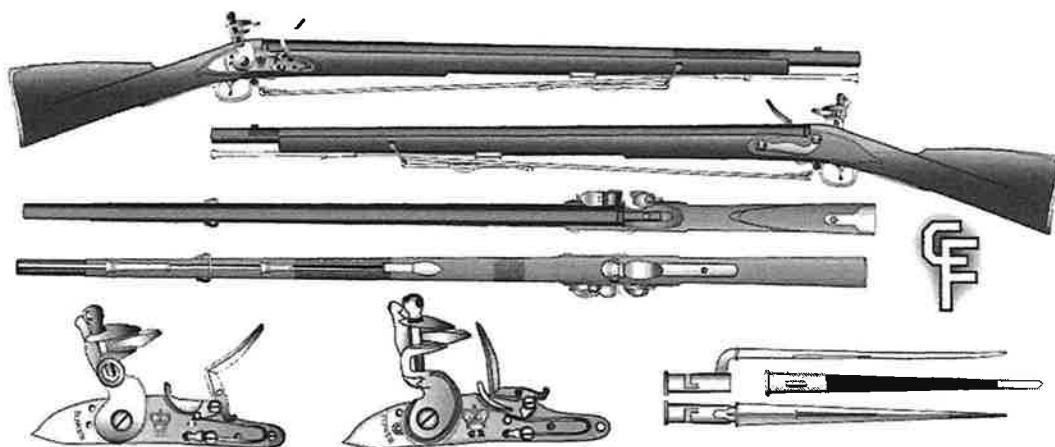
The Trotter knapsack replaced the envelope pack and issue to the service began in 1805, but it took some years before all units were equipped with it. The major difference was that the sides had boards to provide rigidity; there was a space in the flap for the storage of smaller items and a main compartment in the body. While still made of canvas it had leather bindings with button down flaps and extra buckles. The whole pack was painted to make it waterproof, after 1808, generally black, and invariably carried some regimental identifying badge or decoration. The overall size was similar to the earlier model. The initial arrangement of carriage straps was as for the earlier envelope pack but this changed over time as regiments and men modified the packs to suit their own requirements. Several variations in pattern are known and these are also due to the different modifications applied by the regiments and troops in the field.

Greatcoats

Greatcoats were only issued a few per company for the men on sentry at night and other such similar duties. Later they became general issue and each man was provided with one. Initially the marines wore drab with a standing collar and cape but in 1813 they were changed to grey, as line infantry. Senior NCOs often wore cuffs and collars of facing colour.

Musket

The Marine Artillery that served in the War of 1812 were re-equipped before departing to America and may well have carried the later India pattern sea service musket. The sea-service musket of 1780 and its later variants were still in general use when the India Pattern sea service musket began to make its appearance in 1809. The musket had a browned barrel and the usual three pins and the upper swivel screw retained the barrel. Two, barrel shaped, brass pipes retain the steel ramrod with the upper having the rod retaining spring. It was issued with either the swan or ring necked lock. The overall length of the musket was 53 inches. The barrel was 37 inches long and the calibre was 0.78 inches, the sea musket norm rather than the smaller land service calibre. The India pattern triangular bayonet was 4 inches long in the shank and between 16.5 and 17.5 inches long in the straight blade. The scabbard was of black leather with brass fittings.



India pattern Sea Service Musket with browned barrel. Also shown are the India pattern swan and ring neck locks and the India pattern bayonet.

Senior Non-commissioned Officers

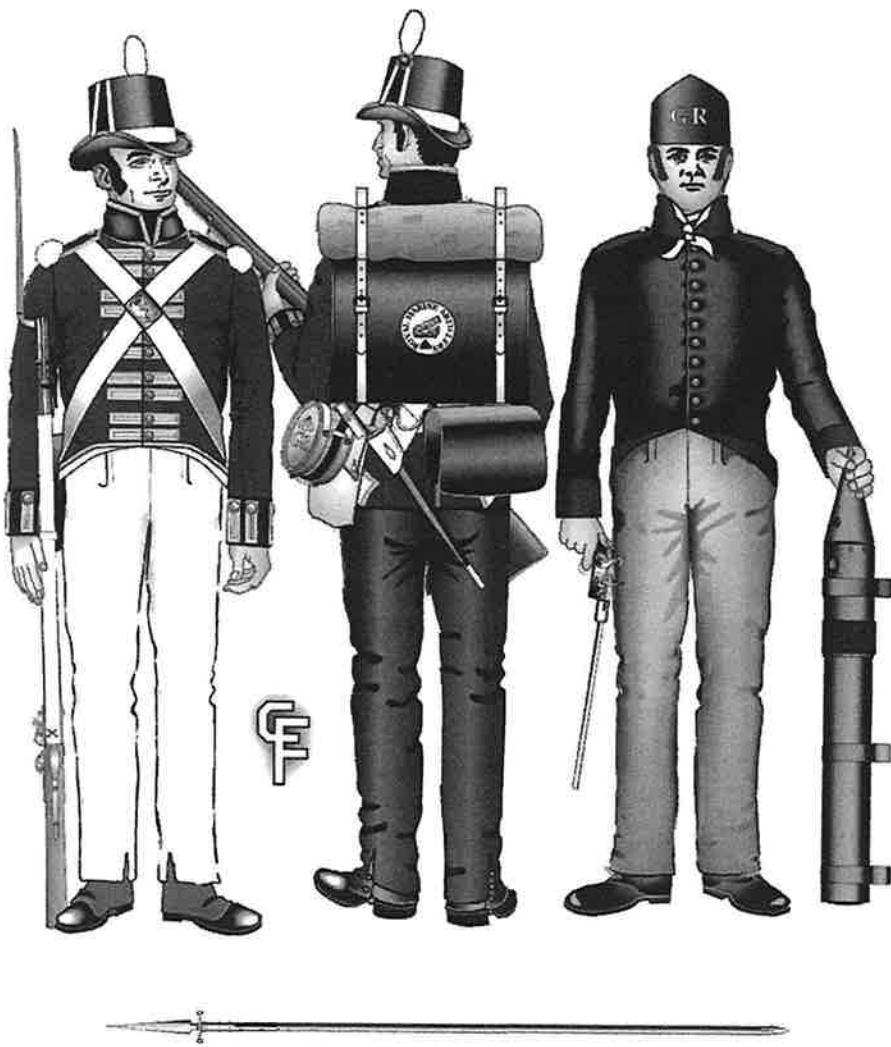
Senior NCOs wore the same uniform as the other ranks but of better quality and cut, the jackets being of scarlet cloth with plain white lace, the most senior often wore a uniform similar to that of the officers. Plain white chevrons on a blue ground were worn on the right arm, Sergeants; three, Sergeant Majors and Staff Sergeants; four. Later the rank of Colour Sergeant was introduced but there is no record of any such among the rocket personnel of the period. Regulations prescribed a crimson worsted sash with a dark blue centre stripe and tied at the right hip. NCOs were armed with the 9 ft. pikes and the NCO version of the 1786 infantry sword carried in a frog of a cross belt worn over the right shoulder. When in full marching order they wore their haversack and water bottle on the right hip to leave access to the sword free.

Pike or Spontoon

The senior non-commissioned officers of marines carried the Spontoon; this had an ash shaft some nine feet long with a steel butt. The steel blade screwed into a ringed socket some 4.5 inches deep securing the crosspiece that prevented the point penetrating too far. The blade was some 12.75 inches long and the cross bar some 5.5 inches wide. Two shaft supports extended down from the socket to give added strength.

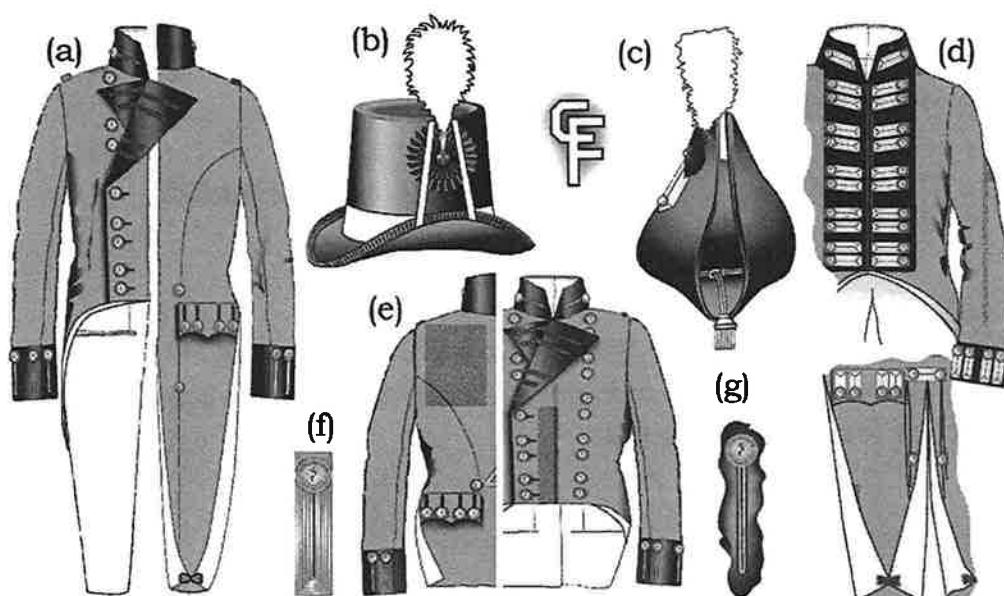


NCO pike with the nine-foot long shaft. NCOs also carried a brass hilted version of the 1796 regulation sword.



Officers Uniforms, Hats

Officers generally wore the un-laced cocked hat or bicorn. It carried a white feather with a black cockade and a central regimental button. A loop of regimental lace was placed at the base of the cockade. Two gold and crimson cords passed around the crown each passing through the loop of the other. The cords terminated in gilt tassels that were allowed to hang from the ends of the hat. Originally the cords passed round the crown to tighten it or to pull in the sides, but later these had become just a decoration. Officers' cocked hats were official withdrawn about 1812 but there is no doubt their use lingered on, especially for court dress and walking out. The officers' round hat, formally approved for wear around 1812, was probably worn before that. It was similar to that of the men but of better quality, made of black beaver or lacquered black felt.



Officers long tailed, undress coat (a), round hat (b), bicorn (c), dress coat with gold lace (d), undress jacket (e), dress braid (f) and undress lace (g).

Officers Dress Coat

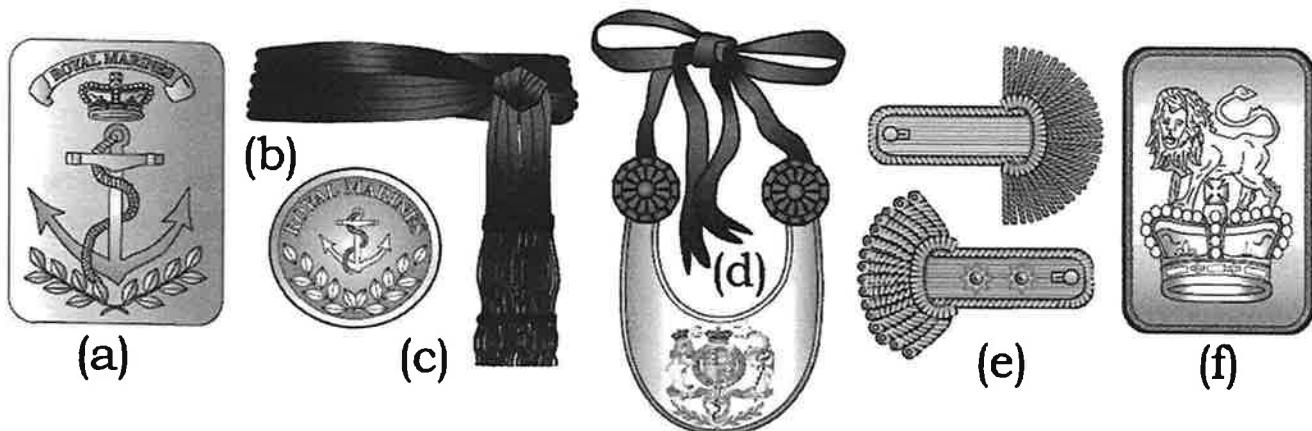
Formal dress for officers of the Royal Marine Artillery dictated the long tailed, double-breasted, scarlet coat with dark blue facings and white turn backs, a design based upon that of the line infantry. The coat buttoned to the waist and was often worn with the top three buttons undone and the facings folded back but by 1812 the long coat was rarely worn in undress. The dress long coat followed the standard form. The lapels could be worn either turned back to reveal the facings and braid, or entirely buttoned across the chest. There were ten gold laced buttonholes, set in pairs, on each lapel, with a further two set at an angle on the collar. The cuff carried four laced buttons, set in pairs, with the front two astride the front seam. The rear of the coat had horizontal pockets with four buttoned loops, set in pairs, pointing upwards, and two loops pointing away from the buttons at the centre back of the

waist. The junction of the white turn backs carried gilt laced knots on a scarlet ground. The pattern of lace was as prescribed by regulations with the horizontal pockets of a battalion or grenadier company. Later it became the fashion for the pockets to be oblique. The turn back decorations were of gilt knots on a red ground. (The term coatee was not officially adopted until after the Napoleonic period).

Less formal dress was either a laced or un-laced jacket of similar style to that of the men but with lapels. The scarlet jacket would be of a similar style to those of officers of line infantry but with the regimental distinctions of the Royal Marines. They followed the standard pattern with ten laced buttonholes, set in pairs, on the double-breasted front. The rear had horizontal pockets with four buttoned loops, set in pairs. At the centre of the waist was the same triangle of lace. This coat was formally authorized for wear in 1812, the same year the Admiralty assented to RMA officers wearing a blue undress jacket and a cap, but it is most probable that version were worn before this. The un-laced version was of the less expensive option often adopted for informal wear. It followed the standard pattern with plain white turn backs. The lace was a simple single loop of blue braid.

Sashes

Officers sash was of crimson silk net and worn around the waist, over the sword belt to restrain it, with the knot at the left side. Originally they were large enough to form a hammock stretcher but later styles were an indication of status and of less practical use.



Officers Gilt belt plate (a), crimson silk waist sash (b), gilt button (c), gorget with ribbon (d), epaulettes for junior and senior officer (e) and alternative plate of a Royal Regiment (f).

Buttons

Officers button were gilt, the pattern similar to that of the men, a relief design with the words "ROYAL MARINES" over a fouled anchor over two laurel sprays which joined beneath



Epaulettes

All senior officers wore two gilt epaulettes with silver badges of rank. Majors wore a star, Lieutenant Colonels; two stars and Colonels; three stars. In 1810, the epaulettes were altered to conform to army practice. Junior officers wore a fringed epaulette on the right shoulder while Captains wore one with a bullion fringe. Senior officers wore two bullion epaulettes, Majors with a star, Lieutenant Colonel; a crown and Colonel; a crown and star.

GORGET

Officers wore the gorget when on duty. The gilt gorget bore the design of the Royal Arms above a shield carrying the fouled anchor. On each side of the shield was a spray of laurel. It was worn on a blue silk ribbon attached to the top buttons or tied around the neck. A note regarding the Royal Arms worn on the officers' gorget records that in 1801, the arms of Hanover, ensigned with the electoral bonnet, borne upon an escutcheon of pretence, were placed over the centre of the shield. In 1814, upon Hanover becoming a kingdom, a crown replaced the electoral bonnet. In 1837, on the accession of Queen Victoria, Hanover, under Salic Law (The German Law excluding women from the throne), became separated from Great Britain; and the rearrangement of the Royal arms, as now existing was introduced. The design shown is that emblazoned on the gorget as worn by the Royal Marines between the years 1804 and 1814.

Belt plates

Belt plates generally were rectangular, gilt, with the royal crest in the centre, although several variants are known, the style of a royal regiment with the crowned lion was ordered in regulations. Several variants are known and the plate may have carried a similar design to the buttons, a fouled anchor surmounted by the royal crown under a scroll bearing the words "ROYAL MARINES" and two laurel sprays below.

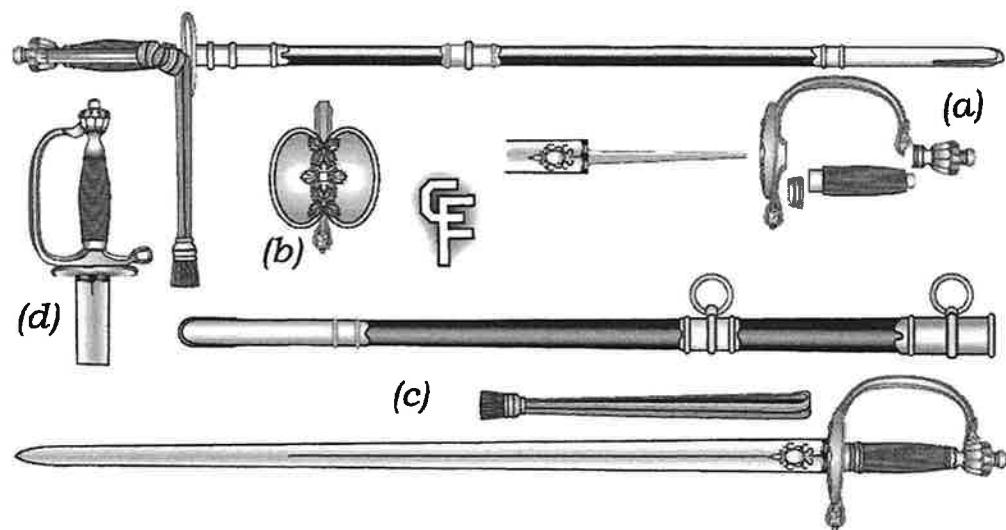
Breeches, Trousers and Boots

White breeches were required for dress, often worn with knee boots, for campaign and undress the officers could wear loose white or fast blue trousers. Later regulations introduced the grey trousers.

Sword

Regulations prescribed that officers carried the 1796 infantry Pattern sword on a white cross belt but other patterns were worn. The hilt consists of gilt brass pommel in the shape of a faceted urn topped with acanthus leaves, silver wire wound grip, gilt knuckle bow to a quillon with acanthus decoration at its finial and twin gilt shells strengthened around the edges and decorated with acanthus leaves under the shells. These were fixed but on some examples the inner shell was hinged to fold up when the sword was sheathed. The straight blade was of flattened diamond section. Most swords of this pattern had straight cut and thrust blades with a single edge and

short false edge. The overall length was 39 inches with the blade some 32.5 inches long and 1.125 inches wide at the shoulder.



Regulation infantry sword for officers. (a), and a view of the hilt (b) one side of which was often hinged, The sword was worn with a gilt and red sword knot (c). The NCO version with brass hilt (d).

It was carried in a black leather scabbard fitted with rings or a frog stud. The weight was 1 lb. 10 oz. and the scabbard weighed 1 lb. The sword knot and tassels were of gilt with a central red line. A similar pattern with a brass, one-piece hilt was issued to Senior NCOs who wore it on the standard cross belt over the right shoulder. They wore a plain white sword knot



Plate 1 - Royal Marine Artillery
Other Ranks - 1813

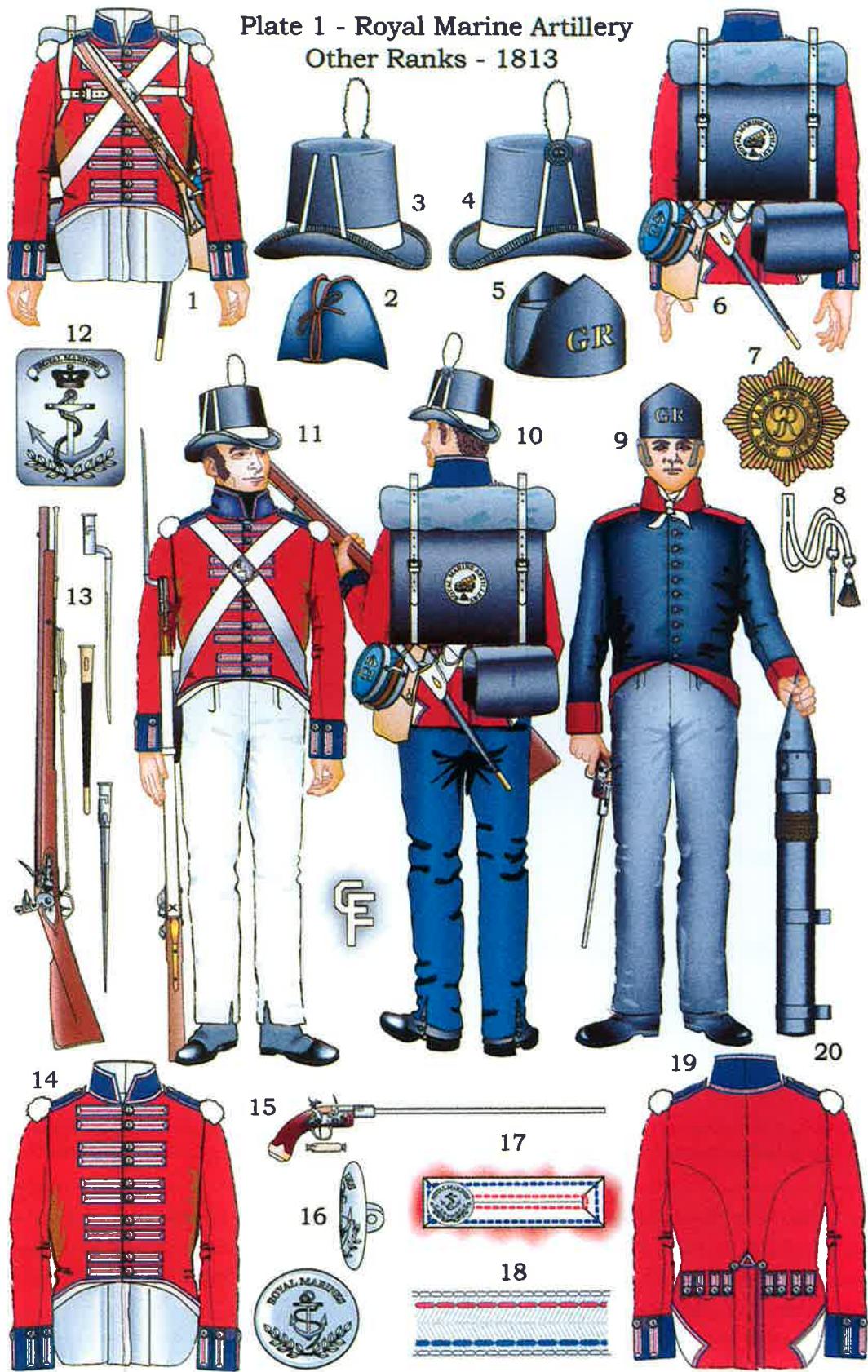


Plate 2 - Royal Marine Artillery
Officers and Senior NCOs - 1813

