

## Haversack sewing recommendations

I have the following suggestions to add to your sewing instructions, based on my experience with these kits:

- **Make the buttonholes 1 inch.** The directions call for a larger buttonhole, but as the brass buttons supplied are 3/4", a 1-inch buttonhole is plenty large.



- **Double your thread when sewing the strap to the haversack body.** The original was sewn this way, and it makes sense, but Roy forgot to mention it in his directions.



- The thread is also doubled where the strap is whipstitched to the side of the body.



- **Try on the haversack to get the right length for the strap** before sewing the second end of the strap to the body. This is in the directions, and you don't want to skip this step. I recommend putting some stuff in the bag so that you can see how it rides at various strap lengths; because the bag is deep, what really matters is how low the bottom rides, not how high the top sits. The general rule is that the higher your equipment rides, the better. I shortened my strap so that the bottom of the bag is at the bottom of my bum. Others' results will no doubt vary. Tall guys & gals are stuck with max length. According to Commissariat Accounts of 1810, the straps are to be 35" long.
- **Sew only to the diagonal** on the flap when sewing through the strap and the body of the haversack. The flap will open more easily. Pic of a reproduction below shows the stitching on the flap on the left, stitch through the strap on the right.



- **Optional: cover the buttons** with leftover material from the strap. An original haversack (ca. 1810) in the NAM has linen-covered buttons; the brass buttons on the Nannos haversack were period replacements, likely of the original fabric-covered bone or wood buttons.\*



Here are the links to pics of the Nannos original, which include information on construction details:

<http://www.najecki.com/repro/misc/Nannos/HaversackBody.html>  
<http://www.najecki.com/repro/misc/Nannos/HaversackDetails.html>  
<http://www.najecki.com/repro/misc/Nannos/HaversackStrap.html>

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\* See the comments by James Kochan in the haversack discussion thread on the 95<sup>th</sup> Rifles forum: (<http://2nd95thrifles.myfastforum.org/ftopic389-0-asc-0.php>). Description of the 1810 haversack:

*Haversack, other ranks', Royal Carmarthen Fusiliers, 1810 (c). One piece of white linen, folded to make the front and back sections and the front flaps. The front flap has two button holes that correspond with two linen covered buttons on the front section, and it has one long white linen strap, sewn to the haversack at both sides at the top. NAM. 1970-09-22-11*

