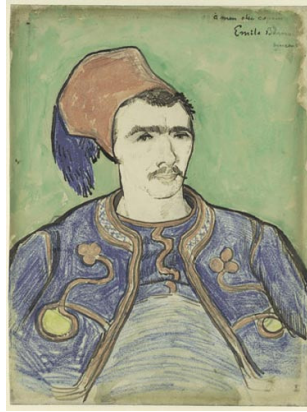


ZOUAVE!



Van Gough's 3eme Zouave

No. 17 ❖ September 2008

Established 2007

Newspaper of the 62nd NYSVV "Anderson Zouaves" Company F
(Living History and Research Group)

UNIFORMS OF CIVIL WAR VIVANDIERES

- Susan Lyons Hughes



Kady Brownell (1866) – late of the 1st (later 5th)
RI Infantry

Uniforms of *vivandieres* in the American Civil War varied from regiment to regiment. All had in common a knee-length skirt worn over full trousers, a tunic or jacket, hat, and some military trim or designation.

This style of costume was very similar to bathing and gymnastic costumes depicted in fashion magazines of the period, and was suitable for the outside exercise required of *vivandieres* who lived and marched with their regiments.

There was probably a great deal of variation in trim and materials in the costume of *vivandieres* because there was no standardization of uniform for this non-official post. Sarah Taylor, the daughter of the First Tennessee (United States Volunteers) joined her stepfather's regiment at Camp Dick Robinson, Kentucky in 1861. When the regiment marched away from Camp Dick Robinson toward Camp Wildcat in September of that year, a reporter for the Cincinnati *Times* described her thus:

She has donned a neat blue chapeau, beneath which her long hair is fantastically arranged; bearing at her side a highly-finished regulation sword, and silver-mounted pistols in her belt, all of which gives her a very neat appearance.... She wore a

blue blouse, and was armed with pistols, sword and rifle.

Eliza Wilson of the 5th Wisconsin appeared in a soldier's letter wearing:

... clothes of such pattern as the military (not millinery) board have ordered for nurses in the army, which is the Turkish costume....The color is bright brown; no crinoline; dress reaches half way between the knee and ankle; upper sleeve loose, gathered at the wrist; pantalettes same color, wide but gathered tight around the ankle; black hat with plumes or feathers of same color; feet dressed in morocco boots.

The *vivandieres* of the Garibaldi Guard were described as wearing "feathered hats, jaunty red jackets and blue gowns."

For more on this subject, please visit the source of this article, Susan Lyons Hughes' excellent site, "The Daughter of the Regiment: A Brief History of *Vivandieres* and *Cantinieres* in the American Civil War".

You will find it at;

<http://ehistory.osu.edu/uscw/features/articles/0005/vivandieres.cfm>

VIVANDIÈRE UNIFORM AT
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN HISTORY



Brought to this publication's attention by member Bill Lincoln, is an extent vivandière uniform housed in the National Museum of American History.

The jacket has blue with orange facings, lace trim on neck and cuffs and button ornamentation. It has a matching blue pleated cloth skirt with orange accent trim.



You will find the original article at:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/collection/object.asp?ID=801>

DISCUSSION ON THE ARMS
OF THE 62d NYSV
– John Tierney



There has been a lot of discussion recently about the actual arms of the Anderson Zouaves. Member, John Tierney, contributed the following contribution to our Company discussion list (Ed).

I am no historian, but it would seem that the 62nd had two companies of Lorenz rifles and eight companies of the model 1814 Springfield flintlock musket converted to percussion cap.

However, if memory serves me correctly the report of the New York Adjutant General Hillhouse in January 1862 says that the regiment was issued with Enfields. This is confirmed by both

Chaplain Harvey and Alfred Covell Woods in their private correspondence.

This being said it is possible that the 62nd NY may have kept their Lorenz muskets and perhaps it was only the Springfield smoothbores which were replaced. I say this because of a passage in the history of the 5th New York which I read recently viz:

"The smooth bore rifles, heretofore in use by eight companies of the regiment, were exchanged on the 30th [May] for Springfield rifles."

From page 189 of 'Camp and Field Life of the Fifth New York Duryee's Zouaves' by Alfred Davenport.

The 30th of May 1862 was the day before the battle of Fair Oaks. So it seems that the process of replacing old smoothbores in the regiments of the Army of the Potomac continued even while the army was on campaign, which I would have thought would have been a logistical nightmare.

As you may know it was a common practice at the beginning of the war to arm New York regiments with two companies of rifles and eight companies of smoothbores. Obviously there was a lack of rifles and I don't think that we can assume that when the Springfield was replaced by the Enfield that the Lorenz was also replaced - but I suppose it was likely.



A Lorenz Musket.
See <http://www.sunblest.net/gun/Wanzl.htm>

I reckon that the Anderson Zouaves were probably rearmed in January of 1862 as original documents in my collection show that the regiment

had Lorenz and Springfield muskets throughout November and December of 1861, and Hillhouse's report is more than likely a reflection of how the regiment was armed at the time the report was published (January 16, 1862 - or thereabouts) rather than how they were armed when they left New York (August 21, 1861).

On second thoughts the fact that Hillhouse doesn't mention the Lorenz in his report probably means that all the companies had their arm replace by Enfields in January.

Whatever the case, I reckon you could get away with a Lorenz, an Enfield rifle or a Springfield smoothbore if you were doing an early war impression...

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ZOUAVE! is a publication of the Living History Resource Group. Unless otherwise stated, all content is produced by the editor, David Sanders.
