

## Fatigue Frock or Shirt

By Gene Hickman

Since 20 fatigue frocks (Military Work Shirts) were purchased for the expedition it is one of the items that is correct both for the regular military and the recruits. These were large loose fitting over shirts and were worn for fatigue duties. It is also one item that we have a description of from the Purveyor's Office (Sometimes spelled Prueveyor). However, it seems that Lewis may have wanted both the wrap-around rifle or hunting frock ("of waterproof Cloth if possible"), and the fatigue frock. Lewis had requested both of these items from the Prueveyor of Public Supplies, Israel Wheelen, but the military at the time only carried the fatigue frock as an issue uniform item. Russia sheeting (a coarse, heavy linen or hemp cloth) was being used for fatigue frocks (Hanson, 1988). All of the regular Army member would have had these as an issued uniform item. With the additional 20 that Lewis gets, it would seem that all the recruits would get them too. It could also be assumed

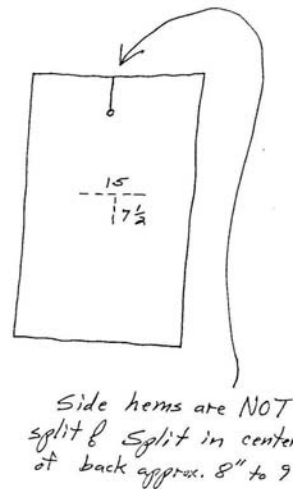
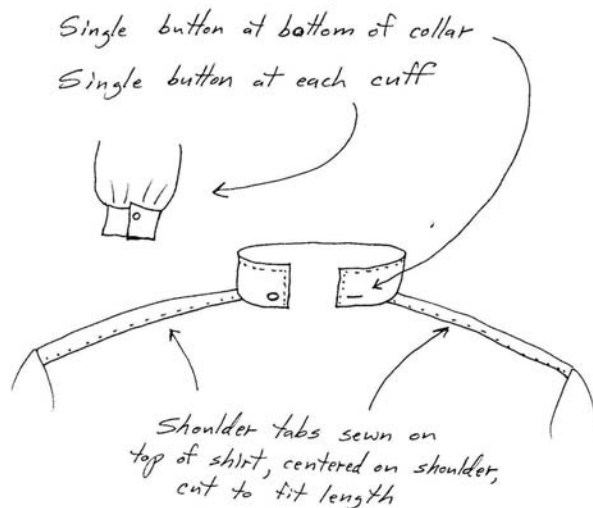
## Soldier in Fatigue Frock



### White Hemp Work Shirt

- Collar  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 23\frac{1}{2}$  (1)
- Shoulder Tabs  $12 \times 3\frac{1}{4}$  (2)
- Cuffs  $12 \times 4\frac{1}{4}$  (2)
- Neck Gusset  $4 \times 4$  (2) folded into triangle
- Underarm Gusset  $8 \times 8$  (2) folded into triangle
- Sleeve  $24L \times 23W$  (2)
- Body  $70 \times 33$  (1)

to assemble, see  
"A Man's Shirt" in  
*Book of Buckskinning II*



that other civilian hunting shirts or frocks may have been brought by civilian members, or even purchased by Lewis. However, there is no record of such a purchase and many believe that the military member had only issued military clothing or replacements that they made from leather. Consequently, wearing the issued fatigue frock or perhaps a leather frock patterned after issued frocks would be one item you can be sure is correct.

The pattern for making this shirt is exactly like making the common shirt, but instead of "slits" up the side, there is an 8

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inch "slit" or "vent in the back.

Illustration from: Steve Allie, *The Uniforms of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 2001*

Pattern Courtesy of Jeff Bender and Steve Allie, Frontier Army Museum, Fort Leavenworth, KS.