

SOME HINTS REGARDING THE FIREARMS ACQUISITION COURSE

No matter how much you think you know about firearms, you must remember that this course is a test of how well you've absorbed the Canadian Firearms Safety Training Course, which is significantly different by design from the Hunter Safety Course. So, it would be very unwise for you to take the Examination without obtaining the Safety Training manual, reading it thoroughly and giving yourself a few little tests before you sit for the exam.

The examiner is not interested in hearing any tales of your prowess with firearms nor about the history of the Brown Bess musket - he or she will simply want to test your proficiency on firearms' safety for all types, safe storage; required paperwork, etc... according to the standards laid down in the Training manual.

For example, the Manual tells you that you are to load the main charge of your flintlock BEFORE priming the firearm. Now, that does make good sense from the safety point of view and it does assume that you have a separate container for your priming powder. The examiner will not be interested to hear that you prime your Brown Bess first because you're using paper cartridges. He/she may very well consider you to be a safety risk.

There are lots of other wrinkles in the manual just like that one, so study what you are supposed to know according to the rules and give those answers only. You are required to show the examiner that you understand the safe handling of all classes of firearms. For most of you, that will require quite a bit of study. A pass on this exam is 85%!!

By the way, a ramrod is not required to fire a flintlock; on the contrary, it's just required to load the firearm. Of course, if you can't load first, then you can't fire BUT that little piece of extended logic won't help your answer. The correct response to the literal question is 'No', a ramrod is not required/used to fire a muzzle loading firearm.

IT MAY SEEM LIKE THERE'S TOO MANY EVENTS IN AUGUST - CAREFUL, THERE'S ONLY THORNHILL IN SEPTEMBER AND TWO IN OCTOBER!! THIS SEASON IS ALMOST AT AN END AND LOTS OF YOU HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED.

NEXT EVENT: ALL-UP CANADIAN EVENT FOR 1994 - 1BN: PEACH FESTIVAL & WARGAMES, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE AUG 13,14/94

Sjt Chris Zoetewey and Cpl Eric Henry have developed this event as a nice mixture of laid-back, public show & tell + the use of excellent ground for wargaming to test your tactical proficiency.

Colours will be carried. All Commissioned Officers are to appear as such and also come prepared with muskets for duties in the line. All Serjeants & Corporals should come prepared to appear in that rank and we will decide if our numbers warrant their rank, on site.

Daytime Saturday is for the public and the town - paying our dues for the privilege of the game. This includes an obligatory parade into town for which we will have our Fife & Drum section in big numbers; then show & tell demos of clothing and tactics in Simcoe Park & artillery in Queen's Landing Park; visits to various Pubs and a generally relaxing format with different companies/units cycling through the duties.

Plan on all meals & grog being at your own expense; do not come with an empty wallet!

Late Saturday afternoon, our public appearance will be over and we'll start our first wargame at the NOTL Ranges. This is a Reserve Army training ground with superb topographical features - perfect country for what we intend to do. It appears that it will be the KRR against all comers. (84th Royal Highland Emigrants; McDonell's & Caldwell's Coys of Butler's; Queen's Rangers; Brant's Volunteers; Vanderjagt's Raiders; some 8th & 64th and Barry Lewis' 6pdr Royal Artillery) You will need lots of cartridges - I suggest 100+, so you should bring extra in foil wrapped packets. Powder will be available to the KRR on site, so bring prerolled tubes if you're short. After the first game is over,

we will shut down for the day - either party in town or prepare your own meal.

All of Sunday is devoted to continued wargames. Their format will be similar to the BAR style with a defined scenario/goal to be accomplished by both sides. We will appoint umpires from the units who will call casualties and give out territorial penalties, both of which will be obeyed promptly.

HOW TO GET THERE: Coming from Toronto - You enter Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) by Highway 55 from off the QEW. At the first stoplight past Virgil, turn left - that's Lakeshore. There's a gas station on your left and a variety store on your right. (At our 1992 event, you would instead have turned to the right to go to Butler's Barracks)

You continue for about 4Km and watch on your right for the turn-in to the Ranges. The gate is in a chain-link fence. We will have signs out at the turn and at the gate.

From the US side. Cross into Canada at Lewiston/Queenston. RIGHT AFTER the Canadian-side toll booths, there's a turn off to Queenston. Take it and follow the parkway alongside the Niagara River into NOTL. As you come into NOTL, you will see Fort George on your right, the Shaw Festival on your left. Keep going right through town until Highway 55 which is a left turn. After two or three blocks, at the stoplights, turn right onto Lakeshore. There's a gas station on your right and a variety store diagonally on your left. See above.

1BN: BAR GRAND TACTICAL: GRAHAMSVILLE, NY AUG 20,21

Just in case you don't know, the BAR Grand Tacticals are always worthwhile events ranging from very good to outstanding. Last year's was at the outstanding level.

This is a long drive and car-pooling will be necessary. We need to put at least 8 all ranks on the ground to make it worthwhile. The week-long West Canada Lake trek is terminating at Grahamsville and the participants will hold together as a unit - so our 8 men have to be over and above those on the trek.

TO GET THERE: (this one looks like 8hrs from King City) Get to Syracuse by your fastest method. From Syracuse, take I-81 south to Binghamton, about 78 miles. At Binghamton, pick up I-17 east. Go off I-17 at exit #99 (town of Liberty. Find Route 55 east. You've now got about 15 miles to go. After the village of Neversink, you come to Grahamsville and watch for BAR Spontoon signs.

2BN: BATTLE OF NEWTOWN - NEAR ELMIRA NY AUG 27,28

Capt Paine and Sjt Girdwood will put out a special notice to all 2Bn men for this one. Looks like a good medium sized event sponsored by the 64Regt.

1BN: CENTENNIAL SQUARE, CNE GROUNDS, TORONTO AUG 27,28

Johan Klyndyk has organized a small encampment and show & tell event at the big fair. There will be entry and food/beverage vouchers for all participants. Info on parking and times to be obtained from Johan. Participants will get a Family Pass for other CNE events. The organizers are expecting a small street of about 10 tents - that's two sides of 5 ea. Camping will not be overnight and tents can be left in place with CNE Security taking care of them for your return the next day.

The Scadding cabin is nearby. It's a neat little site deep inside the CNE grounds in the sane section (ie. a long way from the Midway) with some real historical content. Scadding was Toronto's first English speaking settler. His repro cabin stands close to where Fort Rouille of the French regime stood. There's a monument to this fort on the grounds. To get your vouchers and arrange affairs, phone Johan at 416-259-8712.

FIDDLESTIX - THE OLD SONG & DANCE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE SAT AUG 27

Starting at noon and finishing at midnight at Fort George/Navy Hall, a festival of traditional music and dance from the late 18th and 19th Centuries. Focussing on British and Celtic roots with music and dance from Ireland, Scotland, England, France, early Canada & the Excited States.

Concerts, workshops, dances and jam sessions and an old fashioned pub. Artistic Director is the famous IAN BELL and his programme includes:

Artisan - an English acapella trio with 'stunning' harmony.

The Dawnbreakers - Unique Canadian songs and 'energetic' instrumental work.

The Three Big Dummies - Gavin A., Pete Alexander and Ken Purvis at their perverse best. Come see how being dopey can pay off.

Professor Chalaupka's Celebrated Singing School - 10 voice acapella with 'shape-note singing and homespun harmonies' of Canuck traditions. *and more...*

The organizers suggest that you bring lawnchairs. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults; 12-17 \$8.00; under 11 free.

Tickets should be available on the day or phone to organize - 905-468-7681 or 468-3938.

THORNHILL FESTIVAL PARADE SEP 17

This annual money maker will likely include a small tactical scenario near where the parade normally terminates. We hope to get participation from the Queen's Rangers, Butler's Rangers and the BLI. The tactical will replace our traditional effort at the Ukranian Church - which all of us feel is utterly worn out.

The parade steps off at noon and you need to be on site (to get through the awful traffic) by 11:00. We need 20 all ranks for this one to earn our pay. I know only too well what a pain in the ass this event is; however, I believe that most of you are aware that Thornhill and Canada Day in Oshawa keep us from charging dues. If we don't earn the bucks at these two events, then we will have to start asking all of you for money to pay for newsletter postage and printing.

Colours will be carried and Fifes & Drums are very important. Bring 25 cartridges and money for lunch & libations.

Everyone is invited to Dave Moore's parents' home for a corn boil and gab fest after the event is over. Would each Coy organize two medium sized salads and two desserts each pls.

MORNING INSPECTION

We are having some trouble with our Morning Inspection, a.k.a. Tent Inspection, which is to be held at 0930 every morning at encampments.

Its purpose is to kick off the new day; get the day's head count of troops; inform the men of what is planned for the day; see that everyone has their kit AND to clean up the streets of all 20C crap. All tents which cannot be rendered reasonably 18C-ish, were to be tied off. Women and kids were going to be out of the streets and we were going to be squeaky clean, ready to rock & roll for the whole of the active part of the day. There wouldn't be bathing suits over the lantern hooks until the day was clearly done. AND, we were doing this to be different than all the rest of the units. It was a little bit of Yorker shtick.

Of course, when we're off duty - 18C coats, shirts and damp bedding could be slung over the tents. That was part of Army life. But, no 20C crud.

As this Inspection is so often done strictly for ourselves, it has become quite a time for comedy. The men get a good chance to take the mickey out of the inspecting Officer or NCO. No problem! That's just good fun as long as the primary purposes of the Inspection are fulfilled.

What has become a serious problem is the growing tendency for many of the troops to simply forego attending the inspection with a variety of excuses. 0930 certainly leaves time for everyone to get breakfast. Yep, I do know that at some events where McBarfles is a 20 minute drive there and back, it does present some difficulty; however, in most cases 0930 is not too early for everyone to be in attendance.

At Sodus Point, Adolphustown and Tioga, there were Captains, Serjeants (serving in the ranks and otherwise) and Men who just couldn't be bothered to be on time or even in attendance. There were women who just couldn't drag themselves out of the streets. There were tents with all sorts of 20C junk scattered around.

In the 1Bn, I want to get back to the original purposes. If the 2Bn want to change the procedure, they are welcome to do so. Here's what I want to see in the First Batt.

This affair will now be called the Morning Inspection so that there are no misunderstandings.

1. All troops, all ranks, will make every possible effort to be in the streets, in complete kit (unless otherwise ordered), by 0930.

Every man stands at his own tent at Order Arms.

If you're without a tent, you stand at the end of the street or between two tents.

2. All women and children will have done their bit to clean up their area and will be out of the streets. Drunken bawds may stay in their cleaned-up tents with the flaps tied off.
3. All men with a tent will have policed its perimeter and the street in front of it, including ciggie butts. If they are unable to leave the flaps open, they will tie them off. Barracks boxes and stools will be out of sight and lantern hooks flush with the tent fronts. The street will be clear of obstructions.
4. Any man who cannot attend this inspection will excuse himself with the Officer Commanding or the RSM before the Inspection. His tent will be left in 18C fashion before he departs.
Any man who has been unavoidably detained will report to the RSM as soon as possible after Inspection to receive the day's orders.

THOSE RAWLE CARTRIDGE POUCHES

I'm sure that many of you have noticed that the schedule for the issuing of Rawle pouches to the various companies has fallen by the wayside. This is not meant to reflect a change in my resolve. The 'suit- case' has to go!

The vessel bringing additional supplies from Britain has been taken by a Yankee privateer off Sable Island and our pouches are in the hands of Continental Infantry - one prays NOT with Congress's Own. (Otherwise, read - 'Our supplier has let us down and not met his promised delivery date') I have been assured that additional supplies are on the water.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Claw'.