



The Flash

Col's Co, RWF in America

November/December 2018

Hope Lodge

The season ending at Hope lodge was different as the torrential downpour the night before flooded out the redoubt. The very nice little firing step the build inside the wall by digging down had become an internal moat. So, the skirmish planned had to be chucked out a window and we made do for the appreciative crowd.

High winds early in the day caused near disasters with several tents and stalls going over and at one point the gentleman dressed as Ben Franklin, explaining his experiments to visitors, found the only thing keeping his marquis on the ground was a British RSM holding on to the main pole. It led to an interesting chance to talk to the public when someone asked: "should the British army be helping Ben Franklin?" I replied that Mr. Franklin was a subject of the crown, whether he agreed or not, and as such was entitled to the aid and protection of agents of the Crown. This led to an enjoyable conversation with the crowd about the period.

Old Beth Page.

For anyone looking for a nice holiday event, Cpl. Justin Parker is coordinating a candlelight evening at Old Bethpage Village on Saturday, December 22nd. As I understand it, it will be just a few hours in the evening and can be a nice way to kick off the holiday week. This is one of the site's biggest events in the calendar and they reached out to Justin for us to be there, so it's a great chance for the 23rd to be seen. Contact Justin directly for details.

Winter quarters

With us effectively going into winter quarters it's time to look to your kit. Give it a thorough cleaning, especially your musket. Rub wood oil into the stock especially around the lock where the heat of firing can really wear it out.

Check to see what you can clean yourself and what needs to be done professionally. I don't know about you but my regimental needs the dry cleaner at this point.

Also see what you need to replace. What has been lost or worn out. garters, stockings, small clothes even? I know I've got a shirt that could use replacing.

it's also a time to drop hints to family members for stocking stuffers.

The Regiment.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers have a long history and sometimes I take it for granted that everyone knows it. After 20+ years you can take a lot of it for granted but at Hope Lodge I was talking to one person whom I thought would know some of this and was surprised he didn't. I think therefore, it can't hurt to give out some information on our history and not just from our period, to more fully understand the history of the unit we take pride in representing.

Since we just past the Centenary of the end of the Great War, I'll start with that. In WW1 the RWF raised more than 45 battalions. It was the largest infantry regiment in the British army and it had some of the most noted writers and diarists. Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves, Frank Richards and Hedd Wynn. all of whom are still very readable today. Richards' "old soldiers never die" is particularly readable being the views of a regular enlisted man.

Robert Graves' "Goodbye to all that" is also very good but there is an inside joke within the RWF which I only learned about three years ago when Col' Locke of the RWR, formally RWF, joined us for St. David's Day dinner. We were discussing Graves' writing and he said there is an annotated copy in the regimental mess with comments in the margin to the effect "That was never him" and "That was Martin who did that." Mess members correcting the good author's work to give due credit to the men who's acts he'd claimed happened to him. Interestingly one of the best sited events- a night time trench raid is corroborated with Richards' work as being with Mr. Graves.

Dues

Right that time has come to once more send it dues to cover insurance and such to keep us going. Without insurance we can't go out and play. It's that simple. The dues are

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

If you want to also have BAR membership for 2017 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
Paul Astle
1103 Oxford Cir
Lansdale PA 19446

And yes, it's col's company even if you're a grenadier or light bob-it's how I set up the bank account when I was the Colonel's company sergeant and that's how the checks go in.