

I. Collections Level Description

Department: Redoubt Fortress Military Museum, Eastbourne

Collection Type: North American Collection

Reference: CHCRS.COLLECTION

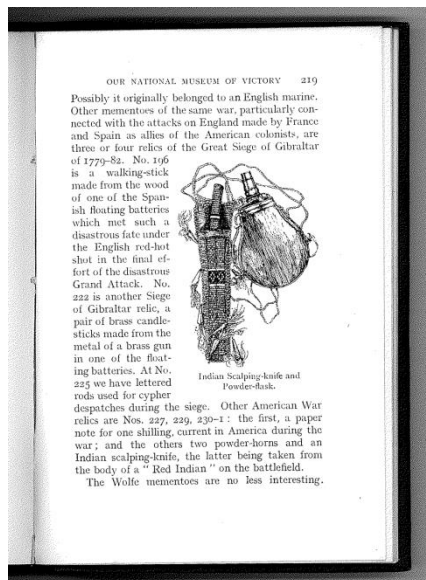
No. of items: 2

Notes

Date of research visit: 17-18th July 2014 Contact: Jonathan Seaman, Heritage Services Manager



Display relating to North America



Illustrations of CHCRS.0867 - 0868 in Greenwich Hospital and Royal United Service Museum. By Edward Fraser, 1896.

Category

Equipment

Weapons

Personal Possessions

Description

The Royal Sussex Regimental collection is displayed at the Redoubt Fortress Military Museum in Eastbourne. The current display dates back to the early 1908s and there are two Native American objects from the American War of Independence on display in the section covering the years 1701-1800. These two objects relate to the 35th Regiment of Foot which fought in both the Seven Years' War and American War of Independence. Originally raised in Belfast, the 35th regiment was actually known as the Dorsetshire regiment at the time of these two campaigns and did not become associated with Sussex until 1804.

The knife and sheath, and powder horn in this collection were given to the Redoubt Fortress Military Museum by the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in 1963. However, entries referring to them can be found in RUSI's 1924 Official Catalogue and they are illustrated in Greenwich Hospital and Royal United Service Museum by Edward Fraser, 1896.

RUSI's collection was located in the Banqueting House in Whitehall and when it later moved, the collection was dispersed and Major Gaull's items were given to the Royal Sussex Regiment. It would be interesting to investigate whether RUSI have any further records that relate these items and to conduct further research to find out who G. J. S. Camden was.

The following information comes from an email dated 07 March 2014 from Major Brian Hudson, Royal Sussex Regimental Secretary, but it is not clear how the link to the battle of Bunker Hill, Massachusetts, was made and the date of this was 1775 not 1776: 'Powder Horn and Scalping Knife taken from the body of an Indian, killed in the American War of Independence at the battle of Bunker Hill. 1776, by Major William Gaull, 35th Regiment. Given by G. P. S. Camden, Esq. Major Gaull was a member of The 35th of Foot who fought during The American War of Independence'

These two objects were looked at by Dr Nikolaus Stolle, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, in 2014.

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL: The regiment's archive is held at West Sussex County Records Office in Chichester. This includes material relating to both these campaigns in North America, however there isn't any material related to the museum or the regiments collection in the archives. Most of the material was just copies, which did include a typed 'Copy of the Order Book of the Royal America Regiment at Quebec Sept 1759-Feb 1760 (with references to the 35th Regiment of Foot)' [RSR MS. 1/14]. The copy was made in 1948 and was sent to the Royal Sussex Regiment by Lieutenant-General Sir Evelyn H. Barker. The orderly book was acquired by him from a sale at Sotheby's in 1947 but originates from Harmsworth Trust Library. It does contain a reference to the Light Infantry Company soldiers being issued with snow shoes and moccassins, and that all regiments were supplied with powder horns.

The originals of General Henry Fletcher's papers are held in the National Library of Scotland amongst the Saltoun Family papers (MS. 16517-16524 cover the years 1754 to 1764) however they seem to primarily concern family business.

Original description

ACCESSION REGISTER: 3-8-63 867 Scalping knife taken from the body of an Indian who was killed by Major William Guall 35th Regiment during American War of Independence 1775-83 RUSI RUSI Ref 101/2 knife and sheath

ACCESSION REGISTER: 3-8-63 868 Indian powder horn taken from the body of an Indian details as above RUSI RUSI Ref. 101/3

Production information:

Place: Bunker Hill, Charlestown,
Massachusetts, USA, North
America
Date: 1775-1783

Name Associations	Type	Note
35th Regiment of Foot (Royal Sussex Regiment)	regiment/service	
Gaull, William, Major (fl. 1765-1776)	personal name	Retired 1776, sold his commission to Captain James Cockburne[?]. Gaull is also sometimes spelt Gaul[?].

Associations	Type	Note
American War of Independence (1775-83)	event	

Bibliographic references

Official Catalogue of the Royal United Services Museum, Whitehall, S.W. Compiled by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Arthur Leetham (Curator). 7th Edition, 1924, cat. no. 229-230

Greenwich Hospital and Royal United Service Museum. By Edward Fraser, 1896, p.219, illustrated.