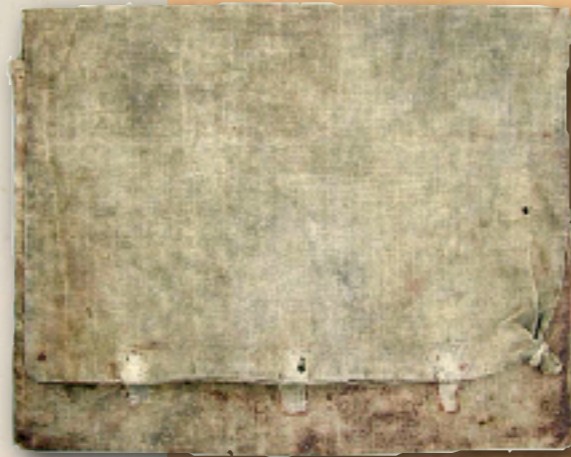


# 18th Century Material Culture Snapsacks, Knapsacks, & Blanket Rolls



# British Snapsacks



Grenadiers, 46th, 47th, and 48th Regiments of Foot  
by David Morier 1751  
(The Royal Collection)



Grenadier, 48th Regiment of Foot  
by David Morier 1751  
(The Royal Collection)



“View from the Guard Room at Windsor ,”  
by n.d. by or after Paul Sandby  
(Royal Collection)



“View from the Guard Room at Windsor ,”  
by n.d. by or after Paul Sandby  
(Royal Collection)

British  
Animal Hide  
Knapsacks

“System for the Compleat Interior Management and  
Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry”  
Bennett Cuthbertson 1768

*“Square knapsacks are most convenient, for packing up the Soldier’s necessaries, and should be made with a division, to hold the shoes, black-ball and brushes, separate from the linen: a certain size must be determined on for the whole, and it will have a pleasing effect upon a March, if care has been taken, to get them of all white goat-skins, with leather-slings well whitened, to hang over each shoulder; which method makes the carriage of the Knapsack much easier, than across the breast, and by no means so heating.”*



British Battalion Company Soldier Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by Paul Sandby  
(The Royal Collection)



British Battalion Company Soldier Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by Paul Sandby  
(The Royal Collection)



Private Soldier, H.M. 25th Regiment of Foot at Minorca  
by Giuseppe Ignacio Maria Chiesa



British Light Infantry Private Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by English School c. 1781  
(West Point Museum)



“Love and Hope” - British Battalion Company Soldier Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by Henry William Bunbury c. 1786  
(The British Museum)



73.31

“Love and Hope” - British Battalion Company Soldier Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by Henry William Bunbury c. 1786  
(The Huntington Library)



LOVE AND HOPE.

With this my Love to pass my tranquil days,  
Whom wouldst thou slight, a tedious painful prize,  
Whom Beauty holds in strong, but gentle chains,  
And from her constant War, thy duty pleads.

Printed and Sold by W. Bickerton, Engraver & Printshop in St. Pauls Church-yard.

“Love and Hope” - British Battalion Company Soldier Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by Henry William Bunbury c. 1786  
(Private Collection)



British Battalion Company Soldier Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
Unknown Artist c. 1785 - 1790  
(Private Collection)



“The Billited Soldier’s Departure” - British Battalion Company Soldier Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
Engraved by G. Graham after George Morland 1790  
(Private Collection)



Captain John Clayton Cowell, 1st Battalion, 1st (or the Royal) Reg't of Foot  
by William Beechy c. 1796  
(National Army Museum)



Captain John Clayton Cowell, 1st Battalion, 1st (or the Royal) Reg't of Foot  
by William Beechy c. 1796  
(National Army Museum)



THE ABSENT FATHER  
OR THE  
SORROWS OF WAR.

LE PÈRE ABSENT  
OU LES  
CHAGRINS de la GUERRE.

“THE ABSENT FATHER” - British Battalion Company Private Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by John Jeffryes 1797  
(Private Collection)



*The Tobacco Box.*

*London published by B. C. Schmid, No. 117, Strand.*

GB-P1110.tif-1

“The Tobacco Box” - British Light Infantry Soldier with a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by R. Schmid c. Late 1780s - 1790s  
(Private Collection)



“THE BENEVOLENT COTTAGER” - British Veteran Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by Francis Wheatley c. 1788?  
(Guildhall Art Gallery)



Painted by W. Nutter

Engraved by J. Jefferys Esq.

Printed by R. Dilly

THE BENEVOLENT COTTAGER

LA PAYSANNE BIENFAISANTE

*Pray the services of a poor old man,  
Whose trembling limbs have been his to your door;  
Whose days are hurried to the distant shore,  
Oh! give relief and Heaven will bless your door.*

*Thou virtuous deeds my poverty repair,  
Thou heavy loads of sorrow my lengthen'd years,  
And many a favour in my grief were cheer,  
Has been the channel to a flood of tears.*

Printed and Sold by R. Dilly, in Pall Mall

“THE BENEVOLENT COTTAGER” - British Veteran Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by William Nutter after Francis Wheatley 1788  
(Yale Center for British Art)



“THE BENEVOLENT COTTAGER” - British Veteran Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by William Nutter after Francis Wheatley 1788  
(Yale Center for British Art)



“SOLDIER DICK” - British Veteran Wearing a Goat Skin Knapsack  
by Laurie & Whittle 1795  
(Private Collection)



RECRUIT FRANCOIS | RECRUIT ANGLOIS  
OR THE CONTRASTED RECRUITS  
The former all ruffles no Bust Wooden Pump  
and Stockings | Jack English with Ruddy face and belly  
of Beef — Jkt by Wm Humphrey

“RECRUIT FRANCOIS / RECRUIT ANGLOIS OR THE CONTRASTED RECRUITS”  
by William Humphrey  
(The British Museum)



RECRUIT FRANCOIS | RECRUIT ANGLOIS  
OR THE CONTRASTED RECRUITS

*Monsieur all ruffles w/ Short Wooden Pumps  
and Stockings*

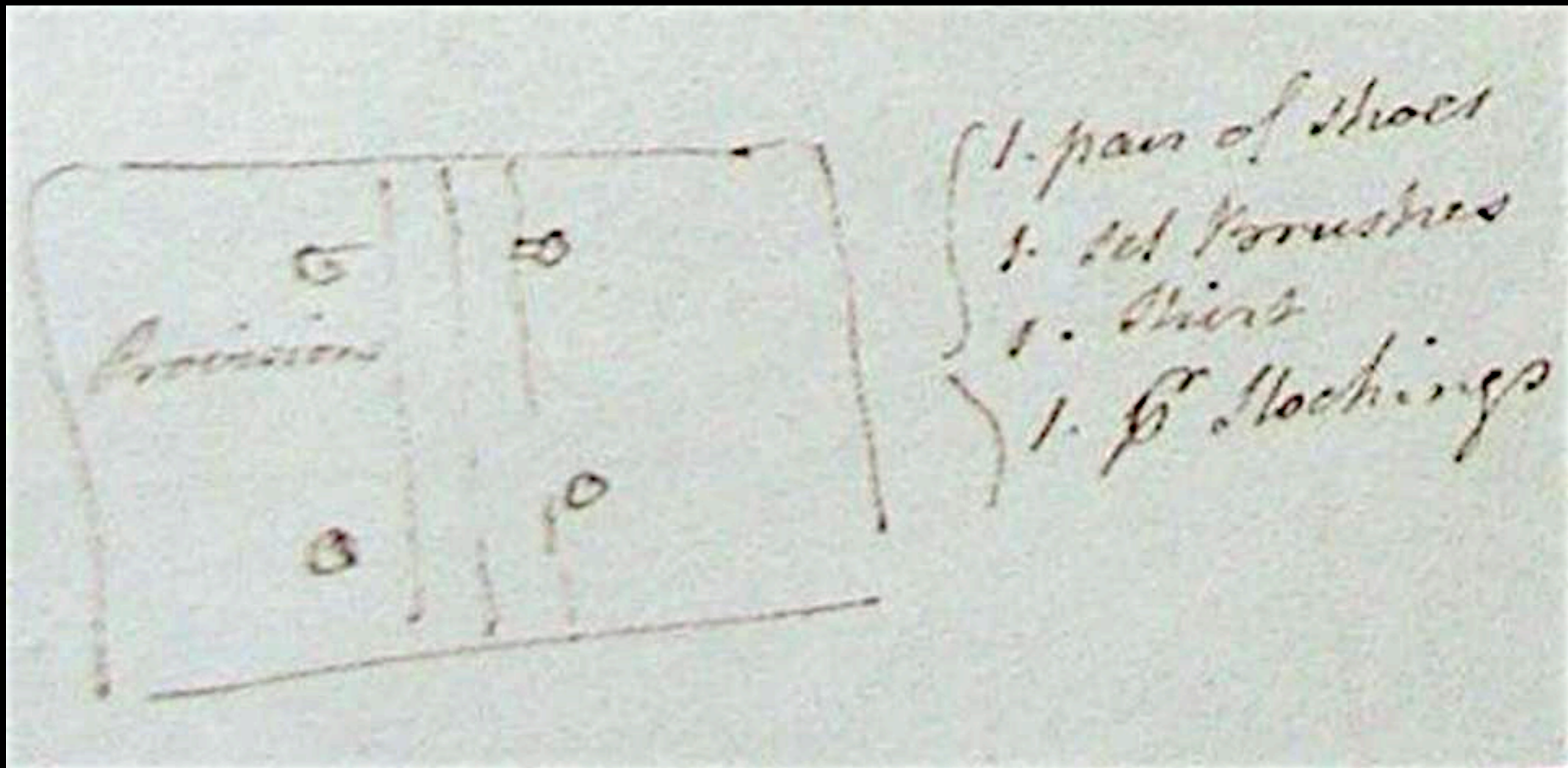
*Jack English with Ruddy face and belly full  
of Beef — Sold by Wm. Humphrey King Street*

“RECRUIT FRANCOIS / RECRUIT ANGLOIS”  
by Wm. Humphrey c. 1770  
(Private Collection)

# British Canvas Knapsacks



Soldiers and Women Displaying a Canvas (?) Knapsack  
by Francis Wheatley c. 1770s - 1780s  
(Yale Center for British Art)



Knapsack Sketch  
H.M. 71st Regiment of Foot  
(Private Collection)



Detail: "General Gates at Saratoga"  
by James Peale c. 1799 - 1800  
(Maryland Historical Society)



Cloth Painted Linen Knapsack (?) Fragment for the LXXX Regiment  
Bernard Swartwout, Jr. Orderly Book, September 26- October 30, 1781. BV War Orderly Books, 2nd New York, no. 149 - 1781  
(New York Historical Society)



Recreated Painted Linen Knapsack  
(The Recreated 63rd Regiment of Foot)



Painted British Two Pouch Linen Knapsack with Buff Leather Straps

c. 1790

(Keith Raynor - [Militaryheritage.com](http://Militaryheritage.com))



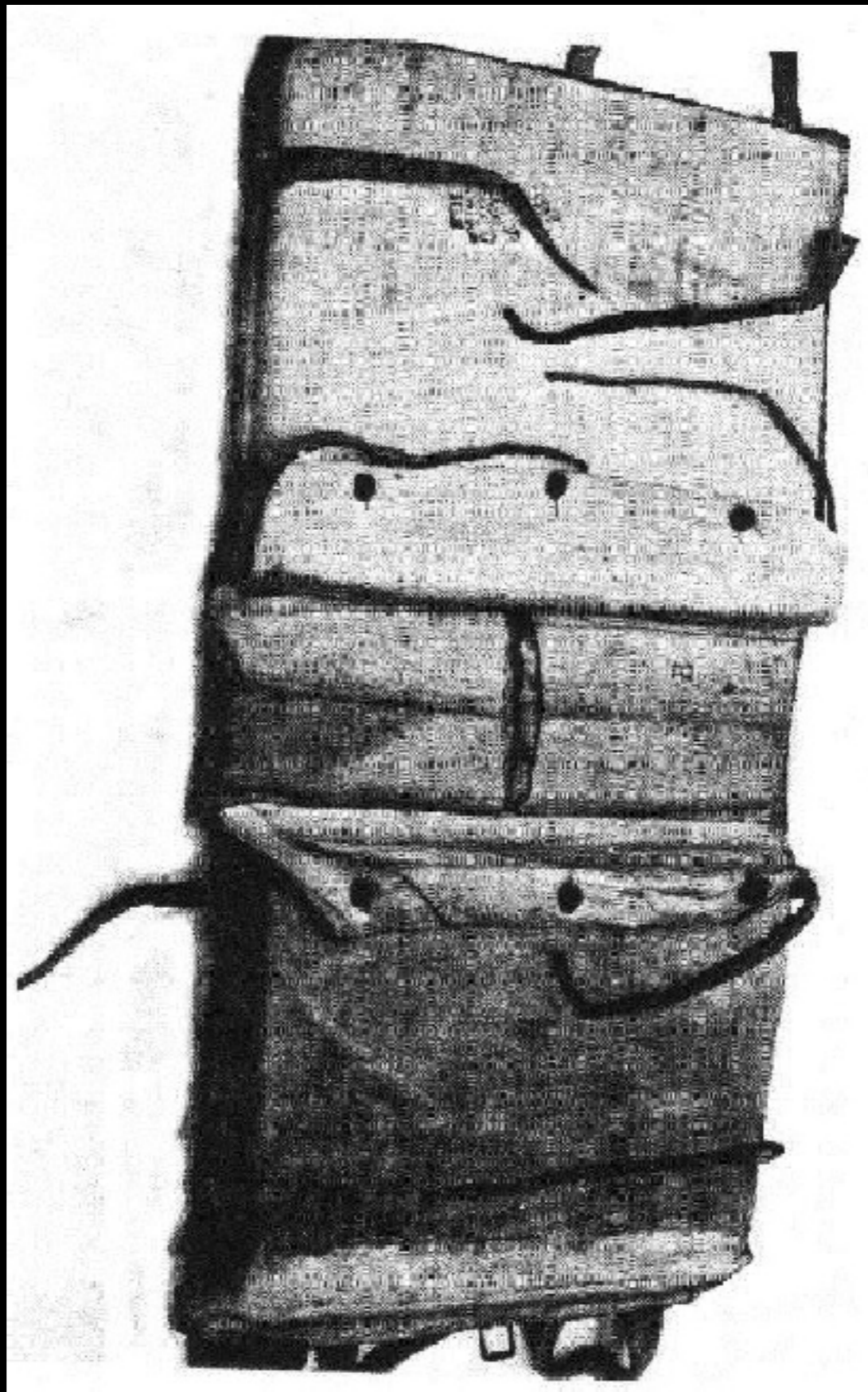
British Knapsack - 10th Regiment of Militia  
c. 1797  
(Private Collection)



British Knapsack - 10th Regiment of Militia

c. 1797

(Private Collection)



British Knapsack - 10th Regiment of Militia

c. 1797

(Private Collection)



British Knapsack - 97th Inverness Regiment  
Raised in 1794 c. 1795  
(Scottish United Services Museum, Edinburgh, United Kingdom)



British Knapsack - 97th Inverness Regiment

Raised in 1794 c. 1795

(Scottish United Services Museum, Edinburgh, United Kingdom - Photograph Courtesy Alexander John Goode)



British Knapsack - 97th Inverness Regiment

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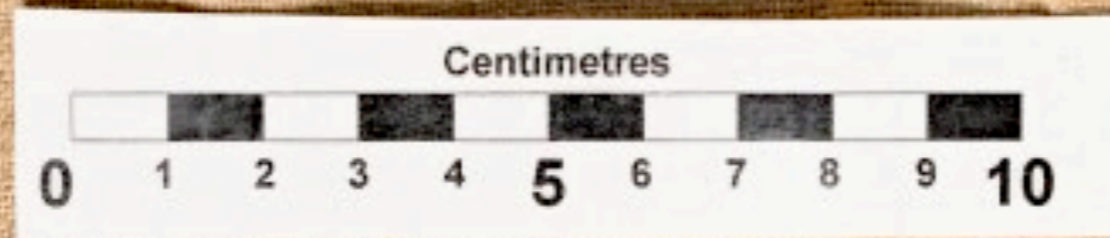
Private Jameson Barr

British Knapsack - 97th Inverness Regiment

Raised in 1794 c. 1795

(Scottish United Services Museum, Edinburgh, United Kingdom - Photograph Courtesy Alexander John Goode)

*Perth Jamyon Barris*



British Knapsack - 97th Inverness Regiment

Raised in 1794 c. 1795

(Scottish United Services Museum, Edinburgh, United Kingdom - Photograph Courtesy Alexander John Goode)



British Knapsack - 97th Inverness Regiment

Raised in 1794 c. 1795

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British Knapsack - 97th Inverness Regiment  
Raised in 1794 c. 1795

(Scottish United Services Museum, Edinburgh, United Kingdom - Photograph Courtesy Alexander John Goode)



Royal Artillery Knapsack  
c. 1800  
(National Army Museum)

Unknown  
British  
Knapsacks



Winsor: The Ascent to the Round Tower  
by Paul Sandby c. 1770  
(National Gallery of Scotland)



Winsor: The Ascent to the Round Tower  
by Paul Sandby c. 1770  
(National Gallery of Scotland)



"The Soldier's Return,"  
by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm 1776  
(British Museum)



*John Bull at Home*



*Industrious*



*Armed to Arms*



*on Foreign Service*



*Camp Dinner*



*In Battle*



*Loaded with honors of War*

*He would be a Soldier? or the History of John Bull's warlike Expedition.*



Two Old Soldiers Meet  
by E. Fitzgerald c. 1756 - 1768  
(Ann S.K. Brown Collection, Brown University)



Two Old Soldiers Shaking Hands  
Attributed to Rober Johnson  
(The British Museum)

# British Blanket Rolls



View from Staten Island 2nd July 1777  
by Archibald Robertson 1777  
(New York Public Library)



View from Staten Island 2nd July 1777  
by Archibald Robertson 1777  
(New York Public Library)



View from Staten Island 2nd July 1777  
by Archibald Robertson 1777  
(New York Public Library)



The Battle of Germantown 1777  
by Xavier Della Gatta 1782  
(Museum of the American Revolution)



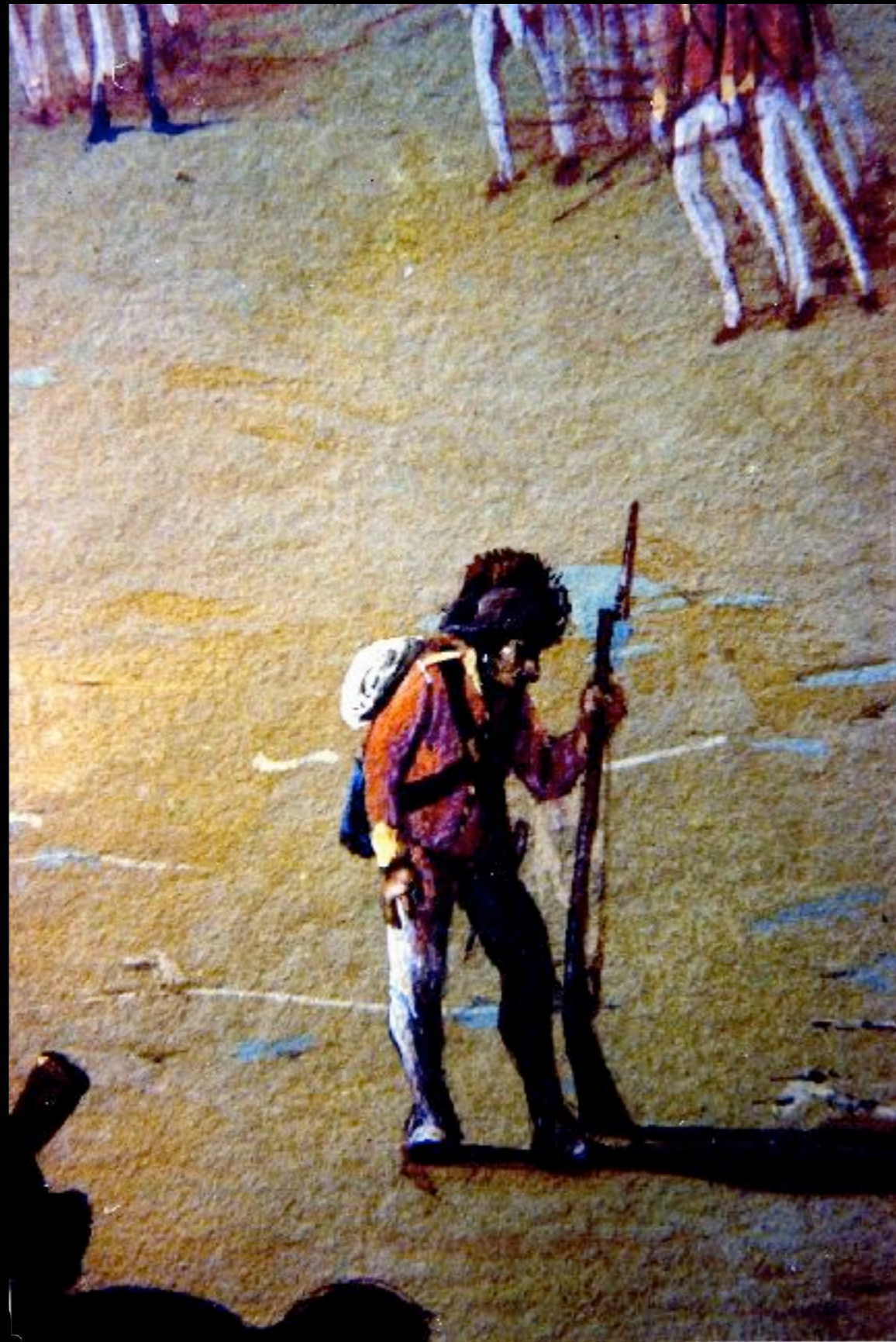
The Battle of Germantown 1777  
by Xavier Della Gatta 1782  
(Museum of the American Revolution)



The Battle of Germantown 1777  
by Xavier Della Gatta 1782  
(Museum of the American Revolution)



The Battle of Germantown 1777  
by Xavier Della Gatta 1782  
(Museum of the American Revolution)



The Battle of Germantown 1777  
by Xavier Della Gatta 1782  
(Museum of the American Revolution)

# American Knapsacks

# Returns of Losses

## For Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775

### Col. William Prescott's Massachusetts Regiment

*“Cambridge, Dec. 22, 1775.*

*Nathan Blood, Isaac Hobart, Jacob Boynton, Thomas Wheat, Peter Poor, Phineas Nevins.*

*The men whose names are above written belonged to Capt. [Reuben] Dow's company, and Col. William Prescott's regiment and were all killed in the battle of Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June last, and were furnished each of them with a good gun, judged to be worth Eight Dollars apiece — also were furnished with other materials, viz. Cartridge Boxes, Knapsacks and Tump-lines — and were well clothed for soldiers — Also had each of them a good blanket. Nathan Blood had a good Hanger.*



Knapsack of Captain David Uhl, of the Dutchess County Militia  
c. 1775 - 1780  
(Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site, Newburgh, New York)



Knapsack of Captain David Uhl, of the Dutchess County Militia  
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(Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site, Newburgh, New York)



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Knapsack of Captain David Uhl, of the Dutchess County Militia  
c. 1775 - 1780  
(Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site, Newburgh, New York)



The Captain David Uhl Knapsack Recreated with Tumplines for Blankets  
(The Recreation of Captain David Brown's Company of Concord Minutemen, 1775\_

The Connecticut Courant,  
and Hartford Weekly Intelligencer  
August 19, 1776

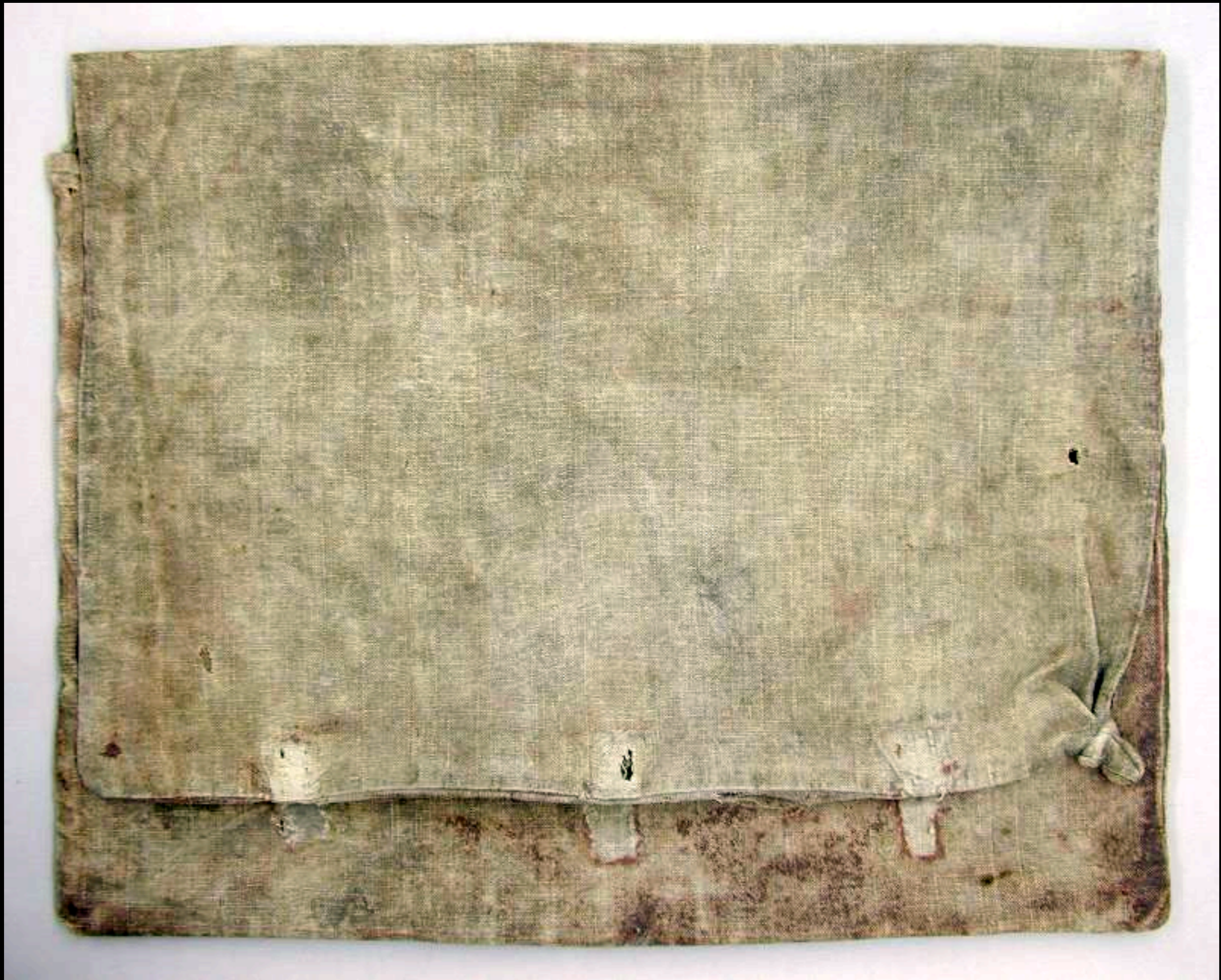
Deserted from Captain Noah Phelps's Company, of Simsbury, a Soldier who, calls his Name, Edmond Davis, is an Irishman, about 40 Years of Age; had on a Hunting Shirt and white Trowsers, old shoes, has short black Hair, and has a Calf Skin Knapfack, dress'd with the Hair on, and one of the Colony Arms. Whoever will take up said-Deserter; and return him to his Company shall have Five Dollars Reward paid, by me

NOAH PHELPS, Capt.

Simsbury, August 15, 1776.

This Knapsack I carry'd  
through the war of the  
Revolution to achieve the  
American Independence  
I transmit it to my eldest son  
Benjamin Warner Jun. with directions  
to keep it and transmit it to his  
eldest son and so on to the latest posterity  
and whilst one stroke of it shall remain  
never surrender your Liberty's to a foreign  
envader or an aspiring Tyranny  
Ticonderoga March 2<sup>d</sup> 1787 Benjamin Warner

American Painted Linen Knapsack Carried by Benjamin Warner During the Revolution  
First Enlisted in Wooster's Connecticut Regiment on May 8, 1775  
(Fort Ticonderoga)



American Painted Linen Knapsack Carried by Benjamin Warner During the Revolution  
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Recreations of the Benjamin Warner Knapsack  
(Photo Courtesy Heidi Campbell-Shoaf)



The Elk Skin Knapsack of Rufus Lincoln, Corporal at Lexington & Concord in April, 1775  
2nd Lt. Marshall's Massachusetts Regt. 1776, 1st Lt. 14th Massachusetts Regt., 1777  
(Cottone Auctions)



Elijah Grose Bearskin Knapsack & Cartridge Pouch  
3rd Continental Regiment of Artillery, Crane's Massachusetts Artillery 1777 - 1780  
(Don Troiani)



Elijah Grose Bearskin Knapsack  
3rd Continental Regiment of Artillery, Crane's Massachusetts Artillery 1777 - 1780  
(Don Troiani)



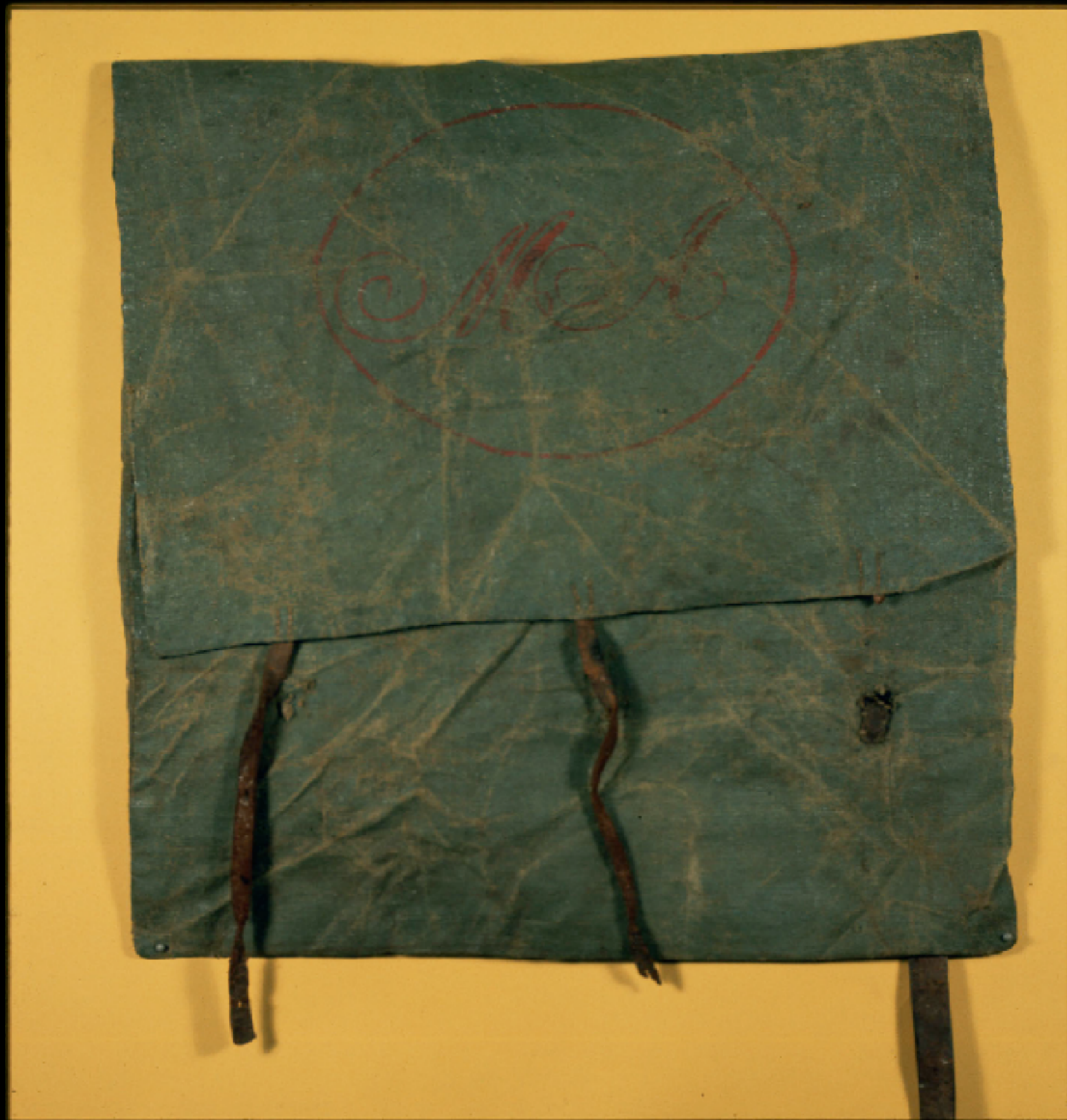
Elijah Grose Bearskin Knapsack  
3rd Continental Regiment of Artillery, Crane's Massachusetts Artillery 1777 - 1780  
(Don Troiani)



Elijah Grose Bearskin Knapsack  
3rd Continental Regiment of Artillery, Crane's Massachusetts Artillery 1777 - 1780  
(Don Troiani)



Linen Canvas Knapsack in Green Paint  
c. Late 18th - Early 19th Century  
(Estate of Tom Wnuck)



Linen Canvas Knapsack in Green Paint  
Late 18th - Early 19th Century  
(Old Sturbridge Village)



Linen Canvas Knapsack in Brown Paint Marked "8th C. 12th R."  
Late 18th - Early 19th Century  
(Private Collection - Formerly Valley Forge Historical Society)



Linen Canvas Knapsack in Brown Paint Marked "8th C. 12th R."

Late 18th - Early 19th Century

(Private Collection - Formerly Valley Forge Historical Society - Photo Courtesy Joel Bohy)



Linen Canvas Knapsack in Brown Paint Marked "8th C. 12th R."

Late 18th - Early 19th Century

(Private Collection - Formerly Valley Forge Historical Society - Photo Courtesy Joel Bohy)



Linen Canvas Knapsack in Brown Paint Marked "8th C. 12th R."

Late 18th - Early 19th Century

(Private Collection - Formerly Valley Forge Historical Society - Photo Courtesy Joel Bohy)



Detail: "A View of West Point on the Hudson River, New York 1777"  
by Major Pierre L'Enfant 1777  
(U.S. National Archives)



Detail: "A View of West Point on the Hudson River, New York 1777"  
by Major Pierre L'Enfant 1777  
(U.S. National Archives)



The Paoli Massacre, September 20, 1777  
by Xavier Della Gatta 1782  
(Museum of the American Revolution)



The Paoli Massacre, September 20, 1777  
by Xavier Della Gatta 1782  
(Museum of the American Revolution)



The Paoli Massacre, September 20, 1777  
by Xavier Della Gatta 1782  
(Museum of the American Revolution)



The Paoli Massacre, September 20, 1777  
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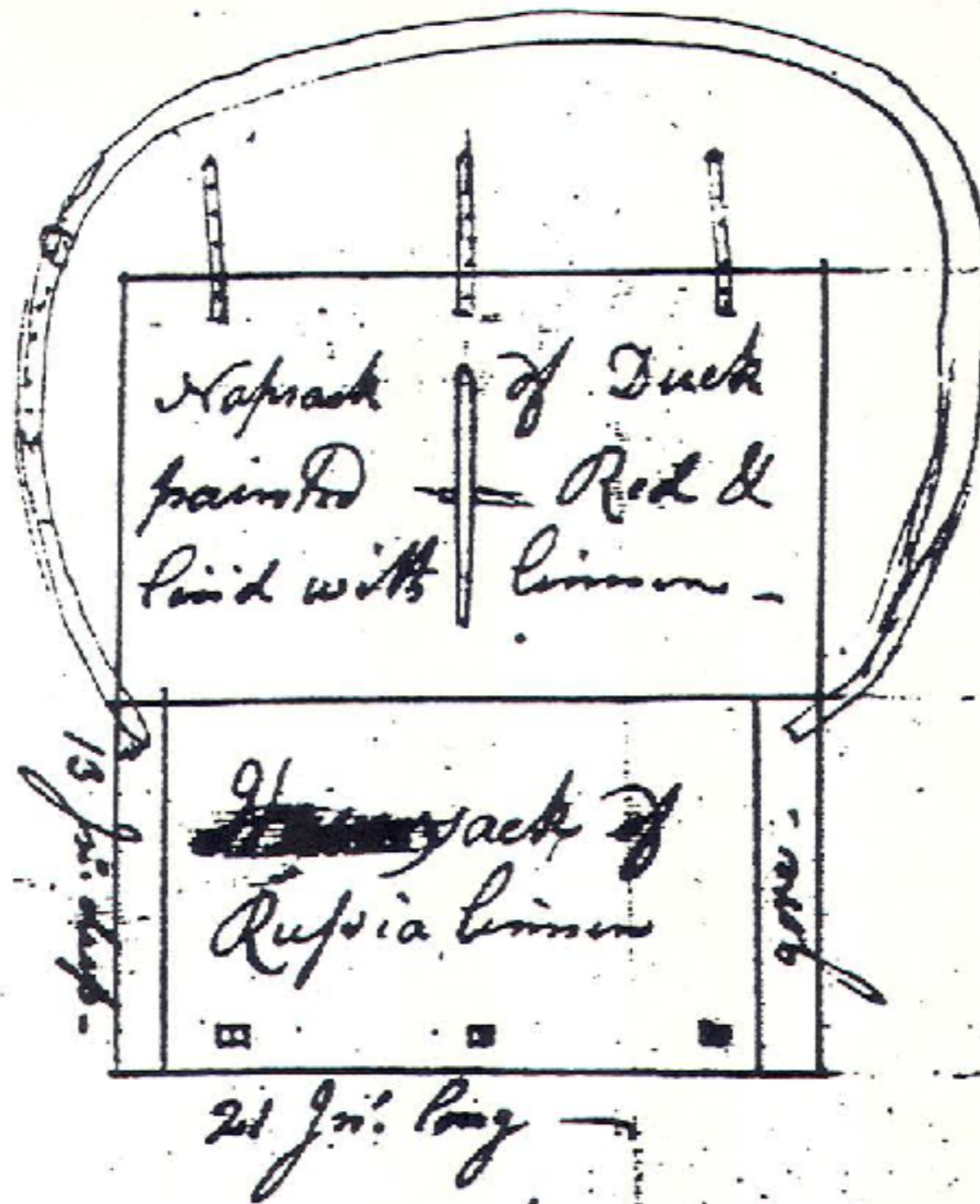
*The Paoli Massacre, September 20, 1777  
by Xavier Della Gatta 1782  
(Museum of the American Revolution)*

# “An Easy Plan of Discipline for the Militia”

## Timothy Pickering, Colonel, Essex County Militia

### 1775

*“A knapsack may be contrived that a man may load and fire, in case of necessity, without throwing down his pack. Let the knapsack lay lengthways upon the back: from each side at the top let a strap come over the shoulders, go under the arms, and be fastened about half way down the knapsack. Secure these shoulder straps in their places by two other straps which are to go across and buckle before the middle of the breast. The mouth of the knapsack is at the top, and is covered by a flap made like the flap of saddlebags.- The outside of the knapsack should be fuller than the other which lies next to your back; and of course must be sewed in gathers at the bottom. Many of the knapsacks used in the army are, I believe, in this fashion, though made of some kind of skins.”*



“Rough draft of the new Invented Napsack and haversack in one,”  
 Included with J. Young’s February 9, 1776, Letter to Maryland Congressman Samuel Chase



1777 The State of Connecticut to the Town of Norwich  
 Sub<sup>o</sup>. To Cash p<sup>o</sup> the wid<sup>o</sup> Mary Bushnell for Necessaries for  
 4 Captives from New York Seamen (viz) Joseph Dimond, John Waller  
 Tho<sup>s</sup> Bradford, and Tho<sup>s</sup> Silliman belonging to Mauduchet F 0 3 14  
 May 27<sup>th</sup> To Cash p<sup>o</sup> Ben<sup>o</sup> Burnham for Victuals &c for Soldiers } on 9 0 0  
 from 2 Captives  
 To Cash p<sup>o</sup> David Stoddard for making a new Lock } 0 3 0  
 to a Gun which was p<sup>o</sup> him to carry into Service }  
 To the making 15 Trussacks by Sam<sup>l</sup> Tracy }  
 at 1/4 p<sup>o</sup> each and Buttons & Thread 3/6 } 1 3 6  
 £ 1 18 10

The above account examined  
 And allowed by Sam<sup>l</sup> Tracy  
 Simon Huntington } Select  
 John Gage } Men  
 Jonathan Huntington }

# An Account of Ezra Tilden

“An account of some things I Carry’d into the Army in my Pack:

A Woolen Shirt with a snuff bottle full of ground Coffee in it, and one Pound and a half of chocolate in it too, wrapt up in a Piece of Brown Paper and a New Cotton and Linnen Shirt and a New milk cheese wrapt up in it which weighed 5 Pounds, a pair of White Stockings, and pair of blue stockings, a Bag of Plumbs, a Bag with 3 Pounds and a half sugar in it, a Pair of Boots, a Cap, a powder horn, 4 sheets of Paper Roll’d up in a Piece of Brown Paper and four Quills in it, a brown paper with 2 pieces of Soap in it, 1 great pin, 4 small ones, 1 Brown thread needle and 1 worsted darning needle, 1 ball of white yarn, 1 ball of Blue yarn, Some Strings, Some Thread, some Sealing Wax, a Snuff box full of snuff, a Pewter Basin, a Wooden Plates, a Spoon, a fork a jack knife, a pen knife a pair of knee buckles, a Pocket-Book and case to it, a Small tooth comb, an ink-horn with four pens in it, a Pocket looking glass, an under-jacket, a pair of Grey Stockings, two pair of Shoes, a Striped Shirt, a pair of Long Trowsers, a hat, two handkerchiefs, a pair of Shoe Buckles, a pair of garters, a pack to Carry my things in, Some Bread, a pair of arm-strings, a pair of Leather Breeches, a pair of Cloth Breeches, a Leather Strap, a Cod Line, a frock, some tow. I have here set Down, not Only my Pack & things in it, but even my Cloaths and things that I wear, Besides the things in my Pockets that I Carry & other things.”

# Acknowledgements

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Thank you!

- The 18th Century Material Culture Resource Center