



# *The Flash*

*Col's Co, RWF in America*

March-April 2020

## **Still in Place**

Yes I know it's been a while since I wrote this but the newsletter, at least this one, primarily exists to get you information about events and well...uh...yeah.

What's effectively going on is we are still in winter quarters and longing to get out. In a way this can actually help think of those men centuries back who were doing the same thing in far less congenial circumstances- of sitting and hearing about illness and waiting for the chance to get out. I seem to recall the colonials didn't leave winter quarters in some place called Valley Forge until June of the following year and they did alright.

In all seriousness take the time to go over your kit and look for things that need to be fixed. Do that loose button now and not the morning you're loading the car to leave for an event.

A lot of the regular suttlers are still doing by mail service to replace things, I will admit I was able to get my shoes mended before things were locked down, thank goodness.

One thing that has come up is that Townsend has reported there is a lack of White Linen for small clothes as their supplier folded. We are looking for a replacement, this same thing happened about 20 years ago, oh it makes me feel old to type that, so if anyone knows a source let us know.

## The Year Ahead

The schedule is still well, flexible but I'm being hopeful about the fall and possibly stuff being added earlier on once we know it can be. We're a sociable people and once the all clear is given I think we're going to see block parties and BBQ's and that sort of thing and people in a rush to do *something*.

September 26-27 Celtic Fest. Bethlehem PA

September 26-27 Brinkerhoff Estate, Fishkill NY

October 3 Germantown, Philadelphia PA

November 7, Hope Lodge PA

## The Regiment

A look at our Battle Honours show that the RWF has been involved in some of the most momentous battles of the British Empire: Blenheim, Minden, Waterloo, Mons, Ypres, Gallipoli, and Kohima, to name but a few. In short where British soldiers have distinguished themselves, the RWF has been there.

There are also a couple of unusual Honours. I've already mention Pekin, but this time I'll bring up the other: Madagascar. This was from WW2 when the island was in Vichy French hands and while on its own it was not a threat to anyone, there was talk of the Japanese using its deep harbors as bases to operate in the Western Indian Ocean. From there it could be used to harass ships from South Africa to Suez.

The RWF was part of a force of about 12,000 troops mainly made up of Australians, South Africans, Royal Marines and Rhodesians who landed on the island in May of 1942 and secured the island by November. A choice was made to not include Free French troops in the fighting to avoid any sort of civil war breaking out.

With different bases along the coast captured by amphibious assault, the RWF and South Lanc's were ordered to force their way through the middle of the island to link up the various beachheads and secure the island.

Beyond denying the Japanese a naval base the action marked yet another time when the RWF has successfully fought the French, we do seem to make a habit of it don't we, and more importantly it was the first planned amphibious invasion by the British since Gallipoli. The lessons learned there would be studied and used to ensure success in future invasions in places like Normandy.