



# Ye Olde Goate's Gazette

*Official Newsletter of 4th Company, Brigade of Guards*

January, 2009

## Captain Sheffer's Report On the Annual British Brigade Meeting



Not many fireworks at the BB meeting. The location, in King of Prussia, was excellent - and collocating the meeting with the CL was a bonus.

Decisions for 2009 national events were taken, and proposals for 2010 reviewed, in less than an hour. The only BB/CL-sponsored national event for '09 will be Jerusalem Mill. A last minute attempt to promote an event at Gelston Castle (near Utica, NY) was scotched because not enough units on either side were prepared to say they would support it. However, the owners of the property are keen to have historic interpretations on the site, and will underwrite annual regional events, with hopes of garnering support for a national show in '10 or '11. It's a beautiful property, and now managed by a re-enactor (Jeff Tew of the 24th, I believe) who says that they are prepared to let us have a pretty long lease for scenario planning - up to building and putting the torch to structures. Could be fun in the future.

What we're looking at for national events in 2010 is Ft. George, Ontario (last weekend of July, or first of August) and Brandywine Creek (the Delaware state park, not the PA battlefield) 25-26 September.

The entire set of BB officers was retained for 2009. Glenn Lunde's promotion within his unit occasioned "Malcolm MacWilliam's" appointment as Sjt. Major of the Army. The Union Brigade Sjt. Major vacancy is to be filled by someone named Grumpy Pants.

Two bits of business were dispensed: 1. A proposal to establish as BB policy the type of ammo check performed before the battles in Gloucester was objected to by nearly all in attendance. 2. The rules for unit membership in the BB were relaxed for units forming

outside North America (principally, the UK) in that they will no longer be required to field the six musket minimum in two BB sponsored events in a year. All other requirements continue in force, and applicant units and their sponsors will have to prove that they meet the standards of drill and authenticity before they will be offered membership. Under the new rule, it was decided to offer what I understand are two longtime "applicant" units membership: the Isle of Jersey Volunteer Militia and the 37th Regt. Discussion of the 37th revolved around whether they would pay dues and obtain insurance coverage (is there some irony there?).

The Jersey Volunteers are sponsors for an event to mark the anniversary of the French assault of the island in 2011, so start saving up your pennies. The organizers are preparing to support 300-400 re-enactors, but could accept as many as 600 with their current backers. If an unanticipated tide of volunteers surges up, they will try to secure additional funding.

Two American applicant units were granted one year extensions to meet minimum requirements for BB membership: the 35th and 71st Regt. Grenadiers.

News for Fusilier graduates: Jeff Morgan will succeed Ken Seigel as Major/Commander of the 23rd on 1 January 2010.

Cheers,  
WGS



# Guardsmen on Duty

## Report from Iraq

*Courtesy of Ted Sablin*

*Guardsmen,*

*You are probably aware we have one of our number on active service with H.M. Forces in Iraq. He has recently penned a dispatch on his situation there and within the limits of operational security the following may be shared. The lad has a way with our common language, one must admit. .*

“So arrival at dark o’clock at Basra Airport – also known, rather functionally, as the Contingency Operating base, or COB – was followed by a swift whisk around the place, before retiring to my hovel. (I’m still waiting to eat some ‘Corn in the COB’. You know, no matter how I say that, it’s not as funny as I first thought. Yes it is. I suppose one has to be here to appreciate it. Still, it amuses me). As such a high ranking and elderly officer, I merit a standard dog kennel of my own – 12 ft x 7ft. My address is 18 Park Lane, all the rows of accommodation being named after those on the British version of the Monopoly board. I still haven’t managed to explore in detail, but you’ll be with me when I say that I’m curious – with a ‘Frasier’ type inquisitiveness – to find out who lives in Mayfair, and how many soldiers are packed into Whitechapel.

Within my home is a chair, a wardrobe, a bedside table and what appears to be a farmer’s 1930s concrete block, pig farrowing pen. (Someone has thoughtfully removed the metal bars at the small opening). This is a 7ft x 4ft structure with a metal roof, giving a ceiling height inside of 2ft. On top of the thin metal roof, there are 2 layers of sandbags providing 12 inches of overhead cover – something the pigs never had. They call these ‘stonehenges’, I call them ‘mausoleums’, and everyone lives in one, the aim being to protect us from incoming indirect fire while kipping. The entrance is about 3 ft wide. Inside there is a thick mattress on a metal frame, reducing the ceiling height to 18 inches, but making a very comfortable bed. In fact, it’s probably more like a concrete block ferret cage, without any room for a wheel on which to exercise. So in I crawled and settled down for the night.

I awoke a couple of hours later with a dilemma. Which way round is one meant to sleep? Head at the entrance end, or at the enclosed end. Naturally I had placed head at the open end in order that I could see out. It was only when I put my brain to work, that I realised I should be round the other way, with my

upper body being fully protected, and only my legs slightly exposed. This is very odd; rather like crawling into an apple-pied bed with one’s head at the bottom of the bed and feet on the pillow. (Don’t try this at home. It’s not that it’s dangerous; merely ridiculous and the Missus will not respect you for it). Of course it also means that in the morning when my alarm rings, I have to engage in a series of frantic, worm-like shuffles to the opening, in order to turn it off. The other ever present hindrance is that on awakening with a start, one is prone to bang one’s head on the metal ceiling – rather like the graveyard mausoleum scene in ‘Double Jeopardy’.

It’s still hot here, but cooling rapidly. In fact it’s more than that, but I’m struggling to find the adjective suitable to describe the degree of hotness. Probably about as hot as UTR 06 as I recall, and another half as hot again. It reminds me of a lady’s great reference to being pregnant; one is either hot, or not, there being no gradation of hotness. Just think of Larry of Arabia. Fortunately during my slow acclimatisation, I’ve managed to scamper between shade and air-conditioned offices. However, the days out in the bondu are killers. The weather is now cooling rapidly as we approach winter and has lowered from a killing 120 degrees to a more acceptable 75.

I’ve hitched a number of rides on helicopters in order to improve my knowledge of the Basra area. The disadvantage about being so low down the food chain is that there are limited transport assets, so I have to grab anything that’s going my way. On the other hand, the joy about being ‘Media’ is that one can scrounge rides from the highest ranks, as they automatically think that you’re going to focus your report on them. Of course, I shamelessly encourage them in this belief. “



*Royal Marines at Work in Iraq*

# Company Business and Edification

## Save the Date

*By Tony Vanderbeek*

Guardsman Vanderbeek and goodwife Vanderbeek request that all members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Coy note that we will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual pasta-palooza on the evening of 14 February (Saturday) 2009 at Chez Vanderbeek from about 1800 hrs to 2400 hrs or whenever. This social event will officially mark the start of the 2009 campaign season and offers a great opportunity for members and families to meet for food, drink and fellowship. The dinner falls on the night before the annual City of Alexandria celebration of Washington's Birthday and reenactment at Ft Ward. As in the past, ample bed-down space will be available for those members and families traveling from out-of-town for the weekend. There will be several new high-carb recipes rolled out for consumption this year in addition to the usual selection of hors d' oeuvres, breads, wines, beer and of course rum. No health foods allowed here! More details will be made available as the event draws near.

## Three Huzzahs for Guardsman Gaudio, Again

*By Ed Niven*

Our CaptainSheffer informed the editors in December that Pte Gaudio, 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards, had been appointed commander of a 110-foot Coast Guard Cutter. Just before press time, however, correspondent GP reported a late breaking development: Pte Gaudio has been ordered to be the new Operations Officer of USCGC Resolute, a 240-ft medium endurance cutter based in St. Petersburg, FL. Congratulations, Christjan and welcome back to the East Coast!



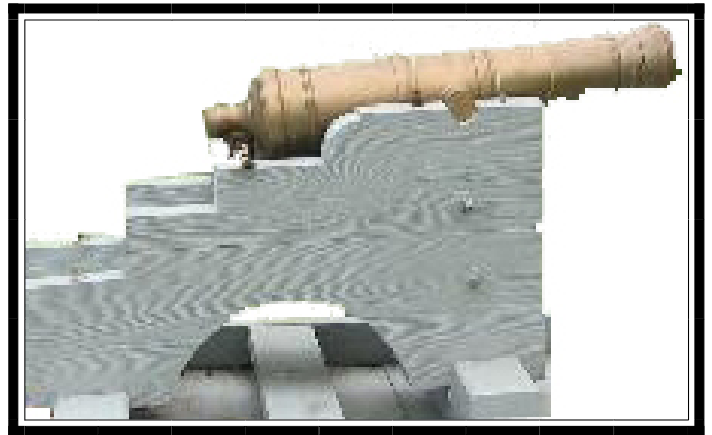
*USCGC Resolute, WMEC-620*

## Colonial Williamsburg Casts Its Own Cannon

*By Rich Manzano*

I stumbled upon this by sheer accident looking through the Colonial Williamsburg web site for something else. The various Historic Trades at CW have decided to make their own 3-lb regimental cannon and carriage from scratch and believe it will be probably the most accurate reproduction 18<sup>th</sup> century field piece in the US or Britain. They're building a special furnace, smelting the bronze, making the mold, building a casting pit, casting the barrel and constructing the carriage all using period tools and techniques. Now *that* is living history! Their test run of casting a small Coehorn mortar was a success and they've moved on to working on the cannon itself. You can read the background of project and track their progress at the Cannon Blog:

<http://blogs.history.org/cannon>



## Endview Plantation Event Cancelled

*By Ed Niven*

For those of you who monitor the RevList or the RevWar Progressive List this will be old news. The event planned for Endview Plantation near Yorktown, VA on September 26-27, 2009 has been cancelled due to budget cutbacks at the site. The site hopes to be able to host events in the future but will be unable to do so in 2009.

# History and Culture Pages

## Redcoats: The British Soldier and War in the Americas, 1755-1763

By Stephen Brumwell

*Reviewed by Ed Niven*

Some of you may have read this book, but I've decided to include a review of it in this month's issue of the Gazette because some of you may have failed to read it because it doesn't cover our time period. If you have not taken the time to read this book, reconsider. Brumwell sheds much light on the practices and tactics of the British redcoats of the French and Indian War and much light on the subsequent practices and tactics of the troops commanded by Gage, Howe, and Clinton from 1775 to 1783. Gage and Howe were themselves veterans of the British army that fought in North America in those years.

The adaptation of General Amherst's army to the conditions of North America would be familiar to us as re-enactors of the war following: two-line linear firing formations rather than three-line, formation of light infantry companies in every regiment, aggregation of light infantry and grenadier companies into composite regiments, looser formations in the field, less emphasis on precision mass movements on the battlefield, less use of artillery and cavalry in operations due to heavily forested terrain.

Brumwell makes the argument that the North American army developed a different school of tactical thought in the British Army in response to the conditions of fighting. Where the European army emphasized company formations three ranks deep at close order, with precisely drilled movements geared to discharging unaimed shots at close range in rapid succession, the American army developed a two rank firing front, use of looser formations in battle, simplified field command structure, and increased emphasis on marksmanship in the field.

Brumwell quotes the famed General Wolfe as commenting on the "new" drill of the period: "Poh! Poh! New exercise—new fiddlestick; if they are otherwise well disciplined and will fight, that's all I shall require of them." The emphasis in North America according to Brumwell was not so much on rapidity of fire, but on accurate fire given at close range. In his book, Brumwell quotes numerous documentary examples of British soldiers in the North American army shooting at marks to improve their accuracy with smoothbore muskets. In battle the main British tactic was to move in close, deliver accurate and brisk volley fire at forty yards or less and finish the enemy with a bayonet charge.

Brumwell goes on to write that the successful

tactics of the French and Indian War served as a foundation for the development of British infantry tactics down through the wars against Napoleon and definitely was a basis for the conduct of operations in North America in the next war. Brumwell's book also has well documented information on a variety of other subjects of interest to students of the British army of the next war as well as an interesting treatment of the King's Scottish soldiers in both wars. His book is well grounded in documentary resources from the War Office and private memoirs of figures from the period.

If you haven't read this book, add it to your list of things to do this year.

## An Account of a Duel Involving a Coldstream Officer

*Contributed by Jay Callahan*

"21st. [January, 1780.] rode to New York. At twelve at night entering the Coffee house I was accosted by Lt. Callender of the 42d Regt. (with whom I had no acquaintance) who insolently asked me if I would drink some punch - I declined the offer, on this he observed, 'ubi periculum ibi est gloria' & asked me if I wanted a translation - I told him, no, but requested an explanation - on this he drew a small sword - I also drew mine which was a very short couteau ("Cuttoo" a type of short hanger or hunting sword) - he perceived the superiority he possessed from the difference of the weapons, which seemed to stimulate his cowardice to the attack when he began by two lunges, which having parried, with all the fury & vigor I possessed I returned by cutting at him, without paying any attention to a guard - he retreated the length of the Coffee house - I had now beat the point of his sword down & intended to have killed him, but was prevented by Capt. Peerie, who seized hold of my wrist & arrested the stroke - I told him his interference was unmanly & ungentlemanlike as the contest was not finished - by this time some officers had taken Capn. Callenders sword from him - I declared if any person presumed to touch my sword I would run him thro' the body. - Capns. Peerie & Callender next morning asked my pardon. - I afterwards was informed that Capn. C. - being an uncommon good swordsman often insulted strangers in a similar manner. - The disgrace he experienced in this contest, in some measure cured him." p. 6-7.

Eld, Percy; "Memoranda of Lieutenant-Colonel Eld, of the Coldstream Guards, During His Service in America in the Years 1779 and 1780. Original Letters of Hugh, Earl Percy and Afterwards Duke of Northumberland between April 17, 1774, and July 11, 1778. Printed from Manuscripts in the Boston Public Library." Historical Manuscript and Reprints, Number 1. Boston, 1892.

4 Editors Note: Thanks to Jay Callahan for contributing a copy of this account for the Gazette.

# History and Culture Pages

## Used Clothes: An Industry of Discomfort

*By Ed Niven*

As those of us who experience eighteenth century life in very small doses might suspect, people who actually lived in that age had very different concepts of comfort than we do with our climate controlled homes and cars. It was an era that had no knowledge of off-the-rack clothing. All clothing was custom-made for a particular wearer. If an individual was fairly wealthy, he or she wore not only clothing but also footwear made for his or her particular shape.



*18th Century Tailor at Work*

Although tailor-made clothing was more common in that age than it perhaps is in ours, the poor could not afford tailor made garments in that age either. In an age when standardization in production of manufactured goods was just dawning, an entire industry existed in taking garments made for one individual and altering them to fit another. This was the craft of the botcher or botching tailor.

Tired garments would often be passed down from masters to servants or apprentices, which was considered a perquisite of employment. By the time garments made their way to the botcher, they were stained, sweat ridden, stiff, and smelly. Even though they might be altered to fit, they would not feel comfortable to the second or third owner. Reused shoes would be particularly uncomfortable and smelly. Most laborers and the less successful members of commercial society would rely on second-hand dealers and botchers for their clothing. Poorer members of urban society depended on second-, third-, and even fourth-hand clothing, according to historian of the age, Emily Cockayne.

She also writes that the market for second-hand clothing was a thriving business in urban England of the mid- and late-eighteenth century. In London, these markets were generally located around Tower Hill or Barbican. Some sellers in these markets specialized in footwear, even including boots. Oddly enough, second-hand clothing was valuable enough that it figured prominently in criminal cases involving stolen goods. Our good historian writes that such garments represented “a considerable proportion of property that was stolen.”

People of the age could apparently quickly approximate a person's social status by the quality of their garments. A person dressed in clean, well fitted garments was taken to be prosperous, educated, and a person of standing in society. Someone dressed in well fitting but slightly worn or soiled garments would be taken for a tradesman. Anything more than slightly worn or altered indicated the wearer was one of the numerous poor laborers that filled the urban landscape of London or other cities and towns of the kingdom. If a person suddenly appeared dressed in garments much better fitted and made than he or she usually wore, the authorities were sure to take an interest in investigating a potential crime.

Social status is reflected in appearance and an eighteenth century person was expected to appear in a manner consonant with his (or her) place in society. The clothing of the wealthy of that age might even surpass our own for comfort, but the mass of people lived an uncomfortable and itchy existence.



*By William Hogarth*

# Calendar of Events

The Guards will not participate in every event listed here. Individual Guardsmen are, however, encouraged to support nearby small-scale events that are not on 4<sup>th</sup> Company's official calendar and brigade with other Crown units. More details will be posted on future events as they become available. A couple of "heads up" for event notices that have cropped up on the Mid-Atlantic Crown Forces discussion group. Watch your email and future editions of the Gazette for details and discussions about attendance.

## February

Washington's Birthday Weekend – Alexandria, VA

Featuring all the usual suspects: Pastapalooza 3, Ft. Ward Encampment & Skirmish, Washington's Birthday Parade

## March

Battle of Guilford Courthouse – Greensboro, NC

Also featuring all the usual suspects: Our second home at Tannenbaum Park, Natty Greene's, etc.

## April

Battle Road/Patriot Day – Boston, MA

*Potential "road trip" Event*

228th Anniversary Commemoration Revolutionary War Reenactment and Encampment  
Battersea Plantation, Petersburg, VA-April 18-19.

Battle of Bound Brook, April 18-19, 2009

*From John McNaulty, 1st New Jersey Volunteers:  
It's a good time. We are treated like kings. Worth the effort.*

*When I get more info I will post it to you.*

*From Jim McGaughy, Royal Marines:*

*I think the event serves two meals too. Sounds good to me.*

## May 16-17

Jerusalem Mills – Baltimore, MD

(Big 3 event)

Battle of Eutaw Springs/Cowan's Ford – Rural Hill, NC

<http://www.ruralhillfarm.org/nest.htm>

## June 27 - 28

Under the Redcoat, 2009. Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, VA

230th Commemorative of the British Raids of 1779 -- New Haven, CT

*Potential "road trip" Event*

Rock Ford Plantation, September

*"On behalf of Historic Rock Ford Plantation, I would like to extend an invitation to our friends at the Continental Line and British Brigade to encamp at General Edward Hand's Rock Ford Plantation on the banks of the Conestoga River in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on the weekend of September 12 & 13, 2009."*

*Ray Bradley*

## September 26-27-This Event Cancelled Due to Lack of Funding

Siege of Yorktown, Newport News, VA

(BAR event)

## November 7– Sully Plantation Colonial Day

Sully Plantation, Chantilly, VA