

**KING'S ROYAL YORKERS BANNED FROM PARKS CANADA SITES  
FOR ONE YEAR**

Well, rumours are very strong that this will happen. Because Reg & I both forgot the rules against opposing sides at Fort George on that crucial Saturday afternoon when our Northern Brigade demonstrated 18C tactics, our regiment is rumoured to be banned from all Parks Canada sites for a period of 12 months.

I guess most of you have heard discussion in the camps at various events that we really blotted our copy book during this demonstration and probably most of you can't understand all the things we did wrong. Certainly, our members who work for Parks Canada have heard all about it!

And, don't misunderstand. We did make a big mistake in allowing opposing lines with muskets & fieldpieces. Reg & I knew better and had a major lapse of memory with the monumental administrative load that both of us were under. As you all know, this was the largest event that the Royal Yorkers had ever organized! And also, don't forget - like all of you guys, this reenacting stuff is a hobby, not a profession.

What burns me up about this ban is the rumour that we purposely contrived the error in order to get a certain Parks Canada employee dismissed from his job. Utter nonsense! But, the man himself has seemingly concocted and promoted this tale and it appears that people in high places have bought it. (this is the employee, who is responsible for interpretation at the Fort and who was remarkably conspicuous by his absence throughout that frenzied day of work, planning & execution - this is the same man who had accepted the post of reenactor coordinator over a year before the event and then backed away when the load got too awkward & heavy - if this guy had put 1/10 of the energy, inventiveness and application into overseeing the reenactors as he has in pursuing their punishment, this incident would never have occurred)

You might well ask - did Parks offer us an opportunity to explain ourselves? Were we approached in a professional manner to offer our apologies. Nope!

*It certainly is a poor reward for giving Fort George and Parks Canada one of the largest and best run events in its history! When you reflect on the BAR & Brit Brigade repeatedly getting \$6000+ for staging the weekend at Fort Wellington and how we organized a similar body of troops for no fee whatsoever, you could get a trifle bitter. And, you can be sure that the 10th Regt got well paid for their appearance when they paraded at Fort George a decade or so ago.*

In some ways the banning will not affect our regiment as we attend only one or two Parks Canada events in a year; however, the real disaster is the smear on our excellent, 17 year old reputation as a responsible, safe, well drilled & equipped, cooperative, accurate 'living' history unit. I guess Reg & I should have thought of that while we were so busy being forgetful. (not to forget the damage done to our many members who are employees, volunteers & contractors with Parks)

**KING'S ROYAL YORKERS OR  
KING'S ROYAL REGIMENT OF NEW YORK**

I've gone over this topic until I'm blue in the face, yet all the points I make on the subject seem to pass over peoples' heads.

If you are giving information to event organizers, the Press, TV or the radio - use the name King's Royal Yorkers. This is the correct designation for our regiment (not the 'Royal Greens', which is an American aberration from the 19Century) and was used throughout the Rev War period in British & American official documentation.

Every time you tell people that we are representing the King's Royal Regiment of New York, just watch the blank look come over their faces! Take the time to look. I'm not kidding - *they hear nothing but the words, "New York"*.

When you give the Press or TV our full regimental name, even though you may also supply a lengthy and detailed explanation of the unit's origin and its position in the founding of Ontario, you play into the same stupid confusion because the name is what gets printed and very rarely your explanation. Besides, most people look at the pictures and read the captions; but, they gloss over the written columns, so, even if your patient, detailed explanation gets printed - again, most people will miss it.

One of the latest instances of this boo-boo was the super Press coverage for the dedication of Fort Kente. There we were, the King's Royal Regiment of New York!! You can bet that 99% of those who read that name thought that a bunch of our friends the Yanks had come up to Carrying Place for the event!!! (as Wannamaker organized it - maybe they did)

Then we get a front page photo in the King Weekly for the Kettleby Fair parade. Guess who we are... go on, take a guess - yep, those Americans up from New York State again. Super that we would make the long drive for such a small event; but then, we're good guys with our hearts in the right place and our brains in neutral.

Do I make my bloody point??!! If you are giving out information for publicity, use our abbreviated name. You must start off by doing that right at the beginning of organizing an event with a committee or a spokesperson. Often, they're the ones who write-up the event schedule and describe the participants and also they give info to reporters.

Sure you can take the time to explain the origins of the unit to those folks in the audience who are truly interested and who will take the time to think about Ontario's history. But when it comes to giving info that's going to end up in a photo caption or a 2 second squirt on the telly or radio - make it the King's Royal Yorkers.

Maybe I'm hyper patriotic, but I'd rather be thought of as a bellhop from the Royal York hotel than a Yank. There's enough of an attack on our culture and country without us adding to the process. And, I'd rather have them guessing where we're from than thinking we're visitors from New York State.

**NEXT EVENT: SCHOHARIE STONE FORT DAYS 10TH ANNIVERSARY  
SCHOHARIE NY OCT 10,11/92**

Most of you will recall that we pulled this event from the calendar because the Battle of the Flockey had to be postponed. *Nonetheless, don't anyone feel that you can't attend the event if you want to.* Rick Sherman, the Burning of the Valleys committee coordinator is eager to have some Royal Yorker participation.

**Let's keep a unified front amongst all those who decide to make the trip and everyone go in First Battalion kit!**

Take Interstate 90 east to exit 25A. Follow to Route I 88 west. Follow I 88 to exit for Schoharie/Central Bridge and take a left off the ramp to Route 30. Follow 30 about 4 miles to the Old Stone Fort. Watch for encampment signs; turn left at Mix's Lane right after the Power Substation.

The committee is trying an 'open hostilities' framework for the whole weekend, with time-outs for administration and sleeping, etc.. Looks very good.

**FINAL EVENTS OF '92: JORDAN & FORT NIAGARA  
JORDAN ONT & YOUNGSTOWN NY OCT 17 & 18**

Lots of members enjoy a pleasant fall day's outing in beautiful Jordan for the historical festival on the Saturday. This is a simple, undemanding event with some super apples, good sausages and a tavern. Jordan is a crossroads community in the Niagara peninsula, so get out your map.

In the evening, we usually have a mixed Section of troops cross over to Fort Niagara to finish off the season. This is another small event in a most welcoming venue that is also an original garrison site of our unit.

**GOOSE VAN SCHAICK, THE CONTINENTAL ARMY'S SENIOR COLONEL**

This is a new publication written by Ted Egly Jr. who wrote the excellent *History of the First New York Regiment 1775-1783* and the short volume *General Schuyler's Guard*. The first book is a super textbook on life in a Continental Line unit and the latter includes an excellent account of Capt Hans Walden Meyer's (ultimately the 10th Senior Captain in Jessup's Loyal Rangers) attempt in 1781 to kidnap the General. Some of you will recall that Meyer served extensively in the Secret Service and was commissioned first in Roger's King's Rangers. A few may know that he is responsible for the recruitment of Henry Zufeld, ancestor of Duff Steele. Meyer is credited with founding Belleville Ont.

Ted is a senior member of the BAR and was often seen in his 1 NY Cont Line uniform at events. His latest book is 162 pages with a soft cover and can be purchased for \$19.95 per copy plus \$1.75 shipping payable to River House, PO Box 174, Gloversville, NY 12078. For those of you who are putting together a library of the Rev War that relates to the war in the north, all of these books belong in it. I'm sure that he will respond to requests for his previous publications. Pls mention that you're a Royal Yorker and he will give you a little special attention.

ON THE RANK OF LANCE CORPORAL

Many of us who worry about the arcane details of military administration have debated the realities of the rank of Lance Corporal and whether our use of this grade is more related to 20C usage rather than the Rev War period.

The Royal Yorkers have made a practice of naming Lance Corporals as a training ground for future promotion to the visible grades of junior officerdom. The unit has allowed this practice to lapse this year, partially because we were unsure of its accuracy.

In reading a delightful little book, which I purchased from the William Henry collection, entitled *The Rambling Soldier, life in the lower ranks, 1750 - 1900, through soldier's songs and writings*, edited by Roy Palmer (Harmondworth: Penguin Books, 1977), I came across a quotation which gives an answer to our frequent debate on this matter. This quote was excerpted from An anonymous Oxford Soldier, *A Soldier's Journal, 1770*.

"[the encampment of the 68th of Foot in the Isle of Wight in 1758] ... which caused a great bustle among the inferior officers, or serjeants, corporals and lance-corporals, who were to see that the men did their duty in this respect"

Beyond the suitability of having men named to a rank below that of Corporal, another part of our debate has been whether the term 'Lance Corporal' would have been in use during the Rev War period, or would the term 'Chosen Man' have been more appropriate. While this quotation does not prove that 'lance-corporal' was in use in 1758 as the book was written in 1770, it does clearly point out that the term was in use just before the American Rebellion. By this I mean that some other term might have been in use in 1758, but the author chose to use the then more contemporary appellation to explain himself when he wrote his work.

We do know that Lance Corporals were not reported on the Loyalist Corps Muster Rolls during the 1776-83 period. We also know that they had no visible insignia to separate them from the other 'inferior officers'. BUT, that they existed, at least in Britain in the 68th of Foot, is now established.

I can remember when we appeared with the BAR in 1985, four Sections out of six (53 troops) on the field at Fort Wellington in Prescott were led by either a Corporal or Lance Corporal, the Serjeants being absent. I don't mind admitting to all of you that it was a GREAT source of pride for me that those Sections operated at full efficiency even though some of these junior NCO's had never previously led their Sections under this kind of pressure.

**REPORT OF THE BAR GRAND TACTICAL, ROCKAWAY NJ AUG 22,23/92**

SjtMjr Moore, Cpl Mike Martin and Pte Brian Laurie-Beaumont were the only members who made this big trip; but, it appears that all of the long drive was worth the time and money.

The BAR Grand Tacticals have always been particularly good (thus my personal disappointment with Erie Canal Village) and Dave advises that this one was right up there with the best.

Among several classic moves made by the Loyalists in this event, the best by far was that of our own SjtMjr when he took off his coat and posed as a Yankee militiaman, infiltrating the rebel concentration and snooping into their Officers' Call to discover all of their plans. This info allowed the Loyalists to get behind the rebels and whip their posteriors. Outnumbered almost 2:1, the Brits outsmarted the rebels in every action!

**A GOOD READ**

Keith Croucher has recommended a trade paperback book which offers information regarding the cultural/ethnic make-up of the American colonies leading up to the Revolution. Keith purchased the book primarily wanting to expand his knowledge of the Palatine Germans as he is representing a German American in the Colonel's Coy; but, he found it had a great deal more to offer than just that one topic.

The book is in three distinct parts. The first deals with Britain and its 'margins' - Ireland & Scotland, meaning people like Devlin, Hurley, James, MacLeod, Sandford, ye Robertsons, Murray & Walker. As per usual, the other 'margin' - the Welsh - folks like the Rodgers, are noted by the absence of any reference whatsoever.

The second part covers the colonists relationship with the natives and the 'encounters' with Africans. Then the Dutch get their druthers, people like Zoeteway, Klyndyk, & Visser - and them Vans like Moorsel & Sickle. Then comes the savage Hun, the Germans - you know - like Zufeld, Nagel, Putnam,

Kline, Weaver and, oh yes, last & least, Wannamaker.

The Scotch-Irish get big time treatment - sweethearts like McGeachie! The 'Distinct Society' gets a chapter devoted to it - habitants like Fortier, Pepin, Plamondon, Viger & LeBlanc with much talk of deep frying in maple syrup.

Serbs, Scandahoovians and Ukes are ignored. So, unless self improvement is of some interest, Jovanovic, Ermanson, ye Lorenzens, Zubatiuk & Ostola can ignore this book.

Of great importance - there is no mention, not a peep, of Limeys, Juicers, Chirpers or Pommies, so Prescott can also ignore it.

You might note that all of this reporting was not provided by Keith; but, from a well known, extremely literate, individual who sometimes lurks in the ranks. This individual has not yet read the book in question; but, with his innate historical sense, has sensed what's going on.

Bailyn, Bernard and Philip D. Morgan, eds., *Strangers within the Realm: Cultural Margins of the First British Empire*, (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1990) 450pp. \$22.25.

#### THANKS FOR ELDON HOUSE, LONDON ONT AUG 3/92

While a bunch of us were enjoying ourselves with the Teen Band at Burlington, Cpl Dave Putnam was leading a band of merry men at Eldon House. Keith Croucher advises that this was particularly appreciated with the Putnam's tent being a nice feature. Apparently 'Mad Dog' Van Sickle was difficult to control. Cutting down trees to make shoes Freddie?

#### BRADLEY HOUSE, MISSISSAUGA

Just a note to advise all participants at this truly uplifting event, that we did receive a small honorarium of \$100 in the mail. So, your efforts were not unrewarded.

#### HOW DO YOU MATCH UP TO THESE PICTURES OF THE SOLDIER?

"Let us take the ideal figure of the soldier as it was still seen in the early seventeenth century. To begin with, the soldier was someone who could be recognized from afar; he bore certain signs: the natural signs of his strength and his courage, the marks, too, of his pride; his body was the blazon of his strength and valour; and although it is true that he had to learn the profession of arms little by little - generally in actual fighting - movements like marching and attitudes like the bearing of the head belonged for the most part to a bodily rhetoric of honour; 'The signs for recognizing those most suited to this profession are a lively, alert manner, an erect head, a taut stomach, broad shoulders, long arms, strong fingers, a small belly, thick thighs, slender legs and dry feet, because a man of such a figure could not fail to be agile and strong'; when he becomes a pike-bearer, the soldier 'will have to march in step in order to have as much grace and gravity as possible, for the pike is an honourable weapon, worthy to be borne with gravity and boldness' (Montgomery, 6 and 7). By the late eighteenth century, the soldier has become something that can be made; out of a formless clay, an inapt body, the machine required can be constructed; posture is gradually corrected; a calculated constraint runs slowly through each part of the body, mastering it, making it pliable, ready at all times, turning silently into the automatism of habit; in short, one has 'got rid of the peasant' and given him 'the air of a soldier' (ordinance of 20 March 1764). Recruits become accustomed to 'holding their heads high and erect; to standing upright, without bending the back, to sticking out the belly, throwing out the chest and throwing back the shoulders; and, to help them acquire the habit, they are given this position while standing against a wall in such a way that the heels, the thighs, the waist and the shoulders touch it, as also do the backs of the hands, as one turns the arms outwards, without moving them away from the body... Likewise, they will be taught never to fix their eyes on the ground, but to look straight at those they pass... to remain motionless until the order is given, without moving the head, the hand or the feet... lastly to march with a bold step, with knee and ham taut, on the points of the feet, which should face outwards' (ordinance 20 March 1764)."

from, Michel Foucault, *Discipline & Punish - The Birth of the Prison* (New York: Vintage Books, 1979) pp.135&136.

Wadda ya think? How do you match up to the ideal?