



The Fusilier

October 2016

Friends and Fellow Fusiliers,

There are a couple of very important health related matters that I bring to your attention. Last month, Brigadier Vivian was admitted to the hospital for shingles, which spread to his left eye. Dick Ford is in contact with the Brigadier and is keeping us posted on his recovery. Matt West of HM 84th Regiment of Foot underwent surgery last month to remove a brain tumor. He is currently recovering from the procedure. Matt served as or Battalion Commander at the Mount Vernon event this past April/May. Finally, Malcom MacWilliam (Mark Hagenbuch) of HM, 42nd Regiment of Foot, Grenadier Company, continues his fight against prostate cancer. He seems to be doing okay. He was at both the Monmouth and Germantown events and did well. Please keep these Gentlemen in your prayers for a full and rapid recovery.

Before we furl the Colours on the 2016 campaign season, there are a couple of events in the next month that need your support:

--Old Bethpage Village (Old Bethpage, NY), Saturday, October 15: This idyllic, restored 19th Century village provides the setting for a timeline living history event. Justin Parker worked on coordinating the 23rd's support for this one. This is a great opportunity to re-build our ranks in the NYC area. We'll practice some tactical maneuvering, meet new recruits and educate the public about the Regiment and its service during the American War of Independence. Hope to see you there!

--Hope Lodge, PA (Fort Washington, PA), Saturday, November 5: This an annual event located on an 18th Century farmstead outside of Philadelphia. This year organizers reduced the event to one day, but are permitting participants to stay over on Saturday night. Keith Spaar will open his camp kitchen for attendees. There are typically a couple of tactical scenarios, so be sure to pack a couple of boxes worth of cartridges.

The past month provided a flurry of activity for the 23rd both on an off the field. In addition to the events at Monmouth (September 17-18) and Germantown (October 1) there were a number of important personnel transactions:

--During the early evening hours of September 17 I was privileged to present, on behalf of the Regiment, a plaque to Major Jeff Morgan commemorating his service in the 23rd. Jeff's service in the 23rd culminated as Regimental Commander, which held for more than seven years. We are all deeply indebted to Jeff for his leadership and friendship throughout the years and wish him well on a well-earned transfer to the Pensioner's Company.

--Jeff is joined by: Regimental Serjeant-Major Steve Raby (Headquarters), Lance-Serjeant Greg Urwin (Colonel's Company), Pte. John Maass (Capt. Horsefall's Company) and Pte. Peter Bond (Colonel's Company) in the Pensioner's Company. These Gentlemen also deserve our sincere gratitude for their service in the RWFIA. Peter Bond's transfer to the Pensioner's is a temporary one, while he undergoes and recovers from ankle surgery. Godspeed in your recovery Peter!

--The 23rd also welcomed new members into the Regiment both Greg Pohorecki and Mike Boyle, both recruits in the Grenadier Company received their first taste of 18th Century battle at Monmouth. Both men did a great job in the firing line. It was great to meet Darren Pohorecki, who accompanied Greg to the event. Glenn Thomas of Pittsburgh, a new recruit for Capt. Grey Grove's Company stopped by the camp to introduce himself. Hopefully, we will see Darren on the battlefield soon. Please extend a warm greet to these new recruits when you see them.

The past month included two events: the Colour event at Monmouth and the annual powder burner at Germantown. Here are the after action reports from each event:

Muster Roll: Engagement near Monmouth Courthouse- September 17-18

- Major Reilly (Colonel's Company)
- Major G.F. Morgan (Pensioners)
- RSM Astle (Colonel's Company)
- RSM Raby (Pensioners--Detached to First Battalion)
- RDM Joseph Siegel (Colonel's Company)
- Lance-Sjt Urwin (Colonel's Company)
- Lance Cpl. J. Parker (Grenadier Company)
- Lance Cpl. M. Miller (Light Infantry Company)
- Pte. K. Spaar (Grenadier Company)
- Pte. K. Parker (Grenadier Company)
- Pte. B. Peterson (Light Infantry Company)
- Pte. A. Miller (Light Infantry Company)
- Pte. D. Leslie-Hughes (Colonel's Company)
- Pte. R. Passero (Capt. Horsefall's Company)
- Pte. (Capt.) J. Pritchard (Capt. Ferguson's Company)
- Rct. Mike Boyle (Grenadier Company)
- Rct. Greg Pohorecki (Grenadier Company)

The drums of war once more called HM 23rd Regiment of into battle, this time in central New Jersey. A strong rebel force emplaced itself, including artillery atop a commanding hill. The 23rd along with the rest of the Second Battalion secured the right flank of the line. After hastily forming with a composite company of the 22nd and 54th on the Fusiliers left and a Hessian detachment on the right, the Regiment began its up hill fight. The infantry received support from two guns and advanced aligned with the carriages axel to avoid being caught in cannon fire. The 23rd advanced with the Hessians and guns, all

three units working in unison. RSM Astle did a fine job exploring the firing line to keep up a brisk and paced fire. The rebels put up a stout resistance from their defensive positions. As the red line neared the crest of the hill, troops fixed bayonets and began an orderly and rapid advance towards the disintegrating rebel line. The speed of the Fusiliers advance was rewarded with the capture of three enemy field pieces.

Sunday Mars did not smile so fondly on the 23rd. The battalion assembled in a heavily forested ravine when rebel skirmishers and riflemen attacked. Fusiliers fought in pairs from tree to tree as proficiently as they would in a flat open field. The rebels were soon driven from the woods into a clearing and up a small hill. The 23rd immediately went to open order and advanced by ranks up the hill and kept up a constant, rolling fire at the enemy. The battle tilted back and forth as units advanced to fire or retired due to the heavy enemy fire. Once more, the British Brigade regrouped at the bottom of the hill and fixed bayonets. The charge was precise, all ranks neatly dressed and muskets leveled. The line covered considerable ground until confronted with a long line of rebel muskets and rifles, hidden on the reverse slope. On command, the rebel line erupted all at once with fire, smoke and the explosion of powder. Many of the Fusiliers did not survive the storm of lead and soon Major Loane, the commanding officer asked for terms. Throughout the chaos and confusion of the battle, Lance-Serjeant Urwin steadied his men and directed the firing line.

In addition to the fighting, Private Keith Spaar of the Grenadier Company generously provided meals, drink and a dining fly to give the weary troops a place to rest and eat. One of the highlights of the weekend was placing two new recruits from the Grenadier Company into the line: Greg Pohorecki and Mike Boyle. Recruit Glenn Thomas stopped by the camp and is in the process of joining Capt. Grey Grove's Company. It's always nice to see new faces in the ranks. Please welcome these gentlemen when you meet them

Additional Notes: One aspect that stood out during this event was use of the hour long battalion drill. Instead of parading the Colours or conducting the Manual Exercise, the officers and senior NCOs focused on tactical and practical applications and maneuvers. These included: advancing by file, open order and advancing by rank. This increased the speed with which units could deploy from column into a line of battle. On Sunday the entire battalion conducted a rehearsal in the woods, practicing fighting from tree to tree. I sent a note to Brigadier McGaughey requesting that we follow this training pattern at future events. Conducting realistic tactical exercises may encourage more of our members to attend events.

Muster Roll: Engagement at Germantown (Philadelphia)- October 1

- Major Reilly (Headquarters)
- RSM Astle (Headquarters)
- Lance-Serjeant Urwin (Colonel's Company)
- Pte. (RSM) Raby (Pensioners Company)
- Pte. (GV) E. Spaar (Capt. Horsefall's Company)
- Pte. (GV) D. Leslie-Hughes (Colonel's Company)
- Pte. John Crawford (Colonel's Company)
- Rct. Eric Marqueling (Capt. Horsefall's Company)

The 23rd participated in annual event at Germantown, marking Mr. Washington's failed attempt to destroy the Light Infantry units garrisoned there. The 23rd combined with the Grenadier Company of the 42nd Regiment of Foot formed a composite Grenadier Battalion, responsible for securing the right flank of the Crown line. The Battalion performed well, fighting a delaying action while the rebel army deployed and then retiring to the grounds of the Chew Mansion in the face of the growing enemy force. After allowing the rebels a number of futile attacks against the stalwart, stone house, the force reformed on the sides of the house and proceeded to drive the rebels back. After trading volleys and faced with the cold steel fixed on Crown muskets, rebel commanders asked for terms and put an end to the slaughter.

The men of the 23rd performed well. In particular, RSM Astle did an excellent job of running the firing line, allowing Major Reilly to work with Major Loane, HM 43rd Regt. of Foot and Capt. MacWilliam, 42nd Regiment of Foot in executing the plan of battle. With each event, the tactical capabilities of the 23rd are improving, allowing more flexibility and speed prior to and during the battle. For example the 23rd advanced rapidly during the opening stages of the battle and moved into a position to refuse the right flank. This maneuver forced the rebels to uncoil their column more quickly than they wanted to and ensured the security of the right side. Later, after advancing from the right side of the house, a gap opened between the Grenadier Battalion on the right and the 43rd Regt of Foot in the center. The Grenadiers moved to open order to extend the front and eliminated the gap. The men of the 23rd did an excellent job!

Off the field, the RWFIA received an invitation from the Royal Welsh in Wales to contribute an article to *Y CYMRO* (The Welshman)—The annual Regimental journal. Thanks to the command and staff, namely Greg Urwin who helped draft the article. The journal should be published in the March timeframe. This is another example of strengthening the bond with our Comrades across the Atlantic.

I. Operations—This is a tentative list and subject to change. Any changes to the event schedule will be sent out ASAP. We are waiting on confirmation from Colonial Williamsburg on the Under the Redcoat event.

| Date | Event Type | Description | Notes |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| October 15 | Encampment | Old Bethpage Village (Long Island) | Uniform: 1775 Kit |
| November 5 | Tactical | Hope Lodge, PA | Uniform: 1775 Kit |
| December 11 | Teleconference | Quarterly Command and Staff Meeting | Company commanders and staff |
| January 7, 2017 | Meeting | Annual British Brigade Meeting | King of Prussia, PA; Unit commander and RSM are attending |
| March 4 | Dinner | St. David's Day Dinner | Site and details TBD |
| June 30- July 2 | Tactical | Colonial Williamsburg, VA- Under the Redcoat | This is very tentative—no definitive confirmation yet |
| Sept 16-17 | Tactical (Colour Event) | Sandy Hollow (Brandywine), PA | Uniform: 1775 Kit; located on actual battlefield |

II. Quartermaster

Ordering Procedures: I received the Regimental Stores from Ron Turfitt. If you need to order anything, please make a check payable to the “Royal Welch Fusiliers in America” and mail it along with your order sheet to:

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

Once David receives your check, he will contact me regarding the order and I will mail it out. Recruits, if you have any questions regarding the uniform or purchasing items, please consult with your Company leadership.

Be advised that we are currently out of wool for Other Ranks coats and cap cords. We are in the process of ordering more wool and are looking for a new manufacturer for cap cords.

- 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

- iii. [Ben Beers](#)
[1195 Rogers Road](#)
[Mount Airy, NC 27030](#)
[Email: mbeers@surry.net](mailto:mbeers@surry.net)

- iv. [Steven Gardner](#)
[162 Puddin Lane](#)
[Mansfield Center, CT 06250](#)
[Phone: \(860\) 9428483](tel:(860)9428483)
[Email: flaming54th@att](mailto:flaming54th@att)

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

BAR Dues (optional): \$25.00

Total Enclosed: _____

Primary Phone: _____

MailingAddress: _____

E-Mail Address: _____