

1. NEXT EVENT: Fort York Military Festival, Monday, May 19 9:00AM

Note Well - The parade previously announced for Sunday, May 18 is off. Unfortunately, the parade is on the Monday and is in serious conflict with the Fort York Festival. As I would not wish to completely let down the Monarchist League who have organized this parade to commemorate the recognition of Her Majesty's Birthday, an occasion never overlooked by the 18th C troops in Canada, we will have a compromise participation in the street parade, entering a Colour Party with the appropriate Guard. The majority of the Regiment will remain at the fort to offer our maximum effort to make their Festival a success. The Colour Party will rejoin the unit at lunch.

Note-- There will be no firing of powder during Festival. Do not bring any cartridges!!

Dress is No.2 Formal, all kit to be clean, loose threads trimmed, black leather polished and brass sparkling. The Men at Arms will perform several drills of an exotic nature with elan and esprit and the Drums will astound the Regiment and the audience with renditions of Looney Toons, George Washington's Bridge, April in Paris and many other fine martial pieces.

Still no firm word on Upper Canada Brewery, but...you gotta have faith.

2. Second Battalion: Battle of Johnstown May 23,24 & 25 Johnstown, NY

Of significance to both 'battalions' is that New York events are still going to allow opposed enemies. There will be some new rules to comply with; however, we are still in business.

This was the 2Bn's inaugural event last year and had some good tactical sequences. Jim Morrison of the 3rd Tryon County Militia is the chief planner so we can expect a good one.

For all of you new fellows, this is a 2Bn and Brunswick Light Infantry event only.

3. 210th Anniversary of the Founding of the 1Bn King's Royal Yorkers Fort Chambly, Quebec May 30,31 & June 1

This will be the unit's third visit to this beautiful site on the Richelieu River where Sir John received his Beating Order for the formation of his Regiment on June 19, 1776. Our previous two events were remembered for their excellent hospitality and warm, relaxed atmosphere. Last year's tactical was inspired and our member, Andre Gousse who is planning this year's event has a good scenario worked up.

There are only a few events each year which represent sacred ground in the regimental sense and this is one of them. If you haven't treated yourself to Chambly before, you must take this one in and if you've been there before you won't need my persuasion. Come along for a roast dinner on the Saturday night.

Dress will be No.2 Campaign. A tin plate and knife and fork will be needed.

4. Niagara House Tour, Sat.June 7 // Battle of Lundy's Lane Sat.June 7 & Sun.June 8

A reminder about this small event which will generate a moderate amount of cash for the unit and gives all of the new troops an opportunity to test their newfound skills without much pressure. There will be a telephone campaign for each subunit with details of timing and location of the House Tour start.

The Lundy's Lane part of the event is an invitational situation where the Yorkers could participate in a dusk battle as militiamen in small clothes. The event continues the next day and again we would appear without coats. Talk it over amongst yourselves and we can decide later. There will be a tent encampment at Battlefield Park, Stoney Creek. Dusk battle on Sat. is at 9:30PM and there are two skirmishes on Sun., one at 11:00AM (an unlikely hour) and one at 2:00PM. The organizers expect about 80 troops. Bicorns would be 'out' and Yorkers will need slouch hats or wedge, fatigue caps.

Queen's York Rangers Annual Inspection and Change of Command - Cadet CorpsWednesday, June 11, 1986 7:30PM Fort York Armoury

As payment of our dues to this Regiment which has faithfully sponsored our use of the Armoury for ten years, we have promised our support on two occasions this year. The above event is the first situation.

We will provide a demonstration on the floor of the armoury for approx. 15 minutes between the Inspection and the Change of Command ceremony.

Dress will be No.2 Formal with no cartridges. Wooden snappers in the jaws. All troops to be most careful with their kit and deportment. The Colours will be paraded. We will perform: a) Advancing Firing in Echelon from the Right, b) Advancing Extended Order and Firing by Ranks, c) the Bayonet Charge.

The Colonel's Coy to provide a 16 man Platoon minimum, the Flank Coys the same and the Drums at least 4 Drummers and 2 Fifers.

Form up outside the west end of the building unless raining, then inside against the west wall and very quietly.

Armed Forces Day, Camp Borden, Sat. July 19

Captains Severin and Bourget, Sjts James and Lorenzen and Cpls Devlin and Moore are asked to organize an appearance for this event which will be well supported by the Base and well appreciated by an Infantry oriented audience.

The Museum will have a separate, large Drill Hall for changing, complete with showers and lots of room to lay a sleeping bag for those who wish to make the trip Friday night or leave next day, Sunday morning. There is reserved parking.

The Museum will have its display of artifacts and firearms on exhibit as well as the two WW II units. I do not believe that the Yorkers will feel out of place in this atmosphere which is so different than Trenton.

Prescott Loyalist Days, July 11, 12 & 13

Most of you will recall having been polled for your opinion as to whether the unit should attend the Fort Wellington event in view of the changed circumstances or whether the unit should follow its original plan of visiting Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan.

Although Greenfield did have a few strong supporters, the overwhelming majority of the Regiment was in favour of once again gambling on Prescott and seeing what this new operation can offer.

Another notice will follow.

Colonel's Company Reorganization

Many original sources have revealed that the correct organization for a Company of our era is two Platoons. In turn, each Platoon would contain two Sections.

In order to comply with this historically correct discovery, the Cols Coy will be organized at all events into two Platoons, and where numbers allow, four Sections. The supernumary Serjeant will either serve in the ranks commanding a Section, or in the rear rank steadying the troops.

However, we will continue to organize administratively into the three traditional sublists for telephoning, carpooling and small local events.

The organization into the two operational Platoons will occur at the first Grand Parade of the event and in all cases friends will be grouped together. In this sense, nothing will have really changed except that we will have a better chance of fielding two strong Platoons rather than three weak ones.

Archives of Ontario, Microfilm, Drawer 7 Reel 566 Haldimand, General Orders

Headquarters, Quebec 28 May 1781

A General Court Martial to assemble at Montreal on the 6th of June next for the Trial of -

Seffrenies Tygert	John Gasler	Will ^m Edwards
Seth Jacque	And ^w V Waggener	Nath ^l Miller
Peter Sharp	Nich ^s Smith	Peter Howse

of the Royal Regiment of New York for having formed & agreed upon a Conspiracy to kill the Commanding Officer, and all other Officers and Soldiers at Coteau du Lac who should oppose their proceedings, which were to lay that Post in Ashes, to desert the Service, and join the Enemy.

Major Harris President (84Regt, ed.)

Major Gray (KRR NY, ed.), Captain Monsell (29Regt, ed.), Captain Lawes (84Regt, ed.), Captain Alex^r Fraser (34Regt??, ed.), Captain Scott (53Regt., ed.), One more Captain from 29th, One from 34th, one from 53^d, four from the Roy^lReg^t of New York Members.

Judge Advocate Lieut W^m Osbⁿ Hamilton 34 Reg^t who will direct all Evidences to Attend.

Headquarters, Quebec 25th June 1781

The Prisoners tried at the General Court Martial, Whereof Major Harris was President held at Montreal the 6th Instant have been sentenced as follows.

Seth Jacquay, John Garter & Peter Sharpe to receive one thousand lashes each, and to serve His Majesty in foreign parts (often Africa, ed.) for life in breach of the 3rd & 4th Articles of the 2nd Section of the Articles of War.

Nathaniel Miller to receive five hundred Lashes in breach of the 3rd Article of the 20th Section of the Articles of War.

Sefreynus Tygert, Andrew Van Waggoner, William Edwards to receive one thousand Lashes each, in breach of the 3rd Article of the 20th Section of the Articles of War.

Nicholas Smith to receive five hundred Lashes in breach of the 3rd Article of the 20th Section of the Articles of War.

The Court are of Opinion that Peter House is not guilty and have therefore acquitted him.

Thomas Taylor of the 84th Regiment tried for desertion is found guilty and Sentenced to receive one thousand Lashes.

The Commander in Chief approves of the above Sentences and orders that they should forthwith, at the head of their Regiments, be put in execution, except that one which relates to Nich^l Smith, whom he is pleased to forgive, in consequence of an application by the Court in his behalf.

Seth Jacquay, John Garter, Peter Sharp, And^w Van Waggoner, Sefrenus Tygert, William Edwards, Nath^l Edwards (Miller, ed.) & Thomas Taylor, to be sent down to Quebec in Irons in a Batteau as soon as they can undertake the Journey after the Infliction of their Corporal Punishments.

The General Court Martial of which Maj^r Harris is President, is dissolved, the members to repair to their respective Corps without delay.

Comments:

1. See p.69 of your Regimental History for more details. From what we can see above, it would appear that Cruikshank has misinterpreted what transpired. He suggests that an escape attempt by the rebel prisoners held at Coteau du Lac was the cause of the misunderstanding between Brig.Genl.Maclean and Sir John described in the text; however having the details of the charges, the real meaning behind the "Conspiracy" can be ascertained. I would suspect that Cruikshank did not have a copy of the Court Martial.
2. In view of the severity of these penalties, one might well ask whether the soldiery really understood what they might be facing should they transgress regulations. Section XX of the Articles of War prescribes that all of the Articles were to be "read and publish'd Once in every Two Months at the Head of every Regiment, Troop,

or Company....." As this was a regulation which an Officer in breach of could be dismissed the Service, there is little doubt that such reading and publication took place.

And from, Thomas Simes, The Regulator(London: 1780) pp. 166&167. "Publication, therefore, of the articles of war, and standing orders of the regiment, should be read oftener than once in two months, 'as an absolute condition necessary' to give all possible laws their due force..... For this reason they are not only very proper, but favourable questions, which we have often heard courts-martial ask the prisoners that have newly joined the regiment, 'Whether they have heard the articles of war and standing orders of the regiment read to them, and whether they did not know the fact of which they are accused?' But veterans, who have had both time and opportunity sufficient thoroughly to instruct themselves in all parts of their duty, have no right to hope for such indulgence."

3. Articles of War 1762; Section II, 3rd & 4th Articles -
 3rd. The Penalty of Mutiny Any Officer or Soldier who shall begin, excite, cause, or join in, any Mutiny or Sedition, in the Troop, Company, or Regiment, to which he belongs.....on any Pretence whatsoever, shall suffer death, or such other Punishment as by a Court-Martial shall be inflicted.
 4th. And of not suppressing, or the concealing of Mutiny. ...who being present at any Mutiny or Sedition, does not use his utmost Endeavours to suppress same, or coming to the Knowledge of any Mutiny, or intended Mutiny, does not without Delay give Information thereof to
- Unfortunately, the 1762 Articles does not have an Article 3 in Section XX. Does anyone have a later issue of the Articles which includes this?
4. Further to Comment 1, it is surprising to note that Haldimand defends John Munro, the Officer Commanding at Coteau du Lac, in any fashion whatsoever. Of course, reading between the lines, perhaps he was not defending Munro who was a very Old Soldier with many years service. Whatever negligence occurred on Munro's part would have been most deserving of a rebuke. See Munro's service record on p.228 of the Regimental History.
5. Virtually all of the men involved in this conspiracy are noted in the Master Muster Roll as entering the regiment in the 2Batt'n in Oct or Nov 1780, ie. during or just after the Mohawk & Schoharie Valleys Raid of that year. As the 2Batt'n was not officially formed until 12Nov81, these men would have been doing service with various Coys of the 1st. eg. Munro's.
 There is every reason to believe that these men were either fair weather Loyalists who had signed on with Sir John under duress or were rebel prisoners who had turned coat in the hopes of seeking an opportunity to escape.
 Both Battalions of the KRR contained a large number of recruits taken from the prisoners of war and many of these did yeoman service to the Crown. See in particular the story of former prisoner, John Service, whose remarkable scout of the Mohawk Valley is found on p.76 of the Regimental History.
6. Note the varied spellings of the mens' given and surnames in the Court Martial record. This is an apt illustration of the problems encountered when compiling the Master Muster Roll.

From the same source -

Headquarters, Quebec 4 February 1783 (well after hostilities had ceased!!)

William Dougherty and John Sawyers, 1st Batt'n Royal Yorkers found guilty of desertion and sentenced to receive "eight hundred lashes with a Cat of Nine tails on his bare back" each. Both men received the Commander in Chief's pardon.