

Royal



Yorkers

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick

2003 IS SHAPING UP TO BE A GREAT SEASON

The 2003 calendar is beginning to take shape. As always, *it ain't final until you get "The Calendar" in your hot little hand*, but here are some of the things that are being considered for the coming campaign.

- Last year we had a successful tactical school at Westfield Pioneer Village, not far from Hamilton. The ground was excellent and the village setting was very nice. Some of our complaints from 2002 are being addressed, which could make this site an excellent spot to tune our skills early in the season. This will probably take place on the Victoria Day weekend (May 17/18), which ties in nicely with the Annual Queen's Birthday Parade on the Monday (May 19).
- One of the All-Up events this year will be at Johnson Hall in Johnstown, NY on June 7/8. This of course is the home of Sir John Johnson, built originally by his father Sir William Johnson. Johnson Hall holds a *Market Days* event each

year. Although this is not a *military* event per se, they have promised that we will have opportunities to do our thing on some of the surrounding property. At this event we will also be leaving our camp kettles at home, since the plan is to hold a Regimental Dinner on Saturday evening at one of the local establishments. This is a tradition that dates back to the beginning of the recreated Yorkers, and unfortunately has gone by the way in recent times. The tradition will be revived at Johnson Hall.

- You have already heard quite a bit about our second All-Up event for 2003. This is the event at Chrysler's Farm on July 12/13. Preparations are well under way, and it promises to be a good one. Make sure you reserve this weekend in July.
- Adolphustown is an important Loyalist community, particularly for the Yorkers, since many of the 2nd Battalion received their land grants in the area. We will be supporting the



Nicholas Herkimer Homestead

Bateaux Weekend there on the weekend of August 30/31. This event has been attended by some of our eastern Ontario guys in recent years, and they have found it to be a good outing.

- At the end of the season we will be making our annual trip into the Mohawk Valley. This time our destination will probably be the home of General Nicholas Herkimer, of Oriskany fame. Ask Sjt Mjr Moore to tell you some stories about the last time the regiment was there. He may start out with the one about the rebel wench who had the audacity to moon the Kings' troops.

Of course there is a list of other events that will fill out the calendar, including some old standbys, and some new venues as well. More details will be provided for these as we get closer to the dates. You will notice that there are fewer long drives into rebel territory this year, as the 225th anniversary events move south, out of reasonable driving range. However, the season looks very promising and a few more Canadian events may be a nice change of pace after a year of trying to keep up with General Burgoyne.

DWP

COMING EVENTS

Feb 19 – Drill, Fort York Armouries, 8:00 p.m.

Mar 19 – Drill, Ft York

Apr 5 – Winter Party

Apr 17 – Drill, Ft York

May 14 – Drill, Ft York



DISTAFF ALERT! POLLY JOHNSON DAY

June 7 & 8 - JOHNSON HALL



This year we will be celebrating Polly Johnson Day on *sacred ground*. June 7 and 8 the Yorkers will be attending Market Days at Johnson Hall and we have entered into negotiations with the site to provide us with the usual necessities and amenities so that we can hold Polly Johnson Day on actual ground that Polly Johnson walked and danced and lived on. Janice Lang is hoping to be there so that we can do some fun set photos, although we are still in negotiation with the site for the necessary permissions for indoor photos. We will have storage and mirrors

and changing space.

Wade Wells of the **Johnson Hall** site is hoping to set up a tea for us or some similar activity, but I think even if we can't pull off the dreamy aspects of this (photos in the drawing room, tea in the House, MMMmm), we will still get some beautiful photos and have a pretty scenic time. Because the event is early in the season (and also because I am saving my next new amazing outfit for the next Quebec event – coming soon), I will just be refurbishing and accessorizing my last gussy outfit (that is the *peau de soie* travelling outfit). Accessories can make a big difference to your portrayal as we all know. So for example, I will be re-cutting and decorating my stomacher. Might I suggest, if the time is too short to complete a new project, that you consider the same. Silk gloves, hat trim, a new stomacher, necklaces, a silk mantlelet, serious hip improvements, are just some suggestions. This also could be a good time to look towards improving your hairstyle or your caps or trims for your head. Please e-mail me or call me if you're looking for advice or help or directions.

As per usual, if you don't want to go

high gussy, a lower gussy is possible and desirable. Dress up one of your outfits with fancy accessories. Get your camp gown made finally. If you have a choice of outfits, I would pick the more comfortable one as there is a dance in front of the Hall that evening.

If you're looking to tackle a more adventurous project, please give me a call with your ideas. I have a little bit



of experience in this area and can generally help someone to envision the fetching new outfit that will suit their means and abilities and style, as well as help to make sure you don't end up with something very expensive and very wrong.

We of course always welcome helpers (Maids) for the dressing process. Please feel free to come as you are and help us out. Your help is urgently needed and greatly appreciated. I hope to keep you all updated as information about this event gets firmed up. (newatt@sympatico.ca)

P.S. And on a related note: Sonja is thinking of selling the red silk gown (crewel stomacher, crewel shoes) and quilted blue petticoat that originally belonged to Deb Parks. It is fairly fragile (needing some love and reinforcement) and very small and quite expensive, but utterly beautiful. Please contact me if you think you might be interested.

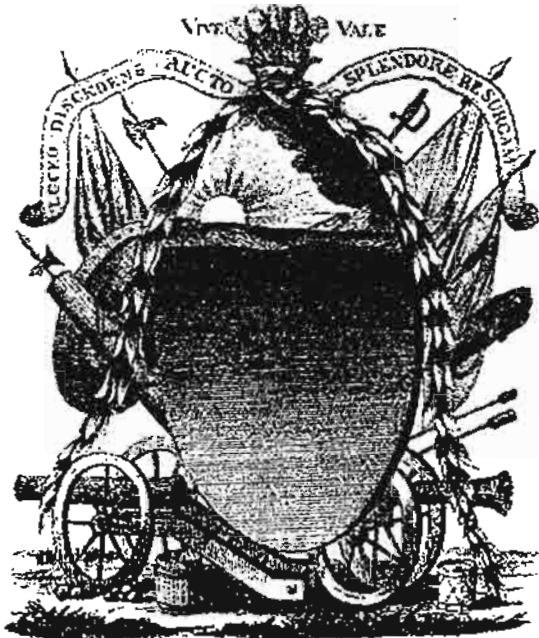
Nancy Watt



2003 Winter Party

the
King's Royal Yorkers
remember the

Meschianza, 1778



MESCHIANZA TICKET

Date:

Saturday, April 5

Place:

**Fort York,
Blue Barracks**

Price:

\$24 / Adult

\$15 / Child under 12

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 6:00 pm | Reception (Cash Bar)
Display and Promenading of Meschianza Headwear |
| 7:00 pm | Soldier's Dinner |
| 8:00 pm | Toasts, Speeches and Presentations
Distribution of <i>The Calendar</i> |
| 9:00 pm | Music & Singing with Gin Lane |

Note: The regiment must pay for this function based on the numbers we commit to one week in advance of the party. If you or your guests don't show up, you will be charged the full price on your Regimental account.

225th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MESCHIANZA

In 1778 King George III granted General Sir William Howe's request to resign as commander in chief of the Crown Forces in America. Before leaving Philadelphia for England a group of his officers threw a gala farewell party that became known as the *Meschianza*.

As an extravaganza, the *Meschianza* had no equal in 18th century America. More than 400 officers and their ladies were in attendance, each of whom received an elaborate invitation emblazoned with the Howe family crest. In the centre of the ticket was a sun setting into the sea, with the motto, which when translated, said, "He is shining as he sets, but he shall rise again in greater splendor".

The affair, which took place on May 17, 1778, was a medley or mixture of activities, hence the name *Meschianza*. The first part involved a procession of decorated watercraft which cruised along the waterfront of Philadelphia. The guests boarded the "Gaudy Fleet" at Knight's Wharf. Each boat was bedecked with bunting, streamers and flags, as were the many buildings along

the shoreline for about a mile. As the flotilla moved along, it was saluted by cannon placed at intervals along the shore, and crowds of enthusiastic spectators cheered from the rooftops. After a procession of more than two hours the guests disembarked near Wharton Mansion where the actual party was held.

Phase two of the *Meschianza* involved a joust, or tournament of knights, called the *Carousel*. Two bands of mounted knights competed in the joust for the favour of fourteen ladies who were chosen for their "youth, beauty and fashion". Once the ladies were seated in a specially constructed pavilion, the white knights, who styled themselves the *Knights of the Blended Rose*, galloped onto the field to demonstrate their equestrian skills for the ladies. In accordance with the rules of knighthood and chivalry, a challenge was proclaimed by their herald:

The Knights of the Blended Rose, by me their Herald proclaim and assert, that the Ladies of the Blended Rose, excel in Wit, Beauty and

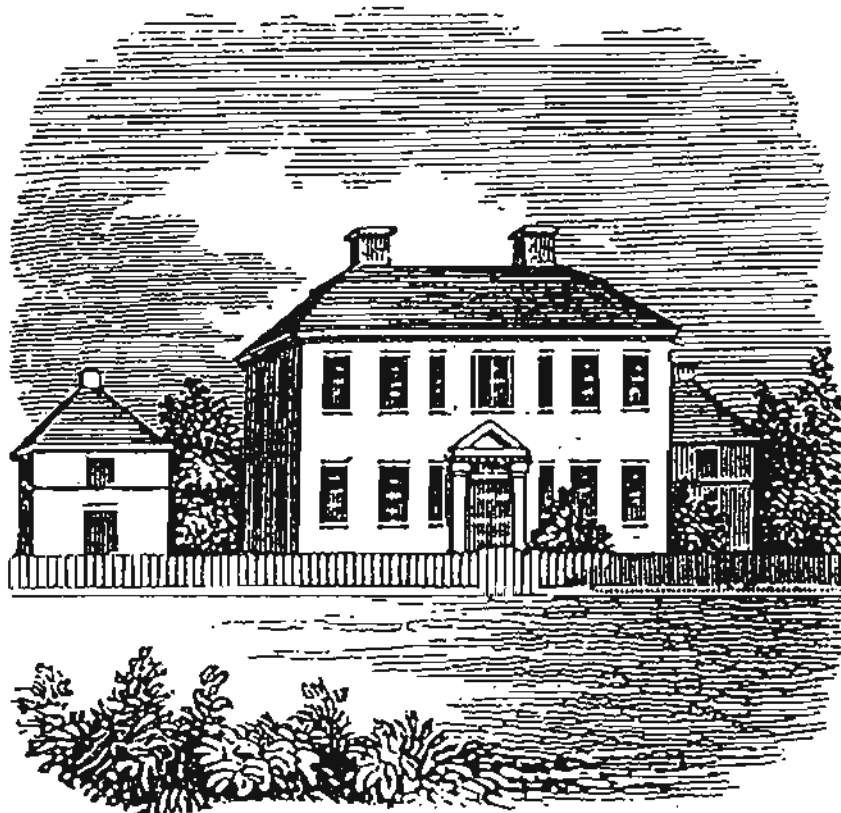
every Accomplishment, those of the whole world, and, should any Knight, or Knights, be so hardy as to dispute or deny it, they are ready to enter the lists with them and maintain their assertions, by deeds of Arms, according to the laws of ancient Chivalry.

In response to the challenge, the black knights, or the *Knights of the Burning Mountain*, rode out to show their determination to demonstrate their superior worth of the ladies, and to disprove the assertions of the white knights. The joust then began with mock fighting using swords, pistols and spears. Finally the Judge of the Field interceded by deeming "the Ladies so fair and the Knights so brave that it wou'd have been impious to decide in favour of either." The honour of the ladies having been upheld, the knights formed two lines through which the guests passed on their way to the next phase of the party. As they entered the beautiful flower garden of Wharton Mansion and ascended the steps to the front door, an elaborate fireworks display erupted, accompanied by 100 musicians

Inside the guests enjoyed a variety of light refreshments: coffee, tea, lemonade, punch, sangaree, wine and various cakes and choice delicacies. As the company consumed these refreshments, the knights entered the hall and knelt before their ladies to receive their favours. That was the signal for the guests to go up the stairs into a large ballroom where an orchestra was ready to provide music for dancing. The ball opened with the knights dancing with their ladies. The ladies then danced with the knight's squires, after which all the guests joined in the soiree. At about 10 o'clock the windows were opened and a "magnificent bouquet of rockets began the fireworks". When the fireworks concluded the guests returned to dancing and games of faro.

At midnight a sumptuous supper was

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Wharton Mansion, Philadelphia

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served. Four hundred and thirty places were set with 1,200 dishes. The meal included chicken, lamb, buttered hams, Yorkshire pies, veal, and several varieties of pudding, jellies, syllabubs, cakes and sweetmeats. At the end of the dinner the herald of the Blended Rose entered the banquet room and proclaimed a toast to the king's health, which was followed by the singing of "God Save the King". Other toasts followed, with musical salutes, singing and cheers.

After dinner most of the guests returned to the ballroom where they danced until dawn. Many gentlemen however, "remained at the table, determined to devote the rest of the night to Bacchus." As the sun rose, all the guests, but the gentlemen at the table, had gone home.

On May 24 General Howe departed for England with a show of affection that he said was "more flattering testimony of the love and attachment of his army, than all pomp and splendor the *Meschianza* could convey to him".

Why am I telling you all this? Well, this year the theme of the Yorker Winter Party will be the *Meschianza*. Why? Because,

1. This year is the 225th anniversary of the biggest bash in Revolutionary War America.
2. The party *really* ticked-off the rebels. After all, the best of Philadelphia's female population attended this party in the arms of Howe's officer corps, while the rebels gazed on enviously from the gates.
3. The London Chronicle called the *Meschianza* a "silly exhibition" and a "ridiculous farce".

Three pretty good reasons why the Yorkers should have a party to commemorate the party.

DWP



Meschianza Headwear Contest

This year at the Winter Party we will have a *Meschianza Headwear Contest* (in other words a "Stupid Hat Night"). Apparently, the knights and their ladies came to the original *Meschianza* party in some pretty amazing costumes. According to Captain John Andre, "Their dress was that worn in the time of Henry the 4th of France." This of course provides all kinds of opportunity for outrageous headwear.

Andre described one knight's hat as follows. "The Hat of white satin with a narrow brim and high crown, was turned up in front and enlivened by red, white and black plumes, and the Hair tied with the Contrasted Colours of the dress hung in flowing curls upon the back."

The squires "wore high crowned pink hats with a white and black feather."

Andre described the ladies' dress as being "fancy". "They wore gauze Turbans spangled and edged with gold or Silver, on the right Side a veil of the same kind hung as low as the waist and the left side of the Turban was enriched with pearl and tassels of gold or Silver & crested with a feather".

In other words, **ANYTHING GOES!!** The extravagance of your headwear is limited only by the bounds



*Drawing of Guest at Meschianza
by Capt Andre*

of your imagination. As Gavin said in the last newsletter, "It is past time to launch another Yorker insanity".

All entries will be viewed by an impartial panel of judges. And who knows, you could be the winner of an exotic *Meschianza* prize. Get working on your *Stupid Hat*. The party is just two months away.

DWP

A Mystery Solved

Most of you don't get the BAR "Courier," so you'll have missed the explanation for one of the great mysteries of owning a Japanese-made repro musket.

I guess you have to be a firearms collector to recognize the many failings of the various repros that we use in the hobby. One of the worst problems with the Jap musket is its trigger guard. Instead of having a graceful, almost elliptical guard like the original, the Japanese guard has an unpleasant, distinctive flat spot. One of our members attempted to pound that out, but the cast brass employed by the factory was just too brittle to take that harsh treatment. In any event, any collector can pick out a Jap-made repro simply by glancing at the trigger guard.

Well, those of us who knew that the flat spot was seriously wrong used to theorize about how the Japanese could have made such a mistake. Some of us thought that the example they copied had been in some sort of accident and this led them astray. Well, we were right. Apparently, the Japanese copied one of the Navy Arms Pedersoli repros, not an original musket. During shipment, the Italian repro had been in an accident and the bow of the guard received a hard smack that flattened it. The Japs had orders from their Yankee principals to copy everything exactly and they followed instructions to the letter. The rest is history.

McGeachie

LONG LAND PATTERN BROWN BESS REPRODUCTION

At long last, we have available a reasonably-priced Long Land Brown Bess reproduction. Those of you who have studied military small arms of the 18th century know that the British used a wide variety of musket patterns from 1712 to 1799. The most common musket used during the several French & Indian Wars and the American Revolution was the Long Land Pattern. There is a body of historical opinion that during the Revolution all Grenadier Companies in the British Armies preferentially employed the more imposing Long Land Pattern (undoubtedly top-quality examples) and that all Provincial (ie. loyalist) regiments were issued them as well (undoubtedly beaten-up, old and obsolete versions, as loyalists were several rungs down the supply ladder).

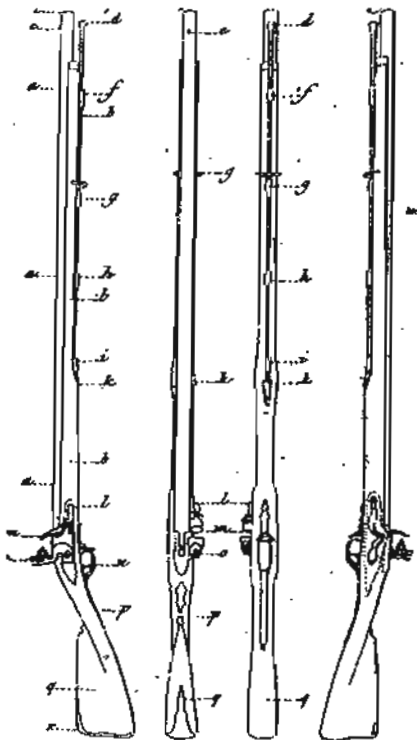
Yet, the vast majority of reenactment units (say 99%) use the Short Land Pattern as if it was the most representative model. That's simply a fluke of supply, as there has not been a competitively priced Long Land version.

Peter Twist and Robert Henderson of *The Discriminating General* are bringing in a Long Land version manufactured in India. Here are some details from their website.

<http://www.militaryheritage.com/muskets.htm>

Also referred to as the 1st Model, this musket was the first of British muskets to adopt brass hardware. Developed in the 1720s, this musket was used all the way up to the American Revolution. There were a number of versions to this musket. The one offered here is the pattern first manufactured in 1728. Additional changes were made to its design both in 1742, and in 1756, however the basic look remained the same.

The only major appearance change was the introduction of a brass nose cap to the end of the stock in 1756. This model was replaced when the British Army began manufacturing the Short Land Musket with a shorter barrel in 1769. While manufacturing began at that



time, officials were insistent that the new musket would not be issued until the Long Land Musket [inventories] had been depleted.

Therefore by the opening of the American Revolution there would have been a mixture of Long Land and Short Land Muskets in use by British Forces.

The musket offered here comes with a steel ramrod. When this musket was first manufactured numerous regiments particularly in Ireland were supplied with steel ramrods. One influential British Officer, General Hawley, objected to the steel rammers and subsequent rammers were made of wood. Surprisingly at the same time the French Army had decided to switch to the steel ramrod! The British eventually switched back to the steel ramrod in the 1750s when the 1756 version was introduced. As well during the Seven Years War (French and Indian War) numerous regiments carrying wooden rammers were ordered to switch to steel ones.

Specifications

The reproduction we offer here has a 46 inch, .75 calibre barrel

made of tempered seamless high carbon steel (type:BS970 no.080M40) with a threaded breech plug. The lock is made with strong durable springs and has a case-hardened frizzen (hammer) that throws good sparks. The musket's total length is 63 inches and weighs 11 pounds.

As with all our other muskets, the vent is not drilled, but aside from that the musket is like that of the originals. A fine addition to any collection.

Many of you know that we have two Indian-made muskets supplied by *The Discriminating General* in our Light Infantry Company. These represent the India Pattern Brown Bess of War of 1812 fame. As several features of this reproduction were disappointing, I had Jeff Paine examine the photographs of the new Long Land on TDG's website. Jeff pointed out a number of discrepancies in the reproduction, but none of them were any worse than the Pedersoli Short Land that the majority of us use at present.

I also asked John Cameron to view the sample that Henderson had in the Ottawa area. John and Eric Fernberg recently reported:

Eric and I examined the Long Land and agree that it is generally a very good representation. The overall quality is much better than the usual Indian efforts.

Good points: It has the correct "banana" type lock, proper trigger guard and butt plate. The lock is robust and solidly built. There is no swell on the forend and no nosecap. The wood is fairly dense and heavy. The metal is bright finish, and the barrel is thick. Metal button end rammer. The price quoted is definitely right, \$675.

Nitpicking points: The mainspring is stiff but should loosen up. The priming hole will have to be drilled out on each musket. The stocks will require a little cleaning up and re-finishing. "TOWER" and date were poorly stamped on the lock plate

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but I am advised that the next run of muskets will have this corrected. At the "present" it is a little nose heavy and will require some practice to level crisply.

The overall impression I got from the example I saw was very good. It looks like a Long Land and has a good solid feel to it. You can't beat the price too. Having a mix of Long and Short Land muskets will add to our impression I think. I'd buy one
~ John

This business of having to drill our own touch-holes is the cause of some angst, as it means that the muskets will not be professionally proofed. The fascinating news on that topic is that our trusty Pedersolis have never been proofed either. That's simply not part of the service provided by the Italian manufacturer. And obviously, nor have any of the Italian and Japanese musket kits that so many of us have built and used over the years.

All that being said, from our unit's point of view, anyone buying a muzzle loading firearm through the unit must accept total responsibility for its safe, mechanical performance. The pressures developed with black powder, especially blanks, are very, very low when compared to modern cartridge firearms. One might get up to questionable levels with double powder loads and double lead balls, but who's going to go that route?

The regiment will import a number of the Long Lands. I am suggesting that they be carried by Grenadiers and Duncan's men only, not Light Infantrymen, simply because of musket length. That's not a hard and fast rule, just a suggestion. The unit will be happy to take Short Land Muskets in trade and, if they are in very good condition, the trade could be straight across.

By the way, the bayonet supplied by TDG for the India Pattern musket at \$58.00+tax was superb, better and cheaper than any other repro that I've seen. Ideally, the bayonet for the Long Land should be of quite different design, but I don't have any information on the supplier's plans in that regard.

LtCol Gavin Watt

SERJEANT HARD-ASS WINS GRAY CUP

Or, would that be more correctly, "Serjeant Lard-ass"?? In any event, Sjt Chris Doedens, Light Company, was chosen by his peers as the winner of the Major Gray Cup for the year 2001. Oooppss!! Did I write 2001? Yep, that's right.

Well, why wasn't he given the Cup during last year's campaign? Well-!-!-!, there's just a tiny, wee problem. Oddly enough, that wee problem has happened several times. You see, the Gray Cup was the inspiration of Sjt Mjr David Moore, who reached deep into his armour-plated pocket and actually came up with the funds to have this trophy made. And a fine item it is! Now, it's been the Sjt Mjr's duty to organize the retrieval of the Cup from the previous recipient and to make the presentation to the immediately past campaign's winner. Oddly enough, as old age creeps into the already befuddled mind of The Great One, he has forgotten his duty. Gasp!! So, here we are again, acknowledging the winner of the cup almost a year too late.

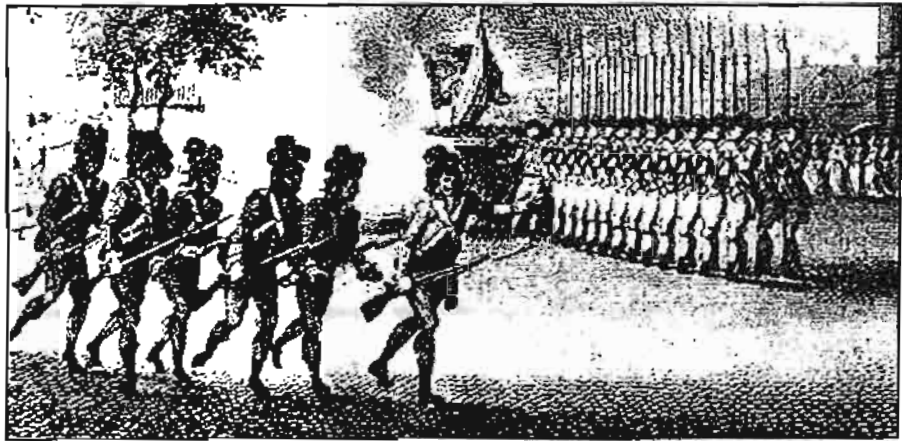
There are two types of soldier that can be chosen for this honour.

1. The Defaulter or Reprobate - this type may be a reasonably competent soldier, properly equipped and trained, but his mind isn't always on the proper, 'correct' forms of soldiering. One proviso however - this guy's antics must at no time hinder the efficient operations of the regiment. OR

2. The Shining Example - superbly turned out and master of the military arts, who is a great credit to the regiment on parade, in the camp, at the tavern and in the field. This is the kind of soldier that mothers hope their daughters will bring home to tea.

Well, just guess which type Doedens is. Why, he's almost as pretty as his sister, and Reg is more than jealous. So, hearty congratulations to the winner, for being such a wonderful example of the ideal soldier. The Cup will be in your hands until Black Creek, at which time the Sjt Mjr will wrest it from your clammy mitts and pass it on to the next deserving winner.

The Colonel



Letter to the Editor

Dear Friends,

After 10 years of involvement, I have decided to retire from my position in the Indian Department. Marc Auger will be assuming my role in the British Brigade and the Northern Brigade. Many of you might already be aware, or suspected, that I was thinking in this direction. I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you all, in advance of the rumour mill. I am not leaving reenacting. The friendship ties are still strong and I enjoy seeing you all too much. I will continue to serve with the CSM and to pursue historical fencing at events. Any questions regarding next season and the natives should now be referred to Monsieur Auger.

Fil Walker, Captain (retired), ID

2003 ORGANIZATION OF THE NORTHERN BRIGADE

You will have seen over the past several years, almost since the beginnings of the NorBde, we have named a formal brigade staff to manage our participation at events. For this year's Canadian, All-Up event at Upper Canada Village/Morrisburg, that Staff will be:

Officer Commanding: BGen Gavin Watt
2-I-C: A/Maj Allan Joyner
Adjutant: Capt Christian Cameron
Officer of the Day [OD] (Sat): Lieut Jim Millard
Officer of the Day (Sun): Lieut Dana Bogdanski
Quarter Master [QM]: Lieut Justin Clement
Deputy QM [DQM]: LCpl Keith Lindsey
Bde/SjtMjr [RSM]: SjtMjr Dave Moore

For all other events of the campaign, the Staff positions will be:

Officer Commanding & 2-I-C: to rotate at each event
Adjutant: Lieut Steve Sandford
Officer of the Day: will rotate with OC
Quarter Master: Sjt Dave Putnam
Bde/SjtMjr: Sjt Mark Millard



Okay, so these are the names that occupy the roles, but what does it all mean? Well, I guess it's fairly clear what the Officer Commanding does and his deputy, the 2-I-C, so I won't spend any time on them. The rest of the roles aren't quite so obvious. What follows is a blend of what these various roles were responsible for in the 18C and what we expect them to do as reenactors.



The Adjutant (A Commissioned Officer or Senior NCO):

- Resolves all registration difficulties.
- Keeps the event schedule on time.
- Communicates to the Staff and all units any changes in schedule.
- Works with and through the RSM and OD
- Conducts the Brigade's Grand Parades
 - Takes parade from RSM, passes to OC
 - Takes parade from OC, passes back to RSM
- Assigns special duties
- Settles disagreements (discipline)
- Teaches officers drill

The Quarter Master (A position, not a rank. Can be a Subaltern or NCO):

- Lays out Camp streets
 - Positions troops' wedges and officers' wall tents & marquees
 - Accommodates off-specification wedge & wall tents
 - Positions and sets type of kitchens, flies and fires
 - Positions Advance, Artillery, Horse, Natives, Sutlers, Surgeon, etc...
- Manages set-up and manning of Registration. Provides fly, tables, stools & paperwork
 - Creates map of important camp elements
- Oversees washrooms, both flush & port-a-johns
 - Prompts their cleaning and resupply
- Oversees drinking & cleaning water
 - Maps location of outlets and oversees quantity
- Oversees straw, maps its depot location
- Oversees firewood, maps supply location and organizes resupply
- Oversees location of parking and the issuing of passes, if required
- Organizes removal of camp layout twine after majority of tents are set up
- Organizes 18th Century security (shared duty with Adj and RSM)
- Coordinates coverage of site's 21st Century security. Fills gaps.

