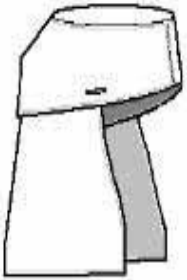


Havelock, a Compilation of Information

Arranged by: Bob Johnson 2015



Havelock

[hav-lok] noun

1. A cap cover with a flap hanging over the back of the neck, for protection from the sun.

Origin of Havelock 1860-1865

1860-65, Americanism; named after Sir Henry Havelock (1795-1857), English general in India

French Foreign Legion

..."One short lived aberration was the wearing of green uniforms in 1856 by Foreign Legion units recruited in Switzerland for service in the [Crimean War](#).

In the Crimea itself (1854-59) a hooded coat and red or blue waist sashes were adopted for winter dress, while during the Mexican Intervention (1863-65) straw hats or sombreros were sometimes substituted for the kepi. When the latter was worn it was usually covered with a white "Havelock" – the predecessor of the white kepi that was to become a symbol of the Foreign Legion. Foreign Legion units serving in France during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 were distinguishable only by minor details of insignia from the bulk of the French infantry."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Foreign_Legion



"Other troops purchased a "[havelock](#)" which, like the contemporary [Foreign Legion cap](#) had a neck flap to protect the wearer from the sun. The Havelock was made of a grayish-blue cotton mesh and was not liked by the troops, who usually used them to filter tea or coffee. So their issue was discontinued in the later years."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_of_the_Union_Army



Flags, Uniforms & Insignia

Havelocks "Cap Covers To Coffee Strainers"

"At the beginning of the Civil War many Union soldiers in particular found themselves burdened with excess equipment and accoutrements. One soldier from New Hampshire gave the following description of his regiment upon its arrival in Washington, DC: "We are warriors now in full feathers and trappings: ten pounds of gun: eighty rounds per man of ball cartridge, one pound of powder, five pounds of lead, heavy equipments; knapsack, haversack, three-pint canteen, all full; three days' rations; rubber blanket, woolen blanket, shelter tent, full winter clothing; tin cup, tin plate, knife, fork, spoon, spider, et cetera too numerous to mention, and too many to carry, and a pound of mud on each shoe."



One additional item given to Civil War soldiers on both sides was the Havelock, a cap cover made popular by Sir Henry Havelock of the British army in the Sepoy Rebellion in India in 1857. Made of white linen or cotton, the Havelock was to be worn over the soldier's cap with its long tail covering the man's neck.

The Havelock was supposed to protect men who were fighting in hot climates from sunstroke. But the soldiers found the Havelock actually made them hotter by not allowing air to circulate around their head and neck. Many Civil War soldiers used their Havelocks not as cap covers, but as coffee strainers, dishcloths, or gun patches.

Some havelocks were provided to the men by well-meaning ladies back home. One soldier from Pennsylvania reported his whole regiment received havelocks made by ladies in their home county. "We sent home thanks and threw the head bags away." Indeed, the path of new armies was commonly strewn with gear the soldiers found dispensable and not worth adding to the weight they carried for so many miles. Havelocks were quickly stricken from the list of items needed by the Civil War soldier.



Fascinating Fact: In July 1861 John F. Whipple patented a hat that was a cross between a forage cap and a Havelock. It had a brim that could be worn up or down and a flap to keep the sun off the neck."

<http://civilwar.bluegrass.net/FlagsUniformsAndInsignia/havelocks.html>

“The Havelock was a cap cover developed by the British during the Sepoy Mutiny, and named for Sir Henry Havelock. During the ACW or at least the early days of the conflict, the Havelock was extremely popular but was soon found to be more of a hindrance than a benefit.”

<http://www.civilwartalk.com/threads/the-famous-kepi-hat.73381/>

British Troops in India at the End of the 1857 Mutiny, wearing Havelock covers over their caps



Whipple hat/havelocks



“A cloth Whipple hat/Havelock.

One of the more unusual types of headwear of the Civil War period

was the hat/Havelock combination. The concept of a hat/cap with a built in Havelock sounds like a great idea, but fell short of its believed potential. The hat/Havelock came in several styles and was used by both the Union and the Confederacy.”



1. Charles Pascal's patent. This style was very much like a hat with Havelock up and the “Havelock” could be lowered to protect against sun and rain. It was worn by several Pennsylvania cavalry regiments. It is often called the “Pennsylvania Cavalry Hat”.
2. Rhode Island issued a local version of the hat/Havelock.
3. The Seamless Clothing Company provided the First and Second U.S. Sharpshooter a version of the hat/Havelock.

4. New Yorker Jonathan F. Whipple patented a Havelock/hat that was issued several New England soldiers, particularly New Hampshire soldiers. This version looked more like a cap/Havelock. It was made in two version, stiff felt and cloth.

5. James M. Loomis of Chicago made hat/Havelocks similar to the Whipple version.

6. There was a Confederate version of the hat/Havelock (I forget what it was called and could use some help).

The hat/havelocks were not popular and the soldiers thought the hat/Havelock were to hot and heavy. It was not very military looking.

<http://civilwartalk.com/threads/whipple-hat-havelocks.106161/>

[Major bill, Nov 15, 2014 #1](#)

So what does this have to do with trail work?

It is important to understand the history behind some things and actions. As a constant safety issue for our trail volunteers; the sun can be a brutal foe. Consider the trail tip of using your bandana up under your ball cap to make an improvised Havelock like our ancestors.

Today's application of the Havelock would not only shed the sun's harmful rays, but keep the bugs off your neck or in your ears and help in reducing sweating. Removing the Havelock is easy and can be taken off for soaking up cool water or to wipe sweat out of the eyes.

CATS issues ball caps to its members. There is no neck protection. So keep this sun protection tip in mind and bring along a bandana to make a Havelock!