



# Quartermaster's List

## Welcome

My interest in the many Small Wars (and a few rather large ones) of Queen Victoria's long reign goes back to my first viewing of "Zulu". Over a span of twenty plus years I put together a video library of every British Colonial movie made, and actually influenced a History professor to have a "British History in Film" class. The next step was reenacting the time period. I had dabbled in WWII but missed the grandeur and flamboyancy of the Victorian era. Funny thing is, I picked the Black Watch

## Why?

Because I enjoy it. It's my escape, my fantasy world. I read Dickens and Conan Doyle, eat meat pies, and pretend to be a British soldier of the 19th century. I am going to try

during the South African War (2nd Boer War), where khaki was worn. I was lucky to pick-up a MLE out of New Zealand and then started on a Black Watch uniform and kit.

I didn't have a lot of success with the few vendors that did carry Victorian items, and decided to give it a try myself. I currently own over 300 printed sources of original photos from just prior to the Crimea to the South African War.

This led to collecting the firearms of the era as

not to bore those of you who already are knowledgeable, but I also want to include some basic information for the newcomer.

I would also like to have



well. At first I couldn't get the resident "experts" to share any knowledge of loading for Martini Henry, but finally found Mike M. and now I proudly shoot both my MHs. -

SD

a guest column in future issues and a question and answer column.

If you are on this mailing list but do not want to subscribe to this newsletter please let me know.

## The Regimental Quartermaster

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### Future issues will include:

- Weapon Review
- Uniform Discussion
- Kit- what is it/ what's it for?
- Period Photographs
- Rations
- Original Items

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# The P53 Enfield Part I

Like many British Victorian Firearms the P53 Enfield is very versatile for reenacting. Technically it is a three band Enfield Rifle-Musket; three bands secure the barrel to the stock and it is the same size as the musket it replaced. It fires a 530 grain Minie bullet (not a ball). The current Enfield fires a 62 grain bullet.

It first saw use in the Crimea and due to the paper cartridge which held the powder and bullet being

lubed with animal fat, helped lead to the Indian Mutiny. The New Zealand Wars (1845-72) were the last time the P53 would see use by British regulars, being replaced with the Enfield Snider with many being converted into the new breech loader.

Outside of the Indian Mutiny and the grease issue the most famous use of the P53 would be by the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. Almost

1,000,000 rifles were exported to the Confederacy. Most were purchased from official Government sources but private sellers and gunrunners were also important sources.

My original P53 is one of the few firearms I own that I have never shot. It could use a new hammer. Originals are easily available as are reproductions. No excuses not to recreate the Thin Red Line.

Next time: Shooting the P53

## Sergeant Hutchins, 78th Highlanders, Montreal, QC, 1868

This photo is one of several fantastic images owned by the McCord Museum in Montreal, Quebec. Many of the photographs are named, and are a great source of information. The 78th (The Ross-shire Buffs) were stationed in Canada from 1867-71. 10,000 people watched as the Regiment received its new colours in 1868. The 78th also spent time at the Citadel in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Sgt. Hutchins is wearing both the 1854 India General Service medal with clasp and the Indian Mutiny Medal 1858 with two clasps. It's interesting to note that he wears the medals with the reverse showing.

He appears to have Regimental numbered buttons, and sergeant's

chevrons on both sleeves of what is probably a doublet. I have blown the photo up and it's hard to tell if his shoulder numerals are embroidered, but I think they are not metal. Note lack of collar badges.

Most interesting is his Glengarry and badge. The badge is similar to a modern clan badge but with "78" in the center. What I have seen in the past referred to a Glengarry badge is actually the feather bonnet badge. The rosette



### Battle Honours

Assaye with Elephant  
Maida  
Java  
Koosh Ab, Persia  
Lucknow  
Afghanistan 1879 - 80

almost looks like it has been starched. I would really like a reproduction of this badge.

The 78th would become the 2nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, in 1881 when it was amalgamated with the 72nd, the Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders.

## The Oliver Waterbottle

I thought I would start with the Oliver Waterbottle because I both have an original and supply a reproduction. Keep in mind a “canteen” is a mess tin, not a bottle for water. My original is good condition, but I believe it lacks the original pewter mouthpiece. My example has a very well-carved wooden replacement.

The mouthpiece does unscrew but only for refilling the bottle. A small wooden plug is inserted into

the top of the mouth piece and this plug is removed when drinking from the bottle.

The plug is secured to the mouthpiece by a waxed string. Luckily, either my bottle has the original plug or a nice replacement.

Probably a period replacement.

I don't know much



about wood but the bottle is very light (unlike the reproduction I offer). The light bands are from where the carriage leather bleached the wood. Unfortunately, the carriage did not survive.

The top plug was removed for drinking and the larger mouthpiece to fill the bottle.

## Photograph: Fusilier 1872

This is one of the few period photographs I have seen showing the complete P71 Valise kit being worn. I believe this is considered “Marching Order” for Home Service. Too bad there wasn't a full rear view.

The handwriting at the bottom incorrectly labels it as “Slade Wallace Equipment” “introduced (?) 1872- at first black pouches “ common (?)” “?” “abstained (?) 1889”.

The Slade Wallace pattern was not adopted until 1888. It is interesting to note the black 1st pattern ammo pouches being mentioned.



There are several interesting tidbits

subject a photo is preferred. Notice

the ammo pouches are worn very close to the clasp. This has lead me to believe that one strap from each pouch is slipped through the brass square rings next to the clasp. This would also help keep the pouch in place.

Also, the folded (rather than rolled) blanket worn above the valise and the canteen (without cover) strap sewn horizontally on the valise. I

of information in the photo that is a huge help to the reenactor. Although many artists do their best to accurately paint or draw their

also like the stuffed haversack and valise, I just wish I could see inside. The expense pouch is worn right below the waistbelt.

# Hardtack

Hardtack, ship's biscuit, pilot bread. British sailor's slang for food "tack". The basic recipe is simple: flour, water and salt.

During the American Civil War both sides were issued hardtack from the 1848 Mexican American War. National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, has a specimen date 1784 in their collections.

*Stegobium paniceum*, a species of beetle, is nicknamed the "Biscuit beetle" due to its taste for hardtack. You can buy ship's biscuits at the Royal Naval museum store in Portsmouth.

A type of hardtack was the staple for nuclear fall-out centers in the U.S. in the 1950s and to this day is hoarded by survivalists.

Alaskans love their Sailor Boy

## Historic Fort Wayne

[\(www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com/\)](http://www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com/)

In 1840, at the point on the Detroit River closest to British Canada, the United States Army began surveying local farms for the placement of new artillery post. A five point star fort was slated to have the most up to date cannon capable of firing on the Canadian shore as well as ships sailing the river.

This new fort was Detroit's third, the first built by the Americans. In 1701, shortly after Cadillac landed, the French began building Fort Detroit, which was surrendered to the British in 1760 during the French and Indian War. The British built a new fort several years later and name it Fort Lernoult, which they

Here is the basic recipe:

- 2 cups of flour
- ½ to ¾ cup water
- 6 pinches of salt

Mix all the ingredients into a dough and press onto a cookie sheet to a thickness of ½ inch.

Bake in a preheated oven at 400°F for half an hour.

Remove from oven, cut dough into 3-inch squares, and punch four rows of holes, four holes per row into the dough (a fork works nicely).

Flip the crackers and return to the oven for another half hour.

DO NOT store them when still hot! Moisture will cause them to get moldy.

Round or square?

From what I gather, in the UK, the biscuits were first square, but later, round. A photo I have seen of a replica biscuit box from the Anglo Zulu War has a round opening which would back-up the round shape. U.S. hardtack was generally square, though. They were also the first biscuit made by machinery in England in 1829.



### Submitting Articles:

Send articles, photos, etc. to:

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occupied until 1796 when the United States took over Detroit and renamed the battlement Fort Shelby.

Following the War of 1812, Fort Shelby fell into disrepair while the threat of a territorial war still loomed with British Canada. As tensions increased along the Northern border defense that includes new forts from the east coast to the Minnesota Territory. The Detroit fort would be named for General Anthony Wayne whose defeat of the British at the Fallen Timbers in 1796 resulted in the United States occupation of the Northwest Territories.

Diplomacy intervened, however, in the mission of Fort Wayne. Before any cannon were even procured for the new fort, the United States signed a treaty with Britain that called for diplomatic solutions to their territorial disputes. The new Fort was re-commissioned as an infantry garrison, but did not see any troops until the outbreak of the Civil War, when the first Michigan soldiers reported for duty.

Because of new relationship with the Britain and later Canada, Fort Wayne never saw a shot fired in

## Historic Fort Wayne *Cont.*

anger. The peaceful location became a primary induction center for Michigan troops entering battle in every U. S. conflicts from the Civil War to Viet Nam.

Among other duties over the course of it's 125 year use as an Army base, it served as an infantry training station, housed the Chaplin school for a few years, and was the primary procurement location for the vehicles and weapons manufactured in Detroit during both World Wars. Also during WW II the Fort housed prisoners of war from Italy.

Beginning in 1948, the Fort was given to the City of Detroit in parcels. Over the next 28 years, the City would come to own the entire reservation with the exception of nine acres still occupied by the Army Corps of Engineers. Today

you can visit the original 1848 limestone barracks building, 1845 Star Fort .which was renovated in 1861, the restored Commanding Officers house, Spanish American War guard house and the Tuskegee



Airmen Museum. Today Fort Wayne is coming back to prominence and the preservation is underway

The Historic Fort Wayne Coalition was formed in 2004 as a group of individuals from all walks of life that share one common goal - to be a positive force for the restoration

and promotion of Historic Fort Wayne. In 2007 the Coalition was awarded 501(c)(3) non-profit status by the IRS. Currently, we work side by side with the City of Detroit Recreation Department, Friends of Fort Wayne, Colonial Dames in the State of Michigan, the Detroit Historical Society, Tuskegee Airmen and other groups. From these working relationships the Coalition is able to determine in which areas of restoration or promotion we can assist.

*My friend, Lloyd Hevelhorst, serves on the Executive Board and can be reached at:*

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*for more information.*

## From Scots Tae Scots

Most of us are familiar with the Christmas tin Queen Victoria sent to the rankers in South Africa in 1900. It was filled with chocolate because the Queen frowned upon smoking, which probably caused a lot of soldiers to frown. They were only meant for "Other Ranks", although many Officer's ended up with a tin.

Many tins were sent back home as souvenirs, including some still with the chocolate. Some soldiers took sections of khaki from uniforms and made an envelope for mailing.



The people of Scotland had a better idea. For Hogmany 1900 they gave the troops what they really wanted: tobacco! Each tin contained 4 plugs of F & J Smith's "Yankee" brand tobacco.

Even today in Afghanistan and other parts of the old Empire British troops receive a "square stocking". (<http://www.uk4u.org/>)

Although my example (pictured) does not contain its original tobacco it is still the Highland highlight of my Boer War collection.

### **Wanted Section:**

*Looking for something? Send me you "wants" list and it will posted next issue.*