

DRESS OF THE ROYAL MARINES 1832-34

BY

RUSSELL CAMMAGE



Captain G E Balchild RM c 1832

from the painting by A J DUBOIS-DRAHONET (1791-1834)



Private Clements c 1832
 from the painting by
 A J Dubois Drahonet
 (1791-1834)

OFFICER

SHAKO Black, gilt badge and chin scales. White plume.

COATEE Scarlet, dark blue cuffs, and just showing between lace on collar. White turnbacks. Gold lace on collar, slash on cuffs, epaulettes, skirt pockets, and embroidered globe and laurel motif on the turn-back join. Gilt buttons.

SASH Crimsom and tied over sword shoulder belt.

SWORD Steel, gilt back piece and bow with gold wire on black fish skin grip. Scabbard brass or gilt. Sword knot gold cord. White buckskin shoulder belt with gilt breast plate.

TROUSERS White, black boots and white gloves were worn.

PRIVATE

The shako was similar to the officer's with brass instead of gilt and a cotton tuft instead of a plume.

The coatee a red or scarlet with blue cuffs but no slash. The lace was white cotton. The bayonet and cartouche box were carried on white crossbelts, and the valise with canteen by white straps over the shoulder and a connecting strap across the chest. The trousers white.

I should be extremely grateful if any member could fill in the gaps in the description of the uniform of this period. Also when were white trousers worn?

What were the shoulder scales for the private and sergeant made of?

What motif did the officer's breast plate bear?

THE SHAKO PLATE THAT NEVER WAS

BY

A E BOWELL



The star type shako plate of the RMA 1855-1861 consists of the crown and star forming a base to which the separate pieces of the garter and motto, laurel wreath, anchor, globe and grenade are attached. The RMLI had a similar plate, but with a bugle horn replacing the grenade.

This plate is said to have been introduced about this time also, but about this little is known. The design differs in being much simplified, having a bugle horn in place of the globe and omitting the laurel wreath. May it have been a proposed design which was never worn? I would welcome any information helping to clarify this plate.



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Thanks to Mr W A Inorburn, Keeper of the SUSM Edinburgh we now have the complete uniform details for this period.

The Officers' breastplate was rectangular with a crown surmounted by a lion in the centre, a scroll bearing "GIBRALTAR" above and a scroll bearing "PER MARE PER TERRAM" beneath.

The ORs' breastplate was of similar design but smaller and of lower relief.

The shoulder scales of Sergeants were of brass, while the men's were of blue cloth straps with white tape and a brass crescent.

The Royal Marines wore white trousers for summer, ie 1st May until the 30th September for home service and also for tropical wear until 1857 and probably after that. For winter, Oxford mixture trousers were worn.



*Officer's shoulder belt
plate*



*Officer's shako
plate*