



# *The Fusilier*

## *October/November 2019*

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**--From the Commander--**

Gentlemen,

Unfortunately, I have to relay news of Bert Reinhart's passing on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Bert was a longtime member of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was the Serjeant of Grenadiers when I first joined the organization in 1989. Bert was a fun, knowledgeable, and helpful gentleman. He was a valued member and his son Tom served as a drummer and eventually assumed the role of Regimental Drum Major. Please keep Bert and the Reinhart family in your prayers.

The RWFIA concludes the 2019 campaign season with events at Hope Lodge, PA and in California. We finished a busy end of September/October schedule. Events included our first iteration at the Celtic Fest in Bethlehem, the annual fight at Germantown the following weekend, and the main British Brigade event at Mount Harmon, Maryland on the weekend of October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. These events are covered in greater detail later in the newsletter. Some highlights include:

- Colonel (Lieut. Gen.) Riley officiated at a replica Colour presentation during the Germantown event.
- Great attendance, heavy fighting and a busy schedule at the Mount Harmon event. Rcts. Dan Blander and Mike Laurino received promotions to Private.

Quartermaster updates include: a potential source for brass work and a survey on new (optional) goatskin knapsacks.

We will finish up the campaign season next weekend with an event at Hope Lodge (Pennsylvania) and then at the Marching Thru History event in Norco, California the following weekend. I'll send out an end of season report next month and prepare for the Annual Meeting of the British Brigade in January.

I am with great regard,

Maj. S.P. Reilly

## -- Operations: 2019 Event Calendar--

Date	Event	Location	POC	Notes
2 February	Reenactor Recruitment Day, Army Heritage and Education Center	Carlisle, PA	Shane Reilly <a href="mailto:Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com">Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com</a>	Table display with uniform, accouterments, and recruiting materials. Early war kit.
16 February	Revolutionary War Living History Day	Hillsborough, NC	Eric Spaar <a href="mailto:Eric.spaar@gmail.com">Eric.spaar@gmail.com</a>	Late war kit
16-17 March	Battle of Guilford Courthouse	Greensboro, NC	Eric Spaar <a href="mailto:Eric.spaar@gmail.com">Eric.spaar@gmail.com</a>	Late war kit
5-6 May	Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon, VA	Shane Reilly <a href="mailto:Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com">Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com</a>	Late war kit
1-2 June	Old Bethpage Village Encampment	Bethpage, NY	Justin Parker <a href="mailto:Achernar308@yahoo.com">Achernar308@yahoo.com</a>	Early War kit
27-29 Sep	Celtic Fest	Bethlehem, PA	Shane Reilly <a href="mailto:Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com">Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com</a>	Early War Kit (bring both sets if available)
5 October	Battle of Germantown	Philadelphia, PA	Shane Reilly <a href="mailto:Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com">Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com</a>	Early War kit
12-13 October	Mount Harmon Plantation	Earleville, MD	Shane Reilly <a href="mailto:Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com">Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com</a>	Late War kit
2 Nov	Hope Lodge Encampment	Hope Lodge, PA	Shane Reilly <a href="mailto:Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com">Grenadier23rd@yahoo.com</a>	Early War kit

## --Event Reports

Paul Astle, Steve Raby, and I attended the annual Celtic Fest in Bethlehem on the weekend of September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. We set up a recruiting booth on both days. Many people commented, many times hesitatingly, on our bravery wearing our uniforms to the event. After informing them that the 23<sup>rd</sup> was a Welsh regiment in the British Army, which also included English, Irish, and Scottish Regiments. We received a lot of compliments and took many photos with visitors. It was a great opportunity to speak with and educate people on the Regiment and the British Army during the American War of Independence.

RWFIA members attended the Germantown event in Philadelphia. Paul Astle, John Crawford, and I represented the Regiment during both battles. Lieut. Gen. Riley, accompanied by David Leslie-Hughes, reviewed the troops and presented a replica set of the 23<sup>rd</sup>'s Colours to the Cliveden Association that administers the site. It was a great opportunity to speak with and dine with our Colonel.

On October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the 23<sup>rd</sup> participated in the British Brigade's main event at Mount Harmon, Maryland. The event marked one of our larger turnouts. Participants included: Joe Siegel, Justin and Kyle Parker, Eric Spaar, Alex Ivanchishin, John Crawford, Mike and Alex Miller, Shane Watson, and I. Eric set up and ran the mess kitchen to feed the troops.

The British Brigade created a full schedule of events and activities for the weekend. The 23<sup>rd</sup> was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion under Maj. Paul Loane's command. Other 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion units included the 43<sup>rd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Volunteers, Regiment von Hyun, and elements from the Guards. Our first assignment was to raid a rebel outpost with the 43<sup>rd</sup>. The 43<sup>rd</sup>, which was the preponderance of the Crown Force element, provided the main effort by attacking the rebel right. The 23<sup>rd</sup>, moving in on the rebel left, executed a shaping action to draw the attention of the rebel force. The rebels were in the process of changing the guard when we attacked and had double the number of enemy troops we planned for. The rebels counterattacked, outnumbering the RWFIA by almost 3 to 1. We exchanged volley and conducted a retrograde operation towards the camp. The rebel force split and attacked from both sides. Fusiliers fought until nearly the last round and fixed bayonets, but I offered my sword to spare our outnumbered force.

Saturday afternoon's scenario involved defense of a redoubt. The 23<sup>rd</sup>, placed near the left flank, assembled in the front of the redoubt and exchanged volleys with the attacking rebel force. With ammunition stocks depleting, Crown Forces moved inside of the redoubt and continued the fight from the defensive works. After devastating the rebel elements in front of our position, the Adjutant guided up outside of the redoubt to press the remaining rebel troops. As we marched towards the remaining enemy troops our contingent was attacked by a dozen, rebel horse. We did our best to fight them off and the scenario concluded shortly afterwards.

Sunday began a bit slower. We did not participate in the morning picket exercise since we burned so much powder during Saturday's events. Privates Kyle Parker and Mike Laurino tested their sea legs and participated in an amphibious operation as part of the morning battle. The afternoon battle involved the capture of the rebel redoubt and included several sharp volleys from the 23<sup>rd</sup> as the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion pressed their attack. The Fusiliers sustained heavy casualties from cannon fire as the attack advanced closer. The brigade was forced back and eventually, like Saturday's action, enemy cavalry overran the 23<sup>rd</sup> near the battle's conclusion.

Overall, it was a great event with beautiful weather at a beautiful site. The British Brigade did a great job of creating a variety of scenarios and activities during the weekend. Special thanks to Eric Spaar for feeding the troops; he did a great job of preparing and operating the field mess. We had participants from the Grenadier, Light Infantry, Colonel's, and Capt. Horsefall's Companies and most importantly everyone had a good time! I hope that we can keep this trend going next season by getting more troops into the field.

**-- Quartermaster--**

**Ordering Procedures:** 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:

Shane Reilly  
17 East Eppley Drive  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17015

*Recruits, if you have any questions regarding the uniform or purchasing items, please consult with your Company leadership.*

a. Regimentally authorized tailors/seamstresses

i. Mike Grillo  
9 Shady Lane  
Scarsdale, NY 10583  
Phone: (347) 804-9763  
Email: [rwffuz94@aol.com](mailto:rwffuz94@aol.com)

ii. Carl Johnson  
3508 Mill Stream Place  
Greensboro, NC 27410  
Phone: (704) 957-9108  
Email: [carlivar@yahoo.com](mailto:carlivar@yahoo.com)

iii. Heather Chaffee  
16700 Nordroff St.  
Northridge, CA 93343  
Phone: (201) 450-6153  
Email: [Heath51937@aol.com](mailto:Heath51937@aol.com)

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

- Knapsack Survey:

Below are photos of a new version of the goatskin knapsack that the 43<sup>rd</sup> is wearing. I am taking a survey on if anyone is interested in purchasing one.

These are **OPTIONAL** items, but are expensive: \$145.00 (\$130.00 + \$15.00 shipping and handling).

Please e-mail me or send me a FB personal message if you are interested in buying one. I have not placed an order yet, but please let me know ASAP.



- Brasswork

I met up with Roy Najecki and gave him copies of the 23<sup>rd</sup>'s box badges and belt plates. He will be getting back to me with quotes for the items. Once we receive the new items, I'll get them to those who purchased them. We also purchased ten new cartridge boxes for the QM stores.

His Majesty's 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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.***

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Cut and mail along with payment to Company Commander

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Company:\_\_\_\_\_

Regimental Dues: \$20.00

Total Enclosed:\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

MailingAddress:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address:\_\_\_\_\_