

## **ARMY PANTALOOON CLOTH / GAITER / CAVALRY OVERALL CLOTH**

The specification for the cloth introduced in 1812 for Army Pantalooons has recently been discovered. A plain weave, heavily milled cloth generally similar to that used for coats, it does differ slightly. A little lighter than coating, it has a closer cropped nap and is made from a mixture similar to the Greatcoat Kersey. Presumably this was to enable it to resist the additional wear and tear to which trousers are subject.

The specifications of the Pantaloon Cloth are clearly stated but some detective work is necessary. The records state the weight of wool used and the quantity of cloth produced, unfortunately, no mention of the width is made. Georgian weavers generally finished cloth in multiples of 9" ( $\frac{1}{4}$  yard) widths. By substituting these widths into the equation it is possible to estimate the weight of the cloth. At 54" width the cloth would weigh 15 oz a square yard. This is slightly lighter than the coating as one would expect. At a narrower width the cloth would be too heavy and a wider one would be too light for military use. The width of the coating cloth is also 54". The price of the cloth quoted in correspondence with Mr Maberley (a major contractor to the Army Clothing Office during the Napoleonic Wars) also corresponds to that given for a sample in the weaver's pattern book of similar mix to the Kersey and the same weight as given in the apprentice's book.

The width of the cloth has been confirmed by the discovery of a sample of Infantry trousering in another archive document.

It seems that by the 1830s Cavalry Overalls were made from a similar mixture but twill woven in order to allow more stretch. In essence this was a heavy quality of Kerseymere. Currently I have not identified any patterns of Cavalry trousering earlier than that date; any information would be welcomed.

### **Specifications:**

<b>Type:</b>	Mixture Broadcloth
<b>Fibre:</b>	Woollen Warp and Weft
<b>Weave:</b>	Plain
<b>Finish:</b>	Heavily milled, close cropped
<b>Width:</b>	54"
<b>Weight:</b>	15 oz per Yard <sup>2</sup>