

Royal



Yorkers

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick

~SIEGE OF FORT STANWIX~ All-Up Event ~ August 3 & 4

Now that Hubbardton is behind us, the Siege of Fort Stanwix is the next/last ALL-UP event of the year. In fact, as you can see from the "Coming Events" list, after Fort Stanwix there are only a few events left on the calendar.

There seems to be a lot of excitement about this event. Many who could only attend one of the two All-Up events made a conscious decision to opt for Fort Stanwix as their first choice. Here are some of the reasons why.

1. LtCol Gavin Watt will be the Crown Forces Commander for this event.
2. The Northern Brigade is the host Crown unit.
3. This event has a spiritual element to it, since the Yorkers participated in the original siege of the Fort.
4. The drive is shorter and more direct for just about everyone in the KRRNY.
5. Many have not been to this important site before, or haven't been there for some time.

The schedule for the weekend was published in the last newsletter. You will recall that activities begin on Friday, August 2. Those who intend to participate in the commemoration ceremony on Friday evening must be registered by 3:00 p.m. and ready for inspection by 4:00 p.m. Following the ceremony there will be an open house at the Fort and a military ball.

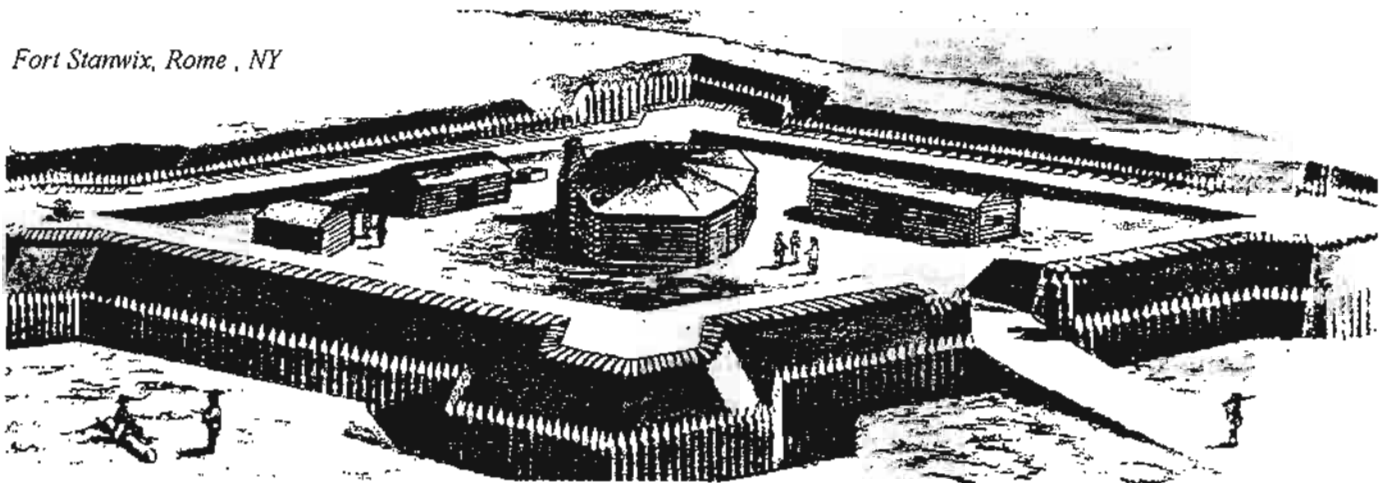
On Saturday morning the day will start with an exercise of the army as a whole and individual drill by various subunits. There should be time later in the morning to tour the Fort and bookstore. After lunch there will be a grand demonstration of our army's prowess, which I'm sure will *intimidate the hell* out of the rebels. After a stand-down, we'll head to Eric Canal Village to participate in a tactical exercise for our own enjoyment. On Saturday evening the day will conclude with a NorBde Tavern. The Tavern Mistress wishes to remind you that a contribution toward the punch bowl (bottle of rum) would be very much appreciated.

Sunday morning we will head back to E.C.V. for a second tactical exercise. This one is for the hardcore types who really need some action first thing in the morning to get their day started right. Those who are suffering from hangovers, or prefer to read the Sunday paper by the fire are welcome to pass on this scenario. Early risers are asked to keep the noise down for the sake of those who want to lay a-bed.

When we return to Fort Stanwix, an 18th century religious service will be conducted by our own Rev. Neil Thomsen. Later in the morning we will learn St. Leger's *Plan of Advance*. Gavin gave a lecture on this formation at the NorBde Tactics School a few years ago. This is a tactical field formation of some complexity, and like so many such efforts, is best practiced on some open ground like the grass surrounding the Fort, before trying to execute it in the woods. The activity should be very informative for the Officers and NCO's, useful for the troops

(Continued on page 2)

Fort Stanwix, Rome, NY





COMING EVENTS

AUG 3-4 **SEIGE OF FORT STANWIX**
ROME, NY (ALL-UP EVENT)

AUG 17-18 **BATTLE OF BENNINGTON**
BENNINGTON, VERMONT

SEPT 21 **THORNHILL PARADE**
TORONTO

OCT 12-13 **BATTLE OF SARATOGA**
STILLWATER, NY

(Continued from page 1)

and entertaining for the public. We will pack up our camp by 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. After lunch we will return to Erie Canal Village for one last TWG before we hit the road. Departure will take place from the Village.

Also, for your information:

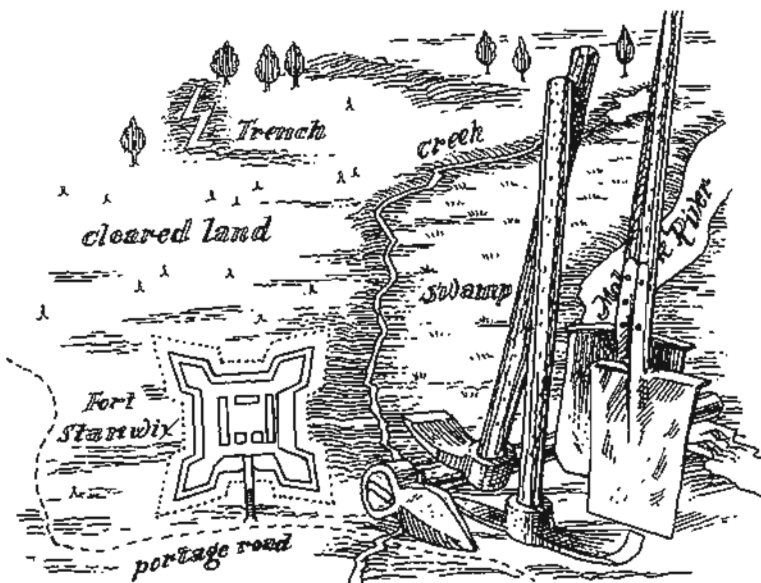
- The Northern Brigade will be responsible for manning (or should I say *personing*, since Followers will be called into service as well) the registration tent through Thursday and Friday. Sgt Mjr Moore will be looking for "volunteers". Of course, if there are lots of volunteers the time spent by any one person should be minimal.
- There will be space adjacent to the camp for kitchen fires. Fires will be allowed and fire-boxes will be provided. Also, raw rations will be issued by the Fort. You may want to bring your own fixings (onions, herbs, etc.) to compliment the rations.
- The Yorker Drums will be present for this event under the command of Drum Mjr Gavin A. Watt. Drummers and fifers are encouraged to attend.
- Crown troops will not be allowed in the Fort during visiting hours. This is in keeping with the fact that the siege was unsuccessful, so no Crown troops,

other than truce emissaries and prisoners, got inside the walls.

We are however, permitted to tour the Fort in small cloths.

I'm sure their sentries will not notice the RP buttons.

Sounds like it will be a great weekend. And of course, Monday is a holiday, so you can cool your heels by the pool once you get home.



BENNINGTON ~ August 17 & 18

The 225th anniversary of the Battle of Bennington is scheduled for August 17 and 18. The encampment will be situated on the grounds of the Scarecrow Farm on Route 67 in North Bennington, Vermont. This site is 2.5 miles from the state site in New York and 5.7 miles from the Bennington Monument. There is ample room for separate camps, and rolling fields and woods for battles and skirmishes.

The official ceremonies will be held on Saturday afternoon. There will be a brief memorial service at the cemetery in Bennington, followed by a program at the monument. This will include the annual reading of the "Lest We Forget" roll. There are also plans

to hold an evening tactical.

The emphasis of this event will be on *education and interaction with the public*. Those wishing to demonstrate a particular craft or interpretation are encouraged to do so. The Bennington Monument will be open to all uniformed or attired re-enactors free during the weekend.

Note ~ This event is sponsored by the Living History Association and is not on the calendar of any of the main Rev War reenactment organizations. The event should be very enjoyable, but will not be tactically oriented. Consequently, Yorker participation will probably be small. Apparently the BAR is running it's own version of



Bennington in direct competition with the Living History Association event. This bomb shell was dropped on the LHA just a few weeks ago, which is certainly less than fair ball. There is no plan for the Yorkers to support this BAR event

Bennington: Turning Point in Burgoyne Campaign

August 16 is the 225th anniversary of the battle of Bennington. In many respects, this battle was the turning point in Burgoyne's ill-fated campaign.

By the end of July, 1777 General John Burgoyne's push to Albany had reached Fort Edward (east of present day Glens Falls). At Albany he expected to join General Howe's army advancing from New York City and St. Leger's force descending from the Mohawk Valley. The further south Burgoyne pushed however, the longer and less secure his supply line became. In an effort to obtain needed food, horses, wagons, and draft animals, he selected Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum to lead an expedition into Vermont to forage for supplies. Hearing that the rebel storehouses at Bennington were poorly defended, Burgoyne ordered Baum to take them. Baum's force numbered 723 all ranks and included:

Prinz Ludwig Dragoons	16/205
Grenadier Battalion	1/24
Light Battalion	2/57
Line Infantry Detach	1/37
Hesse-Hanau Artillery	1/13
Queen's Loyal Rangers	150+
Corp of Select Marksmen	2/48
Local Loyalists	56
Indians	100+

They would face 2,150 New Hampshire and Vermont troops under John Stark and Seth Warner.

Baum set out on the forty-mile trek to Bennington on August 11. One of his officers later wrote that "one prodigious forest, bottomed in swamps and morasses, covered the whole face of the country." The raiders met and drove off a rebel scouting party at Sancoicks Mills on August 14. After

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

dispatching a request for reinforcements, Baum advanced four miles to a 300-foot hill overlooking the Walloomsac River. Only five miles from Bennington, Baum's men entrenched on and around this hill.

At 3:00 p.m. on August 16 Stark and Warner launched a simultaneous attack on Baum's front, flanks and rear. Baum had posted his dragoons with one gun and half of the Marksmen behind a log breastwork on top of the hill. The fighting was heaviest and casualties greatest in the area of this redoubt. Stark later described the battle as "one continuous clap of thunder." The battle continued for two hours before the hill was finally taken. When ammunition ran out and Baum fell mortally wounded, morale collapsed and the survivors surrendered. On the other side of the Walloomsac River the Canadian and Indian positions were overrun, as were the positions held by the British and German contingents.

Just as Stark's men began plundering Baum's camp, word arrived that a 644-man relief column was approaching under LtCol Breymann. Stark and Warner halted Breymann's advance on the road and then poured around both his flanks. With his ammunition almost gone, Breymann ordered a withdrawal. "But had daylight lasted one hour longer," Stark reported later, "we should have taken the whole body of them."

Bennington was a major setback for Burgoyne. Baum and over two hundred of his men were dead, and most of the remainder (some 700) was taken prisoner. And for all the loss of troops, Burgoyne failed to obtain his needed supplies.

As a point of interest, the battle of Bennington actually took place in what is now the state of New York. The Bennington monument is situated in the town of Bennington on the site of the armoury that Baum was sent to capture. Vermont's only state holiday commemorates a battle which took place outside state boundaries.

Yorker Connection to Bennington

About 150 of LtCol Francis Van Pfister's Loyal Volunteers served at Bennington. Van Pfister lost his life there. When they returned to Burgoyne, loyalist Capt Samuel Mackay was given command as a parachute candidate out of Burgoyne's staff. When he died at the close of command, Capt Robert Leake took command. He had been an original in the corps and had served at Bennington. From the residue, Leake was commanded to select a reinforced company of 100 and join the 1Bn KRR NY, which he did, and Leake's Independent Coy became the de facto 11th coy of the 1Bn. When the 2Bn was formed, Leake's Coy was absorbed and formed the core of veterans on which the 2Bn was based. Leake became senior captain and when John Ross returned to the 34th after the peace, Leake became the major.

LtCol Gavin Watt

\$\$\$ Thornhill Parade \$\$\$ Saturday, September 21

Thornhill is one of the few paid events we do each year. This income helps the Regiment subsidize the cost of insurance and mailings. In order to earn our wages, we must provide a set number of troops, participate in the morning parade and conduct several military demonstrations throughout the afternoon. Music is always an important part of this event, so the Yorker Fifes & Drums are encouraged to attend.

Date: Saturday, September 21

Location: Thornhill, Dudley St.

Assembly Time: 10:30 a.m.

Parade: 11:00 a.m.

Bring: 20 cartridges

Directions: Take Yonge St. to Thornhill. Turn east at the lights at Clarke. Go one block to Dudley, where you turn left (north). Go past the school to the church parking lot on the right (east) side. You can park in the church lot.



Drums At Hubbardton

As this weekend's (*Hubbardton*) commander, I'd like to formally recognize a particular element of the Brigade for a superior performance that more than contributed to the success of the whole. You might think I mean the Lights (who were splendid) or the Queen's Rangers (who climbed the hill like heroes) or even the CSM... but I mean the music.

No other subunit of the Northern Bde had such a concrete influence on the good of the whole. It was wonderful to have them, and their performance added to ours in action, on parade, on the march, and in camp.

Christian Cameron, Brigade Commander, Hubbardton

Battle of Saratoga ~ Stillwater, NY ~ Oct 12 & 13

Our last event of the 2002 campaign season will take place on October 12 & 13. This event commemorates the 225th anniversary of the battle of Bemis Heights (Second Battle of Saratoga). Saratoga was considered the turning point of the Revolution, and was one of the last major battles in the north. After this, most of the big anniversary reenactments will shift south out of our driving range.

This event is being organized by a group of local citizens and will be held on private property near Saratoga National Historical Park. Battle scenarios will include the recreation of the Balcarrés' and Breymann's redoubts. This will be one of the largest events of the year, with support promised from the B.A.R., British Brigade and Continental Line.

October 12 & 13 of course is

Thanksgiving weekend, so you may want to begin negotiations now, so that the family gathering doesn't happen until Monday when you are back home.

More detailed information will be available in the next Newsletter concerning this event. In the mean time, circle these dates on your calendar.

Lady Fritz Goes To War

We are all too familiar with the battlefield accounts of the Rev War combatants, but rarely have the opportunity to hear the experiences of the women

who followed the army to war. Frederika von Riedesel, the wife of Baron von Riedesel recorded her experiences in a journal that she kept

throughout the Burgoyne campaign. As we prepare to attend the 225th anniversary of the battle at Saratoga, it is interesting to read this behind-the-scenes account of her observations. These excerpts are taken from the book, "The Baroness and the General" by Louise Hall Tharp. The passage starts on October 7, as Lady Fritz busied herself with preparations for a dinner that was planned for Generals Burgoyne, Fraser, Phillips and her husband. She was not aware that a major battle was already underway.

Back at the house on the Hudson, opposite the field of battle the table had been set for dinner. She tried to shut out of her mind the terrifying roar of cannon from the nearby hill as she concentrated on her wifely duties. With all those generals coming, it must be a good dinner! The room was a pleasant one, rather large, with a low ceiling and a big fireplace where meat was turning on a spit. Even the cook who was such a rascal had not been able to get meat lately, but they had saved a shoulder of pork for just such an occasion. A long trestle table was set up by the fire with benches and various assorted chairs pulled up to it. General Riedesel's camp kit included a good many plates, cups, knives and two-pronged forks. Nothing was elegant from the point of view of a Baroness, but Mrs. General achieved a homelike atmosphere wherever she went. She would have been happy – if only those guns would stop.

"About three o'clock in the afternoon, in place of the guests who were to have dined," a litter came to her

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

door. They were bringing General Fraser, "mortally wounded."

"The table was taken away and in its place they fixed a bed for General Fraser. I sat in the corner of the room, trembling. The noise kept growing louder. The thought that they might bring me my husband, in the same condition, tormented me incessantly," the Baroness said.

"General Fraser spoke to the surgeon, 'Conceal nothing from me. Must I die?'" The wound was abdominal, as Major Harnage's had been. By a miracle Major Harnage was recovering; but there was no hope for General Fraser. He suffered greatly and "amidst his groans" the Baroness heard him speak of his wife — and of "poor General Burgoyne." Prayers were read, and General Fraser asked that he be buried "next day at six o'clock on top of a hill which was a sort of redoubt." Burgoyne always called this "the great redoubt."

By the end of the day on October 7 it was evident that things were not going well.

"We had been told that we had gained an advantage over the enemy," said Mrs. General Riedesel. But she knew better. She "could see by the downcast, sorrowful faces that the opposite was true." In the house where she lived "the whole entry and the other rooms were already filled with the sick, who were suffering from camp sickness," for that scourge of armies, dysentery, had broken out with great violence. Now the wounded were being brought in, and there was no place to lay them.

"I no longer knew which way to turn," Frederika said, "but finally I saw my husband coming and then I forgot all my sufferings and thanked God that he had been spared to me. We went outside and ate a hasty meal. Before my husband went away again he drew me to one side and told me that everything might go badly and that I must make ready to leave, but by no means to let anyone know what I was doing."

... "Milady Acland occupied a tent" in the field close to the house under the hill. "She slept in the tent but spent her days in camp" just as Lady Fritz



Lady Acland was delivered to the rebel camp to care for her mortally wounded husband who was captured at Saratoga.

had been doing, and she had come back to her tent when the action began on the heights of Saratoga. Toward evening "someone came to tell her that her husband was mortally wounded and in the hands of the enemy." Lady Acland "wept and we comforted her," said Mrs. General.

"She was the loveliest of women. I spent the night first comforting her and then looking after my children. As for myself, I could not go to sleep, as I had General Fraser and all the other wounded gentlemen in my room and I was afraid that my children would cry and disturb them." The little girls were huddled together in a corner on their camp mattress.

"General Fraser often sent to beg my pardon for making so much trouble. About three in the morning they told me he could not last much longer. I wrapped my children in blankets and went with them into the entry." General Fraser died about eight o'clock. "After they had washed the corpse, they wrapped it in a sheet and laid it on the bedstead. We came back into the room and had this sad sight before us all day."

"Officers that I knew kept coming in, and the cannonade began again. Retreat was spoken of but not the least movement made toward it. About five in the afternoon" Mrs. General "saw the house" that Major Williams had built for her "go up in flames. So the

enemy was close."

The Baroness was a witness to General Fraser's burial.

... "Precisely at six o'clock the corpse was brought out." Madam Riedesel was living so near that she had but to step out of the house to watch the cortege of "all the generals and their staffs" winding up the steep hill to the great redoubt. Drums beat the long roll as the procession mounted slowly. At the top of the hill the English Chaplain, Mr. Brudenel, read the service for the dead. Cannon balls "soared continually over the party or landed among them" with a vicious thud, sending up sprays of dirt. "Many cannon balls sped through the air not far from me," said Mrs. General, "but I had my eyes fixed on the hill, where I distinctly saw my husband in the midst of the enemy's fire."

And so on October 8 the retreat began.

"The order had gone forth that the army should break up after the burial and the horses were already harnessed to our calashes," said Mrs. General, speaking for herself and the other officers' wives. ... We traveled continually all night," said Mrs. General. Little Frederika was afraid and began to cry, and her mother had to "hold a handkerchief over her mouth lest our whereabouts should be discovered. At six in the morning a halt was called at

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

which everyone wondered." ... Burgoyne "gave as his excuse that he wanted to refresh the troops and give time to the bateaux, loaded with provisions ... to come abreast."

General Riedesel "was completely exhausted and seated himself, during this delay, in my calash... He slept nearly three hours with his head on my shoulder. In the meantime, Captain



Burial of General Simon Fraser

Willoe brought me his pocketbook containing bank bills, and Captain Geismar brought his beautiful watch, a ring and a well-filled purse and begged me to keep all these for him."

... "We spent the whole day in the pouring rain, ready to march at a moment's notice," wrote the Baroness Riedesel on the ninth of October. ... "The savages had lost their courage and they were seen going home, in all directions. My maid-servant did nothing but curse her fate and tear her hair. I told her to compose herself or she would be taken for a Savage but she tore off her bonnet and let her hair hang down over her face. But my good Lena," the children's nurse, who had come all the way from Germany, "said nothing although she was just as frightened. Toward evening, we came at last to Saratoga, which was only half an hour's march from the place where we spent the whole day. I was wet through and through and there was no place where I could change my clothes so I sat down before a good fire, undressed my children and we lay down together on some straw."

BATTLE OF THE FLOCKEY

Gavin's latest book, *The Battle of the Flockey - The Defeat of the Tory Uprising in the Schoharie Valley*, tells the story of a group of Loyalists who took a stand in anticipation of St. Leger's push from Fort Stanwix into the Mohawk Valley. In August, 1777 the Schoharie district became the focal point of the largest Loyalist uprising that emanated from the Burgoyne campaign.

A growing corps of Loyalists in Albany and Tryon Counties stirred to action. Adam Crysler of Vrooman's Land in the Schoharie Valley recruited some 70 men and most of the Schoharie Indians to join Burgoyne. Other Crown supporters in surrounding settlements raised more than 200 and waited to join those at Schoharie. The most surprising of these loyalist leaders was Capt. George Mann of the Schoharie militia, who on August 8 declared himself a "friend of King George". He drew some followers from his assembled troops, who were about to march off to join the American army gathering to oppose Burgoyne. Within days of Mann's declaration, Crysler was joined by "Spanish" John McDonell, who was sent to the area by Sir John Johnson to help raise troops for the British campaign. Together, Crysler and McDonell seized control of the southern end of the valley, while Mann shut off travel and communication from the northern end at Foxestown, near the Old Stone Fort. The only resistance came from a handful of defenders holed up between them at Johannes Becker's stone house in Weyerstown, called "Fort Defyance."

Col. John Harper rode through the Loyalist lines to Albany and returned on Aug. 13th with a 28-man troop of the 2nd Continental Light Horse. Upon arriving in Schoharie, Harper rounded up Loyalists at Mann's Tavern. To quote from Gavin's book:

On Wednesday morning, the loyalists encamped at Mann's Tavern had finished their breakfast and were paraded to receive a loyal oration by the captain when his dia-

tribe was rudely interrupted by the startling martial call of a bugle-horn. If Mann had taken the precaution to post a piquet, the sentinel must have been simply overwhelmed when the horsemen appeared like a bolt of lightning out of the blue. Into the tavern's yard thundered the Dragoons with sabers drawn. The jangle of harness, flash of naked steel and blaring bugle were simply too much. The Tories were dumbstruck. Mann ran off to save his skin, which did nothing to rally their spirits.

After marching prisoners to Fort Defyance, Harper led the Light Horse, his own small ranger company and some of the Schoharie militia against the remaining Loyalists. They had retreated to Crysler's farm in the upper part of Vrooman's Land, which was near a low, flat flood plain referred to by the native Germans as "Die Flache." Die Flache, which may be translated as "the flats," was corrupted to become "the Flockey". The battle that ensued is now known as the Battle of the Flockey. The Loyalists prepared an ambush for the pursuing rebels:

The Tories sprung their ambush with a crashing volley that unhorsed

(Continued on page 8)



Col Harper rides for help

(Continued from page 7)

five riders. De Vernejoux, the experienced combat officer, immediately rallied his men and ordered them forward before the foe could reload. Trumpeter Conley blew the Charge and the troopers spurred their horses off the road and through the stream and bog at the base of the slope. As the cavalry drove towards them, the men who had fired jumped from cover and dodged up the slope through the trees and scrub. Their flight goaded the troopers forward and they hurtled towards the fleeing Tories and Indians, discharging their pistols and raising their sabers. Suddenly, McDonell's hidden second line fired and ten more saddles were emptied. In the confusion of swirling horses and swinging sabers, McDonell's men ran for the woods where they knew the cavalry would have difficulty maneuvering.

The Loyalists were scattered and the uprising quashed, but as we all know, the Schoharie region had not seen the last of the King's men.

If you would like to read the detailed account of this fascinating episode in Loyalist history, you can get a copy of Gavin's new book for the low price of \$10 (Cdn). It's an excellent read and an important addition to your growing library of books by our Colonel.

Loyalist Day 2002

Loyalist Day and the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, June 19, 2002, was attended by Cpl. Alex Lawrence of the Grenadiers, Pte. Steven Fox and Pte. Ron Atkins of Duncan's Coy. From the Distaff side, Anne Lawrence, and Brenda & Mackenzie Atkins were also in attendance.

Various dignitaries were present including (in no particular order):

Hon. J.K. Bartleman, Lt. Gov

Alex Roman, Office of the Speaker

Hon. G. Carr, MPP Oakville

Hon. G. Dunlop, MPP Simcoe North

Ft. York Drums, Mike Putnam, Dr. Mjr.

Peter Fleming, piper

John Webster, Town Crier & Mary, his Official Wife

Rev. Dr. H. Shepard, Chaplain, Q.Y.R. Q.Y.R.

Nina Burnham, Six Nations

Carolyn King, former Chief, Mississaugas of the New Credit

Garry Toffoli, Director, Canadian Royal Heritage Trust

Myrna Fox, President, U.E.L.A. of C.

John Warburton, President, Toronto Branch, U.E.L.A. of C. Gov. of Can., Cdn. Heritage Dept.

The proceedings began with the playing of *God Save The Queen* by the Fort York Drums, followed by words of welcome from N. Burnham of the Six Nations, G. Dunlop and G. Carr. M. Fox presented a Queen Anne / Grand Union Flag to the Lieutenant Governor, which he raised with the assistance of his Aide and Ron Atkins. The K.R.R.N.Y. marked the joyous occasion by executing a single, crisp volley that reverberated over Queen's Park. (At this point it was necessary for Queen's Park Security to detain a person, awakened by the volley, who approached the assembly yelling, "Armageddon Is Coming"). The Lieutenant Governor then addressed the crowd and inspected the troops. After the official ceremonies, a tour of the Parliament Buildings was provided, illustrating the Loyalist influences throughout the interior of the main building. It was a truly revealing and fascinating tour.



Ron Atkins, Duncan's Coy

Muskets in the KRR NY

Lately, to the distress of some members, I have been taking a very liberal view with regard to the pattern of musket which we employ in the KRR. After reading Eric Goldstein's wonderful book "The Socket Bayonet in the British Army 1687-1783", I concluded that all Rev War units, and in particular Provincials such as us, were supplied with an incredible variety of arms, both flintlocks and edged weapons.

Many original reports and letters can be found pointing to the shortages of good arms of both varieties. Todd Braisted, the great NJV researcher, sent me the following letter from Sir John written to Major Richard Lernoult, 8th Regt, who was serving as

Adjutant General of the Canadian Department in 1781.

"Montreal 6th Sepr. 1781.

Sir

I was favoured with your letter of 3rd Instant, and have Signified to Mr. Piety the Generals Permission for him to go to England this fall to Settle his private Affairs.

The great deficiency of Arms in my Regiment, and the badness and Variety of those they have, makes me desirous of Exchanging them Which I beg you will lay the necessity of before the Commander in Chief, as I understand a good Supply of Arms is Arrived.

I have near thirty fine fellows prisoners among the Rebels Who I wish, if

any exchange takes place, might not be forgot.

I have the honor to be with great Esteem Sir

Your Most Obedt.

Humble Servant

John Johnson

Major Lernoult A.G."

(Great Britain, Public Record Office, War Office, Class 28, Volume 5. folio 48)

The point of reprinting this letter is to provide an answer for those who are concerned about India Pattern muskets appearing in our ranks. To be sure, that exact pattern was not on issue in North America during the rebellion, but we may be assured that very similar, shorter barrelled versions were.

The Colonel