

~~WINTER PARTY, APPLEBY COLLEGE, ORKVILLE - SAT FEB 26/~~

#### **NEXT EVENT: PAINE FARM WINTER TACTICAL, KINGSTON, ONT SAT JAN 29**

Lots of guys are very enthusiastic about this annual event which tests your stamina and on-the-job musket maintenance all at the same time. You must wear your 18C uniform bits and pieces although blanket coats, sashes, scarves, mitts, gloves are a must and good boots recommended. Usually three or four good schemes are held starting about 1100 hrs the troops fighting it out in the snowy bush. Snow shoes can be useful. There's a super hot chili prepared by Tex Joyner awaiting those who tough it out in the bush, or those who come to socialize and wimp it out in the barn. Everyone chips in with some sort of delicacy, solid or liquid. Most of the guys stay overnight and go to a dinner in town to tell their war stories.

Everyone who is interested should phone Capt Al Joyner, 1Bn (613-832-0901) or Capt Jeff Paine, 2Bn (613-389-8746) for directions and timetable.

#### **TORONTO DRILL SCHEDULE - 1994**

All drills are held on Wednesday nights at Fort York Armoury in Toronto. This building is beside the road that leads to Historic Fort York. Nearest main intersection is Strachan Ave. and Lakeshore Blvd. That's where the Prince's Gates into the CNE are. Parking is either on the road going up to Hist Fort York, or in the small lot west of the Armoury.

All drills start at 8:00 PM and run to about 9:30. We then repair to the Warrant Officers'/Sgts' Mess of the Queen's York Rangers to tell war stories and have a hoist.

Dress is informal BUT please no blue jeans. You bring your regimental hat; waist/shoulder belt with bayonet; cartridge pouch and musket w/wooden snapper.

The dates are: January 19; February 16; March 2; March 23; April 6; April 27; May 11.

#### **TAKE A WARNING ALL YOU HISTORICAL MISSIONARIES**

Frank Packer just sent me a delightful little note regarding a Civil War reenactor in Frederick, Maryland (a city that was prominent in that war) who was invited to make a presentation at a local high school. When he appeared in full kit and arms, some school officials called the police and the man was charged with being on school property with a weapon. Of course, the firearm was confiscated; but, far worse, the man faces a prison term of 3 years.

Now, I'm sure all of us will say that it could only happen in the Excited States of America; however, with the great dislike of firearms and the military that is rampant in our society, all of us who want to get involved in this kind of missionary work with schools, Scout troops, historical societies, etc.. we better make sure that those in authority (like the school principal) knows what you're about and what you intend to use as props. Better very safe than sorry.

#### **REGIMENTAL OPERATIONS - FILE SPACING**

(I am indebted to Reg James who has researched this topic for many years and to Fil Walker, a recent researcher. And, to Charles Kamps, SjtMjr, 3Bn, 71st and editor of "The Lion's Roar", the Quarterly Journal of the British Brigade, for many of the quotations used below)

Over the last two years we have been practising field evolutions with our file spacing slightly extended at the Toronto drills and at some events. There has been a volume of recent research into this question and there is now no doubt whatsoever that the British Army consistently employed 'loose' order. It is no longer a matter of whether we like the system or not. To employ loose order is an accurate portrayal and we will change.

Burgoyne's Orderly Book notes for operations in 1777 that the lines will be in two ranks with open files. In 1778, Clinton, who had replaced Sir Wm Howe in the Central Dept, decided not to change Howe's policy of two ranks at open files on the basis that, "We have always succeeded [with] it; the enemy have adopted it; they have no cavalry to employ against it... "

Six years after the close of the American War, Colonel Sir David Dundas, the author/regulator of a new drill & tactics manual for the Napoleonic wars, wrote in his introduction to his 1788 book **Principles of Military Movements** the following justification for two ranks/open files -

"The method almost universally adopted in our infantry, and in ours only [the Yanks counted for nothing], of forming two deep, and at open files deserves the most serious consideration. Its advantages are said to be, that as infantry seldom or never shock with bayonets, all formations on a great depth are unnecessary...

... That at close files, men have not the use of their arms; and are apt to crowd, double, and get into confusion, when under the enemy's fire.

Dundas condemned the open files system which he found weak and irregular. However, his notes are of value as they confirm that the practice was widespread in its use.

The distinguished British historian & author, Piers Mackesy, wrote in his article entitled "What the British Army Learned", found in the book **Arms and Independence** -

"The officers who had served in America came home believing firmly in two loose ranks for combining firepower and movement; they were skeptical of the shock produced by a slow-moving, deep formation against a mobile enemy skilled in musketry, and they had learned to regard light troops as a vital component of the major battle as well as the little war of posts."

The modern author, Frederick Myatt, curator and librarian of the School of Infantry, Warminster, wrote in his book **The British Infantry 1660-1945**-

"The basic tactical requirement in North America was for a looser, more flexible system, based on small bodies of men fighting in rough lines, often of one rank and never more than two; the third rank had never been of great value as far as fire power was concerned, and in thick country it became a positive menace. Extension was everything, so that if you could lap round the flanks of your enemy you were well on the way to beating him."

Consequently, we will take the following spacing in all companies.

1. Loose files: Companies will always fall-in at 'loose' or 'open' files. This dressing may be used for all tactical purposes. The men dress by the front rank using an outstretched arm, fingers extended. During the firings, the second rank uncovers from the first, ie. takes a full step to the right.
2. Extensions: Will be taken under orders for greater dispersion and wider coverage of ground. Our current method of taking extensions to be employed at present.
3. Closed files: as we have previously practiced with arms lightly touching. Used for formal occasions, or as ordered for parading in tight spaces.

#### **NEW ADDRESS - KATE LEBLANC**

Our Angel of Distress, Yorker of the Year 1992 - who has been on an extended sabbatical in la belle province has moved again. She is interested in hearing from you folks. Tell her how wonderful the craft show was at Cherry Valley, or that the Blue Jays won - not the Expos.

CP 1196, 193 rue Landry,  
New Richmond, Quebec  
G0C 2B0 418-392-6057

#### **SPEAKING OF THAT FABULOUS CHERRY VALLEY**

Well, wasn't that an event to remember! Super social time, hard-fought lacrosse game, fab Gettysburg monument, nutzoid restaurant, great craft show... enough said.

## NORTHERN BRIGADE SCOUTS

### 1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

It is well documented in original sources that scouting parties were constantly sent out from the various garrisons and posts to gather intelligence. These scouts often travelled deep into enemy territory and were fraught with danger. On their return to their home post, the parties often brought in recruits and refugees.

In the Royal Yorkers, a large number of Gentlemen Volunteers earned their commissions by leading such scouting/raiding parties. Men such as Walter Sutherland; Philip Lansingh; John Howard; Hazelton Spencer & Oliver Church, who all served in the 2Bn as Lieutenants, earned their sash in this manner.

Cruikshank's history of Butler's Rangers reveals many scouting parties being sent out from Niagara into the Mohawk and Pennsylvania. In the later war, Butler's maintained two companies in the Michigan and Ohio countries where scouting parties were sent out constantly. This same book reveals that composite scouting parties of rangers of the Indian Department and natives being sent to all quarters.

The histories of both these regiments and Kelsay's biography of Brant indicate that Brant's Volunteers were frequently on the frontiers on scouts and raids.

In settled Quebec, the King's Rangers were employed in Secret Service scouting work operating from the blockhouses on the Richilieu at the mouth of Lake Champlain and from their garrison at Fort St. John. From Lachine, Daniel Claus' rangers operated with Fort Hunter Mohawks in the collection of intelligence, particularly in the lower Mohawk Valley.

It is also apparant that many of the scouts and smaller raids were organized by drawing men from various regiments, including Regulars, and natives. Some examples:

- a. In 1778, a detachment of the Col's Coy, 1Bn KRR under Lt Wm Byrne and Kanasatake Mohawks under Lt Wm Redford Crawford conduct a raid to Johnstown, collecting much intelligence of rebel activities and Sir John's personal papers.
- b. In 1779, Crawford leads a party of Kanasatake Mohawks in a raid to harrass the garrison of Fort Stanwix.
- c. In February, 1780. Capt Jos Brant with his Volunteers, a large party of Indians and Lt John Bradt of Butler's with 30 rangers blockaded Fort Stanwix and succeeded in so harrassing the garrison that the fort was abandoned in mid May.
- d. In October, 1780. Lt Patrick Langan, 1Bn KRR, coordinates the natives on the Munroe raid to Ballstown NY.
- d. In 1781, Capt Hans Walden Meyer leads a section of his Independent Coy (later the 9th Coy of the Loyal Rangers) and two Regulars on an attempt to kidnap MGenl Philip Schuyler.
- e. In 1782, Capt Azariah Pritchard, under orders from the Secret Service, with 8 other picked men of the King's Rangers, attempted to capture Genl Bayly in the New Hampshire Grants (Vermont) to prevent him spoiling the negotiations which would have joined that territory with Canada as part of British North America.

In summary, the history of the Revolutionary War in the Canadian Department is replete with tales of small parties on scout and raid. It is fitting that the Northern Brigade formalizes such an organization to further explore our interest in living history.

### 2. ORGANIZATION

#### General:

The Scout Unit will serve under the auspices of the 1Bn KRR NY.

#### a. Command Structure

To be led by Fil Walker, who while in service on scouting missions will serve as Brevet (Acting) Lieutenant, and when serving in the Lt Coy, 1Bn KRR will serve as a Volunteer.

For the purposes of specific scouts/treks, the rank structure of the group will be filled from the participants with preference given to those men with prior experience in these ventures.

#### b. Other Ranks

To be drawn from any Northern Department unit and other interested parties which meet the criteria which will allow for Liability Insurance coverage under the Museum of Applied Military History.

### 3. EVENTS

Two events are planned for the 1994 Campaign. There will be a one week long trek planned for August, the exact timing still to be decided. There is a weekend trek planned for the weekend of Sep 24,25 in the area of last year's week long effort in upstate New York around Hoffman's Notch in the Adirondacks. Further event announcements will be found in these newsletters. Information on the purposes and concepts of the treks; the equipment required to participate and how to register are available from -

### **OPEN HOUSE, CANADIAN MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM SEP 25, 1993**

It was a beautiful sunny day when the planned open house was held in Brantford at our new static display location. In attendance from the MAMH were the three requested units - 1Bn KRR & Loyal Refugees, Butler's Rangers & the Perth Regt with a good turnout of Brant's Volunteers who asked to be included as well as individuals from our Athena Section; Cdn Fencibles; 2Bn KRR; 1758 NY Prov; Kampfgruppe Norden and our newest unit, H.M.C.S. - the Royal Canadian Navy.

Speaking as one of the few guys who saw the building in its earlier state, Adam & Malcolm are to be congratulated for the tremendous progress that had been made. Gone are the birds' nests and droppings that were so depressing. The floor of the massive display and work area had been painted a warm gray and all of the broken windows were replaced or covered. Also, the outside of the building, which had been equally miserable, was cleaned up remarkably - Andrea McRae of Athena needs a vote of thanks for her efforts in that regard.

I have asked Adam & Malcolm to make a 'prioritized' list of projects to be tackled. I have also made the point that it will be essential that exact plans for each project will need to be firmed up and all of the materials will need to be on-hand before the work parties arrive so that no time will be wasted in disorganization. It is very obvious that none of us have any loose time to be thrown away.

Certainly Derek Pite was pleased with the support shown by our reenactors at the open house. When we visited Branch 90 of the Royal Canadian Legion for a snort before departing the city, we were received with a very, very warm round of applause. Brantford and area are really behind this big project.

A couple of weeks ago I received a letter from Derek asking whether our membership could provide some cash to help meet expenses. The various Veterans' groups that are supporting the museum have already contributed \$20000, but monthly expenses for hydro, heat & rent are over \$2200. Can any of you contribute to the cause? Pls send cheques to -

The Canadian Military Heritage Museum  
PO Box 28002, North Park Plaza PO,  
BRANTFORD ON N3R 7X5

### **THAT RAWLE PATTERN CARTRIDGE POUCH**

In stock - The real thing - this is the compact 36 hole pouch with the reversible block, 18 rounds on the top level and 18 on the bottom. The pattern for this cartouche was patented in 1777. Whether we had them in that year or a later issue, who knows, BUT at least we know it is a correct pattern. Also has a side pouch for wiping rag. No brass to clean. Model of efficiency. A MUST to have in the 2Bn & CFenc.

\$108.00

Also available is a supply of Rawle pouches crafted by Cpl Victor Zubatiuk. Those who are familiar with the quality of Victor's tinware will understand when I proclaim Victor's Rawles to be superb. Victor did considerable research before embarking on his work and has copied elements of two extant pouches. The closure is a leather button rather than the later brass stud. Vic discovered that the suppleness of the closure tab is the answer to ease of use of the leather button.

\$115.00

**NB** Heavy duty rumours are flying about the Serjeants' Mess to the effect that Major Gray will soon make the possession of a Rawle pouch a requirement in the 1Bn Grenadiers, Col's & Maj's. If this happens, the incorrect 'suitcase' pattern will be outlawed. Oh, the woes of accuracy! Why not buy a Rawle pouch now and enjoy it on your own time before the axe falls??

