



The Flash

Col's Co, RWF in America

November/December 2019

End of Season

The season is over, and gear and uniforms are being hung up for the winter. But before it all goes away give it a good going over. Look for loose and missing buttons. Is there any gear that needs to be repaired or replaced? Beyond the eternal search for stockings and flints. Now's the time to drop off hints to "Santa" though how he'll respond to a request for a 'new bayonet' is anyone's guess, but it certainly is time to drop hints to family and friends about what you'd like.

I would also say look around before you make any big purchases. this will sound crazy but as I bought a new shirt to replace one that was worn out, I discovered I already had 3 still in their wrappings in my closet. Needless to say, I'm set for shirts for a while but let's not mention the expense to my wife.

Do pay serious attention to your musket. Don't just give it the usual wipe down but a complete and thorough going over. Rub down the wood with furniture polish, especially around the lock where the wood can be dried out by excessive heat.

Take the time now to have a good look at the kit and spend the winter getting it put right. I found I've worn down my heels rather badly that was probably contributing to my back problems that laid me out in early October. So I've got to find a cobbler who can look after them. how's your kit?

Supporting local sites

OK you might have noted that I'm a big fan of supporting local sites as they keep the history alive for people. Just one of two red coats spending an afternoon talking to the public can be a huge draw for a site.

Why am I bringing this up, because such sites can be ephemeral. Last week Boone's Homestead just outside Reading PA was shut down by the state. This is possibly one of the best sites we've ever had the privilege to fight on, small farm buildings, long open areas, nice trails, and the place of some infamous adventures for the RWFIA.

They were given no warning and just two weeks before their big Colonial Christmas event, the workers and volunteers were called in asked for their keys and told 'get out.' There's been no explanation and from when Jeff Morgan was involved at Washington's Crossing, we know the state can be difficult but there is fear the state is eyeing some of the acreage for housing development.

So just keep it in mind and don't take these sites for granted.

DUES

Yes, it's a four letter word and this gets repetitive but we do need them. I will point out that the price is the same thing we were charge 25 years ago. Where else can you see no increase in costs for inflation etc.?

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.

The Regiment.

For some reason the RWF is a particularly literary regiment. Out of the trenches of WW1 alone there are the poems of Siegfried Sassoon and Robert Graves'. I previously mentioned Graves' autobiographical Goodbye to All That and Frank Richards' Old Soldiers Never Die, the autobiography of a common fusilier, if such a thing exists, who went from 1914 to 1918 with no wound worse than a bout of hemorrhoids. There is also the seminal The War the Infantry Knew, often cited as one of the best primary sources of the war

However, another book by Richards that is well worth the time for anyone interested in the Regiment is Old Soldier Sahib. Richards was a fusilier in the regular army during the late Edwardian age and wrote about his experience in India. It is very well written, easy to read and looks into an age long gone by.