



Ye Olde Goate's Gazette

Official Newsletter of 4th Company, Brigade of Guards

October, 2007

First, A Word From Captain Sheffer...



This month will be a flurry of activity for Fourth Coy. We wind up the 2007 campaign with back-to-back October weekend events. First, we will return to New Bern, NC to support a long-time Company favourite event, the Home-School Day at Tryon Palace. State funding cutbacks forced organizers to cut the event's size in recent years, but better times have returned and so will the Guards. Spending a day explaining the basics of 18th Century soldiery to youngsters will build sufficient credit, we hope, to excuse our misbehaviour in Williamsburg the following weekend. Apparently, the police records from last year were lost, because the Coy was invited to return for Prelude to Victory, the Rebels' version of UTR. If the beastly heat of this "autumn" relents, we should have a splendid weekend. By all accounts, so will the colonial capitol's barkeeps, who love His Majesty's Foot Guards (and the hard coin in their purses).



Besides these activities, there is important Company business to attend, much of it pertaining to uniforms and equipage for 2008. Good Serjeant Manzano has spent weeks seeking out and interviewing various tradesmen and sutlers, looking for reliable sources of goods and services to support our standards of authenticity. You are aware of the successes he has had with finding Sjt. Carl Johnson of the 64th to make our gaitered trousers and negotiating with Middlesex Village Trading Company to supply 1st Model muskets. He has not rested upon his laurels, however, and while most of you lot have been annoying shop girls and skulking about taprooms, the serjeant has continued his quest to improve our logistical support. The leadership Cadre have accepted his recommendation for a foundry to supply carriage buckles and cartridge pouch badges, and we await sample goods from prospective sources of cartridge pouches. The Coy owes a great deal of thanks to Serjeant Manzano for his tireless efforts on our behalf, which should keep Fourth Coy's impression at the forefront of the Hobby.

While on the subject of authenticity, the time has come to decide what course we shall take concerning the wool cloth used to make our regimentals. Advances in scholarship have brought material to the market that is thought to much more closely reproduce in colour and quality the wool that went to make up 18th C. British Army regimentals than what was available when the current Company standard was adopted by our founders. The leadership has studied the matter, and developed a range of options for the membership to choose from. Corporal Vanderbeek has created a web page with full details, and an email to the membership will provide a link. This is an important decision, and I enjoin all members of the Company to study the information and participate in the referendum.

Finally, I welcome Private "Flash" Niven as the *Olde Goat's Gazette's* new Co-Editor-in-Chief. Changes in my working hours and conditions after my conversion to the Civil Service severely reduced my ability to put produce the *Gazette*. "Flash" and the Serjeant have stepped into the breach to ensure that this important communication vehicle continues to serve our membership and our loyal readership throughout the Hobby. Thank-you, Ed. If you are as good at journalism as you are at pyrotechnics, the *Gazette* is in good hands!

New Editors Ordered by Captain Sheffer for the Gazette!!!

SERJEANTS, SOLDIERS, AND DISTAFF OF THE FOURTH COMPANY, BRIGADE OF GUARDS:

Be advised that the Gazette is now under the management of Rich Manzano, Serjeant, Coldstream Guards. He will be dubiously assisted in his efforts to publish by one Guardsman Flash, First Regiment of Foot Guards (who knew that he could write?).

Serjeant Manzano intends that said newsletter shall be published during the first week of each month and posted for distribution on the company web site or the consequences shall be dire. Any notices of interest to the Company should be submitted to Sjt Manzano or Guardsman Flash by post, electronic or otherwise, prior to the 20th of the preceding month. Failure to meet such deadlines will be dealt with in a proper and judicious manner, surely to include said notices not being included in the upcoming issue.

Having it on good authority that a number of you lot can't read, His Honour Captain Sheffer commands that, if you cannot read it yourself; you will find someone immediately to read you the Gazette, in its entirety, as many times as necessary until you are conversant in all topics covered in each issue.

Complaints will only be accepted in writing, in the company complaint box to be found on board HMS Cerberus, wherever she may sail.

The Great Wool Debate

As you saw in the earlier email from the Captain, all members of the unit should be casting their vote on whether or not we will switch from our current Scarlet Red wool to Madder Red wool. Guardsman Morris, in support of his request for a unit vote, has constructed an example regimental coat from Madder Red wool made by Kochan & Phillips in the UK. You can see it side-by-side with one of our current coats at the URL below. That page on the website also includes the full background on the issue and the pros and cons of the three possible course of action.

<http://www.brigadeofguards.org/regimentaldebate.html>

Unit members must vote for one of the three Courses of Action outlined below. No modifications, no combinations, no substitutions.

Course of Action 1: No change, stay with the current wool (Woolrich Scarlet Red wool)

Course of Action 2: Require unit-wide change to Madder Red wool

Course of Action 3: Adopt Madder Red wool for new regimentals only.

Get you vote in to the Captain as soon as possible! We need to hear from every Guardsman!

*Late breaking news: We have recently learned that the *wholesale* price for Kochan & Phillips wool is \$48/yd. So while still more expensive than the Woolrich fabric, this represents a substantial savings over the retail price of \$56/yd. We are in the process of negotiating a bulk purchase.*

Last Call for Prelude to Victory

All soldiers of the Guards Brigade not actively employed in the King's service or otherwise are needed this weekend for the event in Williamsburg. Unlike Under the Redcoat, this event features two easy half-days of work, excellent weather, and a payday for the company coffers. Each Guardsman will do his duty to the Company, Regiment and King.

After Action Reports

The Market at Washingtonburg, Army Heritage & Education Center

The Army Heritage & Education Center in Carlisle, PA, hosted its first 18th century event this year. Called "The Market at Washingtonburg" the event featured not only 18th century military encampments (F&I as well as Revolutionary War) but also sutlers and artisans demonstrating historic trades. Attendance by reenactors was modest due to a conflicting BAR event in Connecticut, but the Army was a very gracious host and a good time was had by all. The event had all the normal "first time out of the gate" challenges to overcome in terms of activities and scheduling, but the site of the Heritage Center is expansive and boasts not only a recreated Yorktown redoubt (complete with cannons and mortars) and a 1750s barracks cabin but also a host of other recreated historic structures (WWI trenches, barracks & huts through the ages, a D-Day pillbox, etc.). 4th Company took its normal place of honor on the far right of the Crown Forces formation, which outnumbered the Doodles 3:1, and showed all in attendance how soldiering is done. By all accounts the Army wants host this event again next year and expand its scope. 4th Company's continued support of the event is strongly encouraged.

The Battle of Charlotte, Latta Plantation, Huntersville, NC and Charlotte Museum of History, Charlotte, NC

The Battle of Charlotte was fought in September of 1780 and resulted in a victory for the Crown forces that they were unable to exploit for greater gain. A regiment under Lord Cornwallis himself scattered a motley gathering of the North Carolina militia. The locals made an industry of commemorating the battle in September this year, with one taking place at Latta Plantation just north of Charlotte on the 15th and 16th, and one taking place at the Charlotte Museum of History on the 29th.

The event at Latta Plantation is always enjoyable and this year included a spirited shooting match between the King's men and the local rabble. The festivities featured excellent cooking and copious amounts of a local micro brew. The event at the Charlotte Museum of History was quieter and featured only four of the King's men, one from each of four different regiments, no less. Not a shot was fired by the motley gathering of Crown troops, though public drills were conducted to impress on the local citizens the serious purpose of those bearing the King's arms.

The Washington Book Prize - Chestertown, Maryland

Elements of the 4th Company returned to bucolic Washington College on Maryland's Eastern Shore to support the awarding of the annual Washington Book Prize. "[T]he George Washington Book Prize honors outstanding books that contribute to a greater public understanding of the life and career of George Washington and/or America's founding era. Conceived and administered at the Starr Center (in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and George Washington's Mount Vernon), the \$50,000 annual prize is awarded by a panel of nationally distinguished historians." Capt. Sheffer, Sjt. Manzano, Cpl. Vanderbeek and Rct. Theis showed the flag for the King's troops and were joined by five members of the 1st Maryland Regiment of the Continental Line. We set up a small display table and unsuspecting college students, as well as school groups invited in from the surrounding area, were educated on the finer points of 18th century soldiering. After the lecture, all the reenactors were graciously invited to a reception at the University President's house, a gorgeous and rambling 18th century structure overlooking the Chester River.

<http://news.washcoll.edu/events/2007/09/bookprize/>

Three Huzzahs!

Global events touch even our esoteric little hobby. Lt. Col. Dickie Winchester, Royal Artillery, has reported for duty in Afghanistan for a 6 month tour with NATO forces there. Guardsmen working in and around the Pentagon threw him a small farewell lunch last month. We wish Dickie Good Hunting and Godspeed and look forward to his safe and speedy return to the King's service. Pvt. Sahlin will be keeping in touch with Dickie and his family during his deployment.

Congratulations are due to Tony Vanderbeek and Jerry Weissinger, who both married off daughters in September. We wish them a speedy financial and emotional recovery and look forward to seeing them regularly in the field once more.

The variety of skills found in the ranks of the 4th Company continues to astound and amaze. At the recent event in Carlisle, PA, Rct. Ben Theis displayed some of his first hand knapped flints. Guardsman Henry Irving, who has been studying blacksmithing in his spare time, brought examples of his hand-forged mainsprings and feather springs.

Calendar of Events

LEGEND:

RED text indicates a event the Company voted to support - MAJOR EFFORT

GREEN text indicates some interest and elements of the Company will support

ITALIC text indicates a new or potential event but no decisions have been made

BAR or BARS, indicates a BAR hosted, sanctioned, or supported event. BB means British Brigade

National organization web sites have other event listings:

Brigade of the American Revolution: <http://www.brigade.org>

British Brigade: <http://www.britishbrigade.org>

2007

October 12 - 14: Williamsburg "Prelude to Victory" Williamsburg, VA

We had the honor to be among the first Crown troops to participate in this, the Rebel version of UTR, in 2006. We had a great time, made life miserable for Mr. Washington's rabble, and left a pile of rum bottles and gunpowder cans for the motel housekeeping staff to wonder about. The second time around should be just as much fun. This is also a paying event so a strong turnout will help ensure future opposing forces scenarios can be held at Colonial Williamsburg.

November 9-10: "Cavalry in the American Revolution" Conference and Tours, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC

Presented by the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution (SCAR), The South Carolina Historical Society, Wofford College, and the Cowpens National Battlefield, the conference will feature scholarly presentations, field demonstrations, and battlefield tours. The keynote presentation will be made by Dr. Gregory J. W. Urwin on the topic "There Is No Carrying on the War Without Them: 'The Continental Light Dragoons, 1776-1783.'" See www.southerncampaign.org for more information.

New Event >>> November 17-18: British Invasion of New Jersey, Ft. Lee, NJ

The Palisades Interstate Park Commission and the 4th Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers will be sponsoring the annual commemoration of the British 1776 Invasion of New Jersey and Washington's historic Retreat. New activities will include: A pay call for the troops; Working parties for the site's blockhouse and kitchen (Woodcutters are especially needed); Courts Martial for each side; Baking bread in the fort's oven.

Artillery demonstrations each day will feature the fort's magnificent 32 Pounder. The fort will continue to provide a hot lunch each day, with the difference this year of serving a period "common pot." All participants are requested to bring their period eating and drinking utensils. Assistants, either male or female, to help with lunch each day will be needed. Please make someone available beforehand or aid if requested.

The event will include an interesting tactical weapons demonstration (battle) involving the blockhouse on Saturday, with Sunday devoted to demonstrations, drill and camp activities. It is our intention to have continuous and concurrent activities each day that will be enjoyable for the participants and spectators alike.

November : James Island, SC

About 100 Guardsmen participated in the James Island action. More information as it becomes available.

2008

We have several preliminary dates for events in 2008 so start marking your calendars and saving up your vacation days accordingly! More details as they become available.

February: Washington's Birthday Events (Alexandria, VA) —Skirmish at Ft. Ward, Washington's Birthday Parade

February: Ft. King George (Darien GA)

April 5-6: Old Salem (Winston-Salem, NC)

April 19-20: Battle of Petersburg (Petersburg, VA)

May 17-18: Daniel Boone Homestead (Birdsboro, PA)

May 19-20: Welbourne Plantation (Middleburg, VA)

June 28-29: Battle of Monmouth 230th Anniversary (Freehold, NJ)

August 2-3: Old Sturbridge Village (Sturbridge, MA)

September 20-21: Jerusalem Mill (Kingsville, MD)

October 18-19: Battle of the Hook (Gloucester Point, VA)

This Month in the History of the Guards

Tangiers 1680 - The Guards Earn Their First Battle Honor

When the recently restored Charles II married the Portuguese princesses Catherine of Braganza in 1662, her dowry included the port city of Tangiers on the Moroccan coast. Relations with the Muslim Moors of the interior were tense at best and European authority never extended much past the city's landward defenses. In 1679 Sultan Moulay Ismail, having wrested near independence from his Ottoman Turkish overlords, set about ejecting the Europeans from Morocco's wealthy coastal cities. 1680 saw Tangiers besieged by the Sultan's armies. Troops from England were hastily assembled to reinforce the Tangiers garrison. Soldiers from both the 1st Guards and the Coldstream Guards were formed into the composite King's Battalion and sailed into the Mediterranean in July. In September an assault on the city was beaten back with the Moors suffering heavy losses. On 27 October 1680 the Tangiers garrison, lead by The King's Battalion, sallied out from their defenses and broke the siege driving off the Moors and capturing their cannon. Disciplined volleys of musketry, for which the British Army would ever be renowned, were instrumental in breaking the morale of the numerically superior Moorish besiegers. Some accounts have the British emptying 3 to 4 entire bandoliers (36-48 rounds) into the enemy ranks, which is an impressive feat for infantry armed with slow loading matchlock muskets. Charles awarded Tangiers as a battle honor to both the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards and the Coldstream Guards for their bravery and exemplary service. The King's Battalion would

remain in Tangiers until 1684 when the city was abandoned.

It should also be noted that many officers who served in Tangiers, know colloquially as "The Tangerines" and including such luminaries as Sir John Churchill the future Duke of Marlborough, would be instrumental in helping William of Orange oust James II during the Glorious Revolution nine years later.

We remain your most Humble and Obedient Servants,

*Sjt. Richard Manzano, Co-Editor
Coldstream Regiment
"Nulli Secundus"*

*Guardsman Ed Niven, Co-Editor
1st Regt. of Foot Guards
"Semper Primus"*