

1. 210TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOHARIE/MOHAWK VALLEY RAID, OCT 6,7 & 8, 1990
15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RECREATED KING'S ROYAL YORKERS COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

First, some general notes:

There are about 450 muskets registered for this event, so there's a good chance of over 300 showing.

1. There is a bus leaving from the Historic Fort York parking lot in Toronto at about 7:00PM on Friday, Oct 5 and travelling via Queenston with a stop at Glendale Rd. in St.Catharines at approx. 8:30PM. Don't be late. The bus will not wait.
As per usual, we are having one hell of a time getting the names straight of those who intend to be on this bus. You must make sure personally that Reg James knows that you are going!!
2. We are camping at one location only, so we set up and take down once only. The camp at the Stone Fort, Schoharie, NY - in your proper allocated tent lines please.
3. Thus, the advantage of taking a bus. As we move around to the many battle sites we won't have a flood of vehicles to park.
However, the bus does make it very necessary that you take as few extra goodies as possible; but, do remember that it will be cold. What you do take must be compact - 5 parcels are ideal, eg. tent, bound tent poles, musket, clothing/accoutrements & bedding.
4. Sections will please organize the sharing of Coolers/Barracks Boxes & cleaning kits, perhaps four persons per box.
5. Followers and Troops from well east of Toronto are asked to car pool.
6. The bus will cost each passenger \$30. [Please have a cheque or cash available when you board] This means that the Regiment is subsidizing each member \$37. Therefore, all private vehicle passengers will have their accounts credited \$37. [members only]
7. All participants MUST REGISTER and sign a WAIVER. Please, no hassles or delays. Be big boys and girls and don't have our staff chasing you all over the site to get this job completed.
8. Your cash requirements will be for inexpensive meals that are not provided, your grog, the Sat night party and the Sutlers. Meals will be available on site at Schoharie from concession stands and, for most times, a MacDonald's Marquee. The Monday lunch is provided for us at no cost.
9. We have six tacticals over the three days. Four of these will be heavy duty for cartridge consumption. Prepare 140 rounds min.
10. Our Regiment will field at least 6 Drummers/Fifers for this event!

1. SCHOHARIE/MOHAWK SCHEDULE CONT'D

SCHEDULE

Saturday AM [We are forming-up at 9:30 prompt!] Near the site of the Upper Fort, [which was bypassed by Sir John's column] the burning of the first rebel barn owned by one Mattice will be reenacted to the joy of the locals.

Followed by a tactical at Middleburg, NY the site of the original first skirmish of the 1780 Raid at the Middle Fort. This is for the public on the original ground; but, without any buildings. We have not been at this location previously.

Saturday PM A scripted Tactical at the stockade in Schoharie recreating what actually happened at the Middle Fort. All significant occurrences of that skirmish will be recreated. Could be a fun battle in that it reenacts the actual event; but, not a great tactical challenge.

Saturday Evening The unit will celebrate this successful Raid, the 15th Anniversary of the Recreated King's Royal Yorkers and the birthday of the Colonel's older and more gentle daughter at a local hostelry. The meal will be under \$10 USF and the draft beer is on Himself.

In the interest of unit solidarity, I would request that all members plan to attend this affair.

Sunday AM A plaque dedication attended by all units which originally participated on the Raid. This marker commemorates the site of a section of the original Mohawk trail above Schoharie which was used by Sir John's Expedition as it travelled north to the Mohawk.

Sunday NOON All forces congregate on the original trail to begin a 2 hour War Game during which the Crown Forces will attempt to force their way up the trail to its terminus. Rebel troops will deploy to prevent this. The trail is bordered by woods and swamp, all of which are part of the Game. This is for the reenactors, not the public.

Sunday Early PM A small demonstration for the public commemorating the action which occurred at the Stone Fort. This is where the Yorker 3 pdr lodged a ball in the roof of the Church. "Filthy, murdering Tories!!"

Sunday Later PM The Crown Forces will attack across the Covered Bridge and the creek bed after softening up the far shore with artillery. Punching across, the troops will side-slip into the fields and woods to attempt the capture of the Stockade. This free wheeling tactical will be observed by the public; but, by its nature is more for the reenactor.

Sunday Night Our unit will organize its own entertainment.

Monday AM The camp at Schoharie is struck and vehicles loaded. All move north to Stone Arabia. Using the original battleground, we reenact Sir John's brilliant attack against the Rebel Levies and Militia who sallied forth to prevent the burning of the vast granaries held in that area. They were soundly defeated and will be again. The site's farm fields are being held fallow in order to allow us this opportunity.

1. SCHOHARIE/MOHAWK SCHEDULE CONT'D

Monday PM We arrive at Fort Klock [an excellent historic site where many Loyalists were held prisoners in the dank, stinking cellar]. After a brief tour, we push off in the role of the retreating column heading west towards Klock's Field. This will be a fighting withdrawal.

At Klock's Field, Sir John drew up his exhausted troops who had been on the march ceaselessly for 18 days, having travelled from Oswego, [not forgetting the 14 day bateaux trip up the St. Lawrence from Lachine] deep into southern New York almost to Pennsylvania, looping north to the rising of the Schoharie. Then skirmishing and burning down the Schoharie and into the Mohawk Valley for two strenuous days, fighting the successful action at Stone Arabia that morning.

This next action at Klock's Field represents the only Linear battle that the KRR conducted. All Battalion troops were drawn up in the field, their rear protected by the river. The fighting was quite brisk. The flanks were driven in and reportedly Platoon Firings were commenced against a substantially superior force of Levies and Militia.

Smoke from the burning valley created a premature darkness. The rebels pressed forward; but, were in some disorder, indeed firing upon themselves. Sir John concluded the battle by ordering the Yorker 3 pdr to discharge a round of "Grape shott".

The rebels were thrown into confusion and withdrew some three miles for the night thereby allowing Sir John's little army the opportunity to safely fade away into the bush. [the rebel commander was subject to a Court of Enquiry into his conduct, both for the defeat at Stone Arabia and his failure to defeat Sir John's spent troops at Klock's Field] Several small successful actions were conducted on the withdrawal which took another 6 days with units travelling overland to Carleton Island and others to Oswego. Haldimand was most pleased with the conduct and results of this long range penetration raid and Sir John's leadership on this and many other occasions was later recognized by his promotion to Brig General. Washington was considerably distressed by the devastation wrought and, most particularly, the loss of the grain from the harvest which was essential to the welfare of his troops.

We will recreate the Klock's Field battle on the original ground. Again, the owner has left the fields fallow for this use. This site has not been the scene of any previous reenactments.

We should now be at about 3:00 PM and able to board the vehicles [with no camp to be struck!] for the return journey.

NOTE: A second, smaller raid was conducted by Captain John Munro, 1Bn KRR concurrently with Sir John's with two companies of our regiment and other Loyalist troops. Munro's was west of Lake George and intended to bleed troops away from opposing the main force. Munro was commended upon his success.

A third raid led by Maj Carleton, nephew of Guy, operated against Forts Anne and Edward. This effort included elements of Roger's King's Rangers, Jessup's and Peter's Corps and was also successful.

1. SCHOHARIE/MOHAWK CONT'D

SIR JOHN'S ORIGINAL FORCE

Regulars: British

LtInf Coy, 8 Regt	50
LtInf Coy, 34 Regt	50
Batt Coys, 8 Regt*	90
Batt troops, 34 Regt	30
Detach't, R1 Artillery	2-10

German

Hanau Jaegers*	20-50
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Provincials:

1Bn KRR NY, 3 Coys*	150
Butler's Rangers, 4 Coys*	200
Leake's Coy	80

Indians:

Senecas, Mohawks, Cayugas, Oneidas*	300
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*represented at this reenactment Total: 1000 approx.

Oddly enough, rebel Col John Harper's testimony at the Court of Enquiry states that Johnson's force was 400 troops and few Indians.

2. JORDAN PIONEER DAY, OCT 13/90 & FORT NIAGARA FALL ENCAMPMENT, OCT 20,21/90
There will be no further notice regarding these events. Section Leaders will phone to encourage attendance.

3. ANNUAL MEETING, COUNCIL FOR NORTHEAST HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY, KINGSTON,
OCT 12, 13, 14/90

Tex Joyner is looking for some local support for this appearance with a small tent encampment in Confederation Park near the KRR NY Plaque. Firing demonstrations to occur. Both 1 & 2Bn welcome. Please coordinate with Tex - 613-542-2259. Need four tents and about 6 troops and all followers. Even a one day participation will be helpful.

4. BALLS FALLS REVIEWED

An excellent social event with the General Amherst Tavern opened after the war games on Saturday. The games as devised by Artillery Sjt Smith were better than previous, especially for safety. Next year, we'll cut down the distances to be travelled in deference to some old meat in the ranks. Safety on Sunday for the public's demonstration wasn't good enough. Short range discharges are dangerous. Get those muzzles up!

4Bn Royal Artillery brought their 6 Pdr Fieldpiece, a Mortar and a very complete Camp, about 20 troops + flwrs. A tremendous addition to the event.

One sad and inexplicable note- the Colonel's Coy only fielded 2 men! Our Col's is likely the only complete Coy in the hobby - that's 64 men, all

4. BALLS FALLS CONT'D

ranks. Those 64 do not include guys who have been missing for the last two years. Sure, there was a Fencible event that weekend. Yes, the 2Bn fielded 6 guys from the 1Bn Col's &, yes, 2 Col's Coy guys were on our 3 Pdr. And, yes, there was a Service Rifle shoot on the Saturday - but....that leaves 24 guys who have no other unit to which they belong. Where were the other 22 of them??

5. STANWIX REVIEWED

A dismal event at the Fort during the day. US Federal Parks prohibits opposing line firings, so we had many repetitive duties instead. However, a super event in the evening with great 18C Dancing and Phil Dunning's 18C tavern. Of course, being in those deadly accurate barracks in a correct, period fort is something special.

The Sunday saw an excellent tactical at the State-run, Oriskany Battle site. 2Bn getting lots of action and being very hard pressed. Good fun insults traded between Royal and rebel Yorkers.

Summary - would be worthwhile attending next time with 1Bn and encourage all new guys who haven't seen these two sites. You cannot beat Fort Stanwix for accurate ambience and if our staff organizes our own activities for the Saturday, we will have a very good time.

6. CHAMBLY REVIEWED

There was absolutely no evidence of the much rumoured hostility and likely vandalism. Thousands of visitors walked through the camps until one felt like goldfish in a bowl. Of course, the majority were francophone. All were friendly and many very interested. Vehicles with Ontario plates and Grand Union decals parked beside the main road came to no harm. The Fort Park had been declared 'off limits' to youths and NONE were in evidence at night.

Comparing to two years ago, the meal was a disappointment. Funding instead was directed to a gigantic 18C Firework which was spectacular.

Conceptually, the three eras' encampment was a failure. I suspect that events where we have multi-era units from our Museum in attendance should be short in duration, not a full weekend. I think that the joys of the Chamblly site are exhausted and need a two year rest.

Two items of note: a) Our womens' Polly Johnson Day was super. From the unit's point of view, the most successful occurrence of the weekend. b) The 1Bn fired three commemorative volleys over the grave site of Ensign Jacob Glen who is buried at the garrison Church across the main road. Glen was second senior Ensign and serving in the Major's Coy on disbandment in 1783.

7. NAPANEE REVIEWED

A spectacular little event with tremendous sponsor support. Best food since Trenton in '84. Many thanks to the Wannamakers & Packers for their help. Definitely worth repeating if we get the offer.

8. THORNHILL REVIEWED

A turnout of 39 troops including 10 Fifes & Drums. Oh, what a pleasure! Thanks to the Moore's for their hospitality.

9. KNAPSACKS

As most of you are aware, all Yorkers, every Company, & both Battalions should have a Knapsack to carry extra clothing, shoes, shaving gear, capote, blanket, etc.. This item is worn on the upper back with straps going over each shoulder and a retaining strap across the chest.

9. KNAPSACK CONT'D

As this item was often laid aside at the time of an attack and collected before the next move, we have never insisted upon all soldiers having one. A number of American reenactment units have the Knapsack on their list of required essentials.

With the exception of the St. Leger Expedition against Fort Stanwix and the Mohawk Valley in 1777, the KRR had no tents on campaign. The men simply rolled up in their blankets and capotes under the trees and slept through rain, snow and sleet. So... you can see why a Knapsack was an essential piece of kit.

A handful of the guys have purchased Knapsacks manufactured by Frank Packer. These are of the correct pattern and are recommended for purchase by any Yorker who wants to add to his kit. Frank's price is \$75.00 each, [cheaper than Godwin by \$20+] manufactured from preshrunk canvas, hand hemmed and buttonholed. Frank mentions that he has improved the quality of both the strap leather and the chest buckle.

Two notes of caution. Knapsacks will not be worn on duty by the Regiment until the whole unit, or a subunit, has been equipped. The item is strictly optional and is to be considered as an excellent 18C accessory for the camp and recommended as luggage for miscellaneous kit OR a complete outfit correct to the period. Rather than all that vinyl and nylon luggage, plastic bags, etc.. which now clutter our encampment and which we struggle to hide in the tent during the day, this piece of kit would look absolutely 'in place' at all times.

Second, the back flap of the knapsack was, and should be, painted and identified to the soldier. We do not yet have the paint colour and code selected, nor the markings. Until then, the knapsacks should stay plain.

Orders may be placed by mail to Frank Packer, Box 825, RR #3, Napanee K7R 3K8. Please include your cheque or money order.

10. JACKASSING AROUND WITH MEMBERS' KIT

There seems to be a new phenomenon developing in the unit whereby some members are deliberately and maliciously attacking others by messing around with their kit - hats, tents or the like.

Guys, this is simple insanity. If we are angry with each other, there has to be a more mature method of dealing with the problem.

11. USING THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANNELS

While we are certainly not a regular military unit, we do have a strong framework of organization. There is nothing to stop any member from setting up an appearance and getting some of the members together to attend it. BUT, let's remember the common courtesy of informing your Section/Platoon leader of what is going down.

7. AN INFORMATIVE QUOTE - WOULD SEEM THAT HIMSELF GOT TOLD OFF GOOD -

From Artillery Sjt Glen Smith relative to the appearance of the 4Bn, Royal Artillery at Ball's Falls. These comments are addressed to me. - "I certainly suffered through your disparaging comments with remarkable forbearance. Your resolved intent to concentrate on form rather than substance caused you to miss the tip top condition of our gunners implements. If you hadn't been dazzled by the shine of the 6pdr barrel, you might have noticed the crappy condition of their sponge. However, I expect these perceptions from a novice." Gulp!!