

The Woman in old times sharpshootersuniform

The active members of the sharpshooters union were only men. Never the less had the women workt and contribute for the sharpshooters union progress. Country town as Eskilstuna was not long after big towns to have women to help whith all sort of things. The women could prepare banner commissions and supply expensive banners with subscriptions, bazaars and lottery. The mony they collect where at good help for the fast groving sharpshooters union.



The sharpshooters were grateful of having the canteenkeeper in the company. In all weather the canteenkeeper was follow her company in the company march-order, she had the honour-place, at the right- hand corner of the music band.

With sence of tact the canteenkeeper shine in the parade and everyone looked with interest. One sharpshooters- poet honoured the canteenkeeper with a strophe in 1868:

And the canteenkeeper my soul
her hat with the plume
the soldiercostume
Behave like as she was a commander
and was born to give order
and with soldier manceuvre

The canteenkeepers uniform was précised fixed but the uniform was unequal for different company and cities. Exaclty the same was it for the mens uniform, it was unequal from differents cities and company.

Eskilstuna sharpshooters uniform in 1862 was bottlegreen, grey trousers with black facing and on the head a cap- peak m/ 1865. That's why the canteenkeeper to day have the same bottlegreen short jacket and a dark grey shirt with the right length for women 1861. The canteenkeeper carried a wide leatherstrap over the shest with a cask. Like they said once " Fist aid at suddenly attack of illness".



Photo: Mari-Anne Rehnholm

I carry a bag in a leatherstrap over my chest. In the bag I have a military green glass bottle with punsch, a common drink for sharpshooters. On my feet, I have black leatherboots just like the real canteenkeeper use to have. The hat is new but a copy of a hat from 1860.

The company proceedings don't mention very often the canteenkeeper. In the big cities we knew that they had canteenkeepers but we don't know if Eskilstuna sharpshooters had one. We want to belive in that because in the town of Eskilstuna the sharpshooter union was big. It is a nice thought and good publicity for Eskilstuna.

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