

#### **NEXT EVENT: NIAGARA PRE-CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Artillery Sjt Glen Smith is pleased to announce that his unit is hosting and sponsoring (they're paying for the Special Occasion Permit) on Sat Dec 10 at 2000hrs at the Henry of Pelham Wine Estate, address follows. Entry fee is \$5.00/head. This is the location where the Gun had a nice small event this year and which is considering hosting a much larger affair in 1995 or 96. The Winery was founded by a UEL veteran of Butler's Rangers, so it has a real Loyalist history.

You are to bring whatever munchies you would like to eat as no meal will be provided or catered. Drink for the evening will be from the Wine Bar. Amongst a wide selection of wines sold by the bottle or glass, there's a red wine called 'Loyalist' that sells for \$7.95/bottle. Pls don't embarrass anyone by bringing your own bottle. Dress for members is any uniform from any unit of the Museum of Applied Military History. Guests in comfortable, informal clothing.

From the eastwards, exit off the QEW at 7th St.(this is before St. Catharines and the exit just before it is Victoria Ave.) Go to the right, that's south in Niagara, about 5km and cross 4th Ave. Keep going to Regional Rd. #81 and turn left and then turn right onto 5th St. After 3km you cross 8th Ave and Henry of Pelham comes up soon on your right side. From the QEW, its about a 10 minute drive.

#### **CAPTAIN JOHN MACLEOD RESIGNS**

Well, we really have the end of an era with John's resignation. John's first exposure to the Royal Yorkers was in 1981 during the Bicentennial celebrations of the founding of Niagara-on-the-Lake as a volunteer at Fort George. He was 13 or 14 at the time and he stood guard around the camp while the troops went to watch a movie screened on the back of the centre blockhouse. I know, cuz I stayed at my tent to guard the cooler box.

On March 2, 1984, John joined the old Left Section of the Colonel's Coy as a Private. He transferred to the Light Infantry by September. When Dave Owen was replaced by Bob Andrews as Serjeant, John became a Cpl. Then, when Bill Severin left as Captain and Bob left as Serjeant at virtually the same time, John was part of the general round of promotions and he advanced the big leap to Lieutenant on Oct 30, 1989. One of the unwritten rules for an officer's promotion to Capt in the 1Bn is that the individual has to have commanded at a major event where several companies other than his own are in attendance. John did so at London 200 last year and was advanced to Captain on June 7, 1993.

However, John's move to Windsor with Parks Canada was simply making his attendance at events too infrequent. He found it impossible to keep in contact with the Light Company at such a distance and there was no sign of a move back to a closer location in the near future. Consequently, he decided to retire from the regiment. The unit will miss you John, with your many, many years of service.

Adjustments to reflect this change in the Light Infantry Company are as follows.

#### **ADJUSTMENTS IN THE LIGHT INFANTRY COY**

In keeping with John MacLeod's resignation and moves that have been made in the Colonel's and Major's to reflect the current state of affairs with turn-outs, the Light Infantry announce the following.

Rick Pepin to appear as a Gentleman Volunteer leading the Company and to advance to 2Lt after a period of training as a commissioned officer.

Chris Zoetewey to serve as Senior Serjeant.

George Howse to appear as Corporal when the turnout of the Coy is small or as Serjeant in the absence of Chris.

Eric Henry to remove his Cpl's knot when sensible and serve in the ranks. He will appear as Cpl if George is sole Serjeant.

Pete Mitchell as above with Eric.

Many of you will remember Rick as an active member of the Light Company. He continues to serve as their Adjutant. Rick's been absent from the field with a damaged shoulder for the past three years. The shoulder has not mended sufficiently to allow active participation as a musketeer. Rick is the Commanding Officer of the Air Cadet Squadron in Niagara Region and has extensive man-management experience. You may recall that Rick's Cadets provided camp security for the Simcoe Landing event in 1992.

When the unit's turnout warrants division into two Sections, Chris and Eric will appear command one and George and Pete the other. George has already made appearances as a Pte in the ranks when the Lights are really light - and I don't mean their bowels are empty.

### **THE LAST PEDDLE BABY (IE. THE LAST, NOT JUST THE MOST RECENT)**

Munden and Lynn Peddle are proud to announce the arrival of a little Peddle christened Joshua David who entered this world at 10lb 1oz on Aug 8, 1994. Word is that Munden's regimental waistcoat has been sacrificed as a baby blanket - otherwise why else would he show at Thornhill without it??

### **THE 1993 RECIPIENT OF THE MAJOR JAMES GRAY CUP**

One of the really upsetting results of losing the big All-Up event in Niagara-on-the-Lake was that the opportunity to award the Gray Cup was missed. I say 'upsetting' as this year's recipient represents a breakthrough for this award.

Named after the original 1st Battalion administrative and tactical commander, an old, tried and true soldier, James Gray, the Memorial Cup was designed to be awarded to the individual who best personified a soldier of the Royal Yorkers during that campaign year. This personification could be for all of the obvious soldierly qualities such as smartness in drill and turnout; understanding of tactics and organization; solid and accurate performance of duties. Indeed, all of the previous recipients reflected those types of virtues. Men such as Dave Putnam, Chris Zoetewey, Phil Hooper & Reg James - excellent soldiers in their various roles, in fact, the salt of Yorker earth.

However, the cup was also intended to equally reward another kind of accurate portrayal - that of the defaulter, the element within the unit that is often dirty, frequently unkempt, a perpetrator of humorous stunts and always difficult for his NCOs & Officers to manage. The kind of soldier that makes Serjeants cry and Officers turn in their beds at night. Why award such 'virtues'? Because every regiment has had just such men in its ranks. KRR NY original documentation makes it clear that we had lots and lots of them. And, it is often the case that these guys are excellent soldiers in field operations and in a tight corner where a quick response to orders, the maintenance of a high volume of fire and heads-up tactical sense are critical to the unit's performance. This year, for the first time, the recipient is one of those guys.

The 1993 award goes to James Robertson of No.2 Section, Col's Coy. His unfailing good humour and his ability to always get into some kind of trouble without seriously disrupting or harming the regiment's performance AND for his excellent field delivery when the game is on and the chips are down - these qualities mark James as an ideal recipient. This is an art-form highly developed by Robertson. I'm sure that everyone congratulates James for the perfect defaulter he is and everyone wishes his continuation of this life's work.

The cup was awarded to James at Schoharie on Oct 8 and duly christened with three pints of beer just before the lout turned it upside down on his thick head. True to form James!

### **A SUPERB READ**

Now I know that many of you view the reading of a book in the same way as you view a meal of grilled liver. If you've really got to - then you'll do it; but, no one should expect you to enjoy it, and you certainly don't want to be doing it more than once a year. Guess what - once a year has arrived.

Almost worse is driving to a library to borrow the damn book. That's like driving to the dentist when you know he's going to fill a tooth. And, not having a library card is like wearing a badge of honour.

But, even knowing all of this, I feel compelled to recommend a book for your punishment. This is by the famous Piers Mackesy. (some of you will remember that Glenn Stepler, a.k.a. Captain Smegma of Jessup's was tutored by Mackesy at Oxford as was our member, John Houlding who wrote the award-winning, famous book, *Fit For Service*) Mackesy is a famous British author who writes on a wide range of military topics. His book, *The War in America 1775-1783*, is a wonderful study of the strategic aspects of this world war - it goes far beyond the actions in America alone and paints the clearest of pictures as to the sheer size of the conflict and the magnitude of the task. Sure, the individual campaigns of the British Army in America are covered; but, not in the regiment to regiment, skirmish to skirmish, battle to battle detail of the usual studies. Almost 60,000 troops were being maintained in America; most of them in hostile territory - and this feat had never been attempted by a world power, nor would it ever be matched until the 20th Century.

This is a broad scope book that informs the reader beyond any other I have read. If you want to really know why Britain lost - this is the book.

### **AN INTERESTING DRAWING**

It's not often that sketches drawn in our time period actually show up as new material. In a recent newsletter of the 2Bn, DeLancey's Brigade there was a sketch of the 25th Regt of Foot in England drawn in 1778 at Warley Camp, England. The sketches were brought to light by Phil Weaver, 2 NY Cont Line from a collection in Rhode Island. The soldier in the kneeling position (a common position in the front rank of a three rank system) has wings on his coat and is wearing a cocked hat. This guy is obviously in one of the Flank companies. As the coat is full length, it is not likely the Light Infantry. Ipso facto, it's the Grenadiers. But, why a cocked hat and not a bearskin cap? After all, the famous paintings by Lady Lennox of the 25th at Minorca in 1771 have Grenadiers with fur caps. Well, who knows; but, it does give me a warm feeling that our decision to go with cocked hats in the Grens wasn't a bad one.

### **THE WORD FROM JAPAN**

Col's Coy deserter, Erick Shaw-san writes from Nippon on the state of reenacting under the Rising Sun. Yep, re-enacting. I didn't think they had time for things like that they're so busy building cars and counting Yen. You know, Erick's over there helping them improve their English so they can do a little better in the North American economy.

Well, Erick advises that the hobby is very much alive over there. Quite different, but certainly alive. He ran into a group that recreates Second War Germans and Americans. Thinking of Japanese faces as American Nisei (like the 100th Battalion or the 442nd Regtl Combat Team - you know, you've seen the movie); but, those Japanese faces as the Hun, or Fritz, or Heinie - that's just too much.

They're branching out however - getting closer to reality and hard by some really politically incorrect stuff - one group is recreating the Imperial Army, the other the Nationalist Chinese. The latter guys get to use their German helmets for that one.

We're all aware of how our wargames lack that definitive punch, often thinking that paint-ball guns would correct the problem of creating casualties. Well, the Japanese have figured out a nice combination - they shoot BBs. Everyone wears eye goggles and puffed - they're after each other. Erick hasn't overcome the thought of getting hit in the ears, the mouth, or maybe the testes is just too much excitement for him. He's in training jabbing all of those areas with his chop sticks to toughen them up. Between screams of joy and anguish, Erick sends his regards to the Yorkers and the Great War guys.

### **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COMES TO TELEVISION**

Two significant TV specials have been in preparation this year. Both are said to do for the Am Rev what the Civil War did for that conflict, ie. greater public awareness and a big boost in recruiting for the reenactment community. The big talkers don't seem to recognize that the Civil War series was based upon superb, actual photographs of the war and nothing the producers of the Am Rev specials will do can fill

that role - certainly not filming us idiot reenactors!

Anyway, the Arts & Entertainment channel is about to air their version. To tell the truth, I don't know which network was filming us at Tioga. I tried my very best to ignore the whole thing as an aggravation and succeeded. All of us who were there will remember the pathetic Trooping of the Colours ceremony that the BAR enacted for the cameras. After all those years of performing that ceremony you'd think they could get it right and sharp. Oh well, the action scenes have every chance of being very good and us green-coated baftards were quite prominent. Whether the A&E effort has us in it or not, the special is a 'must-see' effort. Get watchin'.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

**NEXT SEASON - WHAT LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED FROM THIS ONE?**

I want to encourage all of you to give your opinions on the number, location, duration, etc... of event for the 1995, KRR NY 20th Anniversary season to me, your Officers & NCOs - anyone you want to unload on. I've been getting the message that we should have far less events and those that we do stage should be closer to home. Two reasons for the latter - they are less expensive, less time consuming to get to and there is the possibility of one-day attendance for those who can't make the whole weekend.

OK - I understand that, but how do we organize a worthwhile opposition?? I think all of us get sick of working against other Northern Brigade units or working against each other. It would have been nice to have a go at that rebel Hazen's Cdn Regt; but, they weren't even going to come to our NOTL event with Quebec being in their backyard. So, if we don't go at each other, how do we get rebels? I've been at this a long, long time and there are no magic solutions.

Some of you are more than happy with, indeed prefer, public-oriented, dog & pony shows. Some of you really enjoy a live ball shoot. Others have been in the unit for a decade and never been to the range. Some measure the quality of an event by how good the tactical is and never, ever by the size of the audience. Others really like the tacticals as long as a good crowd comes to watch. Some only really like the social life after the day is over - a good time around the fire is what counts.

The tactical events that we did attend this year were very good - small turnouts of most units, but good battle sequences. But, you gotta drive for those, and I don't mean an hour and half.

Got some brilliant ideas? Or, any ideas at all that you want to share and have some attention paid to? Give it some thought, make your points known.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'lh' with a large loop at the start.