

Royal



Yorkers

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick

Lansing Manor ~ Blenheim, N.Y. May 6 & 7

This event commemorates a raid of the Cobus Kill Settlement (near present day Cobleskill) that took place on May 30, 1778. Although no Royal Yorkers were involved in this engagement, more than 300 Loyalists and Indian warriors under the command of Joseph Brant took part in the raid. On that day a detachment of about 40 rebel regulars under Captain Patrick of Colonel Alden's regiment, and fifteen militia under Captain Christian Brown came in contact with a party of twenty Indians near the home of George Warner. The rebels initiated a running pursuit of the Indians, which continued for about a mile. They soon realized that they'd been drawn into a trap and were hopelessly outnumbered by Brant's force. Captain Patrick was killed in the initial phase of the action. In an effort to extricate himself from this disastrous situation, Captain Brown ordered a retreat. On their withdrawal, they passed again the house of George Warner, where five of the rebels took refuge. In an attempt to dislodge them, the Indians set fire to the house and the men inside perished in the flames. In all, fourteen of the rebels were killed in the battle and a number were wounded or captured. After their victory over the American detachment, Brant's party laid waste the settlement, burning ten houses with their barns and killing the cattle that could not be driven off. The nearby settlement of Dorlach (present day Sharon) was also attacked, but only one house was plundered.

The event on May 6 & 7 will take place at Lansing Manor near the town of Blenheim, N.Y. Lansing Manor is a restored early American home, built in 1819 by John Lansing. It is located in the scenic hills of the northern Catskills, and operated by the New York



Power Authority and the Schoharie County Historical Society. Situated on more than 400 acres of conservation land, it offers wonderful opportunities for war gaming and battle scenarios. The event is supported by the Continental Line, the BVMA and the Northern Brigade.

The usual amenities will be provided, along with a period dance and tavern on Saturday evening. It promises to

be an excellent opportunity to gear up for the 2006 campaign season.

Directions: From Syracuse take the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90) east to Fultonville (Exit 28). Take 30A south, which becomes Route 30. You will pass through Schoharie and Middleburgh. The Visitors Centre is 17 miles south of Middleburgh on Route 30.

DWP

BIG NEWS IN FEMALE REENACTOR CLOTHING

In the spirit of full disclosure, sometime a few years back, I spent a fair amount of time on the BAR committee that was dedicated to re-writing the BAR's clothing guide for women. Many very talented and knowledgeable women participated in this, and did a lot more work than I did. But still, having helped choose content, write and edit this publication, I may be biased about it.

Women's Dress During the American Revolution an Interpretive Guide (Rebecca L. Fifield, Editor, ISBN 0-9708965-8-1) is finally here. This is a very comprehensive guide to many of the basic issues of clothing oneself as a RevWar woman. There is nothing on children's dress, a very fraught subject.

Although it does not give instructions for the most complex items, the de-

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Coming Events

- April 8 Yorker Party, Appleby College
 April 19 Drill, Ft York Armoury
 May 6 & 7 Lansing Manor – Blenheim, NY
 May 17 Drill, Ft York Armoury
 May 20 & 21 Tactics School – Westfield Village
 June 1-4 UEL Annual Conference – Toronto
 June 17 & 18 Black Creek Pioneer Village
 July 8 & 9 Battle of Hubbardton – Hubbardton, Vt
 July 22 & 23 Grand Forge
 – Ward Pound Reservation, NY
 July 29 & 30 Rev War Encampment
 – Fort George, NOTL
 Aug 11-22 Bateaux Trek – Lake Champlain
 Aug 26 & 27 Rose House Museum – Waupoos
 Sept 31 & Oct 1 Battle of West Canada Creek
 (2nd Battalion) – Johnstown, NY
 Oct 21 & 22 Siege of Yorktown
 – Endview Plantation, Virginia



*"...The war has been over for 225 years.
 Any sign of the Yorkers giving up?"*

(Continued from page 1)

tailed instructions for even a petticoat or a shift has information that will be new for many of us.

On the down side, I have spotted one omission: how to actually do the stitch called a hem stitch. I have been somewhat confused by the shortgown back-pleat picture and I think some of the information could have been more thoroughly explained. But overall, this is the most useful document for the distaff side of the hobby that I have ever seen. It errs on the side of conservatism, a choice with which I agree in historical re-creation. The illustrations are very helpful and well executed. The physical presentation is practical (spiral bound) and pleasing. Please purchase it.

<http://www.brigade.org/publications/WDIG.html>

<http://www.brigade.org/barmerc.html>

Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. All payments (\$15 US plus \$5.50 S&H) are to be made by money order in U.S.



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Nancy Watt

In Memorium Bev Nichol of Butler's Rangers

Many of you will have heard that Robert (Bev) Nichol passed away on March 4, 2006 at the age of 72. He had fallen down the stairs last Fall and broken his back and several ribs. I visited him twice in the hospital and he seemed in remarkably good spirits. I gave him a hard time about "malingering" and trying to avoid Black Creek, where he always had his sutler stand. I also told him Butler's Rangers needed him at the front. He had gone into a care facility of some kind and was starting to walk a bit, so it was a surprise to hear of his passing. He will be very much missed.

Sjt Mjr David Moore



Annual Yorker Party

For those of you attending this year's Yorker Party, here are the details. The party will be held in the Dining Hall at Appleby College in Oakville. Parking is free for the evening. Guests can start arriving at 6.00 pm, and the bar will be open at 6.30 to serve refreshments. The bar is cash only and the prices are as follows:

Beer \$3.00 per bottle

Wine \$3.00 per glass

Gin Lane, will provide musical entertainment for the evening. There will also be a monologue by RSM David Moore on the Yorktown event



of 1981. Knowing the RSM's penchant for telling outlandish stories, we should be well entertained. LtCol Watt will bring along an album of photographs of the big Yorktown Centennial event of 1981. See if some of you old boys can pick yourselves out in some of the photographs.

It is important that we have an accurate count of who will be attending. NCO's, please ensure that you contact everyone in your Section or calling group and provide a return to myself or RSM Moore by March 31. Troops, if you have not been contacted and plan to attend, please respond directly to us.

Hope to see you there again this year.

Major Reg James

Tactical School ~ Westfield Village ~ May 20 & 21

Again this year the School of Tactics will be held on the long weekend in May, and again we will enjoy the hospitality of Westfield Village near Rockton. Lt Steven Sandford has made the arrangements for this year's school, and it is shaping up to be another excellent weekend.

On the Saturday, after some initial warm-up drills, we will participate in a rotation of classes on topics of particular interest:

- Cole Cloran and Dan Copeland will talk about the "Presence of a Soldier", focusing on techniques for improving one's kit and period appearance.
- LtCol Gavin Watt's topic will be "Rebelz Unplugged", an exploration of the inner workings of the rebel army.
- Cpt Christian Cameron will deal with the subject of "Defending the Post", or methods of protecting the camp from attack.



At lunch time the group will split, with the troops enjoying the company of Amanda Moore, as she teaches the skills of applying a correct period

patch to that torn garment you really didn't know how to repair. Bring the *housewife* you created last year, stocked with needles and thread. While the men acquire these necessary skills of a soldier, the NCO's will *lunch and learn* with Sjt Mjr David Moore. This session will provide insights in parade ground command techniques, including voice of command and drill instruction

On Saturday afternoon we will venture into the woods for some tactical wargames and exercises. Those who have been to Westfield before know

that the site provides a wonderful array of topography, from open meadows to dense woodlands, laced with trails and dotted with period appropriate buildings. We always have a good time, and of course much of the fun comes from the rare opportunity to deal with a competent opponent. Ourselves!!

On Sunday the program will continue with drills, exercises and scenarios. In the afternoon Westfield Village opens to the public, which gives us the chance to interact with the visitors and interpret the life of an 18th century soldier.

In addition to the structured program of the weekend there is always time to socialize and get caught up on what's happening with our comrades in arms. Saturday evening tends to be a laidback time, with a blazing fire, convivial conversation, card playing and strong drink.

All in all, the weekend promises to be a lot of fun, and a good opportunity to prepare for the challenges of the coming campaign season. **Look out Rebels. Here we come.**



EARS! UEL Conference EARS! The Colonel Speaks

This year the UELAC Conference will be held at the Yorkdale Holiday Inn, in Toronto, June 1 to 4. The Governor Simcoe Branch, supported by Toronto Branch, will host the four day conference. The program will include a bus tour of Loyalist sites in Toronto, guest speakers, display and sale tables, a visit and dinner at Fort York, and a trip to Black Creek Pioneer Village.

The Annual Meeting on Saturday will be followed by the Gala Conference Banquet, which will be held at the Masonic Shrine on Keele St. Of particular interest to us is the fact that LtCol Gavin Watt (Honorary Vice President) will be the keynote speaker at the banquet. A number of Yorkers have already indicated that they will be there in uniform to enjoy the evening, and to support the Colonel. (Note: You don't get a free dinner by showing up

in uniform. You will be expected to pay the full price, and depending on when you last had you coat fumigated, you might find your table situated very close to the exit.)

Everyone will also be interested to hear that Gavin's revised edition of *The King's Royal Regiment of New York* will be launched during the Conference. This will probably happen on the Thursday afternoon. Although it has not been finalized how this will fit into the schedule that day, the Colonel will be able to provide more details closer to the date for those who would like to attend.

It sounds like a great outing for those who share an interest in Loyalist history and genealogy. For more information see the Conference website:

<http://www.uelgovsimcoe.org/Conference2006/Conf-2006-Toronto.php>

Trading In Kit

I am currently working on three large articles for publication on the Yorker website. Consequently, I have almost ceased work on my new book dealing with the 1781 & 1782 Campaigns, while I try to get the following issues put to bed.

- *Clothing Provincials in the Canadian Department*
- *Small Arms in the Canadian Department*
- *In Pursuit of a British Establishment*

These articles are some ways off from completion, so it's premature to give out any of my findings that specifically relate to the KRR.

Speaking of "Clothing Provincials in the Canadian Dept", I guess all of you have recognized the impact of the uniform debate. As of now, we will no longer purchase back regimental coats, waistcoats, or buff waistbelts from fellows who have left the regiment. If they are turned in as gifts, of course, they are welcome.

Hats, shirts, stocks, trousers, Rawle pouches & slings, belly boxes & belts, muskets - with bayonets, scabbards, flashguards, slings, hammer stalls and sheaths - are all acceptable, as are good shoes or boots. Tents, poles and pegs, good 'dog' dishes and mugs, mallets, all that stuff is okay.

The Colonel

Distaff News ~ Polly Johnson Day 2006 ~ Fort George ~ July 29

For those of you who are new, I urge you to visit <http://www.triafata.org/fopfest/> to see Polly Johnson Days past and get some of the history.

The Reader's Digest version is that on Polly Johnson Day, we dress up. So it's a good date to work towards if you're trying to make something new and it's a good chance to look at your high gussy kit and make sure your accessories, hair, shoes, hips, jewellery befit the station you are trying to

portray. Polly Johnson Day is for everyone - I, for example, intend to wear middling stuff this year - perhaps a new camp gown (perhaps an old one) gussied up with frilly accessories, high heel shoes, a fancy hat and lots o' ribbands.

As usual, we will be arranging facilities for us to dress and store clothes for the weekend. Helpers are always necessary, so please volunteer. Please contact me or Amanda if you have questions.

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Bateaux Trek 2006 ~ August 11-22 ~ Lake Champlain

The Northern Brigade, in cooperation with the 64th Regiment of Foot, is planning an ambitious living history event in mid-August 2006. It will commemorate the evacuation of Fort Ticonderoga by the British Army and their German, Canadian, Native American, and Loyalist allies in the late fall of 1777, following the surrender of British General John Burgoyne and his main British Army at Saratoga, New York. This event marked the permanent withdrawal of British land forces from the Lake Champlain corridor of New York State, although they would occasionally return as small raiding parties during the later years of the War of American Independence.

We are planning to row (and occasionally sail) two historically accurate bateaux from Mt. Independence to Fort St. Jean, Québec. The Northern Brigade will represent the rear guard of the British and German garrisons of Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence. The party will consist of a mixed contingent of twenty to forty living historians, representing the garrisons formed from Burgoyne's regiments, and augmented by a detachment of German living historians, loyalists from the King's Royal Regiment of New York, Natives, and women.

We will perform an interpretive program at Mount Independence Historical Site before our departure. Interpretive programs will be presented at other historic sites en route. Programs are currently planned for Mount Independence, Vermont; Crown Point State Historic Site, New York; the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Basin Harbor, Vermont; Valcour Island, New York; Fort Lennox at Île-aux-Noix, Québec; and Fort St. Jean at St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, Québec.

All in the Royal Yorkers are welcome to participate in this one-of-a-kind event. What could be more appropriate than for the Yorkers to ply the waters of Lake Champlain in bateaux, as they did so regularly during the Revolution. If you would like more details, contact Captain Christian Cameron.

Proposed Daily Schedule

August 10 - Mount Independence

British and Loyalist living historians arrive to establish living history camp representing British and German garrison of Mount Independence, portraying the July-October 1777 occupation of the site. Vehicles pre-positioned at different locations, bateaux launched, final logistical preparations.

August 11 - Mount Independence

Camps open to public, living history interpretation of British, Loyalist, and German camp life at Mount Independence. All members of bateau trek arrive at Mount Independence.

August 12 - Mount Independence and Crown Point

9:00 a.m. - Brief ceremonies at Mount Independence commemorating withdrawal of British and German garrison; British and German garrisons march out of Mount Independence and board bateaux for trip north on Lake Champlain. Bateaux cross Lake Champlain at Fort Ticonderoga narrows and proceed up west side of Lake Champlain.

Approx. 2:00 p.m. - Arrival of two bateaux from Mount Independence at Crown Point State Historic Site.

3:00 p.m. - Interpretive program at Crown Point State Historic Site.

Overnight - Living history camp at Crown Point State Historic Site (open to the public)

August 13 - Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

Morning - Departure from Crown Point. Cross Lake Champlain at Crown Point, proceed up east bank of Lake Champlain.

Early afternoon - Arrive at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Basin Harbor, Vermont

Afternoon - Interpretive program at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

Overnight - Living history camp at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (open to the public)

August 14

Departure from Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Cross Lake Champlain at narrows, row up west bank of Lake Champlain. Camp Port Douglas.

August 15 - Valcour Conference Center

Mid-morning - Row from Port Douglas to Valcour Conference Center, land bateaux at beach at Valcour Kayak Center.

Afternoon - Interpretive program at Valcour Conference Center

Overnight - Living history camp at Valcour Conference Center (open to the public)

August 16

Departure from Valcour Kayak Center. Row up east bank of Lake Champlain, camp Point au Roches, New York.

August 17

Departure from Point au Roches. Row up east bank of Lake Champlain, camp Rouse's Point, New York.

August 18 - Fort Lennox

Bateaux enter Richelieu River from Lake Champlain.

Early afternoon (weather dependent) - Arrive at Fort Lennox, Île-aux-Noix, Québec.

Afternoon - Interpretive programs at Fort Lennox.

Overnight - Camp at Fort Lennox.

August 19 - Fort St. Jean

Departure from Fort Lennox, bateaux proceed north on Richelieu River to Fort St. Jean.

Mid-day (weather dependent) - Arrive at Fort St. Jean to establish living history camp representing arrival of British garrison withdrawing from Fort Ticonderoga

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and Mount Independence

Camp open to public, living history interpretation of British and German camp life during the War for American Independence.

August 20 - Fort St. Jean

Fort St. Jean camp open to public all day, historic programs on British withdrawal into Canada in October 1777; commemorative ceremony on-site as appropriate.

Evening - Camp closed to public.

Monday, August 21

Departure from Fort St. Jean; end of expedition.

First Hand Account from the Battle of Guilford Courthouse 1st Yorker Raid into the Deep South in 2006

The King's Royal Regiment of New York took part in the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 18-19, 2006 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

After a pleasant and scenic 15 hour drive, our 9 member section arrived at the camp in His Majesty's province of North Carolina. At night the temperature dropped to about freezing, but the constant wind all weekend made it seem lower. During the day the temperature was a comfortable 15 to 18 Celsius.

The Saturday afternoon battle was very carefully choreographed, outlined in numerous e-mails before hand. The artillery went forward supported by light infantry, as happened originally. The safety attitude in the "south" seems different than in the north. For example, the entire action was done with fixed bayonets. This was despite some rough terrain, very slippery dry grass (there has been a drought for 18 months) and lots of firing. The artillery fired very rapidly at the rebels. We had two 3-pounders (one Royal Artillery and one German gun) and the rebels had two 3-pounders and one full sized 6-pounder. We watched the artillery duel for about 20 minutes and timed the firing. They were firing every 20 seconds at a sustained rate. I am sure Sgt. Smith would have loved to have seen it. I'm not sure what his opinion would have been, but we were rather surprised at the high rate of fire.

The army then proceeded onto the

field in column of fours. We had started with two brigades back-to-back who had all faced front, thereby giving a column of four. When we halted, the ranks faced outwards, then wheeled as individual units towards the front to form line. It all was very neat and quick. The Crown Forces had about 350 men, the rebels had about 450.

The first two brigades advanced against the rebel militia, who were behind a fence. The Yorkers (acting as Jaegers) were with the Guards brigade in reserve. At the original battle the few Loyalist troops did not take part. Therefore, we paraded as Jaegers. The two leading brigades gave fire and drove off the militia with the bayonet.

On the left an independent action ensued and the Yorkers were detached to support this action. Ahead of time I had arranged that we could be the extreme left flank and act as lights. We fired by company and then by file from the right as the action slowed. Every time the rebels fell back our half brigade pressed them.

I would note the professionalism and skills of men under my command. Not only were they proficient in their light infantry skills, but they adapted very well to the commands being given in German. At first the warning order was given in English in a low tone, "Yorkers will make

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ready", then the executive was given loudly for the crowds benefit in German "MACHT FERTIG!" As the action progressed and the rhythm was established, the English was almost entirely dispensed with. The crowd numbered several thousand and we were within a few feet of them, being on the flank of the action.

Gradually the rebels were pushed back. Various actions from the battle were re-enacted, such as the attack of the Foot Guards and their being overrun by rebel cavalry. About eight very aggressive rebel dragoons were very active on this day.

At the end of the action we pressed the rebels off the field and the King's Royal Regiment of New York was the most aggressive in the pursuit!

It was strange to be in an army of over 800 Revolutionary War reenactors, all of good quality, and only know about 5 people outside of our unit. The units they belonged to were often very large and all very accurately turned out. Even the women's kit, with some exceptions, was very good.

Sunday there was a voluntary tactical exercise to simulate the fighting march to combat that had preceded the battle. Of the Crown Forces army of 350, only 25 came to fight. Luckily the rebels formed within view so we knew we had about 55 opponents. The Yorkers formed at the head of the column and we marched off. We arrived in a thick wood on a road similar to those at Westfield Village. The rebels were defending. We had two Jaeger riflemen in support, they opened the action by firing at the small rebel unit in the road. The officer said for us to advance street firing. We received a weak smattering of shots from our front, so we rushed forward with our arms at the port. The rest of the column followed. I noted rebel units hiding in the woods on our flanks. We halted and gave fire at the retiring enemy. I asked the officer what the objective was. He replied it was to "get down the road". The woods were quite thick, impenetrable at most points, and the rebels in ambush were 10 metres in, so really they could do

little to us. Considering how few we were and how many they were, I surmised that we had to take the initiative and move quickly. We waited for another smattering of fire from the unit to our front and then rushed them again. Again they fled, with some firing as they ran. The units in ambush seemed unsure if we were rebels or British, so we received no fire. Unfortunately the rebels had a 6-pounder blocking the road.



We were so close to the fleeing rebels that the gun could not fire, as either their fire was masked or we were too close. To keep it fair, I halted the unit, fell back and we took the shot. Rather than rush forward and overrun the gun (as some artillery unfriendly units are wont to do) we waited and let the second unit in the column push up and fire. We then recycled and

started forward driving in the infantry. The gun fired on us again and out of the smoke burst their dragoons. It was beautifully timed. We were really too close to fire safely, so we held our ground and got run down by the horses. They squeezed past and whacked our barrels with their sabres. They then rode up the length of the column sabring the remainder. Having recycled again, we started forward and this time managed to take the gun and push the remaining infantry off the road. We waited at the objective and when the dragoons emerged, we had them cold. Everyone was very chivalrous, including the dragoons, gunners and the infantry we'd pushed. There were many compliments of "nice working with you", and I said lots of "well done lads." So everyone went away happy.

There was one odd incident. Some unit, possibly Royal Artillery, arrived with a one-pounder barrel, but no carriage. They laid the tube on the ground and would fire a very heavy load at the enemy. Lots of sticks, pinecones and dirt were thrown towards the enemy. At one point we were ahead of them and saw just how much shrapnel was thrown up. It took two men to carry the tube. It struck all of us as remarkable.

The Sunday afternoon battle was equally dramatic and fast paced.

We were made to feel very welcome by the army commander, Jay Callahan, who portrayed Lord Cornwallis. He rode up and down in a dashing manner, and thanked us for coming so far and for representing a unit other than our own.

It was a most memorable and enjoyable event. Many of the very friendly "southern" British said "We'll see y'all at Yorktown".

So, having crushed the rebels in North Carolina this spring, we can only look forward to the October campaign in Virginia with the utmost eagerness.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

Sjt Mjr D. Moore

E-mail Sent to KRR Website

Anyone, and I do mean anyone, who served in the ranks in the 1980s will remember with great fondness our old friend Gerry MacMartin. "The Old Sailor", as we called him with great affection, was a Second War Navy vet who had been an officer on a corvette in the North Atlantic, and no doubt defeated the U-boat threat himself. If I'd been in the Nazi navy and had known Gerry was anywhere on the ocean looking for me with a corvette full of angry Canadian sailors, I would have remustered and walked to the Russian front.

If there were a Yorker dictionary, Gerald V MacMartin's picture would be the only one found under "Regimental Spirit". In spite of the heart problems that were eventually to claim him, Gerry never missed a step on any march or battlefield over which we trod. He was in my section when I was a sergeant and his contribution was enormous. Gerry combined the most unbelievable zeal for our recreation with an unrivalled sense of fun. It was clear to all of us that Gerry was in his glory when he was striding along with his back straight and his chest out, telling all of us to buck up and soldier on. One impossibly long parade in Prescott was outstanding. We had zigged and zagged up and down backstreets for miles, and Gerry, like the rest of us, was exhausted. He simply would not flag and would not quit. It made it quite impossible for the bunch of 20 and 30 year olds around him to slack off for even a second. That was the naval officer in him. On other occasions though, when the brown pop was open and the campfires burning, Gerry was a powerhouse of joking and song. I even think it was Gerry himself who coined our other semi-official name for him, "The Ole Poopy Doo". We sure missed him when he dropped out after several years of service. Gerry had lost his first wife to an illness before we met him and after many years he met a woman who became his second wife and they moved to Montreal. Quite sensibly she wanted Gerry to last as long as possible and mission one was keeping him the heck away from us!

He passed away a few years ago.

Gerry was a very private man and it turns out he had a son that we never knew. He recently visited the website to view a picture of his late father and sent us this remarkable email. If you ever wonder what makes people contribute so much time, effort and commitment in this organization, this should enlighten you.

Capt Allan Joyner

Hello there,

I just Googled my Dad, Gerry MacMartin, and found this website. I love the picture you have of "the Ol' Sailor" as he even referred to himself, and I just wanted to thank you for being. Dad would love to know Google brings up his pix with the KRR. I remember the day he discovered the KRR. We were at the Woodbridge Fair in the early 80's, and he just stopped in his tracks when he saw you all. I remember wanting to go on a ride and he was obviously distracted by such a comparatively trivial issue at the time. Anyway, Dad spent some time there. I think he gave me a handful of tickets and off I went to ride. All I remember is that the KRR kept my dad in good spirits in times when otherwise it would have been more challenging if the KRR wasn't in his life.

I cannot overemphasize the benefits that Dad gained from the KRR, many of which I inferred from his mood being very positive, even if all I did was mention the KRR to him! He's my Dad and I love him. I feel sort of privileged to have been with him at the time he met McKew? I can't remember his moniker, but they called him "Mc Q". The KRR and all its "regalia" saved my dad. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for bringing such history back to life and involving my father in such a noble quest of historical reenactment.

Peter MacMartin

Battles Hard Fought

With soldiers of Canada and the US in real combat situations again it has caused me at times to stop and think about the appropriateness of re-enacting battles, something a television comedy characterized as "Standing in a field pretending to fight for something I believe in". The newsletter of the Brigade of the American Revolution recently printed the following letter from an American Rev War re-enactor who is currently in the US special forces in Afghanistan. It clears things up for me.

"Afghanistan is my second deployment, my first being Iraq in '03. There is no doubt that war changes you. Plato said "only the dead have seen the

end of war". Its funny how many things we take for granted in our daily life. War puts things in a different perspective. I live every day as though it could be my last and I definitely don't sweat small things.

Anyway, as far as re-enacting goes, I look at reenacting battles as a way of honoring those who have fought and died defending something they believed in. As you stated, many sacrifices have been made and what better way to honor their memory? The public needs to be continually made aware of the sacrifices that the men and women of the Armed Forces have made for this country throughout history. What better way to educate them? If we don't, they forget. Look at the change in attitude today as compared to a few days after 9/11. People

just forget 'cause it doesn't affect them. I spoke to some of my guys here and they concur: reenacting honors the memory of battles hard fought and the lives lost.

After being in combat I still look forward to coming back and reenacting. There is a saying here. "You have never lived until you have almost died." This is something the protected will never know. Tell the reenactors who are concerned about us to pick up their arms and hold the line and make us PROUD. Someone has to tell the story whether its here in Afghanistan, Normandy or Saratoga." A reenactor of the Continental Line

Well said Yank. Well said.

*Capt Allan Joyner
Duncan's Coy.*