

1. CAMPAIGN 1991 - THE STRANGEST IN YEARS

Well, it's over and time to take stock. The Yorkers had two spectacular attendances, one at Black Creek with 76 troops & 33 followers, the second at Penetang with 74 troops & 37 followers. The rest of the events were really quite poorly attended, no matter where they occurred or what they were for or how good they turned out to be.

I would be very interested in getting opinions as to why this happened. If we're going to improve next year and select events that are more desirable to attend, we need to know what you're thinking. Maybe it's just the recession. Maybe not. Your NCO's will give you a call to get your thoughts over the next few weeks.

Before you give us the gears about having to attend Oshawa, Thornhill, Todmorden Mills and others like it, you've gotta remember that we do need funds to print newsletters and mail them. If you're bored with this type of event and figure that someone else can do the job, not you, just remember that being in the army involves a few unpleasant duties. If you want to enjoy the more exciting events, then pay the price with the show & tell types!

2. FORWARD PLANNING - THE ROYAL VISIT (PERHAPS HER MAJESTY), NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE JULY 4,5 1992

Here's lots of notice so that all of you can make plans to appear before the Queen, the Duke, or another senior member of the Royal Family. You should start thinking now of how you will maintain and improve your uniform and equipment for this event.

The event commemorates the arrival of John Graves Simcoe as Lt Gov of the newly created Province of Upper Canada in 1792 - yep, its a bicentennial celebration. Simcoe will be brought across the lake from York (that's Toronto you dunkrunners) in a Squadron of sailing vessels including the Bee, Blackjack, Playfair, etc..

The decision has been made to use Rev War units for the ground forces as the uniforms and kit are far closer to the 1790's than are those of the 1812 period. A large Brigade of Loyalist units with a few British Regular units will be in attendance. This Brigade will be formed-up on the shore at NOTL and receive the Gov as he lands. Then the units march through the streets of the town (to the cries of admiration from the assembled crowd) to Fort George.

Next will be a Tactical Demonstration for her Majesty, et al. This demo will be unopposed battle drill by the units of the Brigade. One doubts that we will again be lucky enough to receive an inspection, so don't get your hopes up.

As dusk falls, the Brigade will fight a Battle inside the fort which will have a programme of fireworks as opposition. I gather from the Fencibles who have attended at Fort Erie that this is quite spectacular.

On the Sunday - la piece de la resistance - Our artillery Sjt, Glen Smith, has been in negotiation with the town of Queenston. Incredibly, they have invited us to fight a running battle through their streets for the townfolk's entertainment. Due to the unique nature of this town, it is possible to seal off all incoming traffic. This battle will take the form of a wargame. The Brigade will be divided into two sides and have a go at each other with a defined timetable & target to win.

3. PROMOTIONS IN THE GRENADIER COMPANY

Captain James announces the promotion of Ted Visser to Serjeant in the Grenadier Company. Steve Gilbey to Corporal, viz Visser promoted. Bruce Grundy to Lance Corporal.

Ted has served as Cpl from the beginning of the 1991 campaign. Due to Sjt Mike Hurley's

3. PROMOTIONS, CONT'D

absence, Ted has led the Grenadiers, and other troops of the regiment, on many occasions throughout the year. His leadership has received the approbation of both the men and the officers of the battalion.

Steve is in his second campaign year with the unit. His previous experience as a senior NCO in the Reserve will help him whip the Grenadier stragglers into line. Finch, watch your back!

Bruce is an experienced old soldier with several years in the Yorkers and Brunswickers. Too much Curling (a sport that drains the essential juices of life out of the soles of your feet) and too much work have kept Bruce from NCO-dom in the past. As he gets his hair cut at the same barber as Himself, it was inevitable that promotion would come his way.

4. RESIGNATIONS

I am sorry to advise that Cpl Bill Shaw of No.1 Section, Col's Coy has resigned from the KRR. Bill has decided to withdraw from all phases of reenacting and has also stepped down as First Sergeant of the 10th Louisiana Regt. Many will remember Bill as a superb soldier whose drill was excellent and whose turn-out was exemplary. Those of us who took the time to get to know Bill will miss his quiet, considerate friendship and warm smile.

Unfortunately, and ironically, Robert Land has resigned from No.2 Sec, Col's to pursue life in the 10th Louisiana.

5. LOYALIST BOOKS FOR SALE

The following books about Loyalists in action in the Northern Department (that's where the Yorkers served, you dinklenerds) are available at highly discounted prices through the unit. Simply telephone me with your wants and I will send these to you through the mails at your cost.

Sir John Johnson, Loyalist Baronet, by Earle Thomas. This is the tragic story of Sir John with much detail of his life before the revolution; his duties during and after. A 'must have' companion piece to the regimental history. \$12.95.

Allan Maclean, Jacobite General, by Mary B. Fryer. The story of the Commanding Officer of a sister regiment of the KRR NY, the Royal Highland Emigrants; his services prior to and during the revolution. This book helps to fill out what was occurring around the KRR in other quarters of the Northern Department. \$12.95

Buckskin Pimpernel, the Exploits of Justus Sherwood, Loyalist Spy, by Mary B. Fryer. Sherwood was a Captain in Peter's Queen's Loyal Rangers, serving with Burgoyne in the 1777 campaign. As a Secret Service Chief in the latter years of the war, he orchestrated the unsuccessful attempt to bring Vermont back into British North America as a separate Province. A fascinating story of another phase of the Loyalist activities run from Quebec. \$9.50

6. A SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE KING'S ROYAL YORKERS

The Colonel will soon mail a copy of a newly released book about the kids of a famous Loyalist Captain named John Walden Meyer to all Royal Yorker families with young members. Keep your eyes peeled on the mail box.

Meyer finished his army career as the 9th senior Captain in Jessup's Loyal Rangers, a sister regiment of the KRR NY. His earlier exploits included the release of Polly Johnson's cousin, James Delancey, from the jail in Ballston NY and a brave attempt to capture a rebel General named Philip Schuyler whose orders had forced Sir John to flee from the Mohawk Valley.

Most of this book tells about what it was like for the families of Loyalists whose fathers had left to fight in the army. It is a similar story to the one that many of the Royal Yorker mothers and children could have told. This is a great adventure story. It moves fast and is full of easy-to-read history. Get mom & dad to read it to you. They'll learn something, I bet.

7. PURPLE PROSE THAT JUSTIFIES HIMSELF AT HIS VERY WORST

Many of you will recollect that Himself sometimes gets carried away when lecturing to the uninitiated [particularly citizens of the Great Republic] regarding the coming of the Loyalists to Canada. Glenn Hunt has brought to our attention a few lines written by William Kirby, a major author from the Niagara area in the 19C. Kirby wrote -

"Such a wholesale flight of the most respectable, intelligent and industrious population of any country had not been seen since the exile of the French Protestants after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, 1687.

While the United States lost the very best and most moral of their people, Canada was the gainer by having its territory settled and the foundation of its greatness laid by the advent of these loyal, high-principled men, who preferred starting the world anew in the wilderness, rather than be untrue to their King and the British flag, which was their own native symbol."

Wow! Even the SjtMjr isn't this bad!

8. THE NEWLY FORMED, NORTHERN DEPARTMENT LOYALIST BRIGADE

Some of you will have caught up with this news already. The 210th anniversary re-enactment of the Battle of Johnstown was an inaugural event for this new Brigade comprised of the 1st & 2nd Bns, King's Royal Yorkers; Capt John McDonell's Coy, Butler's Rangers (Brantford) & Major James Roger's Coy, King's Rangers (Montreal & Ottawa). In this specific instance, the Brigade (and all the other Crown Forces) was commanded by Capt Reg James.

The idea for this combination of units came from the fertile mind [something has to be] of Himself who is in lust for a promotion to Brigadier General, just like Sir John was in 1782. The concept is that these three units will form a separate brigade we're with the British Brigade and serve under the Loyalist commander at the event. Should the Northern Brigade turnout be too small to comprise a separate role, we will continue to operate amongst Corrado's Central Brigade. (like at St.Jean) On the other hand, if their turnout is too small, they will operate within our Brigade.

The command of the Northern Brigade will sometimes be a Yorker and other times be a Ranger. Capt Mike Griffiths of the King's Rangers is well known to many of us and has much experience from his many years in the hobby. Like our officers, Mike falls into the ranks when his numbers don't justify his commission.

9. APPRECIATION FOR WORK DONE

I would like to inform all of our members that the services which have been rendered by our member, Robin Upton of Musket, Fife & Drum, have been, and will continue to be, provided on a preferential basis for our unit. We have received special prices which are not enjoyed by other organizations. I am aware, as is Robin, that not every garment has been perfect. However, in the vast majority of cases, the garments have been first rate. Where errors were made, Robin did his very best to have these corrected.

As you all know, our uniforms are custom-made clothing. There are no exact patterns to work from. Methods of construction are very different than those of modern clothing manufacturing. There are very, very few tailors and seamstresses willing to take on 18C clothing at a reasonable price. I know this personally because I've tried over and over again to find them.

OK, so what's this all about? I'm hearing that a few of our members who have not been satisfied with the items received from Musket, Fife & Drum have been unpleasantly vocal about it. Cut out the crap! At the kind of puny margins that Robin has made on these stuff, he doesn't deserve anyone's badmouthing! We're damn lucky to have an excellent supplier and we don't need someone to thoughtlessly spoil our good fortune.

10. PERIOD EYE GLASSES FRAMES

Johan Klyndyk has purchased a supply of various sizes of period frames, all in steel. These have the straight temple bars and many are pierced at the bar ends for tying a ribbon across the back of your head. We have frames for different sizes of heads from children to monster-Watt type size. Cost is \$23.00. Give Himself a call if you're interested. 416-833-6435.

11. A REMINDER OF WHAT NOT TO DO WITH A LOADED MUSKET

Pete Johnson has submitted an excerpt from the newsletter of the New Jersey Volunteers, *The Greens*, edited by Todd Braisted.

Quoted from the Middlesex Journal, and Evening Advertiser:

Birmingham, January 11, 1776. Last week a young Gentleman of Shrewsbury being out a shooting, and in order to assist himself in getting over a hedge, rested his hand on the muzzle of his gun, which going off at that instant, tore his hand in so shocking a manner, that a mortification soon ensued, and he expired in about two days after."

A useful reminder that putting one's hand over the muzzle of a loaded musket isn't bright. While the young Gentleman's was loaded with ball or shot, don't make the mistake of thinking that your hand will survive with a blank!

12. KING'S ROYAL YORKERS PERSONALIZED BEER MUG

Mike Hurley advises that Colin Gammon has offered to make more of the KRR beer mugs which have a rough-tough Yorker on one side and the Regtl crest on the other. These mugs are personalized with your surname and/or Regtl number. The mugs are not period, so don't buy one on that basis. Lots of the old guard have one and you see them after hours at many events. If you're interested, call Mike to place your order. \$15.00 each. 416-630-4224

13. RUMOURS OF CHANGES IN THE COLONEL'S COMPANY

I'm sure that many of you are hearing whispers of changes in the Coy and in your Sections. This is quite true. Himself cannot stop fiddling and tinkering. Remember, change keeps your mind active. Whether anything actually happens is up to the Officers and NCO's of the Coy. More later.

14. A SUPER PIECE OF HISTORY FROM OUR PERIOD

Mike LeBlanc of No.2 Section, Col's Coy prepared on his desk top publishing unit an excerpt from one of the most delightful books of the Revolutionary War period. This is entitled: *Advice to the Officers of the British Army: With the Addition of some Hints to the Drummer and Private Soldier... The Sixth Edition London: 1783*

The author of this tome is anonymous, perhaps for the good of his health. Remarkably, his words of advice are bang-on for every rank and class of soldier. That's what has made this little book so outstanding.

Mike's excerpt is printed as a separate page in this Newsletter so that you can keep it in your haversack and have it with you always for those many boring moments when you need to refresh your minds as to the correct execution of your duties.

Remember when you read this to mentally replace those f's for s's, as in Himself and Haverfack and Mufket. Know what I mean?!?