

THE SOUTHERN COMPANY
23rd Regiment of Foot, Royal Welch Fusiliers in America

Dispatch

Volume V #3

JUL 2023

NEWS - 23RD ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS LAND IN THE COLONIES

250th ANNIVERSARY - June 1773 was the month the Regiment debarked from their ships and were welcomed in New York City. The regiment was reviewed by the Commander-in Chief, who expressed himself as "highly pleased with the fine appearance of His majesty's Twenty-third or Royal Welch Regiment of Fusiliers .. - and for their great attention, alertness and soldier-like performance under arms." Regimental records of the RWF, VI. For more information regarding the Regiment and their trip across the Atlantic read the Diary of Fredrick McKenzie.

Event Schedule 2023

(Bold/Black events are set / others are tentative / Red completed)

January 8 — Battle of Princeton, Princeton, NJ

January 13 & 14 — LUSO Movie production, Charlotte, NC

February 18 & 19 — American Heritage Festival, Lake City, SC

March 11 & 12 - Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC & St, David's Day Dinner (Saturday 11 March)

March 25 - British occupation of Hillsborough, Hillsborough NC

Apr 29 & 30 - Market Fair, Frederick, **MD**

May 6 & 7 - Mount Vernon Revolutionary War Days, Alexandria VA

June 10-12 — Old Stone House, Salisbury, NC

June 17 & 18 — Battle of Monmouth, Monmouth, NJ (BRITs1-1 BRIGADE EVENT)

June 25 - Historic Hillsborough Excursion Day, Hillsborough NC (One day event)

July 20-23 - HISTORICON Wargaming Convention, Lancaster, PA

July 29 — Boone, NC -Hickory Ridge History Museum-British Occupation

Sept 23 & 24 — Endview Plantation, Yorktown, VA

TBD Oct / Nov — Revolutionary War Day Redeemer School, Winston-Salem, NC

November 11 & 12 — Battle of Camden/Hobkirk's Hill, Kershaw, SC

Upcoming Events

July 20-23 — HISTORICON Wargaming Convention, Lancaster, PA — Alex is heading up this event at the convention. Last year he had a table with equipment, photographs, and videos of our unit in action. He had a lot of traffic and would love to have someone assist over the weekend. The event also provides the opportunity to enjoy some tabletop wargaming in any era you choose. Contact Alex if you'd like to support this recruiting effort for a morning or afternoon, Friday, or Saturday.

Website: HB/1GS.org, Historicon.

July 29 — Boone, NC -Hickory Ridge History Museum-British Occupation — This is a one day — small event in the mountains of North Carolina. For those who have attended before we have stayed at my wife's relative's mountain cabin — unfortunately it is unavailable this year — so it will be a one-day event. It will be a good time for us to practice drill and enjoy the cooler weather the mountain affords. After the event we are invited to attend the outdoor play — Horn in the West. It has a new story line so those of us who have seen it before are encouraged to attend again.

Sept 23 & 24 — Endview Plantation, Yorktown, VA — This is a British Brigade sponsored event so it should be a large turnout — more information will be provided as we get closer to the date.

November 11 & 12 - Battle of Camden/Hobkirk's Hill, Kershaw, SC—we close out our campaign season at the Battle of Camden. This is a big event and gets better every year. Let's strive to have a maximum turnout. Put Camden on your calendars now.



After Action Report

Apr 29 & 30 — Market Fair, Fort Frederick, MD — Fusilier Denis Messier attended the market fair and said it was a good opportunity for picking up equipment. A tremendous amount of 18th century Sutlers in attendance.

May 6 & 7 - Mount Vernon Revolutionary War Days, Alexandria VA - Mount Vernon is one of those annual events that never disappoints. Like all the past times the event provided a great venue and large crowds that came out both days to see the battles and walk through the camps. The Clarke's were gracious enough to set up the camp site and provide a fabulous Saturday evening dinner. We had four new members on the field with us — Bob Clarke, Robert Clarke, Mike Lung, and Vincent Wolf.

June 17 & 18 — Battle of Monmouth, Monmouth, NJ (BRITISH BRIGADE EVENT) We had a great turn out between the Northern and Southern companies of the 23rd.

Alex Ivanchishin Commanded with Paul Astle and Mike Miller as our Sergeants. A grand two days it was. Weather was very tolerable topping out at 82 degrees on Sunday. A spot of rain at start of battle on Saturday got us a bit wet, but we soldiered on and made several full volley fires at the rebels.

The British Army consisted of 3 battalions and a vanguard with dragoons and several artillery pieces. Well over 200-250 Brits. Many more Rebels. Two glorious bayonet charges, repulsed on Saturday but drove the Rebels back for good on Sunday.

Excellent drill practice for our lads in camp was conducted by our own Light Company Sgt. Mike Miller, and Cpl. Mike Lung and overseen by our RSM Paul Astle, Following our drill and inspection we joined the 2nd battalion for army and battalion drill which was quite good and needed, but exhausting.

Afternoon battle was well done with the British army looking and performing in their usual outstanding fashion.

After musket cleaning and some camp cleanup most of us enjoyed BBQ and much needed libations at our Loyalist house in Howell, NJ just south of Monmouth.

Sunday started with breakfast in camp followed by church service.

The Regiment was formed for inspection followed by lunch and a march out to battle. We acquitted ourselves well in battle culminating in a "God Save the King" bayonet charge driving the rebels from the field, essentially ending the battle.

Thanks to everyone who braved the travel, the weather, and the exertions of both days for attending. The 23rd was well represented and made a glorious showing.

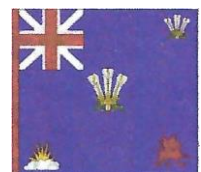
Alex, Paul Astle, Joe Siegel, Mike Miller, Dennis Murphy, Andrew Hamilton, Dan Blander, Kyle Parker, Ken and Mike Boyle, Areg Varzhapetyan, Eric Spaar, Kevin McClain, Jordan Rowland, Denis Messier, Mike Lung, Nolin Jones, Vincent Wolf, and Danny Spaar.

There were several bright spots in our deployment to Monmouth to highlight and take pride in. 1. Our drill and performance on the field. Excellent drill prep provided by our team of NCOs.

Everyone hung in there for drill and battalion practice and battles and gave it their all so we looked and performed in a most excellent manner. See the grit and determination in our bayonet charge.

2. Our Musik was wonderful. Joe, as Army Drum Major, brought the drums and fifes together to provide us all a wonderful march, battle and camp musik experience. My biggest kudos goes to Areg who wowed us all with his fife. He played period tunes so eloquently and was heard in camp often with the drummer from the 71st. Areg looked perfect in his kit and was one of the standouts this deployment.

This was a great event and had an effect of pulling the various companies together, north and south, to feel like one regiment. Good prep for 250th.



June 25 - Historic Hillsborough Excursion Day, Hillsborough NC (One day event)

— Our second engagement of the year at Hillsborough had the 23rd Foot set up a small camp for the day, interact with many small groups and individuals curious as

to who we were and what we were doing there. We discussed the British occupation of Hillsborough, our role in the British army and what it was like being a soldier in it. We performed several demonstrations throughout the day consisting of drill and firing exercises.

Personnel Matters

Personnel updates within the Southern Company:

Promotions — Mike Lung Corporal

New Joins - Mike Lung, Vincent Wolf, Bob Clark Sr. &, Robert Clark Jr.

Happy Birthday

July — Eric Bothur, Shane Watson

August — Mike Lung

Sept — Rory Moran

Captain Nate Williams, USMC — Nate is back on the East Coast and with 6th Communications Battalion, New York City.

2nd Lt. Jon Spaar Jr. USA — In June Jon started the Army's Infantry Officer School at Fort Moore (Benning), Georgia.

Uniform Matters / Military Items

One of our own Southern Company members is an 18th century master tailor so if you need any uniform items contact Sergeant Ben Beers.

Fusilier Tim Brieady has his own company that makes t-shirts and patches — check out his website at: <https://redheadedtshirts.com/>

Regimental authorized tailors/seamstresses

Ben Beers / mbeers@surry.net

Mike Grillo / rwffuz94@aol.com

Carl Johnson / carlivar@yahoo.com

Heather Chaffee / Heath5197@a01.com Lynn
Bull / Lynnbul112@yahoo.com

Sutlers

G Gedney Godwin - <http://gggodwin-com.3dcartstores.com/>

Townsend's - <https://www.townsend.us/>

Avalon Forge - <http://www.avalonforge.com/>

Sampson Historical - <https://www.samsonhistorical.com/>

Najecki's - <https://www.najecki.com/repro/reproindex.html>

Websites of Interest

The Royal Welsh - <https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-andunits/infantry/royal-welsh/> 23rd RWFIA - <http://rwfia.org/wp/>

British Brigade - <https://www.britishbrigade.org/>

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum at Caernarfon Castle —
<https://rwmuseum.org.uk>

The Regimental Museum has a way for individuals to support the museum's work - it's called Friends of the Museum. They will be having speaker events that may be of interest to the members. Use the following link to sign up. The link: <https://wwworwmuseum.org.uk/friends-of-the-museum.html>

Commander's Comments

We are more than half way through one of the busiest campaign seasons in a very, very long time. Eight events so far with at least three more before the end of campaign. A few items of note: so far an impressive turnout at all our events; we finally had our traditional St David's Day celebration in conjunction with our Guilford Courthouse event and look forward to continuing the tradition in years to come; recruiting is booming having added four new joins this year alone and a possible 2 more we are talking to; appearance and performance is improving at every event; more members are acquiring their full kits and we are making excellent progress on getting the required woolen small clothes by mid next year. Good news story all around. But we should resolve and commit ourselves to do even better in all areas I've highlighted.

While we are down for the summer, let's take an hour or two and polish our brass, clean and service our muskets and uniforms for the second half of the season.

Most of you know this, but it's worth repeating—it's a pleasure for me to serve with you all and a delight to see your continued commitment and enthusiasm to our regiment and hobby. Twenty seven years ago a fellow Air Force officer, T.R. Kissel joined the 23rd the same time I did and was so taken by his experience at Monmouth, he wrote a short letter to the regiment expressing his feelings. I've attached his letter. It says it all. Just having recently come off the field at Monmouth, I think we can in many ways relate our experience to his.

Have a great, relaxing summer. I'll be war gaming at Historicon and later at Gettysburg, swimming at my Loyalist house in NJ, drinking my share of lemonade (wink, wink, say no more) and, yes polishing some brass.

I hope to see you all in camp and on the field once again For God and Country—God Save the King! ICffDIEff!

Your Most Humble Servant,

Alex Ivanchishin, Captain
23rd Regiment of Foot
Horsfall's Company
RWFIA