

The Rifleman's Museum

Upstairs Guide

The 43rd and 52nd Regiments

The 43rd Regiment formed in 1741, was originally numbered the 54th, Colonel Fowke's Regiment. It was re-numbered the 43rd in 1748 and re-titled the 43rd Regiment of Foot in 1751.

The regiment was formed at a time of expansion of the British army at the outset of the War of the Spanish Succession. It was raised for home defence, but also to protect and maintain British interests overseas. It enjoyed a relatively quiet existence fulfilling both functions until the regiment was sent in 1757 to reinforce British and Colonial forces in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in readiness for the planned conquest of Canada.

The 52nd Regiment formed in 1755 and was originally numbered the 54th. It was one of ten regiments raised shortly before the outbreak of the Seven Years' War in 1756 to counter the threat of invasion from France. It was renumbered the 52nd Regiment of Foot in 1757.

The Regiment spent its early years in England and Ireland. Its first overseas deployment was to Quebec, Canada in 1765. It moved to Boston, Massachusetts in 1774 at a time of increasing unrest among the colonialists of New England prior to the outbreak of the American War of Independence in 1776.

60th (Royal American) Regiment

On the 34th March 1756 Parliament authorised the creation of a regiment to be raised in the Thirteen Colonies specifically for service in North America. It was titled the 62nd (Royal American) Regiment of Foot, but within a year was re-numbered the 60th. The 60th was established uniquely in the British Army at the time with four battalions, each with 1,000 men dressed in red coats and armed with muskets. The soldiers were enlisted in Britain and Europe, especially Germans and Austrians and in the Thirteen Colonies, principally from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

On the right is the portrait of Colonel Henri Bouquet (1719-65) born in Switzerland, he was a soldier of fortune. He served with the Dutch, Sardinian and Swiss armies before appointed the first commanding officer

of 1st Battalion, The 60th (Royal Americans), in 1756. Bouquet quickly determined that the tactics, dress, and equipment of the British redcoat was unsuited to fighting in the dense woods of North America. He advocated the wearing of hunting dress and introduced new drills and tactics emphasising the importance of camouflage, training, marksmanship and field craft.



Colonel Henri Bouquet's portrait upstairs in the museum



5th/60th Officer's Jacket

In December 1797 the 5th Battalion, 60th (Royal American) Regiment was established. It became the first battalion in the British Army to be fully armed with rifles and employed as light troops. It led the way in pioneering the infantry tactics that were later so successfully employed during the Peninsula War and at Waterloo. They were the first battalion in the British Army to wear green, along with red cuffs and facings.



Entrance to the upstairs of the museum

Peninsula War case: coatee and telescope belonged to Lieutenant-Colonel John Hunt, 52nd Light Infantry, who commanded the Light Division storming party during the assault on San Sebastian, 31st Aug 1813. Half of the storming party of 100 were killed or wounded, including Hunt.



The Experimental Corps of Riflemen (95th Rifles)

In 1800 two forward thinking officers, Colonel Coote Manningham and Lieutenant-Colonel William Stewart, successfully proposed another measure to increase the number of light troops in the British Army. The Corps was retitled the 95th Rifles in 1802. Armed with baker rifles and dressed in green, it was soon to play a significant role as an elite corps in the Peninsula War and at Waterloo.



95th Rifleman



Experimental Corps of Riflemen and 95th Rifles Display Case



Rare original uniform worn by Lieutenant Walter Clerke of the 2nd/95th Rifles who served with the regiment from 1808.



The Rifle Manual and Firing - a rare edition dated 1804. There are thirteen illustrated drills, loading and firing positions detailed in this book.



Major-General Robert Craufurd commanded a light brigade in Wellington's Army and later the Light Division. He did much to build the reputation of light troops such as marching his men 42 miles in 26 hours trying to reach Wellington before the Battle of Talavera in 1809. He earned the nickname 'Black Bob' because of his swarthy appearance, fiery temper and strict discipline. This miniature of him is on display upstairs.

Kinkaid Gallery Paintings



The Rout of the French Imperial Guard at Waterloo 18th June 1815. By Jason Askew



John Colborne, commanded the 52nd Light Infantry at Waterloo and ordered the flank attack by his regiment that routed the last of the advancing columns of the French Imperial Guard.



Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Smith. He was Brigade-Major of Major General Sir John Lambert's Brigade at Waterloo. His wife Juana, accompanied him to Brussels and Waterloo.



Lieutenant-Colonel James Fullerton, took command of the 3rd/95th Rifles at Waterloo after Lieutenant-Colonel John Ross was wounded. He was severely wounded soon afterwards.



Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore KB. Moore established a training camp at Shorncliffe where he developed new tactics for the light troops. Here the 43rd Regiment and 52nd Regiment trained alongside the 95th Rifles and the Light Division was formed.



Major-General Coote Manningham, was the first Colonel of the Experimental Corps of Riflemen and in 1802 the 95th (Rifle) Regiment.

Waterloo Diorama





The model in front of you depicts the two and a half square miles where the battle of Waterloo was fought. It was made in the 1970s and took over five years to complete. There are 21,500 figures and 9,600 horses on it. If you imagine each figure represents nine men you will have an idea of how many fought in the battle; in total it was nearly 200,000.

The model does not show a single moment in the battle; it depicts all the major events during the nine hours of fighting on 18th June 1815, as well as recording some of the individual actions of soldiers and civilians.



Victoria Cross and Crimea Display



Crimea case close up

A Russian Lady's scarf, bag and slipper

Turkish Sword and Scabbard



Russian Pipe

Russian Medal recovered from the field of Balaklava after the Charge of the Light Brigade

Russian Grapeshot and Spoons

Crimea case close up

This model is of the Kashmir Gate, on the north side of Delhi and in 1857, one of ten access points into the walled city. The walls surrounding the city ranged from 5-7 metres high, with a dry ditch 8 metres wide and 6 metres deep in front of them. One of two entrances through the Kashmir Gate was sealed by the rebels. The other had wooden doors with a wooden bridge giving access across the dry ditch. The walls were pock-marked by the impact of artillery shells fired during the preliminary bombardment on the city. The wooden bridge was largely destroyed.





Warren Hastings, 1897

On the night of the 14th January 1897 this ship struck a reef off the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Lt Colonel Forestier-Walkes, 60th, was in command of troops abroad, consisting of four companies each of 1st 60th and 2nd York and Lancaster Regiment and a detachment of the Middlesex Regiment. Despite the darkness it was found that the reef was connected to the land and Commander Holand, the ship's captain, authorised the 60th to organise disembarkation. This was done steadily and with perfect discipline, even when, as the ship listed, Holand ordered a stand fast until the families could be cleared. As the ship heeled further, Rifleman McNamara swam ashore with a line, so that soldiers who could swim could make their way direct. By this means the families and all the soldiers were safely landed without loss. The conduct of the troops earned the praise of HM Queen Victoria and of HRH The Duke of Cambridge.

South Africa Case Displays





Figure 1The Medal Collection covers campaigns from the 18th – 21st Century. Medals are displayed throughout the Museum as well as in the Medal Room.