



The Flash

Col's Co, RWF in America

June/July 2019

Sturbridge

On the weekend on August 3-4 will be the annual outing for Old Sturbridge Village. This is a nice site just beyond Hartford Connecticut just over the Massachusetts border. There are hotels in the area or camping on site and they really do want you to feel welcome there.

You will need at least two boxes of ammo for the weekend and it couldn't hurt to bring a little more as there have been surprise skirmishes in the past. For hat companies this is a late war event. Even though it's in New England it is august and the gaitered trousers and cocked hats are much more friendly. I do not want environmental casualties if we can avoid it by a small change in your clothes.

If no officers are there to take charge then corporal Miller who knows the ground well will be in charge. Yes, Mike that means you get the joys of command which means getting to the early meeting.

If you can't make it for the weekend it can be a day trip from the NYC area being about a 2 ½ hour drive from Westchester you can still be home for dinner if you just want to make a day trip of it.

To reach the site from the south, starting in New York take either I95 E or the Hutchinson river parkway East into Connecticut until you reach I-91 North. Follow this to I15 via exit 29 follow this to I-84 E in Hartford. Follow this for 36 miles. Take exit 2 to MA131, keep left onto River rd then right onto Shattack rd. follow this 2/10's of a mile to Old Sturbridge village rd into the park.

Recruiting

Dennis Murphy has set up a recruiting event at a regional gun show just north of NYC/Westchester where the person who is running it is an old reenactor and wants to encourage people like us to show. Dennis has bought the space out of his own pocket and it would be good of us to show up when we can to help him out.

This will be an easy day talking to people who want to talk to us and hopefully we can recruit-something desperately needed by any unit. - and the big draw for an event in August? IT'S AIR CONDITIONED!

This will be the weekend of August 23-25 at the Ramada Inn in Fishkill NY. Understandably Friday might be tight but with so many people in the NYC area it should be easy to get up for a day or so to help out. We need to get on and support.

The Regiment.

August 1st is an important date in regimental history. It is Minden Day and commemorates one of the great battles in the Seven Years war in 1759. This was the *Annus Mirabilis* that included the British taking Ticonderoga and Quebec.

Britain, Hanover and several other states against France and Saxony. The British army was 37,000 strong, the French 44,000 with the British enjoying a slight advantage in artillery.

It was said that morning the soldiers had found some roses growing wild and had decorated their uniforms with them.

The battle started with an artillery duel on the left of the British line but the key point was when, in what can only be likened to a disastrous game of 'telephone,' orders to "Advance when the drums beat" reached one British brigade as "Advance with drums beating" and so doing six British regiments stepped out of line and advanced on the French army. The hollow square had not been invented yet and infantry advancing on Cavalry who were formed up and ready were seen as doomed and commanders on both sides of the battle field started adjusting their plans for the Anglo-German army to be that much smaller.

The only people, who were not in on this plan, as the French cavalry started forward, were the six regiments. What followed was a defining moment for the British army and in particular the infantry. In what was an unheard-of level of discipline the troops started firing and maintaining tight fire control discipline.

They refused to break and refused to stop. They suffered horrific casualties but just kept closing ranks, not creating an opening for the French cavalry and inflicting far worse damage than they received.

The French cavalry reformed and charged again with the same effect. By the time they formed for a third charge the regiments had been reinforced with two battalions of German infantry and some supporting artillery. What had been a forlorn hope was now a salient. A rock the French army broke on and fell back.

The British army suffered a little over 2,700 casualties, the French around 7,000. As an interesting aside one of the French dead, was the Marquis de Lafayette, his title would pass to his two-year-old son who would face the 23rd himself years later in America.

French Marshal Contades reportedly said bitterly, "I have seen what I never thought to be possible—a single line of infantry break through three lines of cavalry, ranked in order of battle, and tumble them to ruin!"

The British cavalry commander, Sackville later Lord St. Germaine, was court marshaled for failing to bring his troops up fast enough to press the victory but the point was made and the six regiments had set the image of the indomitable British infantry that endures to this day.

Due to amalgamations and the like, the RWF was the last of the six Minden regiments and it still lingers on in our records. Indeed until a few years ago we would meet for lunch in NYC at Francis' Tavern, each of us wearing a rose in our lapel. Lunch would be followed by an epic pub crawl up the lower east side ending at the North Star at south street seaport for dinner and more beer.

Dues

I'm still waiting to hear from far too many people about their dues. Please. if you're planning on turning out this year, we need to get the dues in just to pay for insurance so we're allowed to run around in fields shooting guns and waving pointing little things on them. The dues are

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

If you want to also have BAR membership for 2019 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.