



The Fusilier

The Official Newsletter of the Royal Welch Fusiliers in America

October/November 2015

I would like to start off this newsletter with deep, personal gratitude to the members of the 23rd. The past year has been a difficult one as we watched my Father-in-Law fight his illness. All of the prayers and notes of support we received from the RWFIA were greatly appreciated and show what a close knit and supportive organization we have. Sadly, for those of you who haven't heard, Linda's Dad passed away on October 25th. On behalf of Linda and our family, I would like to personally thank you for all of your support and express how truly honoured I am to belong to such a special unit.

Sincerely,

Shane

I. A Note on Winter Quarters

Upon closing this campaign season, I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your support and participation. The 23rd engaged in a number of events, maybe not in the numbers we have had in the past, but we were still there "showing the bearskin", which is the most important part. I think if we can continually make an effort to get out and support events, our numbers will steadily grow.

I intend to take this downtime to plan next year with the Commanders and Staff of the 23rd. I plan to have a command and staff call between Thanksgiving and Christmas to discuss next year's plan based on the BB schedule. I am also attending the annual meeting of the BB in January, after which I will have more information on events. In section III.b, I listed proposed BB events for next season for your review.

Take this down time to repair or replace old equipment as well as penciling in events on your calendar.

I look forward to seeing you all next season and thank you for all of your support.

II. Personnel

It is my great privilege to announce the advancement of Corporal Gregory Urwin to Lance-Serjeant in recognition of his contributions to the Regiment and his demonstrated leadership abilities. Lance-Serjeant Urwin is replacing RSM Paul Astle as the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer in the GLICC and will assist his commander, Gentleman Volunteer (soon to be Capt.) Stephen Raby. As always Greg thank you for your service and congratulations from His Majesty's (recreated) 23rd Regiment of Foot, Royal Welch Fusiliers in America!

III. Operations

a. Recent actions

These past three months have seen a lot of action in the North American campaign. The vast expanse of the rebellion saw His Majesty's Forces engaged from the forests around Fort Ticonderoga to the outlands of the city of New York to the towns surrounding the colonial capital itself, Philadelphia. I have copied reports from these engagements to illustrate the achievements of the 23rd in these actions and their contribution to the triumph of British Arms over these treasonous lawyers, farmers and shop keeps.

The following dispatch was composed by Captain Mack. He led a relief column to the aid of the Fort Ticonderoga garrison in the unforgiving forests and hills of New York:

“Saturday morning had us taking full head counts for morning returns to the brigade Sjt. Major Duffy. It was at that time I was informed that I would be in command of the regiment. We had a total turn out of 19 officers, NCO's and OR complete. Ken went to command the Brigade on horseback, but it appears he would only handle provost (not clear on the details there but I believe his horse, Cincinnati came up lame or skiddish). There was the father/son team that showed, we did the best we could but could only outfit the son and drilled him in camp until it was overkill, then we used him in the capacity of a runner so he could get some field time and make it worth his while. There was a good deal of alterations to the plans from the top (SOP), but we flexed fine. There was little for Jack to do as there were no other recruits that showed. We split the regiment into two platoons as we were informed we would be going in country and off-roading in a light bob capacity. Sjt. Astle was not versed in the maneuvers, I had read the manuals on how to conduct LI operations and took command, putting my limited knowledge into practice. Ken gave me a few tips to shave seconds and move faster. So we drilled at that in camp in a somewhat broken area prior to action. Out we went. Combat was fierce and brisk. We were grouped with the first foot guards that formed our far left flank. Off-roading and going in country we certainly went. We extended our line, utilized cover of trees, knelt behind felled timbers and managed to hold the position all the while enemy formations were moving at a manageable pace to try to turn our flank. When I believed we could extend no further, thankfully, elements of native allies

appeared from I cannot say where and successfully rolled them up. While they peeled back, we made an orderly withdrawal just behind where we were, that was out of a ravine moving up to the next higher hillock that afforded us better cover and higher ground to fire down upon them should they have made another attempt. We held the line and covered the retirement of the artillery in support.

We had a lad suffer a bit of heat, but everyone had a good time. Evening had a good deal of food, drink and good times.

Sunday morning due to sporadic rain, most of the schedule was cancelled, but the main battle still was on and the weather reports looked promising. We changed up the itinerary a bit. We formed the regiment and commenced with promotion ceremonies first while the weather looked good. Jack and I found an excellent officer's sash that was proper and correct from one of the sutlers and we bought it for Raby. We subsequently presented it to him as a gift from the regiment with many congratulations. We also promoted Astle to Sjt. Mjr. The other recruits were not present to do anything else. The weather held and we fought and hustled quite a great deal. Falling back and shoring up holes in the line surrounding the fort. The American turnout was frightening enough and thankfully, their slow lumbering progress coupled with their mob-like advance made managing their overwhelming numbers more possible. Eventually we suffered great casualties from their continuous ragged fire. We were pushed back to the fort walls at our backs, but held out long enough for successful withdrawal of cannon and other critical elements to find refuge within the fortress walls.

Battle ended promptly at 1345, and camp breakdown went extremely rapidly as the weather would only hold out until 1500. At that time, everything was down, stowed, and beginning evac as the sky just opened up confirming once again God is British.”

In early October, the overconfident forces of Mr. Washington were taught a costly lesson in military tactics during an engagement in Germantown near Philadelphia. The Crown Forces, including the 23rd, were initially caught off guard by a rebel attack. Prudently, British commanders, including Major Morgan (who led the 23rd on this day) directed their troops into the large stone mansion of a local resident, Benjamin Chew. The rebels applied costly frontal assaults and even brought their ineffective artillery to bear, but to no effect. His Majesty's troops maintained their safety in the house while inflicting heavy casualties on the amateur troops. In face of the carnage, Mr. Washington withdrew his forces and General Howe's outpost was secured by the determination of his troops and his Regiment.

In an effort to gather support in the colony of New York, (Grenadier)Lance-Corporal Justin Parker led a small party into Old Bethpage Village. Joined by GV Raby and RSM Astle, the contingent educated the publick on soldiering in the Army. They were able to get three from the audience to “take the shilling”! Our numbers continue to increase as word of the 23rd's appearance in garrison and tenacity on the battlefield attract recruits to our Colours.

Finally, a small force under the command of Major Reilly was dispatched to another troubled area near Philadelphia where the rebels gathered. Four sharp actions were fought, with the 23rd holding the right of the line in each action. Fusiliers continued to aggressively press the rebels defending a small earthwork, overrunning the ramparts and putting every rebel without a clubbed musket to the sword. In defense of the redoubt, the 23rd expended all of its powder and without hesitation charged a much larger force. The blaze of rebel muskets fell the entire line, but preserved the glory of those who sacrificed all for King and Country.

b. Campaign Plan for 2016

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL FUSILIERS FROM Maj. SIEGEL

Major Siegel is leading an expedition of His Majesty's Forces, including the 23rd Regt. of Foot, to defend the isle of St. Kitts from a Bourbon invasion fleet. Here is the announcement and details from the Major:

“The St Kitts event is scheduled for 24-28 February 2016. The event is essentially the same as in the past, arrival on Wednesday, transport to Brimstone Hill Fort and dinner, Thursday and Friday drill, and battles, and all meals, Saturday a day off to enjoy the island (no meals provided), Sunday breakfast and transport to airport. Billeting inside the fort with modern plumbing including showers.

Participation: British regulars, in late war kit, ALL musket firing enlisted men, prepared to portray French soldiers during the battles in white small clothes (total massacre for the French), half as French each battle, others as British along with 20+ West Indian Regiment soldiers and artillerymen (all regular St Kitts and Nevis Defense Force soldiers properly uniformed and armed per 1780...we have reinforced since 2014). Actual command on the ground will be by Don Beale and Ken Siegel. 23rd Rgt and British Brigade Drum Major will be there providing music.

No problem bringing muskets onto the island! Obviously, powder will be provided BUT cartridges will need to be made, so bring papers.

Overall commander, Don Beale. Executive officer and French commander for battles, Ken Siegel.

Travel: Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements. Plane fare will be refunded in full for musket firing, enlisted soldier participants. Costumed Regimental women MAY come and be housed and fed but they will not have their air fare refunded. Participants may of course come early and stay late and make their own lodging arrangements before and after the event dates. Round trip airfare ranges from \$800 to \$1300 New York to St Kitts. This will vary depending on when one travels and where from. Most travel will involve changing planes in Miami both ways.

In order to participate one must contact Don Beale by e-mail at contact@royalist16.us and ask to participate. There is a limit of thirty (30) places available for travel reimbursement and it will be first reserve, first come! Upon being accepted by Don you must make your plane reservations, pay for them, and send a copy of your reservation to Don, copy to Ken Siegel at rangerken98@earthlink.net, and you will immediately receive a check for the plane fare. Those who attended two years ago know that this happens at once with NO delay!”

5-6 March: St. David's Day

I am working with Malcom (Mark Hagenbuch) of the 42nd to reserve a restored 18th Century tavern for the WEEKEND! The location is in Dillsburg, PA, just outside of

Carlisle, PA and about ½ hour north of Gettysburg. My intent is to have members show up on Friday night or Saturday morning, get kitted out so that we can practice drill, manual exercise, posting sentries—everything except for firing. On Saturday night would be a catered dinner and the best part is, is that we can stay overnight in the tavern to make it a truly memorable experience. Dr. Urwin, a distinguished History Professor (when not slaying rebels), offered to take us on an abbreviated battlefield staff ride of Gettysburg if there is enough interest. We will ditch the 18th Century kit and go in modern clothes if we do decide to go there.

David Leslie Hughes is working on an event for the Welsh Society of Philadelphia on that Sunday evening. The requirement would be a Colour Guard and provides a great opportunity to show off the Regiment.

12-13 Mar: Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina

30 Apr -1 May: Mount Vernon, VA

14-15 May: Army Heritage Days, Carlisle, PA

4-5 Jun: Meadow Mills, VA

19-21 Aug: Royal Military College, St. Jean Sur Richelieu (Quebec)

17-18 Sep: Monmouth, NJ

1 Oct (?): Battle of Germantown, Philadelphia, PA

5-6 Nov: Hope Lodge, PA

II. Quartermaster

As an Army Reserve Logistician, it gives me great honour to salute those who have gone the extra length to help build the camaraderie and esprit-de-corps through the campfire and cooking pot. Dennis Murphy took the Regimental cookware, cleaned it and used it to provide hearty and delicious meals to Capt. Mack's column engaged at Ticonderoga. Keith Spaar (aka SPAARCOM [East])—yes the Spaars are large enough to have their own commands—cooked delicious meals and employed his entire family to support the effort at Hope Lodge. It was great to see SPAARMCP (Main Command Post) who thoroughly enjoyed the meals as well. SPAARCOM (South) and SPAARCOM (West) would have been proud. Thank you all very much for your efforts. These measures will go a long way in building the strength of our Regiment!

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: _____