



The Flash

Col's Co, RWF in America

December 2015

Hope Lodge After Action

This was its usual fun event. I did miss Saturday but turned out for Sunday as did several other members of the RWF and we had a couple of highlanders brigaded with us.

The people running the event seemed to have trouble counting to three but that was their hang up. He looked good and put on a good show for the public storming the rebel redoubt and scattering them before us.

Winter Quarters

With the end of the official season we go into 'winter quarters.' Don't just fold up your kit and pack it away. Before it goes away give it a good cleaning. Checked to see what needed to be repaired and maybe even what you need to replace. Check buttons on coats, small clothes, gaiters (we have a lot of buttons don't we?) and see if your leathers need a new coat of white on them.

Most importantly strip down your muskets and give them a top to bottom cleaning. An especially good idea is to rub some wood oil into the stock around the lock where it gets especially dried out by the heat of the weapon firing.

Remember the stuff you do now is, stuff you don't have to do in the spring where you take the kit out again. Personally I find little more aggravating than discovering something I forgot to do in the minutes that I'm packing the car to go out the door.

Big turnouts and the self-fulfilling prophecy

I'm going to get just a little preachy here because on my way to Ti, I had an epiphany. Over time I've heard people lament "is it going to be a big event? I'm only going if it's big." The problem is if everyone thinks like that it become self-fulfilling. People are afraid of a small turnout, so they stay home and so ensure a smaller turnout.

Driving up to Ti I'd be lying if I didn't have my own doubts. Somewhere around Poughkeepsie New York, after I'd been on the road a few hours and knew I had at least four more hours ahead of me, I wondered 'why am I doing this?' I could go home and spend the weekend with my wife, sleep in a bed etc. Would they miss me? Would I weaken it that much by my one body staying home? Most of you know I can be loud, but I can also be damn stubborn.

And I realized 'yes' it makes a difference because that's just one body. And if five guys had that same thought, that was five bodies and so on until we have almost no one showing. I wasn't going to be the guy to let the side down. I went on to Ti and I had a great event and felt sorry for the guys who couldn't or didn't make it.

Would I have liked to have had 70 fusiliers charging through the woods? You bet. But I had a great time and some of my best memories of the hobby have been around small groups. There were five of us around the campfire at Old Tappan when the police wanted to know what was burning, an event marked by the Princess Diana memorial and Murphy's famed pork accordion.

So when you're packing the car and wondering 'do I want to do this?' say the answer is 'yes damn it!' because that is why we do the hobby and because you don't want to make the idea of a low turnout self-fulfilling.

Dues

OK we're into that season, we've come to that time of the year when we need to all pony up to cover the cost of our insurance and such so we can go out and play with explosives and pointy items and stuff like that there.

Just sneak the check in with the holiday bills and you won't even feel it. As opposed to the next few months of me writing about them if there's a delay

The dues are

Regimental	\$20
Col's company	\$10
Total	\$30

If you want to also have BAR membership for 2015 that is an additional
\$25.

For a total of \$55

Make the check out to Colonel's Company RWFIA and mail it to me at
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