

Royal



Yorkers

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick

CHANGES IN 1st BATTALION

Resignation and Promotion

Eric Fernberg to (Lance) Serjeant vice Sjt Andy Weston resigned.

Andy Weston joined the KRR on May 31, 1986. At the end of the 1992 campaign season, Sjt Chuck Baker suddenly had to step aside due to major family complications. As it was considered essential to have a senior NCO in the Ottawa area, Pte Andy was asked to fill the breach and he manfully rose to the occasion. Now Andy has found it necessary to step down. He explained, "I thoroughly enjoy the role of being a Serjeant, but I am finding that the events the last 3 years have fallen on weekends where I have family commitments or other plans made, and I just cannot attend these events... Added to this, I was told by my Doctor to scale back on many of the activities I have been involved with for health reasons. Basically, I was burning the candle at both ends and it caught up with me a few

weeks ago."

Eric Fernberg joined the Yorkers on August 13, 1994. He is a thoroughly trained soldier, is a member of the 1758 NY Provincials and the 1st & 2nd Battalions. In 1995, Eric was awarded the Yorker of the Year trophy for his great work with camp kitchens, which brought about a radical departure from the unhealthy and expensive bar crawling then prevalent within the unit.

With Andy stepping aside, the same rationale of having a senior NCO in the Ottawa area prevails and Pte Eric has been asked to fill the bill. Eric will take the rank of Lance Serjeant and wear the sash and carry the halberd at garrison events. When he wears the sash, all ranks will recognize and obey him as a Serjeant. In the event of a low turnout, Eric will step back into the ranks, taking the role of corporal or private as needed.

Change To Rank

George Howse is temporarily step-

ping back into the ranks of the Light Infantry Company as a Gentleman Volunteer in which he will do duty as a Private soldier in the same manner as Denis Bourget in Duncan's Company.

LtCol Gavin Watt

Yorker of the Year

I am pleased to announce that the recipient of this year's award at the Winter Party was Grenadier John E. (the one with the fuzz on his face) Jordan. John is the 337th male to join the regiment and he has brought a different flavour to the effort than the 336 guys before him. His first active event was on May 22, 2000, but even before taking to the field his inquisitive mind was at work researching the whys and wherefores of Yorker life, past and present.

John has taken a keen interest in the original regiment's roots, both State-side and in Canada. He is a great traveller and has attended many events down south as the 'lone Yorker.' As well, his attendance at our events has been outstanding since his first parade for the Queen marching up University Ave.

He very quickly wanted to contribute more than just his attendance and he has been a great help in chasing down supplies in the States, fabricating bayonet carriages and musket slings. John's investigations indicated that an alternate pattern of musket sling would be more appropriate and this has now been adopted as our sealed pattern. And most of you are aware of John's efforts that resulted in your gift of that wonderful book to me last year.

John assists Dave Putnam with the editing of the newsletter. He is very active at working the Internet looking for trends in the hobby and making observations of how we might alter our approach.

LtCol Gavin Watt



COMING EVENTS 2002

If you haven't received the Yorker Calendar for 2002, here are the listed events for this campaign season.

- April 17 Fort York Drill
May 15 Fort York Drill
May 18-19 Northern Brigade Tactics School
~ Westfield Village
May 20 Queen's Birthday Parade
~ Toronto
May 24-26 Kanata Village ~ Brantford
June 15-16 Black Creek ~ Toronto
June 22-23 Crown Point
(2nd Battalion Only)
July 6-7 Battle of Hubbardton
~ Hubbardton, VT
(ALL-UP EVENT I)
Aug 3-4 Seige of Fort Stanwix ~ Rome, NY
(ALL-UP EVENT II)
Aug 17-18 Battle of Bennington ~ Vermont
Sept 14 Thornhill Parade
Oct 12-13 Battle of Saratoga
~ Saratoga, NY (1st & 2nd Batt)

KANATA VILLAGE

~ Brantford ~
May 24 - 26

Kanata Village is on the calendar again this year. Yorkers who attended in 2001 reported that it was a very worthwhile event, one that we should continue to support. Kanata is located in Brantford near the *Chapel of the Mohawks* and the *Woodland Cultural Centre*. An interactive longhouse village has been constructed on the site.

Sjt Mjr Zig Misiak, of Butler's Rangers, who is one of the organizers of the weekend, calls this a Show & Tell event. Fifteen schools will be present at Kanata on Friday, May 24. Several battle scenarios will take place that day. They are also hoping that we will provide other demonstrations of 18th century military life for the students and public. Saturday and Sunday is open to the public with a similar program.

The organizers have gone out of their way to make the participants feel welcome. All meals will be provided during the three days. Also, those who are so inclined are welcome to sleep in the longhouse over night. This will be an experience in itself. If you are able to attend on the Friday, your support will certainly be appreciated. Those who can't take the day off on Friday are encouraged to come in the evening and stay for the weekend.

Zig says this will be a *Hodenasuane* cultural experience that we won't soon forget.

Directions: Take Hwy 403 to Brantford and exit at Park Rd. Turn left (south) onto Park Rd, turn left onto Colborne St, turn right onto Locks Rd. After crossing the bridge, the road curves to the right and becomes Mohawk St. At 440 Mohawk St. you will see a modern visitors centre. The recreated longhouse is behind this building.



Joseph Brant and the Mohawks at the Grand River (Brantford)

Northern Brigade Tactical School

Westfield Village ~ May 18-19

2002 marks the 225th anniversary of the American War's climactic year, 1777. This summer the Northern Brigade will be called to serve at Hubbar-ton, scene of the greatest defeat suffered by an American army in the Northern Campaign (and some veterans will note, scene of a great defeat suffered by those same rebels in 2000), and at Fort Stanwix, where the KRRNY were the mainstay of St. Leger's expedition.

In preparation for these demanding actions, we will end the long, hard winter of drill with another *Northern Brigade School of Tactical Operations*, to be held at Westfield Village, May 18-19. This event will feature lessons, drill and contests calculated to prepare every rank and variety of soldier, from Rangers and Light Infantry to Hatmen and Grenadiers. A variety of competitions will be run and awards given for: most inspectable kit (*Serjeant Major's Award*), best and fastest firing of six volleys, Major James's infamous 'Seneca Run' and a plethora of others. At the end of the weekend, an award will be presented to the unit that scores the best in all the contests.

Major James' emphasis this year will be on *manoeuver* and the *use of terrain* in fighting. Those who were at the Fort York Drills will already have seen some of the new manoeuvres. At the School we will put them to use, breaking up our orderly ranks to practice moving and firing in late war fashion. In addition, all ranks will learn some simple yet crushingly effective whistle and hand signals, we will review the setting of pickets and sentries, and break some new ground in NCO training. I hope you will all be there, because it is at the School where we build the skills to **BREAK THE REBELS.**

Captain Chris Cameron

Westfield Village may be familiar to you for a variety of reasons. Some will recognize it as the set for many of the television episodes of *Road to Avonlea*. Others will be aware that it is the site for some very large American Civil War events in recent years. And of course it wasn't that many years ago that we had a successful Rev War event at Westfield. Who can forget the famous trial that took place during our last visit? Barrister Bruce Finch defended the luckless Keith Croucher against the legal manoeuvres of Crown Attorney Dave Moore. As his case began to unravel, Mr. Finch changed his focus from the defense of Mr. Croucher to the question of how he would be paid should his client be convicted. On this occasion, Croucher spent only a short time in the stocks.

Westfield Heritage Centre is an excellent venue for our purposes. Not only do the village's thirty 19th century buildings provide a picturesque backdrop for our encampment, but the 840 acres of surrounding woodlands and meadows are perfect for our tactical exercises.

On Saturday we will have full use of the site for the Northern Brigade Tactical School. No public will be pres-

ent, although rumor has it there is a wedding scheduled in the church for Saturday afternoon (it wouldn't be the first time our *feux de joie* set fire the bride's dress).

On Sunday afternoon the Village will dedicate a Queen's Ranger log cabin that was recently moved from Governor's Road to the village. The Northern Brigade Queen's Rangers will camp around the house over the weekend and interpret it for the public during visitors' hours. All reenactors will participate in the dedication ceremony, with the QR's front and centre. In the afternoon we will entertain the public with some battle scenarios.

This will be our first outing of the year and not a bad way to start off what looks to be a very exciting campaign season.

Directions: From the QEW take Hwy 403 West past Hamilton, up the escarpment and beyond Ancaster. Exit at Hwy 52 and turn right. Follow Hwy 52 through Copetown. Cross over Hwy 5 and then immediately turn left onto Hwy 8. After you pass Rockton you will turn right onto Kirkwall Rd. Westfield Heritage Centre will be on the left side of the road.





Queen's Jubilee/Birthday Parade

Monday, May 20 ~ Toronto

This is our Sovereign's Jubilee Year - 50 years on the throne. For those of you who are unable to make the trip to the Palace to deliver your personal regards and best wishes, the Queen's Birthday Parade may be your only opportunity to officially recognize this important milestone.

The parade takes place on Victoria Day, Monday, May 20. This is the same weekend as the Northern Bri-

gade Tactical School. For those who have never attended the parade, this is the year to see what it's all about. Do the Tactical School on Saturday and Sunday, and then pickup the parade on your way home on Monday. A two-for-the-price-of-one weekend to start the campaign season.

Date: Monday, May 20

Assembly Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Queen's Park, Toronto

(front lawn)

Parking: Limited parking is available at the rear of the Legislature.

Parade: Starts at Queen's Park at noon and returns to Queen's Park at its conclusion.

Bring: 20 cartridges for volleys of celebration

God Save the Queen!!

The Long Awaited Gin Lane



At long last Gin Lane (aka Malarky, Hogarth Trio and T. B. D.) have produced a CD entitled "The Idle 'prentices". The CD includes such fabulous tunes as:

- Follow me down to Carlow
- Hey Johnie Cope
- Over the Hills and Far Away
- The Cuckoo's Nest
- The Clearances Lullaby
- Spanish Ladies

As well as a collection of dynamic instrumental pieces including:

- The Cunning Young Girl
- Joan's Plackett
- Shebeg and Sheemore
- Major's Maggot
- What Pain I've Endured Since Last Year
- Preest in his Boots/Highway to Dublin

These tunes have been lovingly hand-crafted over a 1 1/2 year recording process, and put on CD using 18th century digital recording techniques. The CD includes a fabulous portrait done during the Pontiac Uprising of 1989 (Courtesy of Eric Lorenzen). The CD is just under an hour in length, which betters the previous demo tape by 45 minutes (a sore point with some folks) and it comes in a plastic jewel case (free with the purchase of the CD).

If you buy only one CD this century, you probably aren't the people we're trying to reach. If you are a CD collector (2 or more), we are selling this rare and valuable CD for \$20.00 + Shipping (\$3.00/single - \$5.50/two).

If you are interested in purchasing one before you see us at an event, you can contact any of us at Gavin Watt/Est-East/PCH/CA, Peter Alexander/Est-East/PCH/CA, Ken Purvis <kpurvis@city.toronto.on.ca>. When we receive your cheque we will mail you a copy (we're no dummies).

My mailing address is:

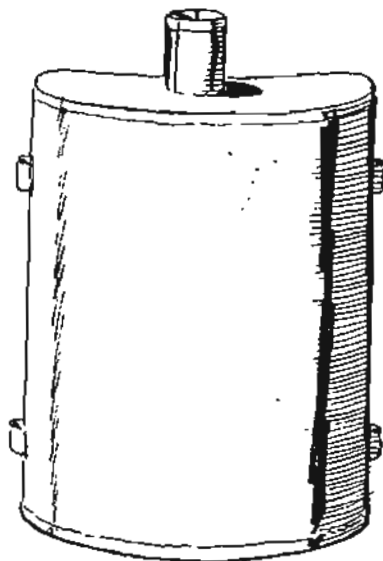
Gavin Watt PO Box 541,
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON, L0S 1J0

Making Your Canteen Usable

There we are in the woods, about to spring an ambush. As we crouch in our hiding place, waiting for the rebel column to appear on the road, you can sense that this is what it really looked and felt like. Our Officer turns and gestures that we may take some water while they wait... AND THEN 15 PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES, WITH WHITE SCREW TOP CAPS AND BLUE PAPER LABELS APPEAR FROM EVERYONE'S HAVERSACK. AARRGGHH!!!!

We can do better, and it really isn't that hard. Taking that rusted tin canteen and turning it into a useful water container takes only a few minutes and very little effort. Here's how:

1. Take a piece of beeswax and heat it in a saucepan until it turns to liquid. A beeswax candle serves the purpose just fine.
2. Remove the rope from your tin canteen and place the canteen in the oven at 300 degrees.



3. When the canteen is hot, remove it from the oven using a pair of oven mitts.
4. Place a funnel in the canteen opening and pour the liquid wax into the canteen.
5. Insert the cork into the opening.
6. Roll the liquid wax around inside the canteen, allowing it to thoroughly coat the tin. Continue to turn the canteen until you can no longer hear the liquid.
7. Remove the cork and allow the canteen to cool.

Now you have a container that will safely hold a supply of water. The wax separates the water from the metal, preventing it from acquiring that tinny taste. In fact, the beeswax, if anything, gives the water a sweet taste. And best of all, we can get rid of those plastic bottles that really detract from our impression as 18th century soldiers. Try it, you'll like it.

DWP

Regimental Communications

Last September there was great concern about crossing the border with muskets and black powder following the World Trade Centre disaster. With several big events only days or weeks away, many guys questioned whether they would risk being turned away at the border or worse yet, given a hard time. Captain Joyner quickly researched the matter, and was able to obtain clarification from U.S. Customs concerning procedures to be followed and documents to carry. The next problem - *How to quickly communicate this information to 100 Yorkers who needed the information immediately.*

What does the regiment do when quick communications are required, and the next Newsletter is two months away from publication? Put out a special mailing (slow & expensive)? Get the Section Leaders on the phone (time consuming)? Hope that people hear through word of mouth (not very effective)?

Clearly, in this age of computers, internet access and e-mail the solution should be simple. With the press of a

key, a message can be sent instantaneously to everyone in the regiment who is on-line. And it doesn't have to be a World Trade Centre crisis to justify putting out a message. It could just be a reminder that there is an event this weekend; that someone has room in their vehicle for another passenger;



that black powder is available for sale for those who need it; or that the step-off has been moved up by an hour. E-

mail should not replace the Newsletter, but it could fill some gaps in that two month period between issues.

Lt Ted Visser has put together a listing of people in the Yorkers who have given him their e-mail addresses. At this point he has approximately 90 soldiers and followers on the list. If you have not given Ted your current e-mail address, you are encouraged to do so. He can be reached at tviss@neptune.on.ca. Once on the list, you will receive updated e-mail lists on a periodic basis, so you have access to all the other addresses. Best of all, the regiment will be able to harass..., I mean encourage you with regular information updates. If you don't have access to the internet, you may want to provide the e-mail address of someone else who will receive and pass on any messages to you.

Good communications are absolutely essential in an organization of our size. Getting on-line could go a long way to making the distribution of information more effective.

DWP

Brigade of the American Revolution School "Now We Are Soldiers"

April 13-14, New Windsor Cantonment ~ Newburgh, NY

This year's School of Instruction will feature topics related to the 1777 campaign, this being the 225th anniversary.

I attended my first BAR school last April and was the only Yorker there (there were a few CSM switchhitters there as well). Last year the theme was civilian life at the outbreak of war. It was a great weekend for learning junkies. Greg Theberge, now Brigade Merchant (aka sutler) Inspector, displayed and let us handle scores of eighteenth-century items from his personal collection. What an education!

There were another half-dozen presentations of comparable quality. And some superb drill under Capt's C. Cameron and R. Najecki. Saturday evening was given over to the BAR annual meeting, an informative event for understanding some of the dynamics and factors that drive the 'hobby' we give

so much time to.

The facilities are ideally suited to the event. The presentations took place in a (heated!) building; there was hot coffee and doughnuts (well, let's say something farinaceous) in the morning. We could pitch tents out back, or find a place in the soft leaves (better than straw) beyond the stone wall. The building was open all night, and when it rained, a few migrated indoors. There are full washrooms as well. For me, it was a nice balance of campaign style, with a great Marksmen stew and soft, if wet leaves, and hot coffee and warm water. All this aside from superb presentations, which BAR also publishes. I'm planning to attend again this year and would recommend it heartily to all devoted to service to the Crown.

John Jordan
Grenadier

Travelling Light

You know you're carrying too much stuff to an event when you can no longer get the hatch of the minivan shut. Kathleen Manneke passed this along, proving that there is historical documentation to support our inclination to bring everything but the kitchen sink. This excerpt is taken from the Bristol Journal of Felix Farley (Vol. XXVI, No. 1313, Saturday, April 20, 1776)

The baggage of the general officers alone of the Hessian troops, 'tis said, would freight two transports of 300 tons each. The above gentlemen have not ordered their coaches on board, but have laid in such quantities of every kind of camp and other furniture, with Rhenish wines, old hock, Westphalia hams and other stores, that they rather seem to be going to settle in America than to serve as soldiers.



Looms of Petticoat Creek

For sale:

- 1 handwoven (by Ann) woolen blanket, 1 piece (not centre seam) about 46 inches by about 84 inches. Medium brown with white longitudinal stripes. \$120
- 1 handwoven (by Alex) woolen blanket, 1 piece (not centre seam) size to be determined when it is actually finished but it will be bigger than the one above. Gray warp with brown weft (making a very attractive pattern) with some solid gray horizontal stripes. \$120
- 1 handwoven (by Alex) shawl or wrap for those cool evenings, about 20 inches by 72 inches. The warp is based on the modern Home (or Hume) tartan with black, blue, green and red. The weft is green giving it a pleasing appearance. \$60

These prices are possible because of some really good wool buys. It is unlikely that they will be repeated.

Please consider us for some of your special project fabric needs in hemp, wool, cotton or linen (viscose, polyester or acrylic if you really want it). Tartans can be made to order.

Alex and Ann Lawrence

905-649-1620 alawrenc@durham.net

A Yorker Court Martial ~ John Newton

If you have not explored "The On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies" you really must check out this important webpage (www.royalprovincial.com/index.htm). The site was created and is maintained by Todd Braisted of the New Jersey Volunteers and Nan Cole. Todd gave permission to reprint the following account from his site. It is the proceedings of a Regimental Court Martial of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, Held by order of Major GRAY, Montreal August 5th 1783.

Crime

John NEWTON Private Soldier in Capt. John MUNRO's Company, confined by Ensign MUNRO, for being drunk & Disobedience of Orders and Impertence.

Prosecution

Ensign MUNRO being called upon, informs the Court, that on the 2nd of August, David MILLER of Capt. Jno. MUNRO's Company (accompanied by the Prisoner) waited upon him to settle his Accts. with Capt. MUNRO, at which time the Prosecutor called the Prisoner to receive some Money he had the day before delivered by Capt. Archd. McDONELL, to pay him for cutting of Wood at Carrillon last Spring, at the Rate of nine pence per day, which the Prisoner refused receiving, saying it was not the Allowance in the King's Works and sure he would be damn'd sooner than receive it, and would apply to Br. Genl. Sir Jno. JOHNSON upon his Return from the Upper Country and then would sweat the Prosecutor for his Behaviour towards him; then the Prosecutor desired the Prisoner to hold his Tongue and ordered the aforesaid David MILLER to take him to the Guard House, but the Prisoner again said that he would be damn'd sooner than go there, upon which the Prosecutor took from the Prisoner his Side-Arms, deliver'd them to the said MILLER and desired him to call the Relief which he just then saw at Br. Genl. St. LEDGER's Quarters and into whose Charge he delivered the Prisoner to be carried to the Guard House.

Evidence for the Prosecution

David MILLER Private Soldier in Capt. Jno. MUNRO's Company, being called upon; affirms as above, only supposing that the Prisoner had been drinking in the Morning of said day that he was confined.

Defence

The Prisoner being put upon his defence, denies being drunk when sent to the Guard-House, also says he refused going Prisoner with said MILLER, Knowing him to be in the Surgeon's Report, but that upon Arrival of the Relief sent for, he the Prisoner then went to the Guard House.

The Prisoner further says that on the 2nd Instant, he was ordered by Ensign MUNRO to call upon him with some others of the Company to settle with him for cutting of Wood last Spring at Carillon, that on the 2nd Instant in the Morning he waited upon the Prosecutor at the Barracks at the Time directed, and asked the Prosecutor whether he would settle with him there or if he should go up to Capt. MUNRO's House at the same time asking him at what Rate he could pay him and being answered nine pence per day, the Prisoner told the Prosecutor that he would not receive that, (Knowing it not to be the Fault of Ensign MUNRO) but would wait until the Return of Br. Genl. Sir Jno. JOHNSON from Niagara; and on his way from the Barracks met Major

GRAY and acquainted him of the Money offered him by the Prosecutor at the Rate of nine pence per day altho' Sir Jno. JOHNSON had desired Capt. DAYLY to tell Corporal McEMPEY that every Man should have the Allowance of others in his Majesty's Works, and notwithstanding Capt. MAURER having told Serjeant Ronald McDONELL that the Men should be paid at the Rate of one shilling Currcy. per day, that then Major GRAY answer'd & told him that Capt. Archd. McDONELL had received no more Money than for to pay them at the Rate of nine pence per day.

Then he the Prisoner went up to Capt. MUNRO's Quarters, where the Prosecutor asked him, you damn'd Rascal what brings you here then? and says that then his Answer to him was disrespectful but does not recollect it particularly.

Evidence for the Prisoner

Corporal PARK being called upon says that the Prisoner was not drunk, when he took Charge of him from Ensign MUNRO, altho' he might (unknown to him) have taken a Dram.

The Court having examined and duly considered the Evidences for and against the Prisoner do not find him guilty of the first Charge and do therefore acquit him thereof, but find him guilty of a Breach of the 3rd Article of the 20th Section of the Articles of

(Continued on page 8)



REGIMENTAL NOTICE BOARD

Sarah & Christian Tie the Knot

Sarah Watt and Christian Cameron have announced their intention to marry this Spring. Congratulations to you both and best wishes in your married life together.



Upper Canada Trade Faire

The Upper Canada Trade Faire will be held on May 10, 11 & 12 at Brentwood Farm, 584 Maple Rd, Odessa. This is a timeline event covering the period from 1750 to 1860. It is open to all who exhibit, produce crafts or demonstrate the lifestyle of this era. This is an opportunity for reenactors to obtain things they need for the coming season or trade items that they no longer need. An admission fee of \$10 is charged to defray costs and registration is required. For more information contact Barb Monk (613-386-7571) or check the event webpage (www.tradefaire.ca).

Where Did That Expression Come From?

Shaun Wallace sent along these items for your edification.

~ In the days before cameras, one's image was either sculpted or painted. Prices charged by painters were based on the number of arms and legs to be painted. The more limbs shown, the more the painting would cost the buyer. Hence the expression, "*it'll cost you an arm and a leg*".

~ At local taverns, pubs and bars, people drank from pint and quart sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers, while keeping the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in pints and who was drinking in quarts. Hence the term, "*mind your P's and Q's*".



~ It was not unusual for men and women in the 18th century to have scars on their skin as a result of disease. Women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth their complexions. If a woman began to stare at another woman's face, she was told to "*mind your own bee's wax*". Smiling could crack the wax, hence the term "*crack a smile*". When a woman sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt, causing her to "*lose face*".

Burning of the Valleys Military Association (BVMA)

The Yorkers' good friend (and sometimes worst nightmare), Jim Stevens, passed along this information about recent developments within the BVMA. At a recent membership meeting a slate of new Officers were elected:

Chairman – Paul Supley (21st Foot)

Vice Chair – John Osinski (2nd Albany)

Treasurer – Mike Kowalski (84th Foot)

Recording Secretary – Dean Barnes (1st Ulster)

Executive Secretary – Wade Wells (21st Foot)

The BVMA will be supporting the Northern Brigade Tactical School and Kanata Village events. Also, they have designated the Upper Canada Village event in 2003 as their All-Up event. For more information about this organization see their website (<http://www.bvma.org>)

(Continued from page 7)

War, and do therefore sentence him to receive One hundred Lashes after [sic—in] the Usual Manner.

(Archives of Ontario, Malcolm McMartin Papers, MU 1974.)

Grenadier John Jordan added the following comments:

A shilling was 12 pence, so Newton is claiming he is being shortchanged 3 pence (25%) per day, which Major Gray's comment seems to support. Interestingly, Sir John appears as someone the common soldier has full confidence in. But yet there's no question of waiting his return before passing sentence. Judgment, and Punishment, is a matter of days (2 to 5 August), but payment – ah, that could

wait five months or more.

John Newton had been a corporal for a year, but had been reduced to private in June, 1783, just weeks before this incident. His post-war settlement is not recorded.

The Court Martial brings out an oft-forgotten aspect of a soldier's life: the opportunity to earn additional money by working, either in the Army or sometimes outside it. Orderly books frequently desire that officers should know the trades their men are skilled in. Bakers, smiths, coopers, tailors, and construction trades were in particular demand.



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