



The Fusilier

July/August 2017

Friends and Fellow Fusiliers,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer and are preparing for September's event at Sandy Hollow (Brandywine), Pennsylvania. There has been a lot of activity since my last dispatch:

--The historical community, namely those interested in the American War of Independence lost one of its most prominent writers on July 23 when Thomas Fleming passed. Mr. Fleming, 90, wrote a number of works on the war and prominent personalities including: *Liberty! The American Revolution; Washington's Secret War: The Hidden History of Valley Forge* and *Beat The Last Drum: The Siege of Yorktown 1781*. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. Special thanks to Peter Ford for the notification of Mr. Fleming's passing.

--Hoist a glass on August 1st in honour of the men in the six battalions (including the 23rd) who courageously and steadfastly repelled multiple French infantry and cavalry assaults on the fields of Minden, Germany. The profound effect of the defense broke the French attack and shifted the initiative of battle from the French to the Allied forces- a rare feat on any battlefield! Here's to the heroes of Minden!

--Adjutant David Leslie-Hughes had the privilege of presenting Brigadier Vivian with a framed Regimental gorget in honour of his years of service as Colonel of the RWFIA. The shadow box contained a cloth cap badge (representing the OR) above a replica gorget, generously donated by Erik Goldstein, and framed with red matting. The bottom center of the matting contains a small plaque (flanked by officer and OR buttons) and reads:

"Presented to
Brigadier A.C. Vivian
In Recognition of his Service
And Friendship as Colonel of
HM (recreated)
23rd Regiment of Foot
From the Officers and Men
Of the RWFIA"

Brigadier Vivian sent a note back thanking the Regiment for the gift. I told him that it was only a small token of our appreciation for his support and friendship.

--After Action Report: Battle of Short Hills, June 24-25:

Muster: Maj. Reilly, GV (Adj.) David Leslie-Hughes, Regt. Sgt. Maj. Astle, Cpl. Justin Parker, Cpl. Mike Miller, Pvt. Kyle Parker, Pvt. Bob Peterson, Pvt. Alex Miller, Rct. (LI) Dan Blandon, Rct. (Gren.) Mike Boyle.

Short Hills, located in north central New Jersey proved to be a very fast-paced and engaging event. The 23rd found itself once more brigaded with our Welsh comrades from 24th Regiment of Foot with attached light troops from the 35th Regiment of Foot (Saturday and Sunday) and with Grenadiers from the 42nd Regiment on Sunday.

Maj. Haigst (22nd Regt.) had overall command of the event with Maj. Paul Novotny (24th) serving as our Battalion Commander. The 23rd was assigned skirmishing/light duties and I directed the grounding of bearskins and wigs, shifting to forage caps and cropped hair to reflect our role. The troops performed well on both days, the unit shifting between massed volley fire in closed ranks to independent fire in open order based on the tactical situation. The troops displayed remarkable versatility and speed in demonstrating the tactical agility of the British Army during the American War of Independence. The only major complication for the weekend was that the rebels were assigned the role of victors, which only made our assignment more difficult. Overall it was an exciting event and our command was very pleased with the performance of the 23rd. The 24th and the 42nd are always great to serve with. Special thanks to the Miller family for providing us with the mobile (tailgate) camp kitchen.

The most important part of the weekend was the privilege of promoting Mike Miller and Justin Parker to Corporal. Both men made and continue to make significant contributions to the organization both on and off the field. Mike voluntarily took over the unit website and helped transform it into a worldwide strategic communications platform. He also demonstrates leadership and tactical proficiency on the battlefield. Justin almost singlehandedly re-established the presence of the 23rd on Long Island/NYC Metro area through heavy recruitment and unit promotion. He also demonstrated initiative and personal leadership by coordinating local event support on Long Island. Justin can be depended upon to fire and maneuver troops in the field as well. The well-deserved promotions of Mike and Justin signal a shift to the new leaders, who will take the 23rd further into the 21st Century. We are all very proud of them. Please congratulate them when you see them.

--British Brigade Conclave: July 15, 2017

The British Brigade held an unofficial meeting of unit commanders at the Dill Tavern (near Carlisle, Pennsylvania) on Saturday, July 15. Maj. Malcom MacWilliam, 42nd Grenadiers and Brigade Executive Officer, hosted the event which included a delicious lunch and supper of 18th Century fare. This is the same location of the 2016 St. David's Day Dinner. Representing the 23rd were: Regt. Drum Maj. Joseph Siegel, Sgt. (Pen.) Steve

Raby and myself. The conclave discussed a number of issues, here are a couple that are pertinent to the entire Regiment:

- **Recurring date for large annual BB event:** This is a topic first discussed at the Annual Meeting in January. The BB is considering scheduling the large, annual event on the third weekend of September. The leadership hopes that by standardizing the dates, it will be easier for participants to plan and increase unit turnout. The one item being debated is the location for the annual event and if it should rotate between three pre-designated sites in the North, Mid-Atlantic and the South. More to follow on this topic.
- **Ceremonies:** The BB is considering re-introducing the Colour Ceremony at large events. Malcom assured the group that these will be much shorter than the two to three hour ceremonies many of our veterans are familiar with. The BB is considering holding these ceremonies on the Sunday morning at events.

Overall it was a very productive meeting with some great discussion. Nothing official was decided, but hopefully this meeting will help speed the process along at the Annual British Brigade meeting in January.

- Sandy Hollow Event, Sept. 16-17: Basic Concepts

Sandy Hollow will be one of the more significant events in recent history. The event marks the introduction of Lieut. Gen. Jonathon Riley as the new Colonel of the RWIFA. The current plan is to have a Regimental Colour Ceremony and review on Saturday morning, including remarks by Maj. Reilly welcoming Gen. Riley to the RWIFA. The afternoon will follow the event schedule and I am coordinating a Regimental Dinner at a local establishment on Saturday night. Sunday will follow the BB event schedule. I will send more information out as we get closer to the event date and items are finalized.

* *-Reminder this event marks the introduction of the seven (black horn) button “spatterdash” or half gaiter.

Thank you all for your friendship and support and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Your Humble Most Obedient Servant,

Maj. Reilly

I. Administrative

Nothing significant to report.

II. Operations

Schedule (2017):

Company Designations: GLICC-Grenadier/Light Infantry/Colonel's Companies; GG- Capt. Grey Grove's Company; FR- Capt. Ferguson's Company; HF-Capt. Horsefall's Company

August 5-6—Old Sturbridge Village—Sturbridge, MA—(GLICC)

September 16-17—Battle of Brandywine (Sandy Hollow)—Brandywine, PA—(COLOUR)

October 7—Battle of Germantown—Philadelphia, PA—(GLICC)

November 4-5—Hope Lodge Encampment—Fort Washington, PA—(GLICC)

Schedule (2018):

July 14-15—Fort Ticonderoga, NY

September 15-16—Mount Harmon Plantation, MD

Schedule (2019):

May 4-5—Mount Vernon, Alexandria, VA

Sep ??—Battle of the Hook, Gloucester, VA

III. Quartermaster

The stores now have three bolts of wool for Regimental coats (one red, white and blue). I ordered the Regimental lace and expect to receive it in a couple of weeks.

Roy Najecki has OR cap cords in stock. Please go to www.najecki.com for ordering information. Cords are \$30.00 each plus shipping. Make sure you annotate "Royal Welch Fusilier Cap Cord" on your order. If you have any questions, please e-mail Roy at Roy@najecki.com. For proper a wear on the cap, please contact an NCO or officer in your chain of command.

The 23rd is still searching for a source/maker for bearskin caps. Please let Major Reilly know if you are interested. Ron can send the instructions. We have materials (not including cap plates) for one, possibly two caps.

Ordering Procedures: I received the Regimental Stores from Ron Turfitt. 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:

David Leslie-Hughes
P.O. Box 73
Mechanicsville, PA 18934

Once David receives your check, he will contact me regarding the order and I will mail it out. Recruits, if you have any questions regarding the uniform or purchasing items, please consult with your Company leadership.

Be advised that we are currently out of wool for Other Ranks coats and cap cords. We are in the process of ordering more wool and are looking for a new manufacturer for cap cords.

a. Regimentally authorized tailors/seamstresses

- i. Carl Johnson
3508 Mill Stream Place
Greensboro, NC 27410
Phone: (704) 957-9108
Email: carlivar@yahoo.com
- ii. Heather Chaffee
15010 Victory Blvd. #102
Van Nuys, Ca 91411
Phone: (201) 450-6153
Email: Heath51937@aol.com
- iii. [Ben Beers](#)

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

- iv. [Steven Gardner](#)
[162 Puddin Lane](#)
[Mansfield Center, CT 06250](#)
[Phone: \(860\) 9428483](tel:(860)9428483)
[Email: flaming54@att.net](mailto:flaming54@att.net)

His Majesty's
23rd 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 23rd 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. An addition fee of \$25.00 is required for membership in the Brigade of the American Revolution.

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.

Cut and mail along with payment to Company Commander

Name: _____

Company: _____

Regimental Dues: \$20.00

BAR Dues (optional): \$25.00

Total Enclosed: _____

Primary Phone: _____

MailingAddress: _____

E-Mail Address: _____