

**REGIMENTAL DEBTS**

We are in better shape than at the time of my last appeal; however, we are still cash poor due to the number of debts which we have had to pay.

We must bring our cash balance up to a more secure working level and all of you who owe funds *must* help by keeping a flow coming.

Included in everyone's total is their 1992 Insurance bill of \$5.00 per capita. Men with active families have all members in their balance.

**YOUR DEBT IS VERY OLD AND/OR OUT OF HAND  
AND NEEDS ATTENTION NOW!**

\$ . . .

**YOUR DEBT IS IN CONTROL; HOWEVER, YOU NEED TO SEND SOME POST DATED CHEQUES.  
HERE'S YOUR PRESENT BALANCE.**

\$ . . .

You have some new debt, or a small old debt, that needs clearing up. Pls attend to this.

creditor 25.30

\$ . . .

**BRIEF REVIEW OF THE SIMCOE LANDING, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE &  
QUEENSTON JULY 4,5**

Great thanks for much conceptualizing and pontificating and liaisoning go to Sjt Glen Smith, Artillery for the success of this event.

As Glen himself says, no amount of thanks would be enough to Sjt Chris Zoeteway LtCoy who slugged his guts out with marching timetables; Coast Guard - Customs & veterinarian liaison; followers' change rooms; the Legion; Yacht Club berths for the small boats; Portajohns; planning & liaising the firework tactical and many other pieces of work, all invisible and not noticed by most members.

And Cpl Eric Henry & Pte Dan Laroche who helped Chris mother his way through the event and Registration and to the other Light Bobs who assisted - many thanks for a monumental effort of organization and concern for details.

To Rick Pepin LtCoy Adjt who organized his Air Cadet unit for camp security.

To Jim Corbett, 64th Foot, who arrived so early at the event that Chris near fainted - our thanks for laying out the cantonment.

Both of the communities & the Friends of Fort George offered superb financial support with food, prog and excellent medals. The cost of the additional \$2MM of Liability Insurance, which had to be organized at the very last minute to cover all of the reenactment units, has been thankfully met by the Citizens' Committee.

The Royal Yorker turnout was a record with 93 all ranks on the field at the same time - not counting the three deserters who were found amongst the sailors - toothless McComb and le grand carp Forrester & the debonair Mr. Joynt, who did not have the grace to remove his green coat when he took his turn in the barrel. (Kevin enjoyed his time aboard so much that he resigned from the KRR 92.07.27) Many will recall that our previous record for the largest number of Yorkers, all at one place - all at the same time, was for the Queen at Fort Wellington in 1984 with 78 all ranks in attendance.

Polly Johnson Day - the annual celebration of Lady Mary Johnson's birthday whereat many of our ladies dress in ye haute couture - was a great success and had several comic moments. (don't ask)

One very sour note came as a result of our structuring of the Northern Brigade tactical demonstration at Fort George. Reg & I simply fell back on the tried and true methods of entertaining the public in an efficient and safe manner while accomodating all the reenactors - as we have done at historic sites across North America & England. However, in doing so, we completely forgot the peculiar rules associated with Fort George. As this oversight broke several Parks Canada rules for the Fort George site, we have blotted our copy books and reverberations have been heard from NOTL to Louisbourg. The fact that the demonstration went very well & was safely conducted doesn't seem to matter - we booped! And, our Museum's many units are already suffering for this transgression.

**SIMCOE LANDING CONT'D**

Our wargames in Queenston didn't develop as expected; however, the action was hot & fast - almost too much so. The Green Machine was awesome in its power and discipline. Fortunately, there have been no complaints - or anything but praise from the locals - which is a great blessing considering the confinement that we worked in. In fact, they have already asked us back.

Many lessons were learned and we are trying to put together an analysis to correct the faults to the rules & structure while maintaining all the benefits. Anyone who would like to offer observations and suggestions is most welcome to do so.

Several letters of praise for the reenactors' performances have been received from the organizers and spectators and notes of thanks from our fellow regiments as well.

**NEW 1ST BN EVENT: KETTLEBY FALL FAIR, KETTLEBY ONT SAT, SEP 12**

Not found on your calendar (**pls put it there**) is the parade and demonstrations at Kettleby which run from 10-3:30. Kettleby is north of Toronto and lies even with Aurora. To get there, take 401 north to the Aurora sideroad and head east. At the gas station, don't turn south - keep going straight ahead. This takes you to the village's west end and free-parking. You take all your kit and walk into the east end for the form-up. Or, you can turn south on the Aurora side road and follow it until you get to Keele St. Turn north and then take your first left turn which takes you into the free parking at the east end of the village. That way you'll be closest to the form-up. Or take 404 north to the Aurora sideroad and follow it west through Aurora to Keele.

At 3:30 there's a BBQ at Elaine and James Robertson's place which is two doors east of the Milk Store and flying the Union Jack. Bring along some hooch and contribute a salad or some brownies.

This is a paid event!! The unit needs 12+ guys and all followers who can make it.

**JOSEPH BRANT'S BIRTHDAY REVIEWED**

Such a remarkable event - with a magician named Peter the Great and the Teen Tour Band, we just fitted in perfectly. The SjtMjr and Himself contrived two competitions to pass the hours away. The Line Drill competition was held first and four units participated - a Grenadier section, two Col's Coy sections, and a section of Butler's Rangers.

The competition was in two phases, the Grenadiers winning both. No.1 Section Col's second in both. No.2 Col's third in Phase 1 and Butler's third in Phase 2. The 3 Pdr Gun was fourth in all phases.

A Light Infantry drill competition was stopped short as time was running short. The Grenadiers and No.1 shared the honours, each winning a phase.

**AN ACCIDENT FOR ALL TO CONSIDER**

We had a repetition of a nasty accident when Phil Hooper's musket went off during loading. In common with Dave Moore's accident of several years ago, we were ramming our cartridge paper. One suspects that some smouldering paper had remained in the bore from the previous discharge and this ignited the next charge as it was being poured in.

Fortunately, Phil received only moderate burns on his hand as opposed to Dave's injuries which included his eye & face. Some of you will recall that David was loading on the march - something that we no longer practice - and, in consequence his muzzle was too close to his face. On this occasion, Phil was standing loading and correctly holding his muzzle in the air space to his right front. When the powder ignited, most of it went into the air.

This does illustrate why we are so insistent upon everyone learning the correct positioning of the muzzle during loading! Yes, such an accident is not likely to happen when we are not ramming the paper; however, solid practice of the correct method pays off.

**30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE B.A.R., FORT STANWIX IN REVIEW**

This was the largest BAR event since 1976! Certainly a social success, but hardly a military one. The BAR fed over 550 people at a buffet meal under a giant marquee in a downpour - and it was great. 18C dancing in the evening was excellent, although far too short in duration.

The Royal Yorkers were given the best barracks in the Fort and those who stayed inside had a good time. The large tent encampment outside the walls was excellent and without even a hint of vandalism unlike previous visits to Rome. A large number of very good Sutlers were in attendance. Lots of first rate Continental units, amongst them our nemesis, the 3rd New York, in good numbers; a fair turnout of the 2nd NY and also the 3rd NJ. At least two good Sections of Cont Dragoons. So, the two sides were

### STANWIX REVIEWED

well balanced with 22nd; 23rd RWF Lights & Fusileers; Queen's Rangers and Delancey's well represented.

As we expected, the tactical demonstrations at the Fort were unopposed. SjtMjr Moore put the unit through some unusual, but accurate, manoeuvres which greatly helped to offset the stupidity of these displays on the Saturday; however, the Sunday PM jobbie was as dismal as could be.

A real highlight of the KRR military appearance was a recruiting scenario conducted by the SjtMjr on the grand parade of the fort who delivered a very sound, well researched, blood & thunder speech without any histrionics or snicker-producing humour. This performance was so very well delivered that one could have cut the tension in the fort with a knife and our loving opposition (and some of the public) were absolutely stone-faced as Dave managed to get deeply under their skins with some real truths of the rebellion. We all know that American trait of wanting to be loved by all and never understanding when someone doesn't comply.

Unfortunately, the great potential for good wargaming at Erie Canal Village was not realized. The ground and village were both excellent and the action itself started well but soon deteriorated into quite stupid stalemates which included some 'Oneida warriors' changing sides and making great claims for their prowess. Also, while the KRR was very well prepared for continued battle the wargames were halted early as some of the other units had wetted their powder in a swamp and not a few others must have arrived poorly supplied. A very disappointing result for what should have been an outstanding tactical.

Every organization can have its bad wargame and one hopes that this is the last one for the BAR for the next three years.

On balance, a super, very large, social event - quite well supported - in excellent surroundings.

### THANKS FOR DONATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Quite often members will donate their credit which has built up in their account to the regiment and this appreciated gift goes unsung. However, the source of two recent special donations does require some recognition.

Thanks to Grenadier Refugee Catherine Visser who donated a large share of her modest profits made from the manufacture and sale of Fatigue Caps to members. Also, to Grenadier Klyndyk who did the same with profits made from his regimentally decorated wall clocks.

Thanks also go to Sgt John Moore, Col's Coy who organized the Canada Day appearance at Oshawa which earned the unit a much needed \$1100. To Cpl Bruce Grundy, Grenadiers who organized the Fergus, Ont event which earned \$300 and to Cpl Ron Maybee, Maj's Coy who organized a Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club event which yielded \$50. Much, much appreciated - and needed!

### LAST NEWSLETTER'S FINGER POINTING EXERCISE

I was happy to find that quite a few members actually read the Newsletter. But, not at all happy to find that so many fathers thought my diatribe on kids was pointed particularly at them as an individual. I did want all fathers to be very conscious of their personal responsibility and to be sure that they did not make assumptions regarding 'kid-sitting' duties by our women. That's all. It was not intended to make guys leave their kids at home!!!! Judging from an occurrence at Fort Stanwix, I would say that one of our couples didn't read my words of caution.

### THIS MONTH'S FINGER POINTING EXERCISE

As most of you know, I've never smoked, so, I obviously don't know what the habit is all about. Lots of our members cannot comfortably operate for very long without having a cigarette. I guess everyone recognizes that cigarettes are anachronistic and as jarringly incorrect as horn rimmed glasses and portable radios. Because I'm a non-smoker, I make a point of personally not saying much about it when someone isn't being too bright about having a cigarette.

I try to leave the job of reminding smokers that they are being too obvious in front of the public to the smokers in the unit - people like Reg James; but, as all of us know, sometimes the non-smoking Officers & NCO's have to do the reminding - and, of course, the smokers resent being told. But, that's just life in the reenactment game. Rules is rules.

What a lot of you probably don't know is that many sites put out a sheet of regulations that they expect all of the reenactors to follow. To reproduce these rule sheets is too expensive and makes boring reading. As lots of you never read the newsletters anyway, I can't see making our costs

**FINGER POINTING**

worse by filling up pages with material that won't even have a chance of being looked at. I rely on our Officers & NCO's to enforce what is common sense and necessary.

On this topic of cigarette smoking, here's a quote from Fort Niagara's Regulations/Guidelines:

- "3. ... No cigarettes or other anachronisms are allowed in front of the public." (The underlining emphasis is their's, not mine)

Here's another quotation:

- "12. Participants are discouraged from bringing animals. **All animals are to be kept on a leash and attended at all times.**" (The heavy typeface emphasis is their's) Don't be surprised if you see Wannamaker with a rope around his neck.

These are typical site regulations. Fort Niagara's listing has 25 separate points, so there's plenty more that I'm not printing here.

**RESIGNATIONS**

Quite some time ago, Sjt Chuck Baker, Maj's Coy decided to retire from reenacting. Al Joyner and I asked Chuck to keep the lid on his decision to allow some reorganization. The promotion of Andy Weston to full Corporal of the Section was one of the answers and this has been a very satisfactory move. The unit will miss Chuck's great sense of humour; his keeping & nurturing of the Regimental Icon and his vast experience as a reenactor.

As noted above, Kevin Joynt, who never quite embraced the unit, has decided to sell out and pursue a life on the water.

**TRANSFERS**

I am often amazed by the number of guys who are not happy with the Company or Section that they're in. If you're one of these and uncomfortable where you are and the grass looks greener elsewhere, pls ask for a transfer!!

If your problem is due to the rules of being a Yorker, well that's a different story. For instance, if you don't like the 9:30 tent inspections; if you can't give up your elastic suspenders; if you want to load your musket with two cartridges to get a bigger bang; etc... no matter what Coy or Sec you're in - you still won't be happy, cuz rules is rules and you gotta play ball or take your leave.

**ITEMS IN STOCK**

A new supply of the 'brass cylinder' version of the Whisk & Pick have been received from Jean Plamondon. These are selling from stores at \$5.00 per set. If you have a partially complete set with the whisk or the pick missing, you can turn it in for an allowance against the new one. All of you are supposed to have this tool with you on the field.

A new supply of Triangular Tools are in stock at \$10 ea. This is another tool which every soldier must carry in his equipment.

All of you with lousy Bayonet Scabbards, be advised that a new supply has arrived in stores at \$32.50 ea. This latest batch fits all models of the Brown Bess bayonet. Your current scabbard can be turned in for an allowance, the value of which depends on its condition and completeness, eg. scabbard less a tip but body in very good condition - \$32.50 less \$1.50 for new tip and \$3.00 repair labour = \$28.00. When repaired, the old scabbard, refurbished, goes back into stock at \$32.50. *Remember, scabbards with the brass tip missing are bloody dangerous.*

A new supply of canvas Musket Sheaths from the Alliston works of Walker Enterprises @ \$10.00 each. These exactly fit the 42" Short Land; they tie shut with a leather thong and have a canvas sling for carrying over your shoulder. They also have the advantage of looking 18C.

Remember, those of you wanting a Fatigue/Forage Cap for either Battalion, place your orders with Catherine Visser.

Many have noticed and heard that the elusive Cpl Zubatiuk, Maj's Coy, is back in action. Victor is a superb tinsmith and offers tinware ration bowls and beautifully tapered drinking mugs for excellent prices. Place your orders, and lots of 'em, so we can keep Victor occupied and out of trouble.

### OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

1. Most of the Fifes & Drums of the King's Royal Yorkers work in the 41st Regt of Foot at Fort George - I think because it keeps them off the streets.

They have just released a professionally recorded audio tape which includes 18 Marches, 8 Ceremonial Marches, 14 Duty Beatings and 14 pieces of Social musick of the 18 & 19C. The majority of these were played during the Rev War. Several arrangements were taken from an amazing, diary-like book written by Drum Major John Buttrey, 34th Regt, over his lengthy career. He likely assisted in the training of the Royal Yorker Drummers at Montreal in 1777.

Recorded over several days, the clarity of the tape catches the auditory differences of the instruments when they're dry and moist. Included (free) are crickets singing in the night. Some super tin whistle and Bodhran playing by the Three Big Dummies, aka Garvin A. Wart, Peter the Poop Alexander and Ken Pervert.

The famous John Moon of Colonial Williamsburg has reviewed the tape and offered high praise for the product and the standard of the performances.

This tape has set a new standard for variety and depth of Military & Social music of our period. If you would like a copy, pls order from Castle McGeachie at \$13.75.

2. Shirts with "Fort George National Historic Site" on the upper sleeve and the Simcoc Landing logo on the front are available at -  
T-Shirts \$14; Sweatshirts & "Grandfather" shirts \$25. Again, order through McGeachie. The same applies for the following items.
3. Fort George has reproduced the Upper Canada Preserved Medal, which was never widely distributed to the actual veterans. They obtained one of the few originals left to strike their reproduction. Members involved in the War of 1812 will likely be most interested in this - \$12.60.
4. Two prints are also available. Marine painter, Peter Rindlisbacher painted Simcoe's arrival on the Onondaga and copies sell for \$22.95.

In poster form, the heroic study which was hanging in Navy Hall painted by Richard Cook in the "old narrative style of the 18C" which features Simcoe, his wife, John Butler, Fort Niagara and other significant elements - will look great in your special room - at \$6.85.

### LOGO DESIGN

You might notice the one-colour alternate logo design which appears on your envelope containing this newsletter. I asked Sally Crowther to revise the red and black design as our printer had registration problems with about 25% of our last run of envelopes. The black broad arrow was drifting all over the red Maple Leaf.

I think the one-colour job maintains the impact of the original design and it sure costs less money to print. Hope you like it.

### OUR NATIVE ALLIES - THE TOMAHAWK

Over the years all of us have absorbed impressions of what the Indians looked like and behaved like from TV, Movies and books. We all know that much of what we see and read is crap, yet what other sources do we really have?

While doing research for my upcoming mega release on the St. Leger Campaign, Jim Morrison sent me a copy of the Journal of Captain Bloomfield of the 3rd New Jersey Continental Line Regiment. This was the unit sent to Johnson Hall to incarcerate Sir John in May 1776 and the journal covers that, and some subsequent, events. As you probably know, Sir John was warned of their purpose and escaped over the Adirondacks to Canada.

Bloomfield's journal is one of the very best original sources that I have ever read. Remarkably, his Lieutenant also kept a journal and Jim sent that along with some letters by the Regimental Chaplain and another journal of one of the Company's Privates, all of which overlap the same time period. The latter is simplistic and offers very little; but, the first three are wonderful for their detail. Amongst many other interesting topics, these works describe the Six Nations, their physical characteristics, their weapons, their politics, their skills and customs. I plan to quote sections for everyone to enjoy.

All of us have always heard that the Indians carried and used tomahawks. We have been led to believe that this weapon was a favorite with them and that they used it skillfully. Bloomfield offers some proof -

**NATIVE WARRIORS**

"Their Instruments of War are Muskets, Hatchets, and long sharp-pointed Knives; these they always carry about with them. The Hatchet in war-time, they stick in their girdle [breech-clout] behind; and they have the art of directing & regulating [when throwing] its motion, so, that though it turns round as it flies, the edge always sticks in the tree, near the place where they aim at."

Many of us who have practised this art well know how difficult it is when you change the distances thrown. And, I've always doubted the wisdom of taking the chance of throwing one of your major weapons when the chances are so high that you would miss and lose it in the woods; however, when you read in Bloomfield's account how practiced and skilled the warrior was in the use of the axe you can get the feeling that the risk of loss was outweighed by the skill of use.

I have only read one reference to an Indian actually throwing his hatchet at a foe and bringing him down. This was a Seneca warrior at Cherry Valley who ran to take the garrison commander. The officer aimed two pistols at his onrushing assailant, but both misfired. The rebel turned to flee and the warrior threw his tomahawk at the escaping man and dropped him. This anecdote suggests that both men were running at the time the axe was launched. No mean feat to hold one's courage while running forward into the path of two discharging pistols and then throw accurately enough to hit a moving target.

**GET PLANNING****THE ALL-UP USA EVENT OF 1992 - FORT PLAIN, MOHAWK VALLEY, NY SEP 26,27/92**

Just a reminder to all Yorkers, Butler's & King's Rangers - this is the event where we are going to try to swamp our friends and opponents with a maximum turnout of the Northern Brigade. The event is well supported with straw, food stuffs for breakfasts, lunch and BBQ, beer & wine Saturday dinner. Every member will need eating utensils. 14 sutlers are registered! The Crown camp has close access to decent washrooms. Fort Plain, by the way, is just a sniff further than Herkimer House and not as far as Canajoharie. From the west, exit at 29A off Interstate 90. Take 5S east to Fort Plain. From the east, exit at 29 and take 5S west to Fort Plain.

Gary Corrado, Queen's Rangers, is the host. He advises that the basic premise of the Saturday tactical is that the Crown Forces will try to prevent a provision train of waggons from supplying the fort. This is to take place along Route 5S and we have permission to operate around the buildings and on the lawns along the way. Like Johnstown last year.

On the Sunday, the Crown Forces are to attack the Continental encampment. They will have thrown up a breastwork on its southern boundary and the Regulars will attack through cornfields against that flank. There is a remnant of an old military road which Sullivan's troops used in 1779 in their invasion of Iroquois country and this swings NW & N to the western flank of the rebel camp. The Loyalists will work along that route and the edge of a hill which lies above the old road. Looks like rough terrain with woods, rocks and old tracks. Ideal Northern Brigade country! Bring 100 rds of blank.

Make your plans now to attend; start working on car pools now. Let's give them a maximum turnout to sweat over. You know - "Holy cow, lookat all them green coated foreigners!!"

**SECOND BATTALION EVENTS**

We've had a year of some experimentation with the First & Second Battalions attending the same events. The original premise for 2Bn appearances was that they would not be mixed with the 1Bn except where it served the Regiment's own purposes - such as for show & tell reasons or where we needed clear-cut opponents for small tacticals like the Paine Farm and Balls Falls.

When Sir Peter Johnson visited with us last year, at what was going to be exclusively a 2Bn event, we broke our own rules and brought both battalions in order to get a higher level of attendance for our Honorary Colonel Commandant. For that event, I am more than glad that we did so, as the 2Bn had a very poor attendance and heavens knows what Sir Peter would have thought if we hadn't brought along other members.

So, with that being a success, we tried a few other events this year following the mixing idea. Many of us feel that this concept was not successful. One of the real joys of joining the 2Bn (other than the pretty redcoat and the spectacular cyphered buttons) was that one got to attend some unusual events which the 1Bn wouldn't go to. Sure, they were often long distance drives; however, they were different and unique to just the guys in redcoats and slouch hats.

Next year, we'll fall back onto the original concept and blending will only be used where the Regiment itself is the major beneficiary.