

THE ROUTIER

official organ of the

"PIKE AND MUSKET SOCIETY OF N.S.W."

Special Routier
* 15th *
Reprint Edition



EDITORIAL.

The Pike and Musket Society of N.S.W. was formed by Dave Sanders, Dave Green and Paul Fisher in April 1984 to provide a counterpoint to the rising tide of courtly poncery within the medieval movement. The main aims of the society are firstly, to provide a venue for those interested in military developments which brought an end to the age of chivalry- to wit, the rise of disciplined infantry armed with the pike and the musket, and secondly, to allow persons who enjoy lusty carousing, raucous singing and dancing, and the consumption of immense amounts of ale to be able to get together in a riotous assembly and have a humungous time without fear of the intrusion of noble manners and S.C.A. poncery. To this end we have the following intentions:

1) To authentically recreate the costume and equipment of 16th and 17th century Routiers and to give displays demonstrating the fighting styles and techniques of same.

2) To associate with a local muzzle loading society so as to be able to organize shooting days for the discharging of arquebusses and the recording of data regarding the accuracy and rate of fire of the said arquebusses.

3) To hold monthly beef and ale nights so as to consume great quantities of beer and make merry far into the night.

4) To organize 'marching trips' in the countryside which shall have as there destination a rustic tavern so as to recreate in an enjoyable manner the life of the Routier.

These then are our goals. It is up to all members to bring them to fruition. It is the hope of the societies founders that with a sound show of enthusiasm we can make The Pike and Musket Society of N.S.W. one of the most enjoyable historical recreation societies to belong to.

Pierre I' Bosch, captain, 5th arquebussiers.

WHO WERE THE ROUTIERS ?

Routier is a French word and in its most literal sense it means simply, 'wayfarer'. However historically it came to be applied to the vagabond soldiers of the 16th and 17th centuries who roamed Europe in predatory bands looking for someone who would pay them to fight.

Routiers varied in quality from mere armed brigands to highly trained and disciplined professional soldiers such as the Italian Condottieri, the Swiss pikeman and the German Landsknechts. Their origins are to be found in Italy in the 14th century when John Hawkwood, an English captain, led a band of English and French freebooters into the Lombard plain during a truce in the Hundred Years War.

These men entered into successful and profitable contracts with the Italian city states. Hawkwood himself amassed huge wealth in land and monies for his services. Professional soldiers, highly skilled in the use of pike, halberd, crossbow and arquebus, they were far more effective on the battlefield than the traditional feudal levies whom armoured cavalry had easily ridden down. With their discipline and increasing firepower mercenaries became more than a match for the charge of feudal cavalry so that by the 16th century cavalry was a debilitated arm foundering before hedges of pikemen and a steady hail of arquebus balls, and professional soldiers were the mainstay of most continental armies. This predominance on the battlefield was not to be challenged until the rise of national armies after the thirty years war.

Despite their military virtues, routiers were a terror to the common people of Europe for although often strong and courageous troops they were very demanding about money. When this was not forthcoming they resorted to plundering the countryside with little regard for life or property in order to get their dues. In 1631 a starving and unpaid Imperial army under command of Johan Von Tilly raised the German city of Magdeburg to the ground in an all absorbing thirst for plunder. It is estimated that 25,000 of the town's 30,000 inhabitants perished in the sacking.

The memory of such atrocities was to haunt the minds of Europe's peasantry for decades after the thirty years war ended and to such an extent that parents used to tell their children that if they did not behave the 'Reiters' (routiers) would get them.



It is required by the constitution that all members of the Pike and Musket Society acquire, by whatever means, the following essentials of equipment and dress.

ARQUEBUSSIERS & MUSKETEERS.

- One hat: black felt type at least.
- one tunic: whatever style the individual chooses. Must be authentic.
- One leather buff coat: if applicable to chosen costume.
- One pair of pantaloons: whatever style desired.
- One pair of stockings: longjohns will do.
- One pair of boots or shoes:
- One bandolier: twelve apostle style or cartridge pouch style.
- One powder horn for priming.
- One belt dagger.
- One sword or axe: baldric slung from right shoulder to left hip
or belt hung on left hip.
- One rucksack: white canvas duffle bag slung on the back by means of
a broad leather cross belt.
- One arquebus or musket: may be flintlock Brown Bess so long as accompanied by forked rest and wooden ramrod, and
only if pertaining to a 17th century costume.

PIKEMEN.

- Tunic, pantaloons, buff coat, shoes and stockings as above.
- One steel helmet: morion style, German style etc.
- One pair steel or leather gauntlets.
- one sidearm: axe or sword, baldric or belt hung.
- one pike: not less than 12 feet in length.

EXTRAS.

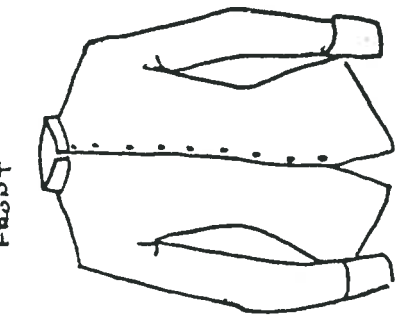
Breast and back plate. tassets, vambraces or 'half armour'.

SWORD AND BUCKLER MEN.

- One morion helmet.
- One steel or wooden small shield.
- One basket hilted broadsword.
- Half or three quarter plate armour.

N.B. For arquebusses to be made contact Dave Green. But bear in mind a small fee will be involved, and your labour may be required in the making of the accursed engine.

HATS.

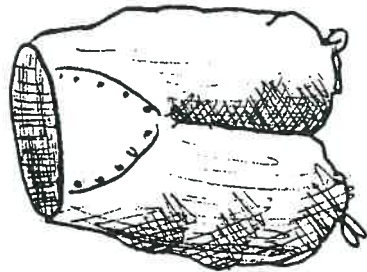
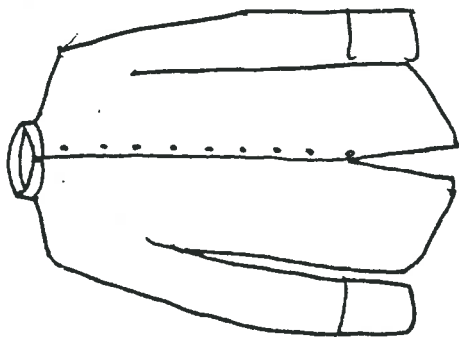


FRONT



BACK.

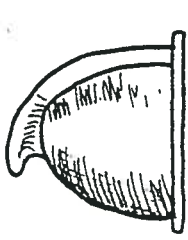
MUSKETEER TUNICS: GERMAN. 1600 - 1640.



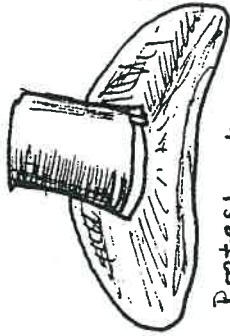
WOOLEN PANTALOONS.



General purpose felt hat.



general issue steel helmet



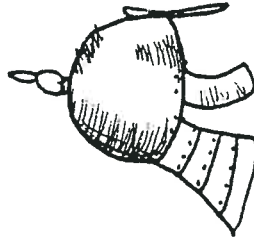
Protestant high crowned leather hat



Spanish morion (Popular with most armies 1550-165)



Eastern style hat. Slavic Polish etc.



Croatian cavalry helmet.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday may 9th, innaugural meeting of Pike and Musket Society at The Pymble Hotel (pacific highway just up from the station) at 6.00pm in the lounge bar. Be there be part of tpe company.



CONTACT ADDRESSES.

Dave Green. 50 the Bulwark Castlecrag 2068 N.S.W. Phone 956196.

Dave Sanders. 16/22 Herring rd North Ryde 2113. Phone 881245.

Paul Fisher. 34 West Market st Richmond 2753. Phone (045)781007.

AUSTRALIAN PIKE AND MUSKET SOCIETY:

OFFICIAL CONSTITUTION.

- I) All members are required to own their own gear.
 - 2) All members are required to have the basic items of equipment listed in society magazine The Routier vol I no. I.
 - 3) All members are expected to consume vast amounts of ale and to sing raucously at festive occasions.
 - 4) On formal occasions, at displays, on the march & at shooting days, all members are required to obey the directives of the officers present.
 - 5) All members are required, at formal occasions, to acknowledge officers by tipping their hats with the right hand.
 - 6) Members shall acknowledge that the captain only may wear a gold hat band, The lieutenant only a green hat band, and the sergeant only a red hat band. All other ranks shall wear a plain leather hat band so that for the purposes of formal occasions, rank may be distinguished.
 - 7) All members are required for formal occasions to have black felt hats of the floppy variety.
 - 8) All members shall acknowledge that only the captain may wear white feathers in his hat.
 - 9) All members wishing to be combative members are asked to attend two training sessions a month.
 - 10) Any member found guilty of whimpery or poncery shall be ignobily drummed out of the company and used for arquebus practice.
 - II) Any one, apart from the captain, seen looking too clean shall be required to roll in the dust of the road.
 - 12) Members shall be encouraged to have moustaches and or beards; as these create a fearsome appearance and help scare the enemy.
 - 13) Lastly, all members shall be required to have an humungous time on all occasions.
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