

THE FORT GEORGE ERRORS RIDE AGAIN

We have received two letters from our 'friend' at Fort George on this topic. In the first he advises - "... that the King's Royal Yorkers not be involved in any historic weapons demonstrations at Niagara Historic Sites until such time as we are entirely convinced that you and your group are prepared to co-operate with us."

In the second, he repeats a suggestion that we organize a meeting to discuss 'cooperation' in the future. Before responding to this letter, we will review all aspects of this situation at our Fall planning meeting.

BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION - GRAND ENCAMPMENT AT FORT STANWIX

Many of you recognize the historical significance to our original regiment of many of the recreated rebel units. Most of our actions in the Mohawk Valley/Schoharie/Lake Champlain area were against local militia or State Levies; however, in a few instances, the regiment was opposed by rebel regulars - units of the Continental Line. At this BAR Grand Encampment there were three recreated Continental regiments represented that have significance to the KRR.

Of course, all New York regiments, whether Militia, Levies or Continentals, have a particular odour. The Continental units contained many officers who were well known to Sir John and his corps and, in consequence, they represent a nasty form of rebel - good friends turned bad. The 2nd New York were well represented at the 1992 Stanwix show and very cleverly put the chop to our 2nd Bn in the sickly tactical at Erie Canal Village. While the original KRR never opposed the 2nd NY in combat - one can be sure that its ranks held many acquaintances of our men.

On the other hand, the 3rd New York, who successfully defended Fort Stanwix in 1777 against St. Leger's little army which included all of the KRR then raised, is definitely the worst of them all. Not only did they have the major role in looting the undefended Royal Yorker camp while we were engaged in combat at the Oriskany ravine, they had the audacity to raise our stolen camp colours on the Stanwix flagpole - a fine 18C military insult! To make things even worse, they witnessed the results of our ignominious retreat from the seige lines. I have always felt that we 'owed' these guys in particular and any opportunity to harass them with regimental "tinkles" & "buck-bucks" (let alone shoot them!) is to be seized upon for the betterment of the hobby and the memory of the old corps.

The BAR report on the Grand Encampment contained a reference which gave recognition to our tacit competition - "The Third New York actually outnumbered the Royal Yorkers". As this is the first time in 20C history - that this has happened, this little note says it all.

Also in attendance was the recreated 3rd New Jersey. This is the regiment which was sent to incarcerate Sir John and his future officers of the 1Bn in May 1776. This is the unit whose members looted Johnson Hall; who built Fort Dayton and who began the rebuilding of Fort Stanwix, thus creating a rebel fiefdom in the Mohawk Valley. Yeah, we own these guys too.

These three recreated Continental Line units are particularly well turned out. They have a ragged and well-worn look about them - a thread of uniformity, but not rigidity. They all have very strong regimental spirit and their field evolutions are excellent. Our original regiment was relatively better supplied through the Crown's extensive system of depots and Sir John's personal efforts and fortune; but, I wouldn't want to claim that the old KRR NY was any better as a regiment than these Continental units.

While we should always have a more complete look as regards essential equipment and uniforming, we would do well to emulate the general raggedness of these Continentals and the pride they obviously sweat in their accurate portrayal of a fledgling army so often scandalously abandoned by an impoverished Congress and their home States. They are excellent examples of rebel regulars and represent extremely worthy opponents.

THEM CONTINENTALS, CONT'D

It is our bounden, duty as loyal subjects of his Majesty to put the chop to these vermin. Or, to use the most common of 18C phrases of this genre - we must "cut them off!" (no George, that doesn't mean their dinkies)

**BURNING OF THE VALLEYS EVENT: 10TH ANNIVERSARY
STONE FORT, SCHOHARIE, NY REPORT**

This BOV event marked the 10th anniversary of Stone Fort Days. Because of the mixed message which I wrote in the newsletter, most members decided that the event itself was off altogether and consequently the KRR was represented by a squad of four No.1 Section, Major's Coy with a Private of the King's Rangers under the command of Cpl Andy Weston.

Andy reports that the 'open hostilities' concept had its moments, especially at 3:00AM. His squad was in the forefront on many occasions including an incident where the redoubtable Col. James Morrison, Officer Commanding, 3rd Tryon County Militia, (speaking of natural enemies) flopped about on the ground under the bead of our Corporal's empty carbine. Must have been a pretty sight indeed!

KRR new recruit, Russell Staye, made his first combat appearance at this event. To mark the occasion, Russell decided to spend some voluntary time with the rebels. Being a new lad, Russ wasn't aware that this is a military crime known as desertion - a particularly heinous misdemeanor in the eyes of Russell's new regiment. Good thing the SjtMjr wasn't there to witness Russell's foolishness, let alone Captain Joyner. (right Jon!?)

RESIGNATION

Dan Copeland has resigned from the regiment as of Oct 9. An excellent soldier and a great recruiter, Dan appeared to lose all interest in the unit just at the time he was promoted to Cpl. He often plead a very heavy work schedule; but, the schedule didn't seem to prevent his attendance at drills & events for his new found love, the Civil War's 49th New York.

From our regiment's point of view, his cavalier attitude regarding his original debt for clothing and accoutrements made his membership a very difficult one to manage. Nonetheless, the unit will certainly miss his spirit on the field and deportment on parade.

SOME FASCINATING STATISTICS, FACTS AND FABLES

Jon Wannamaker has been haunting the library at Queen's U and has turned up some very interesting things.

"The supply of rum dispatched [to North America] in 1775 was accompanied by an order for 375,000 gallons of porter..."

18 April 1776 - "... each of five contractors to supply 100,000 gallons of rum; one third of this amount to be delivered to Canada... " That's 166,666 gallons!

"As early as December 1775 Howe, CIC America, had written to Dartmouth asking that one-third of the proportion should be supplied in small casks of not more than 100 lb. suitable for carriage on pack-horses. Small casks were also found convenient for the carriage of supplies to the upper posts in Canada."

In October 1778 orders were given... "to provide 100,000 lb of candles for New York; one third of these were to be the moulded candles used by officers, and the remainder dipped candles for the troops, of which three were ten to each pound weight."

HERE'S THE FABLE -

How about this one!

"The gunner, that honest and godly man, learned in arithmetic and astronomy, was master of a terrible craft; -- his saltpetre gathered, it was said, from within vaults, tombs, and other desolate places; -- his touchwood made from old toadstools dried over a smoky fire; -- himself working unscathed only by the grace of St. Barbara, the protectress of all artillerymen."

Some of this stuff does sound like the Yorker gunners. Devlin does cook his potatoes over a smoky, peat fire; Berg wears a St. Barbara medal to ward off herpes; Dunn hangs around graveyards drinking wine; Baines can count up to ten; but, the terrible craft that Smith practises likely has something to do with a goat.

YOU KNOW HOW SMALL THE WORLD IS??

Well, if you were serving with Canada's Combat Engineers in Kuwait cleaning up the mess that our Cowboy friends made, you'd expect to find some Royal Yorkers there - eh, wouldn't you? Nooo.... Welllll...

Harry Martin, our member/Curator at the Cdn War Museum, who took us on the fabulous tour of the warehouse last Feb, was over in Kuwait looking at all the Ruskie product lying in the sand going rusty. Harry works up an understandable thirst and hankering for some companionship. He goes to the Cdn Forces, 29 Field Squadron bar for a beer, or something. Eat a few peanuts, a pretzel, maybe a weinie.

Now who just might happen to be bartending in the desert wasteland amongst the burned out wrecks and landmines? Well, Harry strikes up a conversation with this guy who's working on concrete walkways and bunkers during the days and pumping grog during the evenings. Somehow the talk gets around to... reenacting. Yeah, no kidding. Here's Harry, on one of the biggest adventures of his complex life, and he's talking to some guy in Kuwait about reenacting.

This guy says, "I'm in a reenactment regiment". Harry says, "Oh yeah, which one?" You know, exactly the same kind of conversation you guys all have with bartenders in Boulder City or maybe, Havana. This guys says, "The King's Royal Yorkers". Harry then asks this guy, "How do you like being in Canada's largest private Army?"

Now for a second shot, one of our members has a father-in-law who happens to be working over in Kuwait. Is he in the Services? the oil business - pipe lines... maybe the Government - heaven forbid. This Dad-type happens to be in this same bar having a beer or something and gets talking to this young guy who's pushing the grog and selling the chips and peanuts, or whatever it is you munch on in Kuwait. (maybe you pit dates with your eye teeth)

Anyways, this Dad-type and this guy get talking about Canada. Do they talk the referendum, or Mulroney, or the Jays, or Air Canada and PWA?? Nope, they talk reenacting. Oh yeah. It's Grenadier Scott Macdonald's pop-in-law and this guy behind the bar is Gord Fricker of the LtCoy. Yep, ol' Gord's staying close to the cool ones over there in the sand.

Stop talking and get recruiting Fricker!!

THE COLONEL'S COMPANY GETS RENUMBERED

Following the lead of the Major's Coy which adopted the numbering system of the first clothing period, the Col's Coy will renumber all soldiers above A45.

You may recall, this is because our current numbering method is based upon the 1782 Establishment strength of 53 privates and we're not representing that period.

RENUMBERING

So, here's who is getting new numbers:

<u>Soldier</u>	<u>Prior Number</u>	<u>New Number</u>
Brian Cox	A49	A1
Erich Shaw	A52	A3
Jeff Craig	-	A4
Glenn Hunt	A46	A5
Ron Schoester	A47	A6
Paul Ogborne	-	A7
Ed Cass	-	A8

Captain Joyner will be issuing the new 'B' haversacks to his Coy in the new campaign season. The Major's is now at full Private soldier strength as mustered in 1777.

The Col's is now 17 Private men short of full, 1777 muster roll strength. At the Toronto drills, the appropriate Col's Coy guys will get their newly numbered Haversacks. Everyone is welcome to turn in their old one for a credit [amount based upon condition] or to keep it for carrying their Trojans and other necessities.

All Canteens will be painted with the correct numbers at events by Musketman McGeachie who is getting 3 pence an item.

There has been no decision yet by Capt James or 1Lt MacLeod whether they will follow the 1777-79 establishment and renumber elements of their companies.

WANT TO JOIN ANOTHER MILITARY SOCIETY - HERE'S A COUPLEThe Military Heraldry Society

A world-wide membership includes interest in shoulder sleeve insignia, shoulder titles, regimental and unit flashes and similar cloth items.

Crown Imperial

Formed in 1973 to study the history, traditions and regalia of the Forces of the Crown. A journal is printed four times a year.

If you're interested in joining either, write to:

LtCmdr W.M. Thornton MBE RD RNR(Rtd), Publicity Officer, 37 Wolsey Close, Southall, Middlesex, England UB2 4NQ.

If you write, please advise you're a member of the Museum of Applied Military History.

THE ELUSIVE SUBJECT OF JUST WHAT FACING COLOUR DID THE 1BN KRR NY HAVE IN 1777?

Having tried for years of research to determine absolutely-for-sure what the first clothing period facing colour was, I turned to one of Canada's acknowledged experts on such matters - Rene Chartrand, Chief Curator, Curatorial Division, Parks Canada, Ottawa. You may recognize this name as a renowned author of papers, studies and books on the Canadian military.

I have excerpted some of his comments from his reply:

"On the colour of the KRRNY coat for 1776-1779, there can be no doubt." He then quotes an original source dated Sorel, 9 November 1778, part of which stated - "... clothed with good clothes, either the green as the Royal Regt. of New York..." Rene says further - "As for the facing colour, well it as elusive as ever.. You saw the store records. I think you will agree that only green faced red is consistently listed... But as you say, there are no specific details. [that is, no indication of who drew these coats] Personally, I think the facing is probably red [gasp!] but it might be imprudent to change facings. [lordy, lordy] My 'hunch' is certainly no proof. [whew!]"

So, blue is where we stay for now. Let's hear that audible sigh of relief!