



The Fusilier

The Official Newsletter of the Royal Welch Fusiliers in America

August 2015

First and foremost, I hope that you took the time honour the heroic actions of our predecessors in the ranks of the 23rd Regiment of Foot on the 1st August in the fields of Minden.

I apologize for the delay in this dispatch, but I was part of the force that was directed to meet a rebel threat near the village of Sturbridge in the troublesome province of Massachusetts. A detailed report is contained in the following pages.

In addition, this edition of the Fusilier includes a couple of key updates both to our website, personnel advancements and information on contributing to Regimental donation to a monument being constructed to honour the efforts of British Arms at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in March of 1781, during which the Royal Welch Fusiliers were heavily engaged.

More information is forthcoming shortly on the next month's expedition to relieve Genl. Burgoyne's beleaguered force near Fort Ticonderoga in the province of New York.

I am with great regard,

Major S.P. Reilly
Commanding

I. Administrative

- a. **Website:** The new website: www.rwfia.org is now fully operational. Mike Miller put a lot of time and effort into the design and updating of this site to make it more current and user friendly.

On behalf of the officers and men of the 23rd, thank you very much Mike, for all of your efforts in the redesigning and implementation of the organizational website.

- b. **Advancements:** One of the most rewarding and challenging parts of command is to recognize those individuals who made and continue to make significant contributions to the organization through promotion into positions of increased responsibility. This process ensures the longevity of the organization through placing the best people in the positions where they can immediately and positively impact the organization. It also encourages others to participate and support the organization in the hopes of potential advancement.

I hope that you will take the time to congratulate those listed on the promotion list below when you have the opportunity.

Light Infantry Company: For his outstanding support, Private Mike Miller is advanced to the rank of Lance-Corporal effective, 1 September 2015. In response to a tasker, Mike voluntarily took on the role of website redesign and within a few months redeveloped and updated the organizational website. This tool is critical for the 23rd to promote the Regiment and connect with a worldwide audience in a cost effective manner. As the senior ranking Light Infantryman, Mike will now oversee the recruitment and training of the 23rd's elite Light Infantry Company.

Grenadier Company: In recognition of his outstanding initiative and support, Private Justin Parker is advanced to the rank of Lance-Corporal. His efforts in rebuilding the 23rd's presence in the New York City include coordinating with Old Bethpage Village for a one day event (10 October). This event will assist in unit recruiting efforts and provide an opportunity for the men of the 23rd to improve their soldiering skills. The date of rank is effective, 1 September 2015.

Regimental Headquarters:

Serjeant Paul Astle is advanced to the rank of Regimental Serjeant Major effective 1 January 2016. Paul is the long serving Serjeant of the Colonel's Company and is noted for his frequent attendance at events as well as his knowledge of 18th Century soldiering. His active participation, extensive knowledge and temperament make him the ideal candidate for an office of such importance.

David Leslie-Hughes is advanced to the rank of Gentleman Volunteer (with advancement to Lieutenant when requirements are met), which corresponds with his duty position as Regimental Adjutant. In this role, David serves as the Regimental administrative manager, and also the primary legal and financial advisor to the commander. To aid strengthening ties with the UK, David (formerly an Officer in 4th BN, RWF) will be developing connections with UK diplomatic and military officials based in the US to see if and how the RWFIA can support them. He will maintain his Fusilier kit and will field appropriately depending on event requirements. The effective date of promotion is 1 September 2015.

Regimental Serjeant-Major Steve Raby is advanced to the rank of Gentleman Volunteer (with advancement to Captain when requirements are met) and command of the GCLICC effective 1 January 2016. Steve is one of the longest serving members of the 23rd, holding the ranks of Corporal and Serjeant of the Light Infantry Company in addition to his current rank. His extensive knowledge of military affairs is also reflected through his appointment to the Serjeant-Major of the British Brigade. Like Mr. Astle, Steve can be relied upon to attend several events each season.

The delay in the promotion process for both Mr. Astle and Mr. Raby was necessitated to allow Steve to fulfill his obligations as the Brigade Serjeant-Major and for the Brigadier to select his replacement. It will also allow time for both Mr. Astle and Mr. Raby to transition to their new duties.

The promotion ceremonies for all listed above will be conducted to next month's Fort Ticonderoga event. Company Commanders should advise the Regimental Commander on any promotions within their ranks so that we can appropriately recognize them at next month's event.

II. Operations:

An Account of the Actions in Sturbridge Village Massachusetts, August 1st and 2nd

On the morning of August 1st, a section of the 23rd under the command of Major Reilly arrived in the village to meet a possible rebel threat in the area. Major Ford, who was originally assigned to command, was unable to command due to transportation problems. The ranks of the 23rd on the first of August included Regt Drum Major J. Siegel, Serjeant Astle, Corporal Price, Privates K. Siegel, M. Miller and Recruits Leslie-Hughes and A. Miller. Upon arriving at the town the 23rd was brigaded with the Foot Guards and 24th Regiment of Foot under the command of Mr. Novotny.

The village was an impressive array of buildings including a grist mill, blacksmith's and cooper's shops. The Colours were marched on in the morning and we joined the with 10th Regiment of Foot's mess at midday. The rebel army appeared later that afternoon and we were drawn onto fields, crisscrossed in rectangular fashion with timber fencing, making maneuvering and keeping line integrity difficult.

The rebels were initially engaged by the Rangers and Lights from the 64th, who provided ample time for the line infantry to deploy. Once in line we directed a brisk fire upon the rebels and a regiment of their frog allies. Continual, well-directed fires and rapid advances drove the rebels off the field, back through the town, securing it for His Majesty's Forces and those Loyal to the Crown.

In honour of the laurels gained and in tribute to the Heroes of Minden, Fusilier Siegel hosted a dinner at a local establishment in addition to generously providing quarters to the section of the 23rd on this excursion. While we were comfortably resting in our quarters, the rebel army was being heavily reinforced and would attack the next day.

Undaunted and determined to take the town, rebels reappeared on the afternoon of the 2nd. Corporal Price had been detached to attend to commitments in Connecticut and was spared the carnage of the day. The 23rd was placed in the center of the Crown line along with the Foot Guards and 54th. Their attack began innocently enough as two guns and rebel skirmishers appeared on our right and were instantaneously engaged by the Rangers and were later reinforced by the 10th. There was a marsh, with a bridge running over it to our right, which separated the center from the right elements of the army. The attack on the right, was followed by an attack upon the center, which necessitated the 23rd to secure the area near the bridge. The brave Fusiliers held their ground against the rebels, until a large rebel division appeared on our left marching through the town. The right and center were also reinforced and their advance required us to withdraw to avoid being cut off from the main line. Once in a reestablished line, the men of the 23rd conducted themselves with precision and poise as overwhelming numbers of rebels converged on the thin, red line. Serjeant Astle was the first to fall to enemy fire, followed by Recruit Leslie-Hughes and finally Fusilier Siegel heroically manned a fence post, providing fire while the rest of the Brigade withdrew, succumbing to the murderous fire of the enemy. The Millers, the splendid Father and Son Lights, continued to fire into the unrelenting rebel advance, until they ran out of rounds. The Millers, Drum Major Siegel and I were spared on this day to recount the stories of the brave Fusiliers in their heroic defence of Sturbridge Village on the 1st and 2nd of August. A report of the 23rd actions on the 1st and 2nd of August was forwarded via dispatch to His Excellency's Headquarters in the City of New York.

A. Guilford Courthouse Monument

The Guilford Battleground Company is raising funds to create and emplace a monument on the battlefield that commemorates the service and sacrifice made by Crown Forces soldiers during the battle.

To recognize the critical role the 23rd played in the battle and the sacrifices of made by its men, the RWFIA will be making a consolidated contribution for the monument. All ranks are encouraged, on a voluntary basis, to make a donation—there is no set dollar amount—whatever you feel comfortable giving.

Instructions:

--Make check payable to “Royal Welch Fusiliers in American”; annotate GCH Monument Donation in remarks area of check.

--Mail check to the Adjutant, Lieut. David Leslie-Hughes, P.O. Box 73, Mechanicsville, PA 18934

--David will consolidate the funds and mail a check on behalf of the RWFIA to the Guilford Battleground Company.

--Please send any donations by November 1st, 2015 to David.

B. Events:

Colour Event: Fort Ticonderoga, 12-13 Sept 15

Secondary Events:

14-16 August (GLICC): Boone’s Homestead, Birdsboro (near Reading), PA

3 October (GLICC): Battle of Germantown, Philadelphia, PA

10 October--Tentative (GLICC): Old Bethpage Village, Old Bethpage (Long Island, NY)—Justin Parker is setting up this event and is in the process of finalizing the details—more to follow in the upcoming months

7-8 November (GLICC): Hope Lodge Encampment, Fort Washington, PA

22 November (GLICC): Retreat Day, New Bridge Landing Park, Rivers Edge, NJ.

2016 Events:

24-28 February (ALL) St Kitts:

11-13 March: (Capt. Horsefall's Company)—Battle of Guilford Courthouse

III. Quartermaster

a. Regimentally authorized tailors/seamstresses

- i. Carl Johnson
3508 Mill Stream Place
Greensboro, NC 27410
Phone: (704) 957-9108
Email: carlivar@yahoo.com
- ii. Heather Chaffee
15010 Victory Blvd. #102
Van Nuys, Ca 91411
Phone: (201) 450-6153
Email: Heath51937@aol.com

A. 1764 Manual Exercise (as taken from Grenadier Coy NCO Manual)

1. Poise your Firelocks
2. Cock your Firelocks
3. Present
4. Fire
5. Half Cock your Firelocks
6. Handle your Cartridge
7. Prime
8. Shut your Pans
9. Charge with Cartridge
10. Draw your Rammers
11. Ram down your Cartridge
12. Return your Rammer
13. Shoulder your Firelocks
14. Rest your Firelock
15. Order your Firelock
16. Ground your Firelocks
17. Take up your Firelocks
18. Rest your Firelocks
19. Shoulder your Firelocks

20. Secure your Firelocks
21. Shoulder your Firelocks
22. Fix your Bayonet
23. Shoulder your Firelocks
24. Present your Arms
25. To the Right Face
26. To the Right Face
27. To the Right About Face
28. To the Left Face
29. To the Left Face
30. To the Left About Face
31. Shoulder your Firelocks
32. Charge your Bayonets
33. Shoulder your Firelocks
34. Advance your Arms
35. Shoulder your Firelocks

His Majesty's
23rd Regiment of Foot
Royal Welch Fusiliers in America
Reenlistment for the Conflict in America

One of His Majesty's most distinguished Regiments is offering you the opportunity to obtain honour and glory known only to the 23rd through noble service in the present conflict. The term of this contract is for one year and encompasses supporting Army and Regimental operations throughout the troublesome 13 Colonies.

Each Fusilier is expected to help fund the Regimental treasury through the payment of Regimental dues of **\$20.00**; which does not include Company Fees. An addition fee of \$25.00 is required for membership in the Brigade of the American Revolution.

Company Commanders will consolidate their Company's funds and send the requisite amount to the Regimental Adjutant **no later than 15 March**. Make the check payable to: "Royal Welch Fusiliers in America". His post is:

Lieut. David Leslie-Hughes
P.O. Box 73
Mechanicsville, PA 18934

Failure to pay Regimental dues will result in being dropped from the Regimental muster rolls and prohibition from Regimental activities.

Cut and mail along with payment to Company Commander

Name:_____

Company:_____

Regimental Dues: \$20.00

Company Dues:_____

BAR Dues

(optional): \$25.00

Total Enclosed:_____

Primary Phone:_____

MailingAddress:_____

E-Mail Address:_____