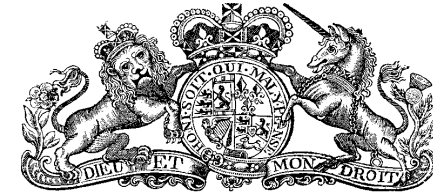


## SERVICE IN NORTH AMERICA

1773-1784



- June, 1773: Arrival in New York City
- April, 1775: Battles of Lexington and Concord
- August, 1776: Battle of Brooklyn
- September, 1777: Battle of Brandywine
- July, 1778: Sea Service
- May, 1780: The Capture of Charleston
- August, 1780: Battle of Camden
- March, 1781: Battle of Guilford Courthouse
- October, 1781: Battle of Yorktown
- January, 1784: Embarkation for Great Britain



# St. David's Day Dinner

ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS IN  
AMERICA

[www.rwfia.org](http://www.rwfia.org)

## ST. DAVID'S DAY 1777

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*"Every 1<sup>st</sup> of March, being the anniversary of their tutelar Saint, David the officers give a splendid entertainment to all their Welch brethren: and after the cloth is taken away, a bumper filled round to his highness the Prince of Wales, (whose health is always drunk to first that day) the band playing the old tune "The Noble Race of Shenkin" when an handsome drum-boy, elegantly dressed, mounted on the goat richly caparisoned for the occasion, is led thrice round the table in procession by the drum-major. It happened in 1775 in Boston, that the animal gave such a sprang from the floor, that he dropped his rider upon the table, and the bouncing over the heads of some officers, he ran to the barracks with all his trappings, to no small joy of the garrison and populace."*

*--Major Robert Donkin  
23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot*

With the exception that the drummer-boy no longer mounts the goat-an arrangement which the goat was apt to actively resent-the ceremony continues to this day.

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## The Leek Ceremony

### ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

- New Officers
- Officers
- New NCOs
- NCOs
- ORs
- Recruits
- Drummers and Fifers
- New Drummers and Fifers
- Guests, both Ladies and Gentlemen

### CEREMONIAL GUIDELINES

All those members who have not eaten a leek must eat one upon entering the Regiment. All those promoted since last eating the leek must eat one at this time. All guests are expected to eat one (although they may decline).

--Upon the arrival of the Leek Party, the recipient stands with their left foot on the chair and right one on the table, selects their leek and begins eating.

--After consuming the leek, they toast and say "and Saint David" ("An Dewi Sant" is also acceptable) and then drink of the champagne.

--Failure to comply with these requirements result in punishment by eating another leek and completing the process as described above.

--Taunting, noise and clapping are authorized for the Mess during the ceremony.

## Shenkin Ap Morgan

This is a toast to the common soldier, the backbone of any regiment.

## The Other Battalions

The United States Marine Corps and the Royal Welch Fusiliers have a long relationship dating to the days of the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900.

Royal 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Canada hosted the RWFIA at the Citadel in Quebec and is one of the sister regiments of the Royal Welch.

Pretoria Regiment of South Africa

Royal Malay Regiment

3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Frontier Regiment of Pakistan

## Fox Hunting

A popular sport during the Regiment's history, it is still toasted as a symbol of good sportsmanship and prowess.

## Our Guests

# Mess Order of Events

*"God Save the King"*

*Opening Remarks and Special Recognition*

*Toasts*

*-His Majesty the King*

*-Her Majesty the Queen*

*-St. David*

*-Toby Purcell and His Spurs*

*-Lieut. Col. S.R. Roberts*

*-Shenkin Ap Morgan*

*-The Other Battalions*

*-Fox Hunting*

*-Our Guests*

*Dinner*

*Leek Ceremony*

*Adjournment of the Mess*

# God Save the King

God save great George our King,  
 Long live our noble king.  
 God save the King.  
 Send him victorious,  
 Happy and glorious,  
 Long to reign over us,  
 God save the King.

## TOASTS

### HRH King George III

King George III, reigning monarch of Great Britain during the American War of Independence, ascended to the throne in 1760 at age 22. From 1775 through 1783 he led Great Britain during a global conflict that included the colonial rebellion in North America, attacks on garrisons in Gibraltar, the Caribbean and India. He never once wavered in leading Great Britain during this turbulent period, defeating both French and Spanish imperial ambitions.

### HRH Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II received her crown in 1952 and continues her reign as the longest serving monarch in British history. One of her many titles is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Welsh Regiment.

### Saint David

Patron Saint of Wales; Dewi Sant (Welsh for St. David) was one of the influential monks of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Centuries, and founder of the Bishop-Abbot of the See of St. David's. A descendent of the Royal House of Gwynedd, born in the year 520 A.D. and dying on the first of March, 589.

### Toby Purcell and his Spurs

Toby Purcell served as second in command of the Regiment during its first action at the Battle of the Boyne River, Ireland in 1690. He became its commanding officer upon the death of Lord Herbert at Aughrim in 1691. The spurs he wore at the Battle of the Boyne became a possession of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and were worn by every officer serving at the second in command of the Regiment until destroyed by a fire in Canada in 1842. They are toasted to annually at every St. David's Day Dinner.

### The first Colonel of the RWFIA, Col. S.R. Roberts

No man did more to help forge the bond between the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the RWFIA than Col. "Reg" Roberts. A veteran of the both the First and Second Battalions, RWF, Reg served in both the Second World War and Post-war Germany. He first met with members of the RWFIA at the "British Army Field Days" at Menges Mills in 1971. The bond continued to strengthen over the years: Reg participated in the Yorktown Bicentennial; helped coordinate the British Brigade's tour of England in 1987 and proved instrumental in the RWFIA's participation in the RWF's Tercentenary Pageant and tour of North Wales in 1989. In addition, he began the RWFIA's silver collection. Sadly he passed in 1989, but not before forging a strong bond between the RWF and RWFIA. He is remembered as a kind and passionate comrade, who we are all deeply indebted to for his efforts.