

Royal



Yorkers

*With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick*

## 1777 Campaign Only A Few Months Away

There are a raft of great events this campaign season. But be forewarned, as we enter another year of 225<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, there will be some long drives to get to the more important ones.

You'll recall that in 1777 Fraser & Riedesel thumped Warner at Hubbardton (near Rutland, VT); St. Leger besieged Gansevoort at Fort Stanwix (Rome, NY); Baum collided with Stark at Bennington (near Bennington, VT); Howe did battle with Washington at Brandywine (near Philadelphia, PA); and Burgoyne was stopped by Gates at Saratoga (Stillwater, NY). All of these sites are holding reenactment events in 2002.

At this point it looks like Hubbardton will be the Yorker All-Up Event for 2002. Circle July 6 & 7 on your calendar and write-in the words, "Maul

Rebels", to remind yourself what you'll be doing that weekend. Of course you will recall our adventures at Hubbardton in 2000. I think it was after that event that we came to realize that *the Yorkers make things happen, leaving the rebels to wonder what happened.*

Another important event this year will be Fort Stanwix on August 3 & 4. This should be considered a *spiritual* event for the Yorkers because it is the site of the regiment's inaugural campaign. The Fort is located in downtown Rome, N.Y., so the opportunity for good tactical exercises will be limited. However, the site is an important one for us and we should all make a point of getting there.

Saratoga, on October 12 & 13, sounds like it will be excellent. It is being supported by the BAR, British

Brigade and Continental Line. The battle scenarios will be conducted on a piece of ground that was part of the original battlefield, but not located on National Park Service property.

There will certainly be some good events in Ontario as well, including a return to Westfield Village for the annual tactical school. The calendar will be distributed at the Winter Party in March, at which time you can begin to plan your life. If you would like more details about events in the Northern and Central Department of the war, Nancy Watt suggests you checkout [www.thenortherncampaign.org](http://www.thenortherncampaign.org).

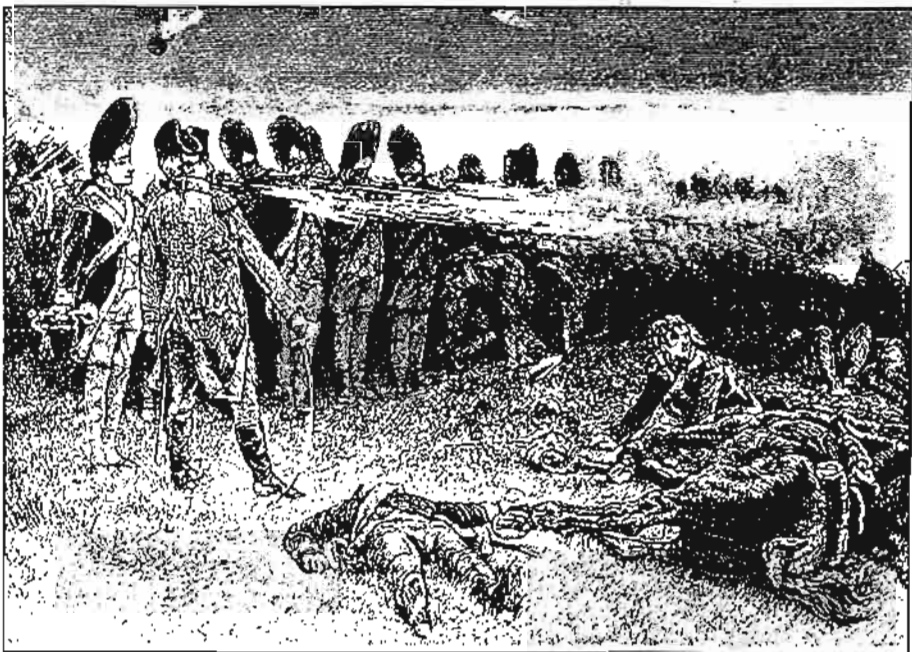
DWP

## Veterans of Duncan's Coy

When you hear guys telling stories about their escapades at Yorktown (stop yawning!), you know they've been in the regiment a long time. It should not be a surprise therefore, that many of the veterans of our regiment are not as anxious to scale the rock cliff at Hubbardton, climb the mountain trail at Schoharie, ford the stream at Black Creek, or serve as runners on the field of battle, as they were when they first started. In the interest of safety, health and long life some guys have opted to fallout, rather than put themselves at risk.

At Hubbardton in 2000 a Veteran's Section was hastily formed and they were used very effectively throughout the weekend. This site was terribly demanding with several very large hills to navigate. Far from simply participating, during the Saturday evening tactical, this section held a key crossroads on the battlefield, which became the target for a number of rebel as-

*(Continued on page 2)*



## COMING EVENTS

Wed., January 30	Drill ~ Fort York Armories
Wed., Feb 20	Drill ~ Fort York Armories
Sat., March 23	Winter Party, Fort York
Wed., March 27	Drill ~ Fort York Armories
Wed., April 17	Drill ~ Fort York Armories
Wed., May 15	Drill ~ Fort York Armories

*(Continued from page 1)*

saults. The guys had a fantastic time and stayed well within their limits. With this in mind, Duncan's Coy will, whenever possible, field a Section made up of guys who recognize their limitations, but still want to participate.

Obviously, when there is a small turnout of Duncan's Coy guys, there will be no opportunity to form a separate Veteran's Section. However, when numbers warrant, the veterans will be grouped together and employed appropriately.



This separation is not without historical precedent. After all, not all the Loyalists who joined the ranks of the Yorkers were teenagers. Here are some quotes from Sir John Johnson's Orderly Book, 1777.

~ "...the old men from Capt. Watt's Compy change their coats with those from other Companys who shall come in their place; if their Coats do not Answer let the wings be taken off & given to those that come in; Capt. Brown to fix that as he thinks fit."

~ "It is the Commanding officers orders that two men from each Company be ordered to attend the ammunition tomorrow at 8 o'clock in the morning, & also that the old men who are incapable of exercise attend for the same purpose."

~ "The Quarter Master Sergt to see that there is Cloathing taken for the use of the Recruits which the Taylors are to make at Lachine; what Cloathing is finished to be Given Out to the Recruits; & Sergt Hillyer to pack up what is not finish'd to be Carri'd along to Morrow. 1 S I C & 12 Old Men to be left behind as Guard for the Stores & to Attend the Sick."

Hopefully the frequent formation of a

Veteran's Section will enable some of the guys who are concerned about the physical demands of campaigning to continue their active participation in the regiment. It will also allow fellows a bit under the weather or nursing some injury to still have a good time. *Gutteridge...you do NOT qualify. Also, the term "veteran" will not apply to participants in the previous nights festivities at Mistress Reykup's Tavern!*

Capt Allan Joyner

### Why You Should Attend the Winter Drills

- Its a good reason to get your musket and webbing cleaned up and ready to go.
- It lets us practice some things that we will use in the coming campaign.
- It supports the new guys who need to march and drill beside experienced troops.
- Its an opportunity to get out and have a beer with the guys.

*See You There!!*

# Yorker Winter Party

## Saturday, March 23



### Old Fort York ~ Centre Blockhouse

6:00 p.m. ~ Cocktail Reception (Cash Bar)

7:00 p.m. ~ Soldier's Dinner

8:00 p.m. ~ Toasts and Presentations

8:30 p.m. ~ Entertainment and Socializing

**\$24 per person (\$15 per child under 12)**

Although Jessup's has moved to a larger hall within the Fort, we will be permitted to use the Centre Blockhouse one more time (perhaps for the last time).

It will be incredible: the rustic, military atmosphere of the old blockhouse; candlelit tables set with Blue Willow china and white linen; lively period music provided by the Dummies; English country dancing; the rustle of ladies in their gowns; and the dash of gentlemen in their regimentals. *This is not to be missed!!*

## Winter Party Information

This year Yorkers will be permitted to invite a guest from another reenactment unit to attend the Winter Party. *This is not an open invitation to anyone who wants to come.* Guests must be invited by a member. We will need to know the names of all those who plan to attend (including your guests) at least one week before the party.

**Important Note:** The regiment must pay for this function based on the numbers we commit to one week in advance of the party. If you or your guests don't show-up, you will be charged the full price on your regimental account. If you say you're not going to attend and come anyway, there will not be a place set for you at the dinner. A "Maybe" will be counted as a "No". Your Section Leader will be in touch with you in March, at which time a firm commitment will be needed.

Winter Party Committee

## RSM Is Always Ready To Explain The Error Of Your Ways

*There has been a great deal of discussion recently on the subject of authenticity and accuracy in our portrayal of 18th century soldiers. In response to the suggestion that there needs to be someone in the Regiment who will act as an inspector, Sjt Major Moore wrote:*

...It was suggested that a Regt'l "nag" is needed. I think that is stepping on my turf. As RSM I am more than happy to tell those people who have the lawn chairs in the streets or air mattresses sticking out of their tents to correct those problems. Anyone who sees other problems can feel absolutely free to speak to me at the event, and I will happily take my stick and wander over to the offender and speak to them firmly.

...Right then, any other suggestions?

## E-MAIL VIRUSES



*...If I only had a computer, life would be so much simpler...*

It used to be that the practice of deleting emails from recipients unknown to you was a fairly solid defense against email-borne viruses. Today, it's actually MORE likely that you will receive a virus from someone you know thanks to the mass-mailing Internet worm which uses your email address book to propagate. Here's how it works: you receive an email with an infected attachment from a recognizable email address. When the attachment is opened, the virus plants itself on your machine AND sends a copy of itself on to every entry (or a partial list) in your address book. Now you've unintentionally passed a nasty bug on to all your friends, family, co-workers, and potential business partners or customers!

With our group the challenge is doubly bad because these viruses usually grab information from within the "host's" mailbox to include as the message subject. So you could get a message from [allan.joyner@sympatico.ca](mailto:allan.joyner@sympatico.ca) with the subject "This summer we have 10 events", if a virus came into my system and copied itself to you from my mailbox.

Both Gavin and I have had our hard drives completely erased by this virus in the last few weeks. That means that it is probably still circulating among our friends and associates and may return to any of us. What can we do?

Firstly, you can delete anything you get that you can't readily identify BEFORE you open it. A message like, "1546.bre" from someone you have never heard of would be a good candidate. You can always send a message

to that address asking them to resend with an explanation of what they are sending.

Secondly, you have to click on something WITHIN the email to actually set the virus in motion. So if you get any email from someone with a file like, "ship234.pif, or albo456.exe", DO NOT CLICK ON THAT FILE NAME. Simply delete the message.

Thirdly, you can purchase anti-virus software like Norton Anti Virus or McAfee Virus Scan (preferably with a live update function that allows the program to go online on your computer and download the newest virus definitions on a regular basis. They aren't a fortune when you consider that it will probably cost you a couple hundred bucks just to get your system working again if you get hit. I have McAfee and it is painless to use. You can check them out at [www.mcafee.com](http://www.mcafee.com).

Fourthly, you could create a new email address at hotmail.com, where you view your mail on their computer, not your own. You can safely view any file without downloading it to your computer and they have the latest anti-virus software at work all the time. Sympatico has a similar function if you open your email at getemail within the Sympatico website.

Fifthly, for our group, since the virus creates new random headings I would suggest we all begin the subject title of Yorker emails with KRR. For example, if I were sending an event notice called "Tottenham Event Info", I will now send it as "KRR Tottenham Event Info". If we all do this then we can be quite sure we are getting a legitimate message from our friends. You don't have to do this, but if you do, it will certainly help us find the bad stuff.

Finally, backup your important information on CD, floppies or any removable media that you can go back to in the event you are hit. Gavin and I lost a few weeks of hard work, but not a few years, not all the family pictures, not all our email addresses.

If you have any questions about any of this, call me at 613-832-0901 any evening or weekend or email me at [allan.joyner@sympatico.ca](mailto:allan.joyner@sympatico.ca)

Capt Allan Joyner

# Going From the Shoulder to the Order (Short Order)

In days of yore, if the Yorkers were given the command *Order Firelocks* while at the shoulder, the troops would snicker at the Officer's or NCO's faux pas, and then go through the six part movement taking them from the Shoulder to the Rest to the Order. There is evidence however, that this command can in fact be accomplished in two movements, taking the musket directly from the shoulder to the order.

How is this done? On the command *Order Firelocks*:

## First Count (Grasp Piece)

1. Lower the piece smartly by extending the left arm as far as possible without stiffness.
2. At the same time, grasp the piece briskly with the right hand at the left shoulder just below the swell at the tail pipe, the:
  - a) Back of the hand to the front.
  - b) Right elbow close to the body.
  - c) Little finger almost as high as the shoulder.

## Second Count, Part 1 (Lower Piece)

1. Quit the piece with the left hand and drop it to the side, the palm toward the thigh.
2. At the same time, lower the piece briskly with the right hand to the right side, the:
  - a. Butt plate just above the ground.
  - b. Muzzle near the hollow of the right shoulder.
  - c. Barrel to the rear.
  - d. Right hand supported on the right thigh.
  - e. Little finger behind and against the stock and barrel.
  - f. Other fingers extended and joined.

## Second Count, Part 2 (Ground Butt)

1. Open the fingers of the right hand slightly and allow the piece to slip gently to the ground, the:
  - a. Toe of the butt even with the toe of the right foot.
  - b. Flat of the butt against the outside of the right foot.
  - c. Barrel resting against the hollow between the thumb and the forefinger of the right hand.
  - d. Fingers pointed downward on the outside of the stock.
  - e. Thumb lying along the barrel.
  - f. Right hand as low as possible, the arm extended without stiffness.
  - g. Piece detached sufficiently from the shoulder to hold the axis of the barrel vertical.



Two points of interest.

1. The command is simply, *Order Firelock*. Presumably, if the person giving the command wants the troops to go to the *Rest* and then the *Order*, he would give the command, *Rest Firelock*. Otherwise the troops should go directly to the *Order*.
2. At the end of the movement, the right hand is not brought up to grasp the muzzle. The right arm remains fully extended, with the hand grasping the stock between the fingers. This is very similar to our practice of going from the *Shoulder* to the *Trial* and then "resting the butts".

In the Autumn, 2001 Issue of *The Brigade Dispatch* it is suggested that British drill manuals retained the Shoulder-Rest-Order sequence, even though the *Short Order* was common practice. This may have been done to reduce the amount of damage done to muskets by the shorter method. A 1785 standing order to the British Marines stated:

*The repairs of Arms having of late become very expensive in Government, it is the commanding Officers Positive directions that the Officers and Non Commission'd Officers in giving the Word of command Make the soldiers rest in coming to an order, & not Come to the short order by which means many of the Butts have been broke...*

In England drill would be performed in the barracks yard which was usually paved. Bringing the musket from the Shoulder to the Order on the hard pavement resulted in split stocks. The author of the *Dispatch* article theorizes that drill in North America was done on grass, rather than pavement. Consequently, damage to the firelock by using the *Short Order* was less prevalent.

Although not a particularly authoritative source, I should add one other reference to the use of the *Short Order*. In the book, "Advice to the Officers of the British Army" (1783) the section that gives tongue-in-cheek advice to the private soldier suggests that he can break the stock of his musket by letting the toe touch the ground first when kneeling as a front rank. The writer then adds, "The same effect may be produced by coming from the shoulder to the order, at two motions, especially on the pavement in the garrison town."

I suspect we will be seeing more of the *Short Order* this summer, so take note of the procedure so you are not caught off guard.

DWP

# Captain / Judge Richard Duncan



In the fall of 1783 the Treaty of Versailles was signed. This final act was the instrument by which Great Britain acknowledged defeat with her rebellious 13 provinces. As the ink was drying on the paper, tens of thousands of Loyalists without much preparation headed north into what remained of British North America. The flow north increased as state after state passed anti-Loyalist laws. The following spring, June 1784, the mammoth task of assigning the promised land grants had begun. The members of the King's Royal Regiment of New York gathered at New Johnstown (Cornwall) to draw their lots. Township Number 4, eventually to be called Williamsburg Twp., was completely settled by disbanded soldiers of the KRR NY. Captain Richard Duncan took up land on the front of what was to become Dundas County.

By 1786 the settlers, having gained a foothold in their new homes, had time to reflect on political matters and the running of their own affairs. Petitions were prepared and sent from New Johnstown to the Government in London and to Lord Dorchester in Quebec asking for their own district divided into counties and governed by English Common Law. The petitions, with the exception of one or two names, bore the signatures of Captain Richard

Duncan and all the other officers of the former KRR NY.

The following year, 1787, a second larger petition was prepared in New Johnstown. This petition included all of the 1786 requests but in addition, the petitioners were now asking for Post Offices at New Johnstown, New Oswegatchie and Cataragui, a road from Montréal to Cataragui and measures to address the abject poverty of the settlers.

The following year, 1788, a Royal Proclamation was read by Lord Dorchester that announced the creation of four new districts. The most easterly was to be called Lunenburg. The Lunenburg District extended from Lancaster in the east to the Gananoque River in the west and contained the townships of Lancaster; Charlottenburg; Cornwall; Osnabruck; Williamsburg; Matilda; Edwardsburg; Augusta and Elizabethtown. All of the districts were to be governed by English Common Law.

In each district former military captains were appointed as judges and sheriffs and in the English fashion, courts of General Quarter Session of the Peace were established. These Courts had jurisdiction over criminal matters, district property, roads, bridges, assessments, and the collection and expenditure of local taxes.

Courts of Requests were also established to collect debts; these courts convened the first and third Saturdays of every month.

For the new inhabitants this was in essence martial law, for no Legislature yet existed to address the legal needs of the new inhabitants. The legal authority to establish the courts came from the Quebec Act 14Geo. 3d. 83 (1774). To quote James Croil, 1861,

“it was decided by government that the first settlers should live under martial law, till such a time as it should be rescinded and replaced by competent courts of justice. Consequently for some years, the residents of Dundas County knew no other law than the law of the camp. But by martial law at that time, in the peaceable district of Lunenburg, was meant, only, that the English laws having, by the settlement of this part of Canada, been introduced, should be its laws for the present, and that these laws, which very few knew, should be martially executed, by the Captain in command.”

In the Lunenburg District Captain Richard Duncan was appointed the first judge in 1788, but he was more than likely acting in this capacity since July of 1786. Captain Monro was appointed the first sheriff. The earliest surviving records of the court of the General Quarter Session of the Peace are dated at Osnabruck June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1789 with Judge Richard Duncan in attendance.

There is a surviving court record from September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1790 from Osnabruck where the court was held at the Inn of Richard Loucks, presided over by Captain Duncan. The document is in the hand writing of Richard Loucks and was examined by James Croil:

“We have undoubted proof that a civil court, with all the accompaniments of sheriff, judge, and jury, sat at least once in the year, and that it's jurisdiction extended over the whole of the Lunenburg District. Judging also from the items listed, a jolly judge and jury they

*(Continued on page 7)*

(continued from page 6)

must have been. Numerous accounts are therein detailed of "licker for the gentlemen of the grand jury," including sundry charges for "decanter broken". Port wine appears to have been the beverage used in the "Court Room", rum, on ordinary occasions; while Judge Duncan treated his guests at super with brandy and "Elisabeth".

The record shows that at this session of the court a man and his wife were charged with petit larceny. The man

was found guilty and was sentenced to be tied to a post and to receive 39 lashes on his naked back. His wife was pardoned. The most severe punishment issued by these courts was banishment; transported not to Botany Bay but to the United States - a sentence for a Loyalist that was next to death. This was the most severe punishment that could be inflicted and was reserved for high offences.

After the Constitutional Act of 1791 was passed and the new colony of Upper Canada was created, this court was relocated to New

Johnstown (Cornwall) on April 9, 1792. It was replaced completely with the Court of the King's Bench in 1794.

Based on a number of personal interviews James Croil conducted with many surviving original settlers in the 1850's, he framed this commentary on Richard Duncan. "His universal hospitality gathered around him a host of friends, while in his capacity as magistrate, he was a terror to evil doers".

Shaun Wallace  
Duncan's Coy

## Drummed Out of the Regiment

It seems that the 18<sup>th</sup> century military had an ongoing problem with women in the barracks, ships and tents, despite orders to the contrary. Kathleen Manneke passed along this item from the 1778 Orderly Book of a regiment stationed in Dublin.

"It having been reported to the Commanding Officer that Dole Women having been allowed to come into the men's Barracks at Night in consequence of which many of them are Disordered, it is his positive Order to the Non Commissioned Officers that they examine carefully and frequently the Rooms of their Respective Companies and turn out all women as they shall find therein, and if any of them shall presume to return after being so turned out, that they confine her or them in the Regimental Guard Room till morning, at which time the Commanding Officer will order her to be Drummed out of Barracks with Infamy. The Sergeant of the Barracks Guard to be responsible that the Woman receives no Ill-Treatment whilst prisoner and that the men of the Guard or prisoners have no commerce with her."

It appears the Royal Navy had a similar concern. Jon Wannamaker came across this 1756 regulation in the book, *The Hidden Navy*. It stipulated, "That no Woman ever be permitted on Board, but such as are really the Wives of the Men they come to, and the Ship not to be too much pestered even with them. But the Indulgence is only tol-

erated while the Ship is in Port, and not under Sailing Orders." The nocturnal chaperon of the seaman was the Master-at-Arms, who during the night was to inspect the ship between decks and "acquaint the Officer of the Watch with all Irregularities." Was this regulation effective? Apparently not. In 1797 it was observed that "Women... and their reputed husbands...still infest H.M.'s Ships in great numbers."

Apparently, the rebels had no better control than the British army or navy. Benjamin Gilbert (*A Citizen-Soldier in the American Revolution: The Diary of Benjamin Gilbert in Massachusetts and New York*) made these entries in

his diary in 1778.

"April 28 - In the fore noon the Serjt went Down the hill and plaid Ball. At Nigt Marcy was at our tent and lay all Nigt with Serjt Phipps and went home at Gun firing in the Morning.

May 6<sup>th</sup> - Fair. Serjt Bragg Brought Marcy into Camp at Night.

May 7<sup>th</sup> - Clear and warm. At Ngt Marcy was here.

May 29<sup>th</sup> - Fair. Polly Robinson Came into our Regt.

May 30<sup>th</sup> - Bragg and Marcy and Pol Robinson got under Guard and weir Tryed by a coart Martiall.

June 5<sup>th</sup> - In the Morning Polly Robinson [and] Nel Tidrey was Drummed out of the Regt."

*Oh, those rascally women!!!*



# REGIMENTAL NOTICE BOARD

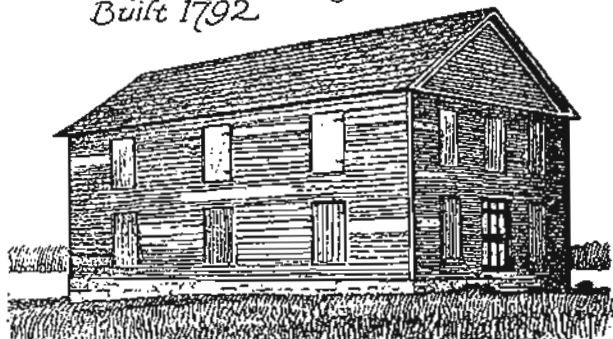
## New Follower In The Regiment

Grace Elizabeth was born to Michelle Rehkopf and Capt. Allan Joyner on Dec 28<sup>th</sup> (8 pounds 11 ounces). Although Michelle had a rough time before and some bumps after the birth, things are getting better. Capt. Joyner reports that Grace is a dream!

## Hay Bay Church Gets Support From KRR NY

The regiment received an honorarium of \$100 for an appearance at the Hay Bay Church, near Adolphustown. Members present included Peter Johnson, Jon Wannamaker, Paul Cox and Dave Smith. Thank you to these guys for their participation in their program.

*Hay Bay Meeting House  
Built 1792*



## Living History Conference - March 1 & 2

This year the Living History Conference, sponsored by *The Hamilton Ships Company of 1812*, will be held on March 1 & 2. On the Friday evening Westfield Heritage Village and Black Creek Pioneer Village will present an Historical Fashion Show at Ancaster's Old Town Hall starting at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday the program will move to Mohawk College where participants will have the opportunity to attend 4 of 17 seminars offered during the day. Topics include:

- Effect of Music on Society
- Story Telling
- Early Small Boats on the Lakes
- 18<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland and Living Its History
- The US Navy in the Age of Fighting Sail
- The Creation of the Norse Encampment
- A Legacy of Honour and Service - The Loyalists
- Teaching History Through the Stomach
- Tea Tasting
- Things Are Going Very Badly - Burlington Heights and the British Army
- Say What? Watch That Language
- Dr. Quimby Medicine Show
- An Overview of Embroidery - Norse Through Victorian
- The Regimental Drum
- Social Dancing for Reenactors
- Sing Out
- Red Coat 101

There will also be a Sutler's Area at the college. The day will conclude with a period dinner at Ancaster's Old Town Hall (6:00 p.m.) and a Ball (8:30 p.m.). For more information on the conference check [www.livinghistory2000.org](http://www.livinghistory2000.org) and to register contact [jac13.clark@skylineinc.net](mailto:jac13.clark@skylineinc.net).

## Transferring From One Company To Another

In the December, 2000 issue of the newsletter, the Colonel gave a detailed description of transfers and promotions in the Light Coy. The article ended with the comment, "No other transfers into the Lights from any other KRR company will be entertained during the Campaign 2001." As Campaign 2001 is now behind us, the prohibition on transfers has officially been lifted.

It is not anticipated that there will be a rush of troops scurrying from one Company to another. However, if someone is entertaining the thought, it should be done in an appropriate manner. By following proper procedures, the risk of hard feelings can be avoided.

*Step 1* ~ If you would like to transfer to another Company, speak to the senior officer in your current Company. He deserves the courtesy of hearing it directly from you. If the relationship is such that you do not feel comfortable dealing with your Company officer, then speak to LtCol Gavin Watt.

*Step 2* ~ Then discuss the possibility with the senior officer of the Company you would like to transfer to.

*Step 3* - Once both Companies have been informed of your intention, the transfer can be implemented.



*...Are you sure you want to transfer to  
the Grenadier Coy?!!*

Editor: Sjt. Dave Putnam  
[Yorker@interlynx.net](mailto:Yorker@interlynx.net)