Here come the Redcoats!
• The men in this photo are called ‘Redcoat Soldiers’.
• They are playing the role of soldiers on the goldfields. Their job was to protect the wagons carrying gold from Ballarat to Melbourne and to help the police enforce the law on the goldfields.
• They are easy to see because of their bright red uniforms.
I will see the Redcoat Soldiers parading in Main St at Sovereign Hill at 1:30pm every day.

I will know the Redcoats are marching because I will hear the drummer beating his drum as the soldiers march along behind him.
The Redcoat Soldier in charge is called the Corporal. He will be talking loudly to his soldiers so they know where to go, when to stop, and what to do.
• The Redcoat Soldiers will show visitors how soldiers in the 1850s practiced firing their rifles.
• They will take turns firing their rifles into the air.
• They will make a very loud bang!
• But before the Redcoat Soldiers fire their rifles, the Corporal will tell me to put my fingers in my ears.
• I will put my fingers in my ears when the Corporal says so. Then the noise will not be so loud at all.
• I can take my fingers out of my ears once each of the Redcoat Soldiers has fired his rifle.
• I can have my photograph taken with a Redcoat Soldier if I ask one of them.

• I will ask by saying ‘may I have my photo taken with you please?’
• I can ask the Redcoat Soldiers questions about the things they are carrying.

• Soldiers in the old days carried a leather pouch on their belts holding ammunition.

• They also carried a bayonet—a long dagger which attaches to the end of their rifles.

• And of course they carried a rifle. These ones are called 3-band muzzle-loading Lee Enfield rifles.

• They are called that because:
  – they have three bands holding the rifle to the wooden stock
  – they are loaded through the muzzle of the barrel
  – they were made by the Lee Enfield company in Britain
  – they have grooves spiralling inside the barrel which makes the bullet rotate in the air when it is fired which helps make it more likely to hit the target it is aimed at.
When they have finished their demonstration of rifle firing, and when everyone who wants a photo with them is finished, the Redcoat Soldiers will form into a line again and march home.
Click above to see a movie of the redcoats
The End