

THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS 1815.

The regiment was formed during the English civil war and fought on the side of Parliament against the king. When the new king came back to power they became one of his select 'guard' regiments. The British army 'Guard' regimental duties still include protecting the king or queen. Although they were formed before the 1st regiment of guards, the foot guards were made the second regiment of guards. They have never accepted this name, preferring to be called the 'Coldstream guards' and their motto is 'Second to none!'

Soldiers could protect their fancy hats with a waterproof **oilskin** a heavy canvas with an oil coating.

Sergeants carried a spear called a **spontoon**. As well as a weapon it could help them keep their soldiers in line

Grenadiers were the biggest and strongest men in a regiment. British grenadiers had woolly tufts with striped shoulder pads called **wings**. It made them easy to identify and looked cool!

Officers and sergeants wore a 'crimson' **sash**. It helped identify them and made them feel special.

Soldiers bit the ends off cartridges whilst loading their musket and the cartridge gunpowder would make their mouths very dry, fighting was therefore thirsty work and a **canteen** essential

Gaiters were of made thick cloth or leather and protected the ankles from thorns or stoney ground.

The cotton brade called '**lace**' made the coats very fancy. Each regiment had its own brade often with coloured thread wooven through to make pin stripes. . the lace also had a practical purpose strengthening the seems and button holes. Officers would have silver or gold lace!

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As 'Guards' they were an elite regiment in the Duke of Wellington's army. They were big, strong, healthy men and paid higher wages than regular infantry soldiers. Wellington knew he could depend on their courage, experience and training. At the battle of Waterloo they helped defend a walled farmhouse called Hougomont against massive French infantry assaults and the farm never fell. At the end of the battle they played a key part in the defeat of Napoleon's Old Guard which advanced across the field in the last desperate hours of the battle.

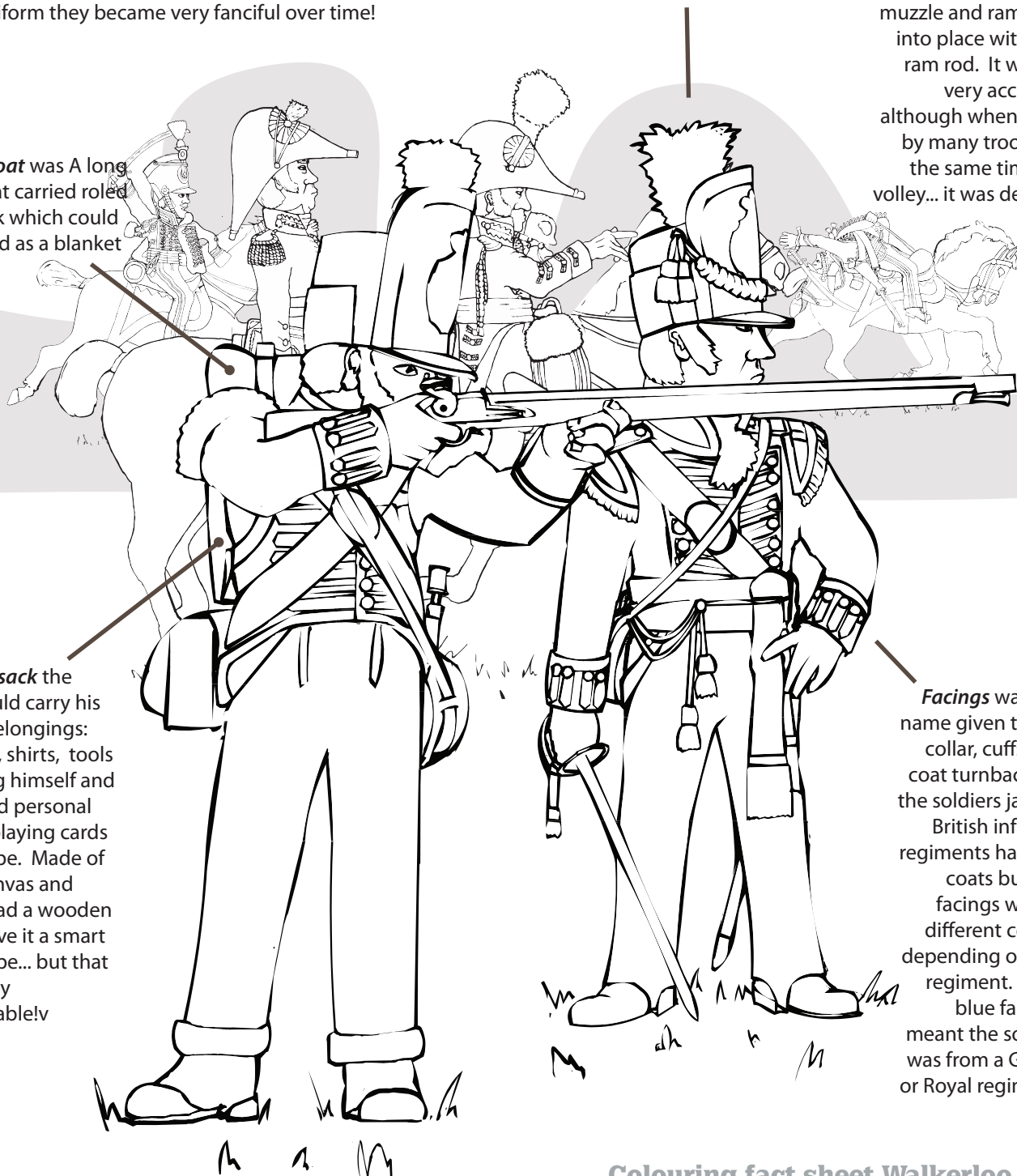
The tall hat worn by Napoleonic soldiers was called a '**shako**'. Made from felt and leather for soldiers and beaver skin for sergeants and officers, the metal plate on the front would show the regiment number or badge. The plume would help identify the type of soldier - regular soldiers had white-over-red, the light company green, and the grenadiers a white plume. Some regiments were allowed to break these plumes after a battle victory. The ropes hanging from the shako could be tied to the uniform so the hat wouldn't get lost in a battle. Like many parts of the soldiers uniform they became very fanciful over time!

The British army musket was called the **Brown Bess**. It fired a single musket ball which was loaded down the muzzle and rammed into place with the ram rod. It wasn't very accurate although when fired by many troops at the same time - a volley... it was deadly.

The **greatcoat** was a long woolen coat carried rolled on the pack which could also be used as a blanket at night.

In his **knapsack** the soldier would carry his personal belongings: extra socks, shirts, tools for cleaning himself and musket, and personal items like playing cards or a clay pipe. Made of painted canvas and leather it had a wooden frame to give it a smart square shape... but that made it very uncomfortable!

Facings was the name given to the collar, cuffs and coat turnbacks of the soldiers jacket. British infantry regiments had red coats but the facings were a different colour depending on the regiment. Dark blue facings meant the soldier was from a Guard or Royal regiment.



British Infantrymen had two **cross belts**: one for his bayonet, the other for his cartridge box. They were held together with a belt plate stamped with the regimental badge or number. The cartridge box carried 60 cartridges which were tubes of paper twisted shut with a musket ball and a measured amount of gun powder inside

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