



The Flash

Col's Co, RWF in America

October 2018

Mount Harmon

Just to keep you all in the loop we will not be doing Mt. Harmon. It is a wonderful site and well worth the visit but shifting the date pretty much killed it for a lot of people. They were right to postpone it. with a hurricane in the local weather reports were calling for tropical force winds on the day we would have set up. not the best situation for canvass tents even without the ground being saturated.

Those of you at the event in New Jersey last year will remember that even without such strong winds, tents were pulling free of the wet ground. The problem was in shifting it to the weekend before Halloween, a lot of us have commitments with family, kids, and so forth.

We asked who was going and from the people who got back to us it was going to be me and the drum major standing in a field. We'd have looked wonderful but we'd like someone to be there with us.

That having been said I hope that means you'll be able to make a good show for one of the two events at the next weekend.

Hope Lodge

This is the traditional season end event. Just one day, two battles in Fort Washington Pennsylvania. It's an easy day trip from the NYC area about 2 hours south of the GWB.

Yes, I know we do this every year but the site tries to change up the program.

Last year we had the break out of Lafayette, we're only about 12 miles from Barren Hill, which meant him breaking through the Crown lines to try and reach the American main body.

It's a nice day on a lovely site and in all honesty, I get kind of sentimental as it's a wonderful way to close out the campaigning season in a wonderful autumnal setting.

to reach the site take the New Jersey turnpike south to exit 6 to the PA turnpike. Follow this about 20 miles to the Fort Washington exit.

Through the toll booths follow the road straight through the town until it comes to a T intersection. take the left-hand turn and follow the road for about a mile, the site will be on the left.

Putnam Park, Connecticut

Let me start by saying this is a BAR event. I usually don't cover these since they do their own PR but will give you a heads up. You must be a member of the BAR to attend. If you are not you can pay \$25 at the door to join then and there.

This is a small park, heavily wooded with trails with many stories, legends of the RWFIA, in it including a marriage with a near run away carriage, the RWF being the only unit at an event who knew how to mourn at arms correctly (hint, hint, don't fix bayonets) and a fighting retreat into a cemetery-yeah there was nothing creepy about that!

So, there are good memories there. At least ones that go well round the campsite. Mike Miller will be in command there for us as the site is particularly good for light infantry.

to reach the site in New York take the Hutchinson River parkway north into Connecticut where it becomes the Merit Parkway follow this to Exit 42. Take Route 136 north for 5.2 miles, at the intersection of Route 136 and Route 58; take Route 58 north drive 8.8 miles. Putnam Memorial is at the intersection of Route 107 and Route 58.

Gaiters

There was some confusion over gaiters at Germantown. Going forward the standard gaiters for the early war uniform are the short gaiters. The late war uniform with trousers was an adaptation to war events. The gaiter's long and short were both part of regulation issue gear. Unless we're specifically told 'long gaiters' then the terms like 'early war' or '1768 uniform' means the short gaiters.

The long were kept for the winter, garrison and formal parades. the short were for warm weather and the battlefield. Think of Germantown, where we're told the Grenadiers quickly responded to the alarm and jogged from their main camp to the battlefield. Can you see them doing this, after taking the 10 minutes it takes experienced guys to put on the long gaiters?

Yes, I'll admit the long gaiters are elegant and all and after 20+ years in them the short gaiters feel almost like a cheat but oh my goodness they are so much easier to fight in.