



95th Rifles Living History Society

Website: www.1st95thrifles.com Facebook: 1/95th Rifles Living History Society

1/95th Rifles – what you need to know before you join

Thank you for taking the first steps towards joining our society, living history is a great hobby and you'll get lots out of it. I have set out below some guidelines and pointers that will help give you a feel for how our society works.

If you're reading this, you have shown an interest in "taking the kings shilling". We are always looking for new recruits who are keen to join and earn the right to wear the green "Regimentals" of the 95th Rifles.

Established in 1975, we recreate the 95th (Rifle) Regiment of Foot and have the honour of portraying the 1st Battalion (1/95th) of this world-renowned regiment within the Napoleonic Association.

We aim to keep the story of the 1/95th Rifles alive by providing informative and entertaining events for the public in co-operation with the Napoleonic Association and other organisations.

We are a family orientated unit with partners and children welcomed, we show each other and the public respect and do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, sexuality or other traits.

We have a safeguarding policy, which is documented in a separate policy which deals with children and vulnerable adults.

All new recruits start as Riflemen, we do not recruit NCOs (Non-Commissioned Officers) or Officers. We are looking for keen and enthusiastic people who will contribute towards our aims. Research into the period and innovation regarding how we do things is encouraged, as long it is historically evidenced.

*Between March and October each year we take part in events such as battle re-enactments, training and drill, parades and proms. Whilst the drill is not difficult it does take some practice to learn and then to retain. **This does mean a certain level of commitment is required, so it is important that you commit to at least one training event and two full events a season.***

This process will equip you to be a competent Rifleman on and off the field and respected by every Napoleonic regiment.

Equally, we are light infantry, as such we are required to be mobile, you don't need to be an athlete but please give some consideration to your fitness and ability to march and 'fight' for a period of time.

We would expect you to muck in with camp duties too, this can be anything from chopping wood, washing up, helping with the cooking or doing a stint of guard duty for the camp.

Living History can sometimes involve travel, often this isn't too far - but you should consider; "how am I getting there?" Particularly once you start accruing kit (and you will)!

There is a cost to our hobby. We ask for a yearly subscription to the society for insurance and other costs like first aid equipment, powder and equipment. We would also ask you join the Napoleonic Association (NA), this gives you access, insurance and best of all powder for the NA events which form part of our season. Food bills and other considerations should be settled promptly please. If you have special requirements, we can discuss these and hopefully accommodate them.

When you get started, we will supply you some kit initially, of course, we'd ask you show respect for any loaned kit and the heritage we portray.

At some stage you will almost certainly want your own kit. We have a list which details what order you should purchase things in. We would ask that you use our preferred suppliers or at least speak to us, as we would say "buy right, buy it once". There are some substandard suppliers out there. If you buy the wrong kit, not only does it look shabby, but you may be asked not to use it. It is quite easy to buy the wrong stuff when you first start out.

Authenticity is really important to us and we all have a responsibility to maintain the standards. This extends to things like not wearing modern glasses during public hours, not smoking modern cigarettes, not leaving modern stuff on show and wearing period footwear.

The basic test being, is this item plausible in the Napoleonic period? If the answer is no, then it needs to be out of view during public hours.

Our NCOs will stay on top of this, but we all have the responsibility to challenge and remind each other about it.

You are not expected to buy all this stuff at once and hopefully we can fill in the gaps of stuff you have not got yet. We would like to see a commitment from you though, to eventually become a fully equipped Rifleman.

Initially, you will wear fatigues, this is a period white uniform that was worn by soldiers in barracks and during training. You will then work towards earning the right to wear the green regimentals of the 95th.

It goes without saying that firearms are potentially dangerous weapons, so we always require all our members to comply with any legal requirements and follow the safety policy.

I hope this has given you some information regarding the society and our expectations.

If you have any questions, we'd be happy to discuss them.

Regards,

Steve Lee

*Chairman
January 2019*