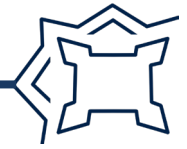


1759 SIEGE OF CARILLON BRITISH WOMEN'S GUIDELINES



General Orders at Albany on May 5, 1759, included, "no women to be permitted to go with the regiments, or to follow". While this could be read as a prohibition against women following regiments, it was actually part of a series of orders to reduce the number of women following each British Regiment. Regimental orders for the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment on May 15, 1759, explained the number and accounting for women to serve with the regiment.

"The Commanding Officers of Companies to give in the womans names they intend should receive the allowance for provision this campaign and are to recommend- The first that came with the Regt from Europ if they are willing to be nurses to the Gen. Hosptl when required they are not to exceed 4 per company according to the General Orders."

For any of the women outside of these four per company, they were not allowed to follow the regiment and forcibly removed for the 42nd Regiment of Foot with orders on May 18, 1759.

"The Qr. Master to see all the petit Suttlers tents in the rear or any other where about the Regt Struck immediately and if any woman whatsoever pretends to pitch a tent about after this, near the regt. the QrMr. Is to order it to be struck and burnt directly."

The work of women as nurses was important of the General Hospital in 1759 and part British Army practice as a whole. In Chapter X Article III, of the 1768 edition of *A System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry*, Bennett Cuthbertson stated, "An experienced, careful woman must be constantly employed to attend in the Regimental-hospital, as a Nurse, whose wages should be paid, either by the Surgeon when he has an allowance for it, or from the savings of the sick Men's Pay..." As the May 15, 1759 Regimental Orders for the 42nd Highland Regiment indicated, women of a company received rations from the army. This was true through the French & Indian War, ending only as a cost saving measure in 1763. General Orders on September 22, 1763 reinstated 2



1/2 d. pay deductions for soldiers and removed women from the subsistence of the Army.

"By this regulation no Officer can draw more than 1 Ration for wch. ye. like stoppages of 2d½ must be paid, and this of Course strikes off all Women, and every other Person from whom Stoppages cannot be made."



The dress of women with the British Army in 1759 reflected common, but respectable dress for many women at the time. A September 28, 1758 Runaway Advertisement included several changes of clothing in the dress of Susannah Day, who frequented the Army Camp.

"Had on and with her, when she went away, a striped short Gown, and a Petticoat of the same, three or four Shifts, some of which were finer than the rest, three Pair of Thread Stockings, and blue Worsted Ditto, and two Pair of high-heeled Womens Shoes, with several other Things, too tedious to mention: She probably may pass for a Soldiers Wife, as she has been seen at Rays Town, with the Soldiers."

Shift

Best: hand-stitched in white linen or white wool flannel with sleeves gathered into narrow cuffs at the elbows. Cuffs should close with sleeve buttons, or ties threaded through buttonholes. Neckline should be large enough that the shift barely shows when worn with a gown or jacket.

Acceptable: Machine-stitched (ideally hand-finished) in white linen, flannel, or cotton with elbow length sleeves.

Unacceptable: Long sleeves, obvious machine sewing, gathered neckline, neck or sleeve ruffles longer than 1.25 inches.

Stays

Best: Hand-sewn, fully boned stays with worsted or linen exterior fabric, the most common colors being dark green, blue or white. Stays should create a proper 1750's silhouette, which is to say a smooth conical torso. Most stays in this period are back lacing.

Acceptable: Machine-sewn stays which produce the correct silhouette. Partially boned stays, leather stays. No stays, if worn with a bedgown, or other loose-fitting garment. This is acceptable only for women doing serious manual labor, those portraying the ill, or those in a state of undress early in the morning, or after retiring for the evening.

Unacceptable: Unboned bodices.

Upper body garment

Best: Hand-sewn, stomacher-fronted English style gown in worsted, stuff, linen, or printed cotton. Printed cotton textiles must be well-documented to the period. Gowns should have robings, ideally with cuffs or flounces at the elbow. Stomachers or straps across the stomach securing a kerchief in-place are both appropriate.

Acceptable: Jackets, short-gowns or bed gowns in solid or striped worsted, stuff, linen, or small-motif printed cotton, hand-finished or with minor visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: Sleeveless bodices. Fitted garments such as gowns or jackets worn without stays. Garments made of printed cottons with designs not documented to the period, such as modern calicos, and cabbage roses.

Petticoats

Best: Multiple layers of hand-sewn petticoats of striped or plain worsted, linsey-woolsey, linen, or cotton. Length should be between lower and mid-calf with a circumference between 2.5 to 3 yards. Petticoats should be pleated to waistbands and have pocket slits at the sides with small bottom hems or wool tape binding. Under petticoats can be shorter, or less decorative, as their function is to provide warmth and fill out the silhouette.

Acceptable: Two or more petticoats of the proper length with minor visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: Modern skirts, petticoats without sufficient fullness or excessive length.

Pockets

Best: Hand-stitched, large worsted, linen, or cotton pockets with ties worn under petticoats.

Acceptable: Large worsted, linen, or cotton pockets with minor visible machine stitching worn under petticoats.

Unacceptable: Paniers or Pockets worn over petticoats or modern pattern fabrics.





Apron

Best: Hand-stitched, white or checked linen apron, mostly covering the front of the petticoat, with ties, without a pinner front.

Acceptable: White or striped linen apron, with ties and minor visible stitching. No apron.

Unacceptable: Very short or very narrow aprons. Wildly colored aprons. Aprons longer than the petticoats they accompany. Decorative aprons with ruffles or lace (unless portraying an officer's wife).

Neck Handkerchief

Best: Handkerchief of white linen or cotton, checked linen, period appropriate patterned cotton or silk, worn covering the neckline of the shift.

Acceptable: Any sort of neck handkerchief properly worn. The vast majority of images show everyday women wearing some sort of handkerchief covering.

Unacceptable: Handkerchief tucked into the sides of the gown neckline, exposing the bosom.

Cap

Best: Hand-sewn caps made of fine white linen or cotton organdy with a gathered or pleated ruffle around the face. Caps may be trimmed with silk ribbon. Caps should be starched if possible.

Acceptable: Caps made of fine white linen or cotton organdy with a gathered or pleated ruffle around the face with minor visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: Mob caps (circular caps consisting of one piece of material gathered to create both caul and ruffle). Caps worn down over the forehead. No cap.



Hair

Best: Hair should be put up under a cap on the head. Some hair should show above the forehead.

Acceptable: Hair pulled back or pinned up on top of the head and covered with a cap.

Unacceptable: Hair worn in a bun at the back of the head. Hair down, or left completely undressed. Large, elaborate high fashion styles.



Hat/head covering

Best: Flat, shallow-crowned straw, felt, or fabric covered hat with a diameter no more than 18".

Acceptable: Black silk bonnet with flat brim and gathered crown. Cast-off soldier's felt hats.

Unacceptable: Hats folded down over the ears. Straw hats with rounded modern crowns.

Outerwear

Best: Wool cloak, most commonly red, closed with ties. Most images of cloaks show them being mid-calf- to waist-length. Black silk cloak or hood. Wool, silk, linen, or leather mitts for forearms. Leather gloves and fur or fabric muffs for the upper-middle class.

Unacceptable: Celtic-style or fantasy cloaks. Cloaks closing with decorative metal clasps.

Stockings

Best: White, blue, or natural wool yarn or worsted stockings with back seams, ending above the knee. Stockings should be held up with leather or cloth tape garters tied above or below the knee.

Acceptable: White, natural, or colored stockings of wool yarn, worsted, linen or cotton.

Unacceptable: Striped stockings, polyester stockings, athletic socks, modern tights. Though stockings with decorative "clocks" were occasionally worn in the period, few modern reproductions are accurate.



Shoes

Best: Reproduction high-heeled shoes with buckles, with fabric or leather exterior, especially hardwearing worsteds.

Acceptable: Low-heeled shoes with buckles, mules.

Unacceptable: Modern shoes.

Jewelry

Best: No jewelry, outside of officer's wives impressions.

Acceptable: Small period earrings, non-obtrusive studs in non-earlobe piercings.

Unacceptable: Obvious modern jewelry, especially in any non-earlobe piercings

Transporting Goods and Personal Items

Best: Pockets (hidden), market wallets, blanket rolls or Tumplines.

Acceptable: 1750s British Army knapsacks.

Unacceptable: Haversacks, modern baskets.

Blankets

Best: 2-Point or 3-Point blankets, Dutch blankets.

Acceptable: British Army Rose, or Plain white blankets.

Unacceptable: Civil War grey blankets.

