

**CHANGE THIS NOW - CALENDAR CHANGE - STONE FORT DAYS, SCHOHARIE -
BATTLE OF THE FLOCKEY OCT 10,11/92**

The great attraction of attending Stone Fort Days this year was the planned reenactment of the skirmish at the Flockey. This sharp little action is remembered by the Americans as being the first use of US Cavalry against Indians and, somewhat less dramatically, by Loyalists as the formative occurrence in the raising of John McDonnell's Grenadier Coy of 1Bn Yorkers and the recruitment of a large number of Butler's Rangers.

Unfortunately, I have just been advised that the Flockey is postponed until next year. This cancellation will mean that the Yorkers will wait until next season for a return visit to Schoharie.

WANT TO TRY THIS ONE? - BATTLE FOR LEESBURG, VIRGINIA OCT 17,18/92

For those who made the 11 hour drive to Monmouth in '91, this event will *only* take an additional 90 minutes. Sponsored by the 1st Virginia, Continental Line, and the Brit Brigade. The write-up reads very well & I have a troop return of 20 ready to mail. Interested parties should advise their Coy CO's and if we get half that number, I'll send in the Return.

NB: this event does not replace Jordan or Ft Niagara. It is for the more adventurous -- folk undaunted by 10 trips a year to the US and 24 hrs in a vehicle.

TO ALL MEMBERS - RULES FOR TENTAGE

Let me restate the Yorker policy on tentage. Every once and awhile, one of our members receives a divine inspiration that it would be super for him and a few of his buddies to buy a Wall tent or a Marquee so that the bunch of them can save a few bucks as well as the agony that goes with putting up, taking down & transporting a number of individual Wedge tents. Or maybe they think that a nice high roof over their heads when it rains or snows would be great.

Just like Halberds and Sjt's sashes are for Serjeants only, Wall tents in various sizes are for Serjeants, Artificers, Hospital and Subaltern Officers only and Marquees are for Captains and Field Officers only.

Unfortunately, the joy of cheap, communal tenting isn't for the Private Soldier, or his wimmin - although you could sleep 5 in a Wedge and be deadly, stinking, excitingly accurate.

On the other hand, anyone who wants some shade from the heat and protection from rain is more than welcome to organize a Fly which can be a square or rectangle of canvas, or a shaped affair like the roof of a Marquee without walls. BUT, before you erect a Fly at an event, you MUST have clear directions as to its correct placement from the event organizers! And, when your Sec NCO is asking about your attendance and asks whether or not you have a tent, if you have a Fly - say so!

MORE ON THE TOPIC OF TENTS & CAMPS (NB: NORTHERN BRIGADE UNITS)

Hello you Officers and NCO's!!!! One of the reasons why we are asking each Coy to make an accurate return of numbers attending AND the number of tents & Flies relates to laying out a proper camp.

Hello all you members - male & female!!!! Each Coy should be camping in its own street - or be brigaded with a like Coy, eg. the Flank units or the Battalion Coys. For Napanee, I spent an hour or so studying the Returns and designing a suitable camp layout. Then Frank Packer and Jon Wannamaker spent a couple of hours measuring the layout and placing the marking strings for the streets. (I know most members think the good fairy puts those strings on the ground - smarten up!)

Jon had the plan with him at the event. He even put street numbers at the head of the streets so no one would get lost. Then, guess what! Arghhh!

Find out where your tent is supposed to go, OR be ready to move it the next morning.

MAKING THAT BIG DECISION TO ATTEND AN EVENT

I am aware that this decision isn't all that easy to arrive at. There are always other priorities which may change your mind. And, it is your personal decision.

However, be very aware that many of our events are heavily 'supported'. By 'Supported' I mean that the event sponsors are providing expensive items such as meals, portajohns, maybe intra-event transport, maybe special accomodation, beer or powder. To do so efficiently, they need an accurate headcount. Guesswork can waste big bucks or leave some people without. *Sponsors who get burnt by units who fail to meet their commitments don't have other events. And, believe me, event sponsors are quite scarce.*

ATTENDANCE, CONT'D

When you're asked whether you will attend an event or not - you are being asked for a commitment. Wishy washy, "I dunno's" and glib "I'll be there" - but you know you won't - don't help your unit commanders or the sponsors. Be responsible, make up your mind and stick with it. If some emergency comes up that causes a change - phone your Section Commander and advise him/her. Be adults - not children.

**30TH ANNIVERSARY, BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (WELL SUPPORTED)
- FORT STANWIX, ROME NY AUG 8,9/92**

I've been asked by lots of people about this event and what's going on there, because as most folks know, Fort Stanwix is a National Park Service site which will not allow opposing lines' tacticals. Yep, this is true; *however, the Fort is being used solely as the campsite and the location for the anniversary celebration.* -- and the BAR has an excellent social capability.

The Saturday tactical will be staged for the public at Erie Canal Village where opposing lines are allowed. As it's for the public, it won't be entirely free wheeling. The last two BAR public tactical demos the Yorkers were in were the Monmouth reenactment in '91 and Oriskany in '90. The former was pretty good and the latter was super.

But, the big draw is a return to the same village on Sunday morning and a wargame using the 900 acres of the site - just for the reenactors, not the public. As the BAR has the best reputation for wargame events, this should be first rate. Remember Schroon Lake in '90, both days, and Sunday at Monmouth in '91 and Boone Farm in '89 & '90!! All very good efforts.

THE BAR GRAND TACTICAL EXERCISE, NEW JERSEY AUG 22,23

I gather that a few members want to attend this event on their own, even though the unit has ruled it out because it's too far a drive for a mid-season effort surrounded by so many other long-drive events. At least, that's what your inexperienced Executive judged it to be.

Be advised, only pre-registered BAR members are allowed to attend. The deadline for registration was June 15. You are too late! Unlike the small, picayune events, don't expect to waltz in unannounced and be received with open arms.

RESIGNATION

Unfortunately, Gdr Stuart Mann has decided to resign from the regiment. Stuart hasn't been too active over the past couple of years, but, he was six years in the Grenadiers. Of all the men in that Coy, only Stuart could make the claim that he really was a Grenadier, having served in the famous Montreal regiment, the Canadian Grenadier Guards. Many of you will remember his mysterious and very personal ceremony when Stuart burned his combat boots, in fond and respectful memory of the CGG, one night during our trip to England. Owls hooted and Reg passed out (again).

ITEMS IN STOCK

"The Devil's Good Tunes" - a tape recorded and produced by Watt, Watt, Purvis & Watt with a great selection of Romantic, Martial & Bawdy Period pieces - tape cassette & song booklet \$3.00 + postage. A little note to all of you - no, the Watt family doesn't get rich on selling this item. Just check out the cost of blank tapes.

"A Compendium of Useful Knowledge.." This nicely bound, haversack-sized booklet is full of social & military info that's useful to all members when they're faced with talking to the public. It features an excellent map of the Mohawk with those places shown, like Stone Arabia, that you can't find on other maps. Proceeds go to the Refugees & Followers. \$4.00 for troops; \$3.00 for distaff.

WORDS OF WISDOM TO EVERYONE IN GENERAL**OR, HOW WOMEN JOIN THE REFUGEES AND FOLLOWERS OF THIS REGIMENT**

Every year we take in a new group of soldiers and no one seems to be able to tell them how their wives, sisters, girl friends or mothers can join this outfit. You Officers, NCO's and senior members should know better - get your act together!!

EVERYONE, old & new -- be advised that membership in the Distaff section of the Yorkers is not automatic right!

DISTAFF SECTION, CONT'D

It's an accepted fact that the troops have uniforming, accoutrements' and arms' regulations to follow. No one claims that all of these rules are based upon infallible historical research. They are a distillation of decisions made through many peoples' efforts over 18 years of activity.

Similarly, in the Distaff section, there are clothing rules and regulations to follow that are the results of decades of research. For the troops, the research and rules of other regiments do not apply; this same concept applies to the Yorker women & children! No soldier is allowed to appear in the ranks with buff facings on his coat simply because his, or a friend's, research says this is correct. Yorkers as a whole have a code of conduct for their troops and another for their women.

In the same manner that any soldier attempting to force some new practice upon the unit would be stopped from doing so, this same understanding applies to the women. The Refugees & Followers have worked very hard and earned recognition in the hobby for accuracy and depth of presentation. Their reputation within their spheres of activity rivals that of our troops.

This regiment is a unit, a team. There is room for lots of self expression - but, there are rules and procedures. Some people have a very difficult time recognizing this. Some people want to join the regiment, but not accept the developed practices of almost two decades. They think, for some remarkable reason, that they know better and can behave just as they please.

If someone cannot accept the Royal Yorker approach and is unwilling to attempt to modify things by working within the system and not against it, he/she would be far better off starting up their own unit or staying at home!

The Distaff section (Loyal Refugees & Followers) of the Yorkers has a Distaff Serjeant and Corporal. Just as if a male was joining a Company in the Yorkers, females who are interested in joining are to contact, and work through, the leaders of their Section-to-be. Of course, they can get lots of help from other members - just like the troops do - but, the final say as to what is correct and acceptable rests within the executive - just like the Coys.

As Colonel, I might suggest that if this requirement smacks of too much discipline for a lady to undergo, then it's likely that she doesn't really want to belong.

A word to all you guys, don't drag your ladies into this! Whether it's the Curling Rink, a Bridge Club, going fishing, gardening, playing golf or joining this regiment - it's no fun for them, or for you, if they really don't want to be a part of it. *No male or female joins a Curling club and thinks they're going to change, or ignore, the rules of the game or the customs of the club simply by behaving as they see fit.*

Prospective Royal Yorker Refugees/Followers must purchase a starter kit from the Distaff Corporal. Distaff members also receive such perq's as regular distaff newsletters, access to correct fabrics, information, advice and patterns. Cost of starter kit is \$10. Mail the FULL name, address and a cheque payable to Cyndie Paul-Girdwood, PO Box 472, Havelock, Ont. K0L 1Z0.

THE COLOURS - THE PRIDE AND SOUL OF THE REGIMENT

It's been quite some time since I have emphasized the importance of the role played by the Colours in the life of the Regiment. There are two Colours - the King's and the Regimental - (not then called flags) which are carried by Commissioned Officers (ideally Subalterns), and occasionally Serjeants, at events where our turnout warrants their appearance.

Many of you have questioned why we do not field the Colours more frequently as they are so stirringly beautiful and they clarify our role as King's troops and offset the confusion caused by our green coats.

Small detachments did not carry the Colours of a Regiment. In fact, Nancy just discovered a reference in "Letters from Brunswick Officers" which says that the British Regts on the Burgoyne Campaign did not carry their Colours because they would be a nuisance in the bush; however, the writer's regt did & he agreed with the British reasoning.

To keep true to our recreation, we should have either a large turnout, or be at a purely ceremonial event where a small Colour Party is acceptable.

The following is a quotation taken from material researched by Jon Wannamaker. It is a speech delivered at the consecration of the Colours of the 2Bn, Royal Highland Emigrants at Halifax in 1777. "Though we do not worship the colours, yet the awful [ie. solemnly impressive, awesome] ceremony of this day sufficiently evinces, that they are with us, as in ancient times, the object of peculiar veneration; they hold forth to us the ideas of the prince [the King] whose service we have undertaken, of our country's cause which we are never to forsake, and of military honor which we are

COLOURS, CONT'D

ever to preserve. The colours, in short, represent everything that is dear to a soldier; at the sight of them all the powers of his soul are to rouse, they are a post to which he must repair through fire and sword, and which he must defend while life remains; to this he is bound, besides every other consideration, by the acceptance of a most solemn oath; to desert them is the blackest perjury and eternal infamy; to lose them by such an accident, even as one might otherwise judge unavoidable, is not to be excused, because to lose them, no matter how, is to lose everything; and when they are in danger, or lost, officers and soldiers have nothing for it but to recover them or die."

Once you have understood this quote, you will see why we pay such respect to our Colours; why, unlike many other reenactment regts, we do not make mock of them in allowing their capture in the tacticals, their theft while in camp, their dangling in the dirt, or any insult whatsoever to befall them. Indeed, the Colours represent each and every one of us members at our very best, the cause of historical animation which we espouse and the memory of all who passed through the original corps and our recreated unit.

NEW SUPPLIER OF REGIMENTAL GOODS

Fil Walker offers the following, made-to-order supplies for sale -705-435-0632

MUSKET ACCESSORIES

Blank Cartridges, 100 grain -- 10 for \$3.00 (limited amounts at events or phone for a quantity)
Cleaning Kits (18C method) contains worm tapped for your rammer; tow; brick dust; oil & instructions inquire for cost
Flint Wallets (cloth or leather) for holding and protecting 6 or more flints - \$3.00+
Hammerstalls \$2.50 Lock Covers (painted canvas or leather) \$7.00+
Hunting Bags can be designed to taste (check that your Coy allows these) \$30.00
Musket Cases, canvas w/sling (plain or painted) custom sizes made to order -- \$10.00+

CLOTHING

Breeches/overalls (waist sizes 32-34") \$70.00 Capotes inquire for cost
1Bn Light Infantry or 2Bn Regtl Coats (materials extra) -- \$140.00
Leather Garters \$5.00 pr Shirts, cotton \$35.00
Leggings (1758 type) (materials extra) \$20.00 (Rev War type) (materials extra) \$15.00
Moccasins, Iroquoian centre seam, customized to taste (check with your Coy that these are acceptable on the field - yep, the Yorkers had these issued) -- \$35.00+
Neck Rollers/Cloths (silk), be sure this is approved for your Coy -- \$7.00

MISCELLANEOUS

Canteen Covers, woollen (to be approved by your Coy CO) -- \$10.00
Cooler Crates (alternative to the overdone barracks boxes) -- inquire for cost
Musket Racks for home use, vertical or horizontal display -- \$35.00
Hardwood Tent Pegs, 12" long \$1.50 ea Tobacco Pouch (cloth or leather) \$2.00+

THE NAPANEE EVENT REVIEWED

Many thanks to Jon & Linda Wannamaker, Frank Packer & parents for the support enjoyed at this event. The work put into this one by Jon was very, very obvious.

Although it seemed like the rain only turned off for a couple of hours, the Yorkers, male & female, met all of the obligations to the sponsors and enjoyed themselves. Drummers Putnam & Laing certainly earned their 2 shillings a day.

A feature of the weekend (other than water, bugs & poison ivy) was two sets of Drill Competitions; Saturday - Line Tactics and Sunday - Light Infantry. Each day also saw Firing Competitions using Line & Light Infantry loading drills. Competing Sections were: the Grenadiers under Sjt Visser; Light Infantry under Sjt Henry; combined Battalion Coys under Cpl Weston and Crawford's Coy, 2Bn under Sjt Girdwood.

The Light Coy came out the clear winner on both days. The Grenadiers with four brand-new men performed very well. Col's & Maj's troops under the first-time leadership of Andy Weston made a strong showing. The 2Bn achieved a second place finish, giving the veteran Lights a pretty close shave on the Sunday.

This type of activity was considered very positive and worth expanding.

