

1. BUS TO SOMMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS BITES THE DUST

Sadly enough, the bus that would have given us bigga numbers for this event has failed to get enough seats filled to justify the cost. We are now on a whip-around for car pools. If you haven't received a telephone call and are interested in sharing costs, please phone me at 416-833-6435 to get put onto a group. I suspect about 15-20 troops will be there under command of SjtMjr Moore and, perhaps, Lt James.

2. VERY BAD ACCIDENT AT BLACK CREEK

Fortunately, there has been no permanent harm done; however, we did have a very dismal and unnecessary accident take place. Dan Copeland, in a fit of zealousness, and being absolutely sure that Neil Thomsen understood his intentions stuck a blade into the ground only to find that the back of Neil's knee was in the way.

All the veterans will have no trouble imagining what would have happened if this wounding had happened to a member of another unit!!!!

Just to reinforce the tacit rules of everyone:

NO DRAWN EDGED WEAPONS TO BE USED IN MOCK COMBAT ON THE FIELD.

And the second rule relating to this accident.

NO HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT THAT ISN'T REHEARSED BEFORE THE TACTICAL.

As Dan and Neil so aptly illustrated - in the midst of an action, it is simply too easy to mix up signals.

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Following along from this - I think many of us were disturbed at the hand-to-hand which developed between the new Queen's Rangers and the Yorker Grenadiers in the role of rebels. Mike Hurley assures me that the 'fighting' was well done and safe; however, when one considers the results of Dan's game ..... Yes, we want lots of excitement, but no real wounds thank you.

3. THE LONG AWAITED, MISERABLE SHOE ORDER

We advised all of you at Black Creek that the custom shoe order with the King's Storehouse was falling through. All orders, except the two ladies, have now been cancelled. I have asked for the return of all foot tracings, etc..

We are investigating a Canadian source (mens' style only) at about \$100.00 per pair - buckles extra. These will be 18C in appearance, manufactured by 20C methods. More on this later; however, anyone who had an order placed previously is entirely free to purchase elsewhere if the opportunity arises.

4. 325th ANNIVERSARY EVENT - FORT CHAMBLY, AUG 25,26

A note of warning - Parks Canada is inundating me with rules and regulations which I am reading and then signing returns of commitment. All of us will be just fine if we use our common sense and normal practices; however, there are a couple of rules which need sharing. a) come with all of your cartridges prepared. There is NO filling at this event. Matter of fact, this is a safety rule at most events and some of you are ignoring it; b) no firelocks to be in poor working order, eg. no cracked stocks or rust encrusted locks.

5. A SUBMISSION FROM TEX JOYNER - He was just catching up on a few magazines in the sitting room -- from a letter dated 1817

"To the Editor  
The Gentleman's Magazine

Sir; You will forgive my importunity, if I take this occasion to add my views on Mr. Forsyth's Patent Detonating Lock, to other recent correspondents. (this refers to the Percussion Cap system)

I cannot deny that his invention offers many vulgar advantages among which the most important are that the Gun is made to shoot harder by the forceful kindling of the powder and the absence of a touch-hole. Furthermore it will doubtless fire in inclement weather.

True sportsmen however do not require this new lock, for a good Flint-lock will answer every conceivable purpose a gentleman might wish. To those who say that it shoots harder, I say the flint-lock shoots hard enough. To those who say it shoots faster, I say, if your flint-lock is good and you have to use it, the difference is too trifling to merit attention by true sportsmen. To those who say it fires in violent wind and rain, I say, gentlemen do not go sporting in such weather.

If, moreover, this new system were to be applied to the military, war would shortly become so frightful as to exceed all bounds of imagination and future war would threaten within a few years to destroy not only armies but civilization itself.

It is hoped, therefore, that many men of conscience and with a reflective turn will militate most vehemently for the suppression of this new invention.

I Am Sir, yours Etc..Etc..  
An English Gentleman"

The well meant innocence of this letter is remarkable.

6. SOME AMUSING ANECDOTES REGARDING ANONYMOUS LOBSTER OFFICERS - as compiled by an Officer of the South Staffords in 1907 regarding his Mess fellows, as appeared in The Black Knot, Newsletter of our 64th friends, Vol VII, No.4.

"MAJOR ..X.. He was a most charming old gentleman, with a taste for music and the fine arts, but not a very brilliant soldier. Posed as a misogynist, but when in India I believe gave that up.

CAPTAIN ..Y.. Looked like his nickname, which was 'Charley's Aunt'. Never did a stroke of work while he was with us. A most amusing little chap and excellent company. Sang an excellent comic song, and was a good actor. His ignorance of, and indifference to, soldiering in every shape was colossal.

CAPTAIN ..A2.. Had been A.D.C. to his father A1, but was sent back by him for giving him backchat in public. He married a lady of uncertain reputation. Was always in money difficulties and, not to put too fine a point on it, was not particularly honest. Apart from his peculiar views as to money, he was a very good officer.

LIEUTENANT ..B.. Very small, very ugly and very unclean. After a lot of rather forcible persuasion he was induced to go to the 80th, who had a bad time with him. He got into debt in India and his father sent out money to pay his debts. This he spent on a lady who called herself a Russian Countess, in Rangoon."

It is easy to see that the Officers of the KRR have lots to learn - and learn we shall, by gad!