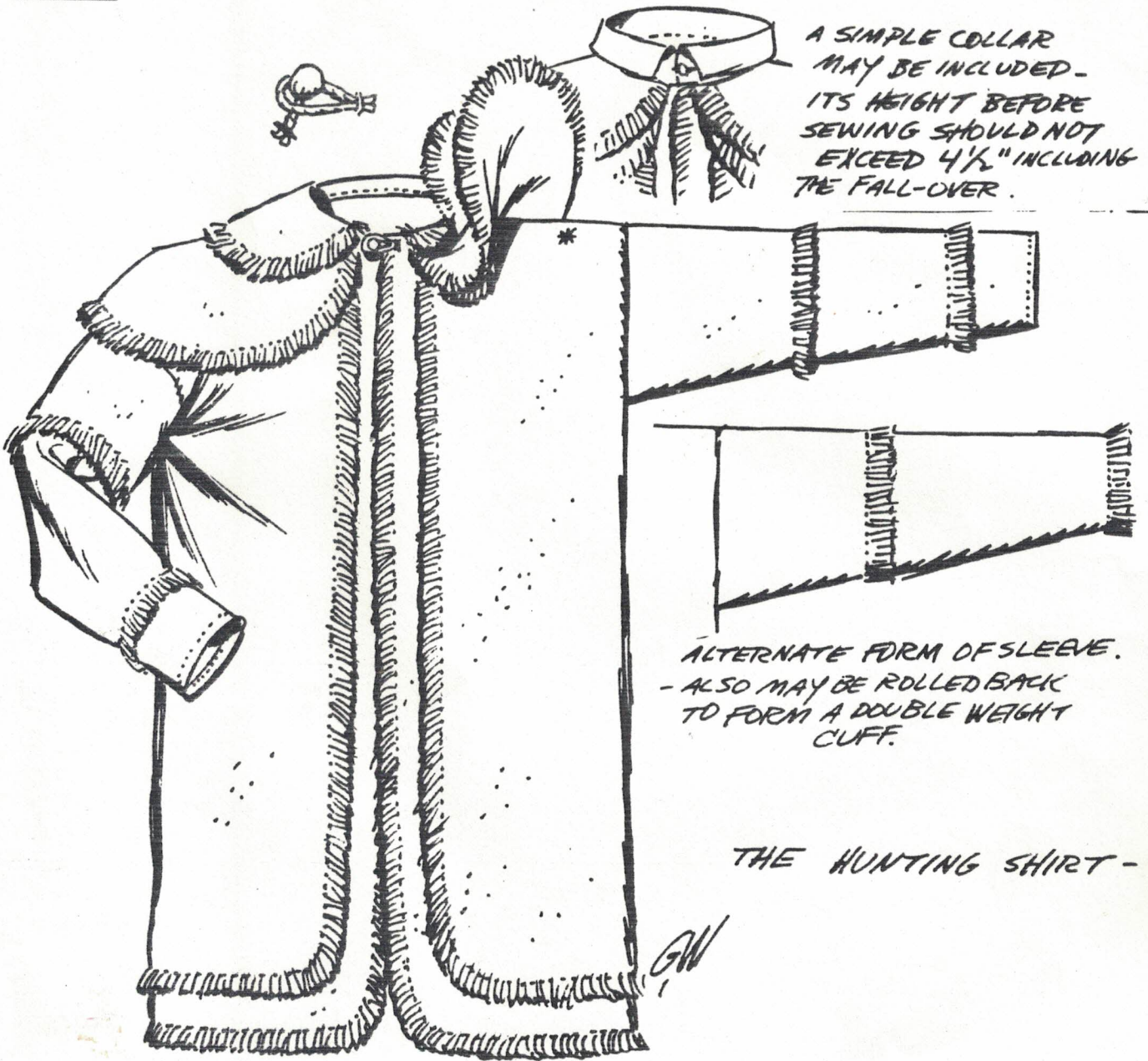


# The Brigade Of The American Revolution

ESTABLISHED 1962 · A NATIONAL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO RE-CREATING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE COMMON SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, 1775-1783



A SIMPLE COLLAR MAY BE INCLUDED - ITS HEIGHT BEFORE SEWING SHOULD NOT EXCEED 4 1/2" INCLUDING THE FALL-OVER.

ALTERNATE FORM OF SLEEVE. - ALSO MAY BE ROLLED BACK TO FORM A DOUBLE WEIGHT CUFF.

THE HUNTING SHIRT -

\* POINT OF SHOULDER

THIS "SHIRT" WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR USE AS AN OUTER GARMENT - IT SHOULD IN NO WAY BE TIGHTLY FITTED.

UNBLEACHED, COARSE LINEN OF ABOUT 65 THREADS TO THE INCH IS GOOD FOR SHIRTS - IF A FINER (LIGHTER) LINEN IS USED A GUSSET & AT EACH SIDE OF THE NECK, AND AT EACH ARMPIT WILL BE NECESSARY. THE LATTER SORT OF CLOTH ALMOST ALWAYS IS AVAILABLE IN WHITE ONLY.

## BILL OF MATERIALS

LINEN MATERIAL, coarse to medium weave containing about 49 to 65 threads per inch.\* Obtain three and a third to three and a half yards if material is 52" to 56" wide. Should only narrower material be available, increase yardage accordingly. Note that about 10 sq. ft. of this yardage will be taken up by shrinkage and in making fringe.

BUTTONS, three required of about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter; one button for each cuff (optional) and one to close the throat. Make these of bone, horn, pewter, or wood covered with linen material if you so desire.

THREAD, white or off-white, strong and fine to medium weight.

\*NOTE: THREADS PER INCH refers to a method of determining the fineness of woven material. To obtain this figure, merely count and add together the number of WARP and WOOF threads within any given square inch of fabric.

Incidentally, WARP threads are those running parallel to the length of the material as it comes off the bolt. These are the same fine, long fibred and (therefore) strong threads which are strung on the loom before the woof threads are woven in. The direction of the WARP threads is often called the "strength of the material".

WOOF threads are often composed of thicker, shorter fibred and therefore weaker threads. These run parallel to the width of the material, that is to say on a bolt of fabric they run from selvedge to selvedge.

## TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Standard Items: Shears, needles, tape measure, dark tailors' chalk, pins, a yardstick, and paper for making large pattern from scaled drawing.

The use of a sewing machine should be avoided like the pox! However, if weakness bends one to a dependency upon such an infernal device, let all visible stitching, at least, be hand sewn!

## ALTERATIONS IN THE PATTERN

The pattern pieces will often need alteration to accommodate the individual's size. Make as few alterations as possible to obtain a good, roomy fit.

The major dimensions are as follows:

Dimension A: <sup>37</sup> Measure from the top of the shoulder where neck and shoulder meet, to about two inches above the top of the knee. Use a tapemeasure, making sure it lies against the body and hangs just as the material will. This measurement is the length, up and down, of the front and rear body panels. <sup>33K</sup> Add  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam and hem allowance all around front and rear panels. See sketch #1.

Dimension B: <sup>22</sup> <sup>16K</sup> This measurement equals the distance from shoulder point to shoulder point, taken across the spine, PLUS three to

four inches. This extra width will provide a necessary full looseness to the shirt and result in a dropped shoulder which is characteristic of this garment. Remember to visualize the appearance of the piece. This dimension is actually giving you the width of the shirt; therefore, all side seams and the front opening should be parallel. (See sketch #2 and page showing dimensions of all pattern pieces.)

Dimension C: Measure from the point of the shoulder to the wrist. Since this garment has a dropped shoulder, a sleeve length based on Dimension C will result then in too long a sleeve; therefore, consider the seam allowance of  $5/8$ " at each end already incorporated in Dimension C. See sketch #1. 22 20K

Dimension D: 22 20K The top circumference of the sleeve is usually 22" and may be altered as required. (See sketch #3) This 22" includes a seam allowance for the seam running from underarm to wrist.

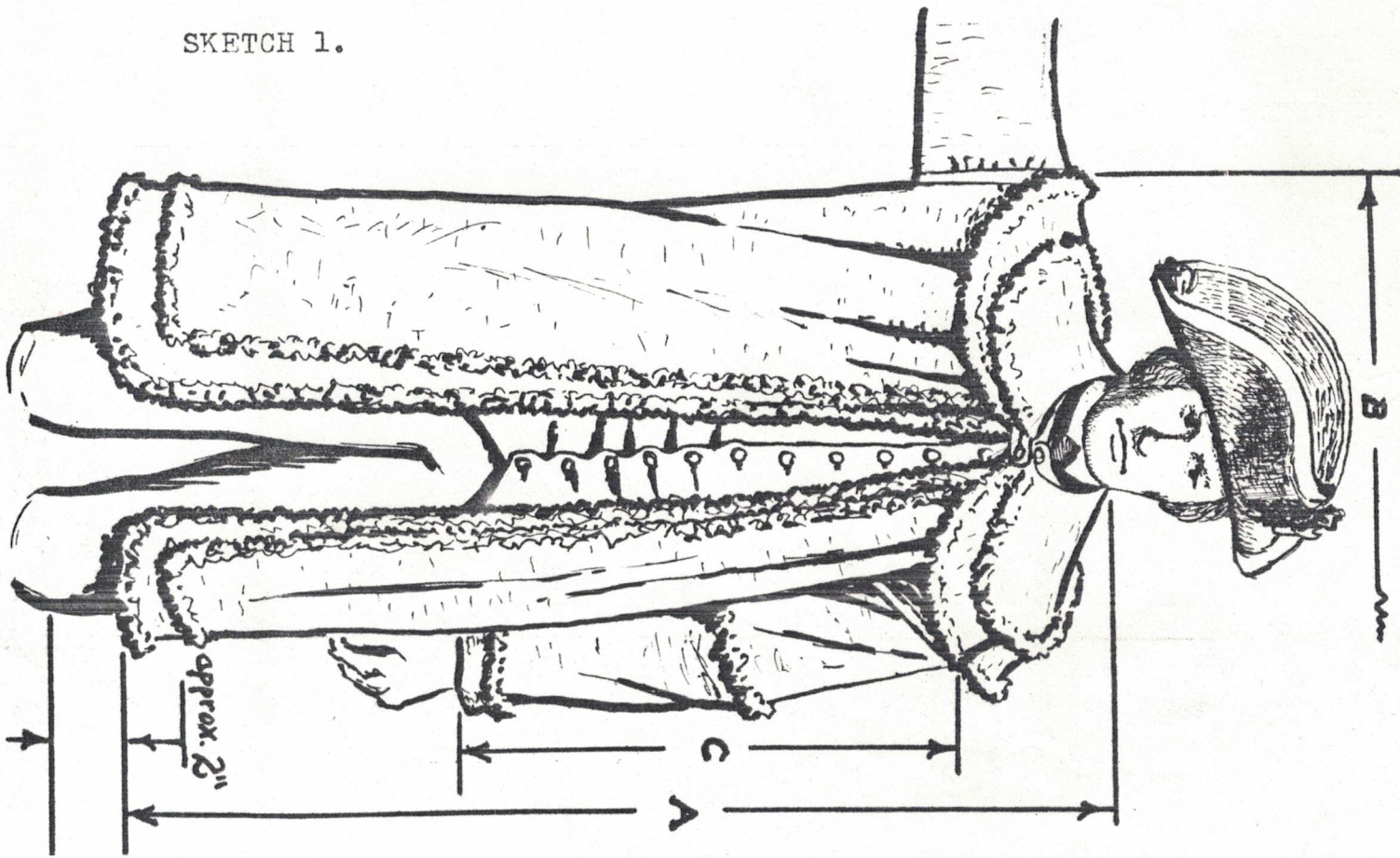
Dimension E: The wrist circumference of the sleeve is an arbitrary 13" which also contains the standard  $5/8$ " seam allowance mentioned above. (See sketch #3.) 13 10K

Dimension F: The lower cape width from right to left equals Dimension B. Be sure to maintain the general contours of the pattern provided. Add  $5/8$ " hem allowance all around.

NOTE: The pattern provided for the top cape may be used as is, unless the man be very large or yet a lean lad.

The sketch below illustrates the shapelessness, and the roominess of this square-cut garment, underwhich other clothing, including a coat may be worn.

SKETCH 1.



SEQUENCE OF OPERATIONS

Op. 1. PREPARING THE MATERIAL

Before cutting out the various parts of the garment, wash the material in hot water using detergent and fabric softener. This is done to "shrink" the material and to improve its working properties. The material may be either air-dried or machine-dried. Iron the linen and spread it out flat on a large table. Fold the fabric lengthwise so that all the pattern pieces can be laid out on the double thickness of fabric. (In some fabrics it is difficult to decide which is the WRONG and which is the RIGHT side, but in any case be consistent.) Patterns laid out on double thickness of fabric are placed on the wrong side of the fabric (right side folded to inside) so that any markings made on the piece with chalk or pen will be on the inside when the garment is finished.

(Linen of 36" width is folded exactly in half, and all pieces will have to be strung out, one below the other.) Wider material is folded to a width at least equal to the widest piece, i.e., the rear panel. Whatever linen is left over will be used for fringe and so forth.

Op. 2. LAYING OUT THE PATTERN

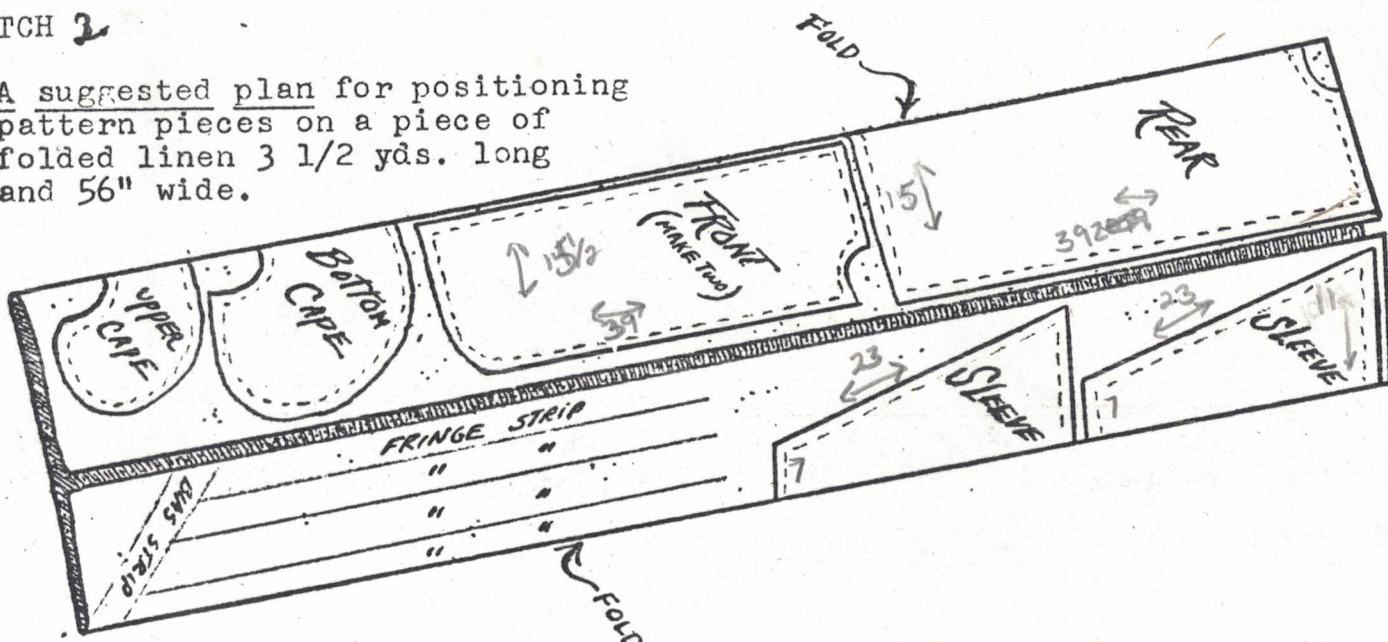
Match the folded edge of the linen to the edge of each pattern piece where marked "place on fold of fabric". (may not be applicable here) Pin or otherwise secure each piece close enough together so that no needless waste will result in cutting out the parts. You may wish to follow the suggested pattern layout plan, but feel free to use your own if more convenient. Whatever system is used, you should produce the following pieces:

- 1 Rear
- 1 Small cape
- 1 Large cape
- 2 Front halves
- 2 Sleeves
- 12 yards of Fringe strips which

may be of almost convenient length, the longer strips being the easiest to work with. These strips should be NO LESS than 2½" wide and may be laid out with a yardstick and tailors' chalk. The bias strip for the neck facing and material for button and/or loop as well as eventual patching will come from the remaining material.

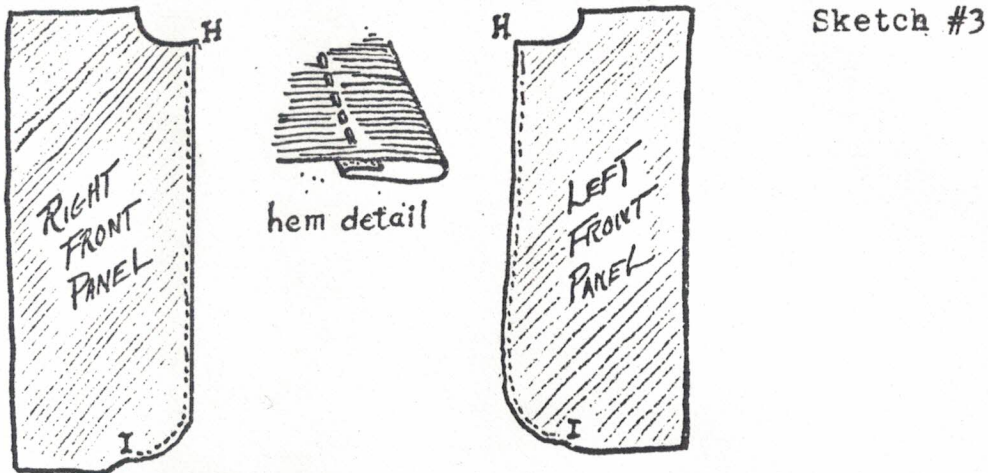
SKETCH 1

A suggested plan for positioning pattern pieces on a piece of folded linen 3 1/2 yds. long and 56" wide.



Op. 3. TURNING THE FRONT PANEL EDGES.

Turn under raw edges from point 'H' to point 'I' (see sketch #3) and stitch 5/8" hem down each side of center front opening. Continue the hemming through the curves at 'I', leaving the rest of the bottom hem to finished at a later time.

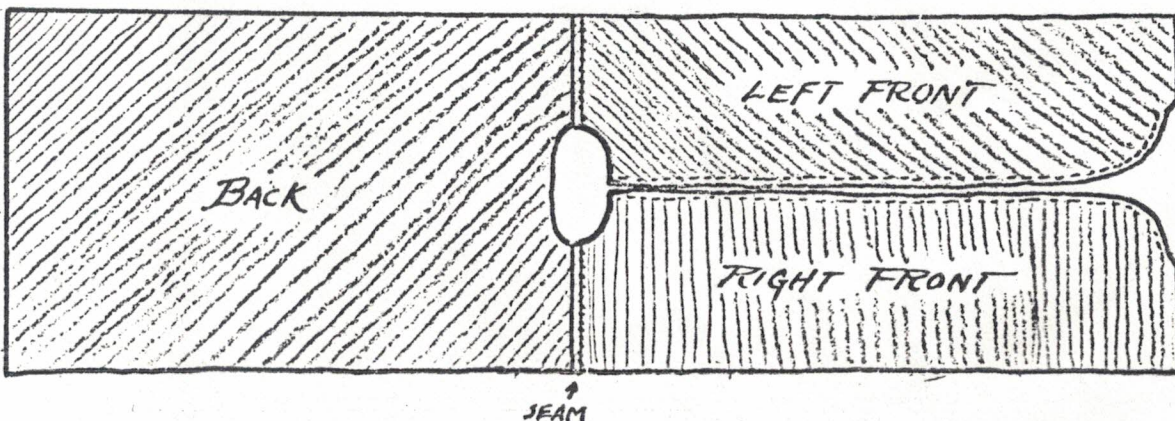


NOTE: Garment makers regard fabric as having a 'RIGHT' and a 'WRONG' side. The RIGHT side of the fabric is the OUTSIDE of the finished garment, usually. The WRONG side is generally next to the body, or inside. It will be a help in orienting your view point with these drawings that the right side of the material will always be shaded. Do not confuse this shading with shadowing seen in regular pictures.

Op. 4. JOINING FRONT PANELS TO BACK.

Sew both front panels to back at shoulders as shown below using FLAT FELL SEAM.

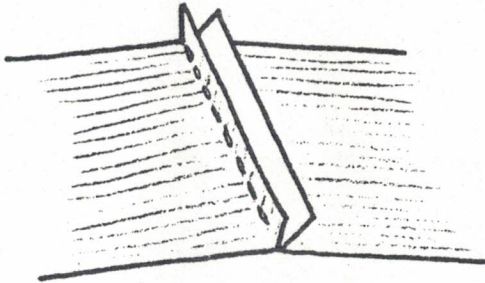
SKETCH 4



How to make a FLAT FELL SEAM. All work is done on the RIGHT side of the garment.

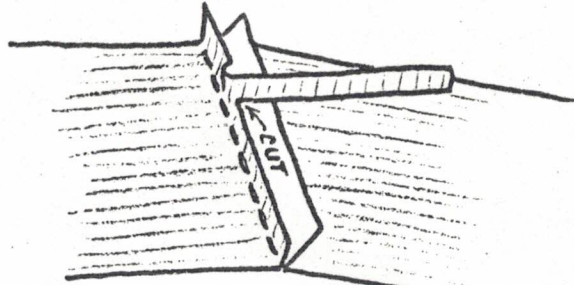
SKETCH # 5

1.



make a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam

2.



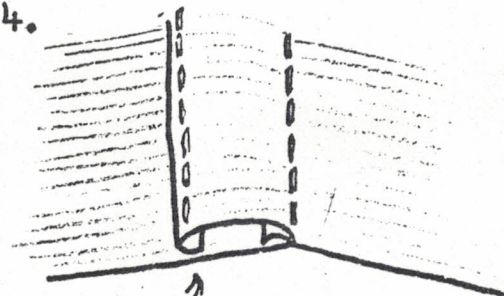
Cut one side down to  $\frac{1}{8}$ "

3.



Fold down

4.



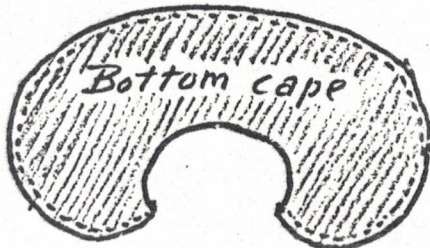
TURN UNDER  
RAW EDGE

FINISHED SEAM  
IS ABOUT  $\frac{3}{8}$ "  
WIDE.

Op. 5. TURN CAPE EDGES.

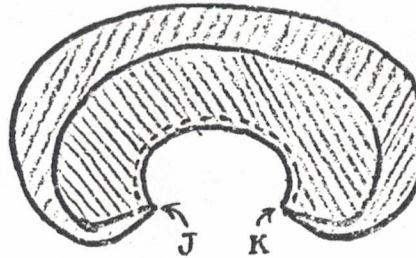
Turn under raw edges of CONVEX curves of both capes forming a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " hem. The CONCAVE neck opening will be treated differently. These cape hems will be formed in the same manner as that shown in the Hem Detail in Sketch #3.

SKETCH # 6



Op. 6. FITTING NECK OPENING.

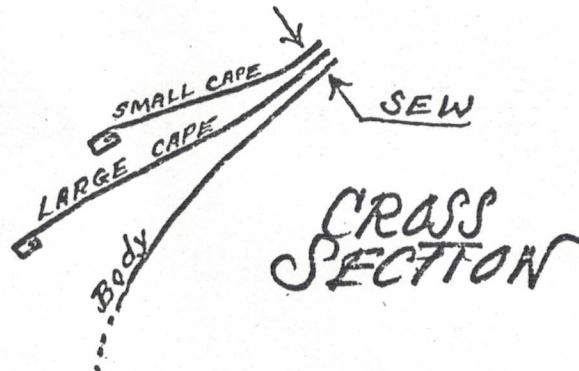
Pin cape edges together with neck edges matching about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from Raw edge. Fit capes around neck so that Points 'J' and 'K' meet at the throat comfortably. (See SKETCH #9.) Baste capes together when good fit is obtained.



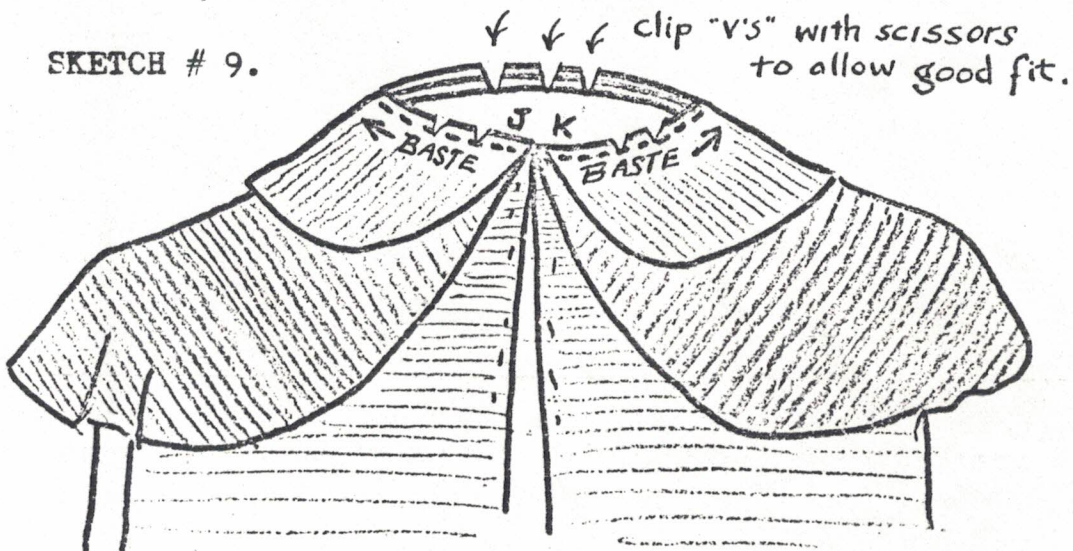
Op. 7. ATTACH CAPES TO BODY.

Match neck edges of capes to neck of garment body and secure with pins. Baste all three thicknesses of fabric together starting first at point 'J' or 'K' and sewing back to the center rear of neck. Repeat procedure from other corner. The body may be gathered slightly at nape of neck to obtain a proper fit. Clip raw edges together at intervals for ease in matching and fitting.

SKETCH # 8



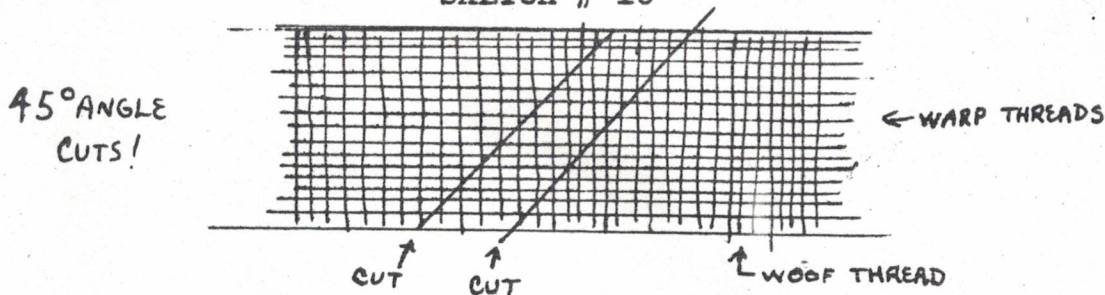
SKETCH # 9.



Op. 8. FACING FOR NECK.

Cut a bias strip from scrap linen 1 5/8" wide and as long as the opening measures in circumference, or about 22". Use a straight woven strip only as a last resort.

SKETCH # 10

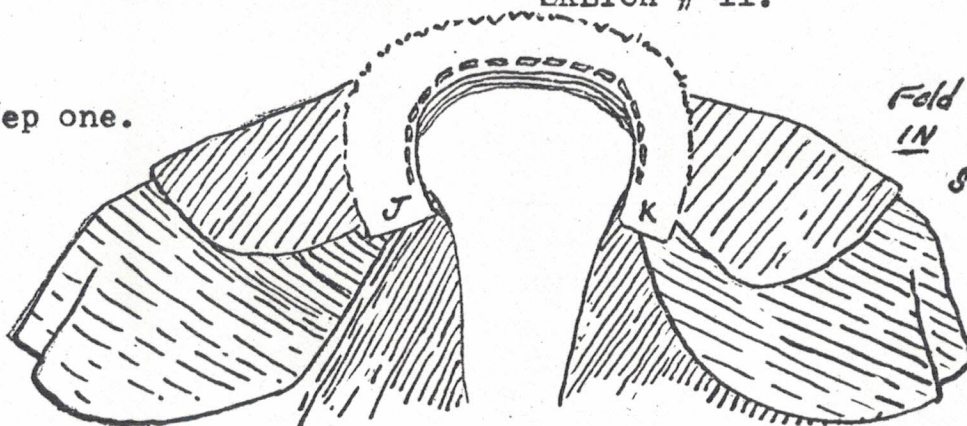


A bias woven strip will conform more neatly to the curve of the neck better than a straight woven piece.

Baste RIGHT side of bias cut strip against RIGHT side of cape. Line up all edges evenly and leave 1/2" tabs at points 'J' and 'K'. These tabs will be turned to the inside later, see below. Sew all around neck opening through edges of: (1) facing, (2&3) both capes and (4) neck opening. Trim all edges to a uniform 1/4" from line of stitching. Turn in raw ends of strip 'J' & 'K'. Turn raw edge of bias strip down over the raw edges of the capes and body to inside of shirt. This will neatly trap these raw edges and prevent fraying. Hand stitch securely in place.

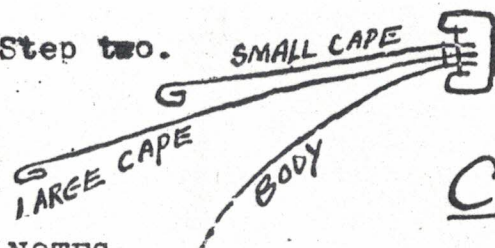
SKETCH # 11.

Step one.



*Fold tabs J & K IN before turning strip under.*

Step two.



*BIAS CUT FACING REALLY FITS TIGHTLY, SEW BY HAND*

CROSS SECTION

NOTES:

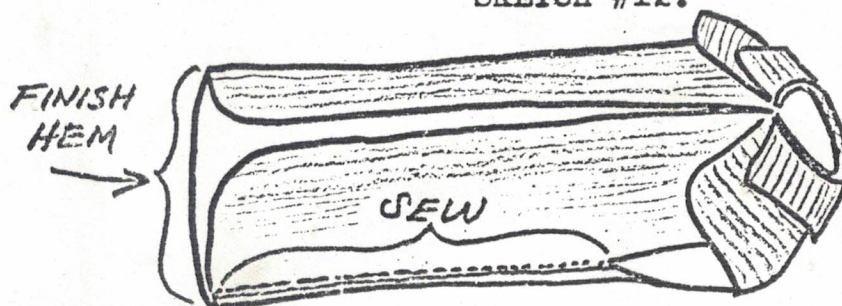
- a. Bias cut facing strip actually fits tightly.
- b. Sew bias strip by hand.
- c. Facing does not stand up as a mandarin collar but it is mostly inside the shirt when correctly done - hardly seen from the outside. Trim facing strip before hemming if too wide. It should form a facing, about 3/8" to 1/2" wide when raw edges are turned in.



Op. 9. SIDE SEAMS.

Sew fronts and back together using flat fell seam from underarm to tail. Make certain front and back bottom edges are even all around. Trim if necessary, turn raw edges under twice and finish hem.

SKETCH #12.



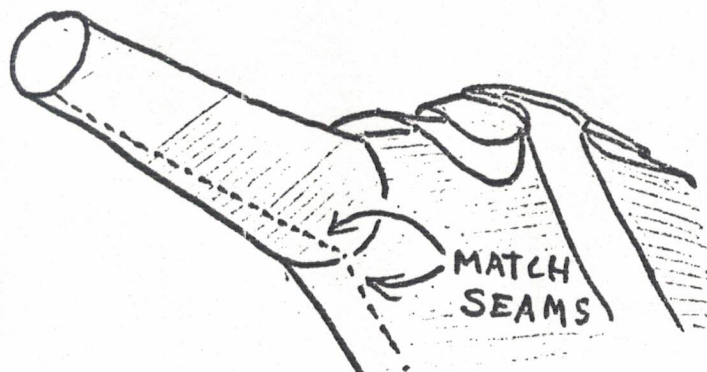
Op. 10. SLEEVE.

Sew underarm seams of both sleeves using flat fell seam.

Op. 11. ATTACH SLEEVES TO BODY.

Match side seam of body to sleeve seam and sew all around armhole using flat fell seam to secure sleeve to body. Repeat same on other side.

SKETCH #13.



Op. 12. CUFF.

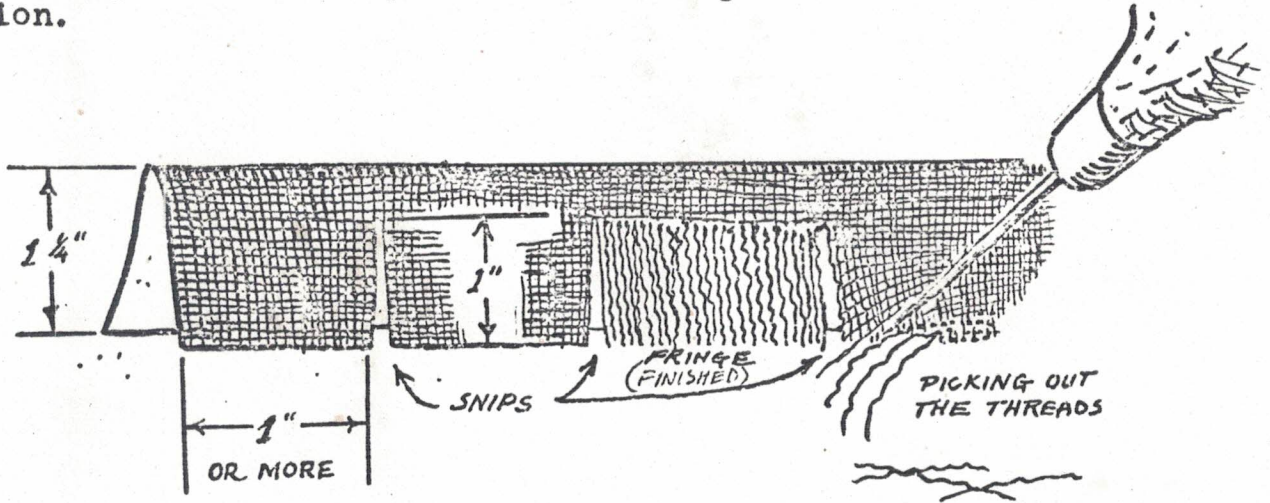
Try on garment and turn in sleeve at wrist to establish finished sleeve length. Our standard sleeve pattern may be too long for you. If so, do not cut off excess., Merely turn under the extra material inside sleeve and hem. The extra material may come in handy for making alterations should the sleeve shrink or you should grow.

Op. 13. FRINGE.

Cut a total of 12 yards of fringe strips,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Fold down the center of the strips lengthwise and iron, pin or sew flat. Starting from the raw edges, and not from the fold, snip both thicknesses to a depth of 1" spacing these snips every inch or so. Some who have made up hunting shirts by the foregoing process have had good results by making snips in the fringe strips every 12". Some claim that dampening the strips should aid the fringe making process. Everyone who has made fringe seems to have his own tricks for speeding up the process but no one has been able to make an easy

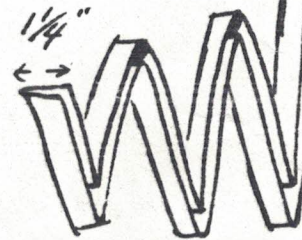
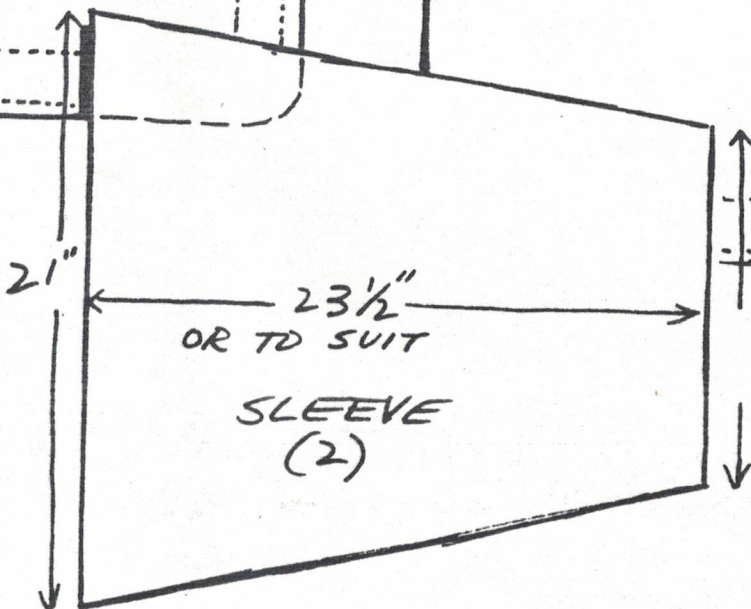
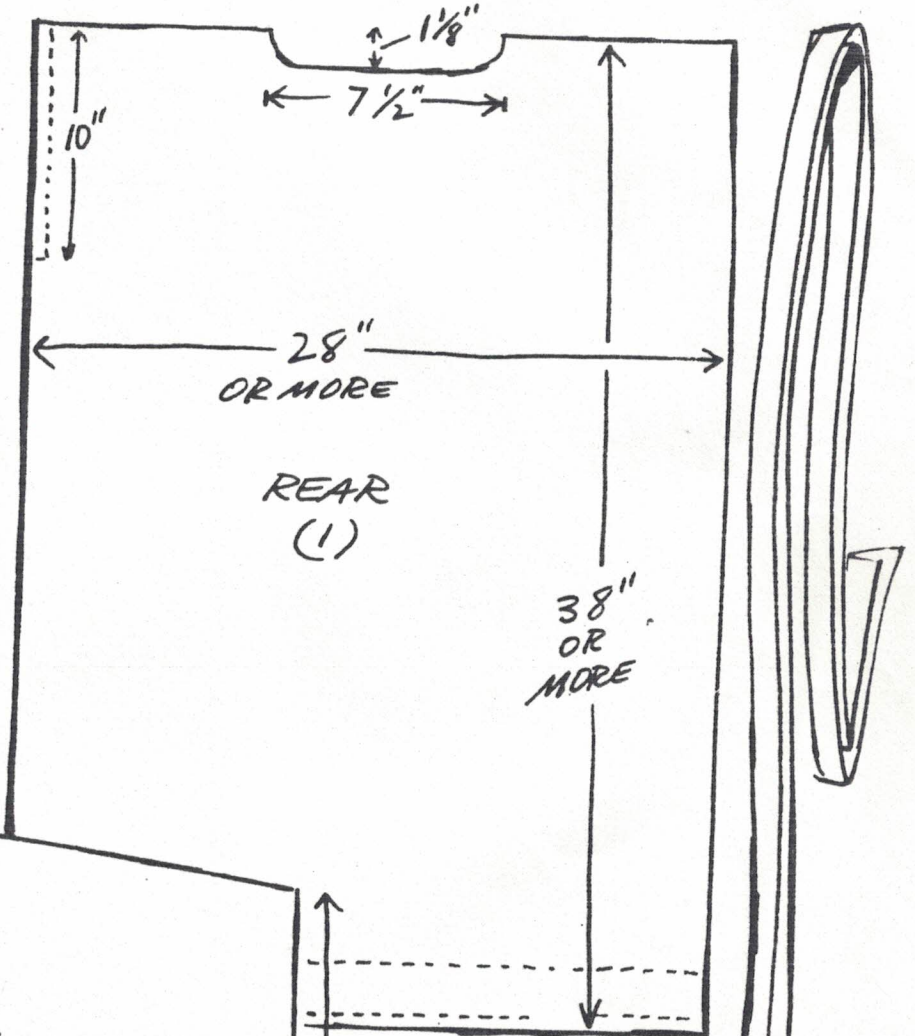
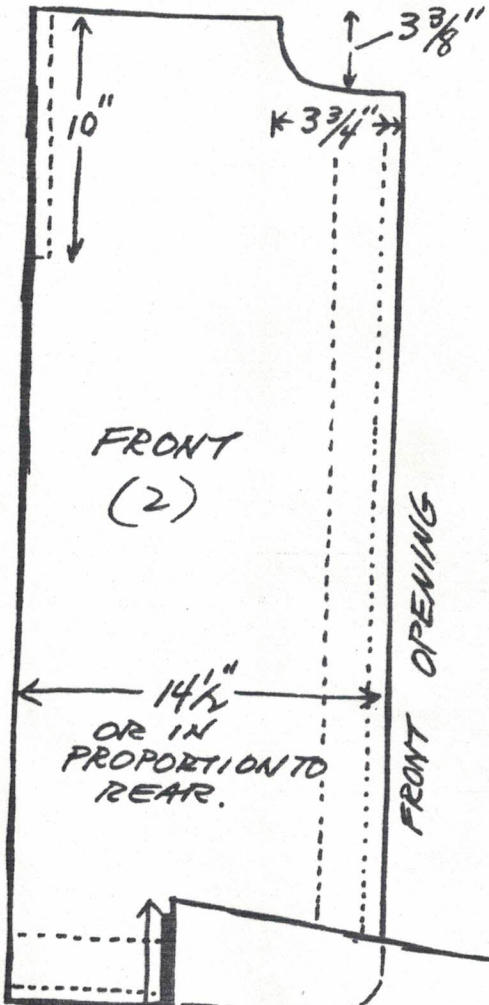
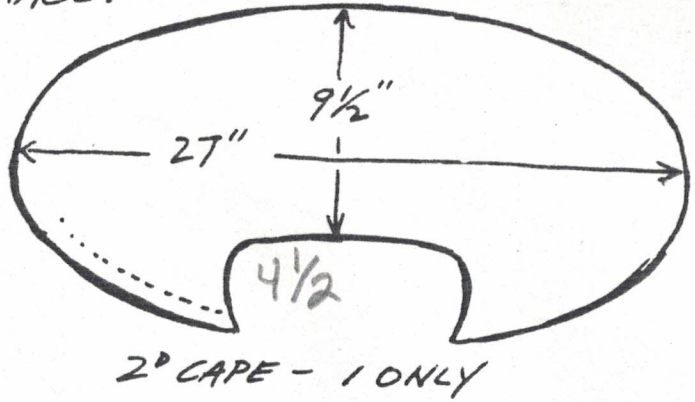
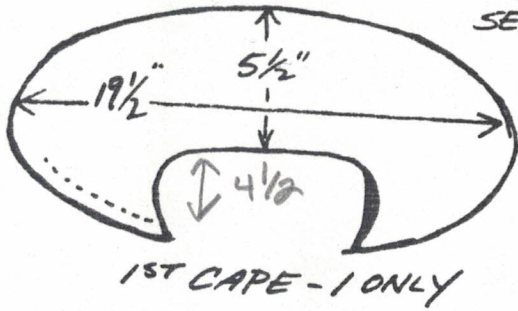
pleasant chore of it. Essentially, the task is merely to pluck the lengthwise threads from the strips up to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the fold on both sides. These will be the same threads that have been crosscut by the 1" snips. These threads must be removed one at a time with a sharp pointed tool. See sketch below.

Apply fringe (preferably by a hand running stitch) to garment according to the illustrations by George Woodbridge. If research suggest another style of trim for your unit's shirt, use it only after checking with the Inspector of the Brigade of the American Revolution.



# THE HUNTING SHIRT

NOTE. ADD  $\frac{5}{8}$ " ALL AROUND FOR SEAMAGE, EXCEPT FOR FRINGE.  
 DIMENSIONS OF CAPES ARE TOTAL, & INCLUDE "BASE" FRINGE, BUT NOT SEAMAGE.



BASIC FRINGE STRIP, FOLDED - BUT CAN BE ONE THICKNESS ONLY IF PREFERRED.