

1. Colonel's Company Reorganization

My apologies for the length of time between Newsletters. A very busy summer! One advantage of this delay has been the opportunity of reviewing over time the results of our reorganization within the Col's Coy.

I have been getting quite mixed messages about the success of this change. It would seem that all agree that the appearance of the Coy on parade and in the field has been enhanced by the division into two platoons and four sections. Not everyone, however, is captivated by the performance of the new structure.

I need some feedback and I would like it to come from the widest possible base of people, old guard with years of time in and new guys with just a few events under their belts. And, I would like a response from Musketmen, NCO's and Officers. That is, I want the broadest possible cross section.

I have a strong resistance towards returning to our previous organization. The benefits of historical accuracy and a balanced Company are strong persuaders.

Nonetheless, there are possible moves which can be made to address serious complaints if those should arise.

Please respond by mail or phone, either is fine. But, please respond!

2. Gun Crew

If there is anyone amongst the Companies who is tired of marching or musket maintenance and is looking for a cushy job serving the fieldpiece, please let me know as there are many openings in that role.

3. Promotion

John MacLeod promoted to second Corporal of Light Infantry.

Well done at Balls Falls John.

4. Event Cancellation

Unfortunately, the event at Fort Stanwix and Oriskany for Sep. 13&14 has been dropped for this year due to liability insurance problems. As Crown Point and Fort Niagara have found answers for this difficulty, I would expect that we will see a reschedule in 1987.

There is no event to replace this in 1986.

5. Liability Advice

You are insured as a Royal Yorker or a Brunswicker at all Museum events for third party injury. If you personally are injured (first party) or you injure another Yorker or another participant (second party), you are on your own. Our policy really covers the audience only, and we are well covered with \$2,000,000.

Our emphasis on training and safety is to protect all of us from either first or second party hurts. Pay attention and learn.

Allowing a third party to handle and fire your musket could result in no coverage!! Best to talk and illustrate only.

We had a very close call at Balls Falls and George Howse was burnt in the face and hand. This was not caused by carelessness. It was the result of one of the dangers that all of us accept when we decide to be a Yorker. We must all be alive to this potential and do our utmost to avoid grief.

One source of accident for all to avoid is the random firing off of loaded firelocks after an event is terminated. There is simply too much potential for

a mishap when you are tired and not alert. The regiment has procedures for all troops to check their arms for charges in an orderly, safe fashion. Do not independently discharge. Keep together and do it safely.

6. Upcoming Events

Thornhill Annual Parade and Historical Festival Sat., Sept. 20 11:30AM
This is the only event this year where the regiment can earn some \$\$ to meet expenses. A good turnout is essential of men-at-arms and drummers.
Light Coy recruits can pick up their new muskets at this event.

Queen's York Rangers, Change of Command, Militia Unit Sat., Sept. 27
Historic Fort York Meet at parking lot at 12:30PM.
A good turnout of Cols, Gren'd's and Drums is essential. This will be a live display so bring 20 rounds per man. Colours will be fielded. Major Anderson to narrate.

Paine Farm Tactical and CFB Kingston Live Ball Shoot Oct. 4, the tactical and Oct. 5, the shoot. Jeff will search out ground devoid of poison ivy. Get directions from your Section Leaders. 2 Bn. and Brunswickers with some Tryon County Militia and 1 Bn.
Bring lots of blank. Camping, available on the Farm, but, Oct. is cold! Best to plan for motel if you're chicken like me.
There will be a party on Sat. night with many war stories. The tacticals are not only great fun but are also a fascinating lesson in 18C truths.
Next day we travel to the Base and conduct safe, good fun shooting competitions which take in both novices and sharpshooters. There is plenty of time for learning so don't be shy about taking advantage of this opportunity to educate yourself on just what real ball is all about. You need evenly loaded, 100 gr. blank cartridges and the regiment supplies the balls. Ear protection is not required as the sound range of black powder is not as destructive as modern firing. A great experience!!

Jordan Annual Historical Festival Sat., Oct. 18 This popular event is of the show and tell variety in a beautiful setting amongst an interested and appreciative audience. The location is just outside St. Catherines. Phone your Section Leader for timing and driving instructions.

White Plains, New York Oct. 24, 25, 26 & 27 This is a super two day event outside New York City run by the British Brigade. They are predicting 1000 troops. All the info we have tells us that they will deliver.

The concept on Saturday is a whole day of wargaming. The two camps will be in locations unknown to either side. The event opens with the Loyalist troops reconnoitering the rebel position. The next stage is a Crown forces attack on that encampment. Of course, the rebels do not sit back and wait for all of this to fall on them; they take their own action as they see fit and thus the tactical wargaming develops. First class stuff on a grand scale.

The second day is the more traditional style tactical like Prescott this year with the BB advantage of giving the various units a job to accomplish without telling them each and every move they've got to follow.

Note, I've outlined that this event would require taking time off work on Friday and Monday simply because of the distance to travel. I am suggesting that we charter a bus which would start in Toronto and go to Kingston, then down through NY state to White Plains. It's a 10 hour trip each way and thus the extra time.

White Plains cont'd

If the regiment can get some \$\$ in from our Accounts Receivables, then the cost of the bus fare would be partially underwritten by the unit. How much would depend on how well we fill the seats.

All Section Leaders will please poll all of their men and give me a head count on those able to take the extra time off and are interested in attending at a nominal cost --say \$40. We would of course be camping out. And the additional costs of eating and drinking would be the individual's expense. Sect.Ldrs. please give me a report by September 10.

United Kingdom Trip, Aug.23 to Sept.4, 1987 This is the big show talked about by the BB at Prescott. The Royal Yorkers, 1 Bn are indeed invited and all expenses of this trip such as food and accomodation will be picked up by the British Government. There will be 3 'shows' put on at different historical locations, one would assume far more scripted scenarios that the BB would normally follow.

Rumours that the cost of travel there and back would also be provided by the Brit Govt are false. This is the individual's own expense.

Another problem is the acceptable ratio of troops to camp followers. This is 20%, so if 40 troops go, the maximum number of followers allowed is 8. And, these would be completely outfitted, top notch followers!! This restriction makes lots of sense when one considers that the show being put on is only battle recreations; however, the briefest thinking about how these followers will be equitably selected will reveal a nightmare in the making.

So, there's two key factors to consider in this decision. Can you get the time away from work and family? Can you afford the cost of the plane fare which at a minimum will be \$400.

I would ask the Section Leaders to poll this event by Sept. 10 also so that we can get a preliminary viewpoint from the membership.

7. Of Fixing Flints, an Art not a Science article donated by John Moore.

GENERAL ORDER

DATED — HORSEGUARDS —

14th July 1809

— Memorandum —

"The cause of a piece missing fire is generally ascribed to the badness of the flint, the softness of the Hammer, or the weakness of the mainspring or Feather Spring, but the real cause will generally be found to be a want of correctness in fixing the flint. . .

This sometimes proceeds from carelessness but it is too often owing to ignorance of the true principles which ought to direct the fixing of the flint.

It is frequently imagined that an uniformity should prevail upon this subject; as it does and ought to do, on many others, respecting the movements and management of arms. Instances are not unfrequent (sic) where directions have been given that flints should be fixed in exact conformity to some approved pattern.

This practice is founded in error, and is productive of more extensive mischief than can well be imagined.

In fixing flints, no uniform mode must be attempted, the flat side must be placed either upwards or downwards according to the size and shape of the flints, and also according to

the proportion which the cock bears in height to the hammer, which varies in different musquets.

This is ascertained by letting the Cock gently down and observing where the flint strikes the hammer which ought to be at the distance of about one third from the top of the hammer.

Most diligent observations ought at the same time to be made whether every part of the edge of the flint comes in contact with the hammer, so as to strike out fire from the whole surface.

A flint will often appear to the eye to be carefully and skilfully fixed, and to stand firm and square, yet on trial being made as above directed, it will prove to have been ill fixed in as much as the surface of the hammer in some musquets does not stand square, but stands a little aslant to the Cock.

Each particular flint requires therefore its own particular mode of being fixed, so as to accomodate itself to the particular proportions and conformation of each particular lock.

It is perhaps unnecessary to mention that whatever the position of the flint should be, it ought to be screwed in firmly and that the cock should also be let down, in order to observe whether the flint passes clear of the Barrel.

Whenever a piece has been fired, the first opportunity should be embraced of examining whether the flint remains good and fixed as it ought to be, and no time should be lost in correcting whatever may be found amiss."

8. Return of Arms and Accoutrements wanting to Compleat the Kings Royal Regiment of New York dated 8th May 1779 at Montreal

Add.Mss.21818 Reel A 746
transcript donated by Jim Morrison,
Tryon County 3 Regt Militia

Each and every one of us is always eager to have all of the necessary kit to act the role of the complete soldier and the frustration of being short a bayonet or a cartridge pouch is extreme. That's why it's so amusing to quote an excerpt from this 1779 Return. Note, 1779 was the fourth year of the Regiment's existence. Both 1777 (the Fort Stanwix Campaign and Oriskany) and 1779 (the abortive relief expedition to the Six Nation's country) had seen major troop movements and arduous service for the KRY and probably much of the equipment had been lost or damaged in the service. (This was also the year that the 1 Bn changed coat colour to red from the early green) I have only shown the Companies which we currently portray

Companies	Firelocks	Bayonets	CartPouches
Lieut Col Sir John Johnsons (Cols Coy)	11	10	9
Captain Samuel Anderson's (Light Coy)	14	14	13
Captain John McDonnell's (Grenadiers)	6	6	6

Do these figures suggest losses or simply the Companies recruiting up to a larger scale?? As we have no record of a new Company size scale being allowed the Yorkers at any time during their existence, we cannot answer that question. There are documents extant which show the 84th RHE being given two increments in their size allowance and at least one indication that Butler's received permission to increase scale.

If we assume that the 1779 scale was the same as the 1782 one, that is 54 musketeers per company, then we can see that the Light Coy was short 26% of their full arms' strength. Sound familiar guys? Who says history doesn't repeat itself?

9. A Glimpse at Tactics Employed on the Burgoyne Expedition of 1777 from the book "Major General Riedesel in the American Revolution" contributed by Claus Reuter.

After you read this, you'll really wonder what the hell the troops did do in the bush!

"Riedesel, in the meantime, had drilled his troops diligently, and had instructed them somewhat in the English method of fighting. He made the first attempt with his infantry regiment on the 6th of August. The manoeuvre consisted of an attack in the woods with skirmishers in advance. This was done in order to surprise General Carleton upon his return from Quebec, when it was expected he would inspect the German troops.

(At LaPrairie, Quebec September 3, 1775)

At three o'clock in the afternoon the generals (Carleton, Burgoyne&Phillips) reviewed three hundred men of the regiment Riedesel. We have already mentioned that Riedesel had drilled this detachment in an extended line for the purpose of surprising the generals. This manoeuvre, representing an attack in the woods, was, accordingly, perfectly carried out. In order to give our readers an idea of what was, in those days, called the practice of sharp shooting, we will here copy verbatim an extract from Riedesel's journal:

'As soon as the first line has jumped into the supposed ditch, the command 'fire' is given, when the first line fires, reloads its guns, gets up out of the ditch, and hides behind a tree, rock, shrub or whatever is at hand, at the same time firing off four cartridges in such a manner that the line is kept as straight as possible. As soon as the first line has fired off the four cartridges, the

second line advances and fires off the same number in the same manner. While this is taking place, the woods have been thoroughly ransacked by the sharp shooters who have thus become familiar with every part of it.'

With all this manoeuvring the English general's were perfectly satisfied; and in the afternoon they rode back to LaPrairie and dined with the German General.....of a meal consisting of thirty-six covers and twenty-six dishes in two courses." and meanwhile the troops cleaned muskets and ate salt beef, pease and hard bread.

What does one conclude from these descriptions?? Certainly the Generals all got indigestion..but what about those tactics!! Where's all that good stuff about operating in files and covering eachother? Think of how bloody exposed those men would have been in the first rank as they loaded and fired their four rounds. HMMMMM...

10.A Required Equipment Adjustment

A few of you need to trim the edges of the red cloth backing behind the GR brass plate on your cartridge pouches. None of this red cloth is to be seen beyond the perimeter of the plate itself. It should not even be visible to someone viewing the plate from the side.

The purpose of this cloth is only to be seen through the openings in the plate behind the letters GR and the crown.

Please correct this as soon as possible.

11.Wearing of Regalia

The majority of you are aware of the very specific rules for the wearing of Royal Yorker medals/awards and comply accordingly.

We now have another problem of the same nature. Norm Agnew has been producing a wide variety of beautiful metal emblems such as a small version of the cartridge pouch plate marked to the KRR NY, a crown with script GR, etc... and a great many of us have a number of these. I must stress that none of these emblems are correct for our time period and they should not be worn during the active times of our appearances. So please get these off the hat brims, coats and fatigue wedges when we're on duty. You too, McGeachie!

12.Womens' Shoes

One of the most difficult items of apparel for followers is footwear. Thanks to Harry Martin we have three pairs of free shoes with false buckles in stock, 2 X 7½ and 1 X 8¼. First come, first served. They are only a temporary answer and will ultimately have to be replaced with something better. Let me know if you want a pair.

Also in stock are a pair of sabots, that is, wooden Dutch style clogs, suitable for and historically accurate in the camp. Hard to guess the size - perhaps 8.

13.A Tactical Comment



August 1986

THE REGIMENTAL FINANCIAL POSITION

We are now at an all time high for monies owed by members to the unit. 1986 has been a very poor year for paid events with only the Niagara Foundation, Open House event yielding some funds (\$200). You will recall that we were paid for Prescott 1985 in April of this year and it is this money which is now keeping us alive. From that \$1500, we have yet to pay out the share to the 34th and the King's Rangers.

So, before paying these two other units, we have \$674.00 to keep our suppliers happy.

The total monies owed by the membership is

\$ 8272.68!

Your personal debt is

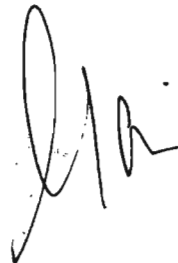
All of you who owe under \$50.00 will please pay off your total immediately with a cheque.

Anyone above \$50 is welcome to do the same; but, recognizing reality, I would expect that a series of postdated cheques over the next three to four months are in order.

For very new members or recent debts, I am not expecting any miracles; but, please without any prodding, would you keep a steady flow of money coming in!

All cheques should be made out to the King's Royal Yorkers.

Thanks for your prompt response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M.', located at the bottom right of the page.