

NEXT EVENT - THE BIG SEASON'S OPENER: STONE BARN CASTLE, CLEVELAND, NY MAY 21,22

In conjunction with the 64th, our Northern Brigade is the main opposition for this new event. The site has been used as a Civil War venue in the past and our rebel friends from the 3rd NY Cont Line have persuaded the owners to try the Rev War. The Stone Barn is a massive complex in the style of many 18&19C European farms with several large buildings interconnected.

TO GET THERE - This is a very short distance drive for a US event. From the Toronto/Ottawa areas - take 401 east to the Ivy Lea Bridge across to US Hwy 81. Go south to Route 49 (Central Square) which is 19 miles south of Pulaski. Go east on Route 49 across the top of Lake Oneida (this is Royal Yorker country me buckos!!) about 17 miles to past Cleveland. Look for Hall Rd. on your left. Go north to Stone Barn Rd. Go back west a short distance to Elpis Rd. (if you miss Hall and go as far east as Jewell, go north on Mill Rd. to Stone Barn Rd. and head back west) On Elpis, turn north and Stone Barn itself is there on your right. Our camp is on the south side of the west wing of the Stone Barn buildings. This should be a 4 1/2 hour trip from Toronto. From Niagara, get onto I-90 and go to Syracuse. Go north on Hwy 81 and exit onto Route 49 and follow same instructions.

THE PROGRAMME - On Sat at 0800, foodstuffs are supplied for breakie and lunch. (I don't know what, so don't ask) This is a public event, so there's show & tell. The grounds look good on a sketch map; but, are likely somewhat limited in scope. Action will start about an hour after the 1030 assembly. Lunch will be the issued field rations, so every man needs to make his own preparations with some snackies. One suspects that 'hostilities' stop for eating, but we'll soon find out. If the organizers are hoping lunch will be something for the public to view, we need to keep plastic wrappers and pop cans out of sight. They hope to simulate an Oriskany ambush (the original site's about 30 mi away) and so the Loyalists get some immediate work. The action ends at about 1430. There's a 1615 Retreat formation. At 1800 a Chicken BBQ dinner will be provided and at 2030 a contra dance inside the Stone Barn with beer & pop provided.

On Sun at 0800, more foodstuffs delivered for breakie and lunch. A 'no-public' battle at a redoubt starts at 0900! At Noon, after the usual morning parade, the action starts again as does the eating of field rations and it ends at 1400. At sponsor's request, final parade at 1500 prior to striking camp. *This looks very promising for the 1994 opener!*

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE, MON MAY 23 TORONTO

The SjtMjr will again lead a stalwart band in the annual Monarchist League parade celebrating the Queen's Birthday. He will want supporters from the exhausted veterans of the Stone Barn event and all those who have been unable to make it to the States. He will be hoping for a contingent of Fifes & Drums! ... and he will need to have a Colour Party - 2Lt and Ens take note!

It would be wonderful if the SjtMjr could simply receive telephone calls regarding who can make this event rather than having to spend three nights on his phone chasing people. Colour Party & DrmMjr pls reply directly to him in the evenings at his new number - 905-304-1476. All NCOs who are chasing their men for Stone Barn, pls also ask about the Queen's Birthday Parade and advise Dave Moore.

1st & 2nd Bn KRR NY: RIVERFEST, BRANTFORD MAY 27,28&29

This event is for the Royal George, the Brunswick LtInf, Queen's Rangers and our Northern Brigade. We have an excellent camping area and battleground for our public demonstrations. Similar to Ancaster, we will deliver 'Rags & Refugees'; Parade of Ye Soldier; Fife & Drum sets and Tactical Demos. Scott Paterson is the event coordinator and will welcome ALL of your whining complaints. Plan on buying meals & grog. Come with a full cartridge pouch +. We will have a long wargame in the bush on Sat evening before fun & games in the park. No Suckling Pig routines thanks!

On Sun we will tour and support our Cdn Military Heritage Museum (see below) and visit the Mohawk Chapel, the oldest church in Ontario with its spectacular Coat of Arms of George III. This has to be seen by all Loyalists! Three commemorative volleys at the gravesite of Joseph Brant. Then back to Lions Park for more of the event.

HOW TO GET THERE - Drive to Brantford via 403, then when 403 goes northward towards London, you take Hwy 2 into downtown Brantford. The road forks into a one-way, you're on Dalhousie St., and you go to the end and turn left. The Armoury is ahead on your right and the War Memorial on your left. Take the next right at the Boer War monument over a large bridge over the Grand River and then an immediate left onto Gilikson St. After six blocks you pass under an overhead bridge - keep going. Two long blocks later you're getting warm. Watch the riverbank on your left for Scott Paterson standing there to direct you into camp. You're there! - get out and club the son of a bitch.

REVIEW - THE PUBLIC OPENING, CANADIAN MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM, BRANTFORD APR 9&10

For the Northern Brigade, the opening of the museum marked the opening of the first permanent static display for any of our units, indeed for any unit that is in the MAMH. And what a display it is! A committee headed by David Putnam, Col's Coy with Keith Croucher, Col's Coy, Fil Walker, LtCoy and Scott Paterson, BR's and Himself designed the content of the exhibit. Norm Agnew & Claus Reuter designed the Brunswick display which was erected on the west end of the Nor Bde exhibit.

Scott and members of the Rangers then provided the structural design with James Brand having the key role. Conceptually the exhibit is like a frontier pallisade and blockhouse walls. The natural wooden uprights with sharpened points and the superstructure above the opening all add to this feeling. The main walls of planking with storage doorways and in some cases, cloth coverings complete the image. Dave developed the written and photographic collection; Keith researched and prepared the campaign and settlement maps and Fil designed the centrepiece, a soldier's tent scene. Several members provided the bits & pieces of equipment and kit to round out the exhibit. Dave's collection of famous 'original' prints is excellent and blend in beautifully with the photos.

The Rangers approached several local businesses and obtained the building materials necessary to execute James' design. They were successful in getting many free supplies so that the materials' cost of building the exhibit was under \$200.00. Then seven nights from 1800-0100 hours of back-breaking effort to erect the structure in time for set-up on the night of April 8. That night Dave, Keith and Fil arrived to erect the tent scene, the display case of a soldier's kit and mount the maps, photos and written text. Norm arrived the next morning to put up his three panels of BLI material.

The exhibit is organized into several key subject areas: the roots & causes of the Revolution and what made a Loyalist; the actions in the Northern Department; specific write-ups of the Indian Department, Brant's Volunteers, Butler's Rangers, King's Rangers and King's Royal Yorkers. These units get equal written text; however, a dearth of photos of the KR's and BV's will need correcting. The next section lists all of the Loyalist, British, German and Native organizations which served in the north. There's a section dealing with the Settlements; the Leaders; a Soldier's life; Refugees & Followers and of course, the tent display. A tie-in is required to draw the visitor around the corner to the Brunswick material and their wall is needing finishing. Norm is working on another panel and BR's will complete the walls.

One of the most effective aspects of the exhibit is a giant Grand Union flag mounted almost horizontally overhead. Dave & Mike Putnam spent many hours painting this and the results are superb. I know that I'm biased; however, this must be the best display of the Loyalists anywhere in Canada and indeed perhaps the best exhibit of all aspects of the war as it affected Canada.

Could we have done better? Well, I've already mentioned that two of our units lack photo representation; it would also be nice to have a couple of good photos of the old Jessup's and the 84th. And certainly, some of the photos show little inaccuracies that the very discerning eye will pick out and we will weed these out as more become available.

All of you will love this exhibit. I think the UEL will be bowled over by it, or, let's put it this way - they should be. We will all get a good chance to have a look at it during the Riverfest event in Brantford on the May 28/29 weekend.

Special thanks to Terry Hey, James Brand, Jason Jones, Al Holman, Len Foley, Mike DeSalvo, Lloyd Ramey Zig Misiak and Ron Gray - all of Butler's Rangers who spent so much time and effort in the design and building of this display.

YEP - SOME ITEMS FOR SALE

1. Through the auspices of Pte Tex Joyner, Maj's Coy - Superb quality, white blankets with blue stripes, 6 only @ \$20.00 each
2. Excellent condition, correct pattern w/box pleats, white & blue striped Capote for soldier 6'2" to 6'5" and 42 to 44" chest @ \$75.00.

A TREATISE ON POLE ARMS

Over the many years of researching this period of history, the question of Halberds (the long, axe-headed arm), and Spontoons (the spear-headed version), who carried them and when they were carried has occupied some study. Three of the Royal Yorkers' Line Sjts (Flank Coy Sjts carried fusils/carbines) carry Halberds at many events. This decision comes from the belief that Sjts carried Halberds in garrison as a badge of their rank. Of course, the Halberds were used to erect a punishment triangle for malefactors and this nice little 18C fact adds to the charm of this impressive weapon. And, having it rise over the heads of the Hat Coys on parade and the march also has considerable impact. As to the Officers carrying Spontoons - manuals of the time certainly mention the Major and the LtCol with this arm; but, the more junior Officers don't appear to have used them. We know that wasn't the case in the American Continental Line where Spontoons were widespread at all commissioned levels. The record also notes that Six Nations Indians were armed with Spontoons at the Oriskany Battle. In the hands of senior warriors, these were referred to as Spears- although the weapon was the same in style and size.

There is also a belief that Halberds and Spontoons were not carried in combat by British units. In 1777, in preparation for the Burgoyne campaign, the Sjts and Cpls were ordered to lay-up their Halberds and take up fusils. So, that makes it clear that at least the Regulars had Halberds and laid them aside on that expedition. And, wait a minute - Corporals!!! Corporals!!!! Oh - good lord.

As to Commissioned Officers, I included a write-up in a past newsletter, again from the Burgoyne campaign, which advised the officers that their fusils were to be used sparingly - ie. that their primary role was to lead the men, not fire their weapon. An exceptional article on this same topic appeared in **The Continental Soldier, The Journal of the Continental Line**, Vol.3, No.4 (Fall 1990) entitled, "Shoulder Arms of the Officers of the Continental Army..." by John Rees. Rees points out that Continental Army practice followed the British system in the early war. Officers under the field grade of Major carried fusils/fuzees/fusees. He consulted Simes, **The Military Medley: Containing the most necessary Rules and Directions for attaining a Competent Knowledge of the Art** to determine what the Brits were doing.

To prove his point regarding the Continentals, he quotes the diary of Capt Alexander Graydon, 3rd Pennsylvania regarding the British assault on Fort Washington in November 1776. This quotation is revealing for more than just proving that Continental officers carried fusils.

"Thus circumstanced [one supposes cut-off and surrounded], we clubbed our fusees in token of surrender, and continued to advance towards them. They either did not or would not take the signal; and though there were but two of us... they did not cease firing at us... not less than ten guns were discharged with their muzzles towards us, within the distance of forty or fifty yards; and... some riflemen [likely Jaegers] to whom we were targets; and it is astonishing how even these blunt shooters could have missed us. But as we were ascending a considerable hill, they shot over us. I observed they took no aim, and that the moment of presenting and firing, was the same... though fearful that their design was to give no quarter, I took off my hat with such a sweep of the arm as could not but be observed, without ceasing however to advance. This had the intended effect..."

Lucky for them that Al Laing wasn't the marksman!

Rees then notes that the practice of carrying fusils continued in the Continental army for the 1777 campaign, but that a decision was made in December of that year to alter procedures. He quotes from John C. Fitzpatrick's, **The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources 1745-1799**. This series has 39 volumes (Manawanker - go nuts!) and the specific order is found in Vol.10 in an Orderly Book of General George Weedon at Valley Forge.

This new decision stated that the Officers were to carry "half pikes or Spear as soon as possible; firearms[,] when made use of[,] withdrawing their attention too much from the men". The size of these "Aspontoons or pikes" were "6 1/2 feet long and 1 1/2 Inch in Diameter... and... the Iron part... one foot long".

Just over a year later, Von Stueben's newly published regulations for the Continental Army stated that "the platoon officers [to be armed] with swords and espontoons..." In the introductory remarks to these regulations, Generals St. Clair and Lord Sterling (yep, those are rebels, including the self-styled 'Lord' Sterling) had written,

"The Fusee and Bayonet is an improper Weapon for an Officer, unless constructed as those for the prussian Officers, without touch Holes. The Espontoon is their most proper Arm... they are a good defensive Weapon, and are very useful for dressing the Ranks".

Oh, them Prussians - no touchholes!! Lordy, lordy!

Of course, regulations are one thing and the reality of supply another. Rees notes that demand outreached supply; however, that summer (Mad) Anthony Wayne, in preparation for his assault on the British stronghold at Stony Point NY noted that "his officers had no means of defense in close fighting and ask[ed] for spontoons". These were promptly sent (obviously spontoons could be found when necessary) and Wayne himself, a General officer, carried one on the successful night assault of that position. It is also interesting to note that the American Corps of Light Infantry, some 1200 strong, conducted this action with unloaded muskets and fixed bayonets.

Of importance to us Royal Yorkers in our recreation of wilderness fighting, the spontoon was seen as inappropriate for such fighting during Sullivan's 1779 campaign against the Six Nations. Upon receiving Sullivan's request for fusils to arm his officers Washington replied, "Fusees for the Officers would be proper... unfortunately there are none here". He further stated that they "appear to me to be necessary".

Even in 1780 many Continental officers were without spontoons. As well, many of the men were seen without bayonets - a chronic problem that dogged the Continental Army. In the elite Light Infantry, a Corps likely to receive the best of care, subalterns (that's Lieutenants & Ensigns me buckos) were observed carrying fusils in November of that year. Rees further notes that officers on duty on the frontier continued to use fusils throughout the war.

I know the obvious question that arises from all of this - 'So what?' So - nothing! Just consider yourself better informed.

MORE AND MORE RUMOURS OF CHANGE

I know the rumour mill is working overtime on projected changes of dress in the 1st Bn. The length of coats, the type of hats, the colour of facings, changes to this and to that. All of this scandal has a basis in fact. Many secondary sources suggest changes are warranted; however, before any are made, because our unit is so large and dispersed, and the costs would be so prohibitive - nothing will happen until firm, primary source references are found that prove the rumours. Then, the Drums coats, the Colours, the drum decorations, etc... could all be wrong. Gasp!

Meanwhile, the old BAR pattern for Haversacks which we have followed with minor changes since our founding is thought to be wrong. The BAR has issued a new pattern based upon an extant sample and it is utterly different than what we are using. First, the similarities - the Haversack is a bag hung from a cloth strap over your shoulder to carry your rations. Oddly enough, not your car keys, ciggies, lighter and camera. Now the differences - it is made from natural linen - that's a greyish brown colour. It has two buttons or none. The strap is sewn right through the body of the bag and the flap! That is, the flap does not fold back when fully open. Only the centre of the flap allows entry and its a two-hand operation to get inside. That means, nothing falls out - even if you don't have buttons. There's a large Broad Arrow and GR stencilled onto the backside.

Now, considering that we just had a large run of the old pattern made, we aren't about to jump into a massive change; however, you know what's coming. Our next run will be corrected - and being linen, will be more expensive. HQ's suspects that the 2nd Bn will have these issued first. We will see.

Oh yeah - and firm proof from the record books of Sir John's British agent through which the uniforms of the Yorkers were ordered. In the Second Cloathing period - ie. when both battalions were in red faced blue - Sir John wanted the Enlisted Mens' coatees to have button lace just like Regular units - in our case white with a blue worm. You know what that could mean for the 2Bn...

Love M.