



The Fusilier

The Official Newsletter of the Royal Welch Fusiliers in America

February 2015

Commander's Column

Fellow Fusiliers,

First of all I am both humbled and honored to be elected as the next commander of the RWFIA by the active officers of the Regiment. One of my first tasks was to call and speak with each of the Company Commanders to solicit their thoughts on the current state of the 23rd and the way ahead. This year also marks turnover in key leadership positions, including Major Jeff Morgan and Regimental Serjeant-Major (RSM) Ron Turfitt.

Hail and Farewells: Following years of honourable and dedicated service Major Jeff Morgan retired and was reassigned into the Pensioner's Company at his own request. We all salute him for his service and applaud his efforts in leading our proud Regiment. Whether standing in front of our formation or playing a bawdy tune on the squeezebox in camp, Jeff's presence will be sorely missed. When the opportunity presents itself, we would be honoured to have you back on the field with us Jeff.

While we are lauding individuals who have made significant contributions to the 23rd, RSM Ron Turfitt announced that he is stepping down from his post as Regimental Serjeant-Major. Present circumstances prevent him from participating as much as he would like. He served in every enlisted rank in the 23rd and his professionalism and sense of pride was an example for us all. His dedication and support of the 23rd will always be valued and never forgotten. Thank you Ron for your service and feel free to join us if the opportunity arises. Serjeant Steve Raby assumes the duties of Regimental Serjeant-Major for the Royal Welch Fusiliers in America.

I also received notification that Fusilier Jim Coffey of Captain Grey Grove's Company is stepping out of ranks due to personal health reasons. Jim is one of the nicest people you can ever hope to meet (except when he deals with insubordinate and churlish rebels). He is a true asset to our organization and we hope to see him on the field again soon. Thank you Jim for your service and we hope to see you in the not too distant future.

This new season also marks some new faces in our ranks. One of these is Lieutenant David Leslie Hughes, who serves as the new Adjutant of the 23rd. Prior to his departure, Major Morgan appointed David as Regimental Adjutant with the corresponding rank of Lieutenant. David served as an officer in 4th Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers, prior to moving to America to attend the prestigious Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He also studied and practiced Law and was the driving force behind getting the Royal Welch Fusiliers in America (RFWIA) incorporated, which has a number of fiscal benefits and allows us to trademark specific images/symbols. In addition to his vast knowledge, he is very affable and understands better than any of us the honour of serving in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. On the field, he will carry the Colours and assist as needed. Please give him a hearty welcome when you see him.

Events: One of the issues that I discussed with some of our members is focusing our attendance efforts on regional events. The leadership and I will identify one "Colour"/Regimental event (typically a BB sponsored one)—This year will be Fort Ticonderoga in September—with the remainder of the campaign season calendar filled with local/regional events (i.e. Fort Ward, Germantown, Old Sturbridge Village, etc). The reasoning behind this is that it will allow us to recruit locally, while saving costs in terms of transportation and time. I encourage members of **all ranks** to **identify** local events they feel are beneficial for recruiting, **but they must request authorization (through their COs) from the**

Regimental Commander to ensure that the proper insurance coverage is in place for our attendees. Also, any suggestions that you may have to make events more fun or interesting (i.e. Regimental Mess—Dining In, camp activities, etc.) are certainly welcome.

On that note, I am happy to report that Fusilier Dennis Murphy offered to take over the Mess Serjeant duties and cook at Regimental events. There will be a small cost involved to reimburse Dennis for the cost of the food. Dennis is currently in the process of getting the mess kit items from Major Morgan.

Communication: One of my personal goals, is to improve communication throughout the 23rd, starting with the leadership. I intend to do this in a couple of ways:

- **Quarterly Telephonic Conference Calls:** The participants include the COs and Regimental Staff with the intent to discuss pertinent issues (i.e. event schedule and attendance, dues, incorporation, recruiting, etc) and promote crosstalk within the organization. I want to incorporate all COs, especially Tom and George so that they don't feel that they're "at the western edge of the Empire".
- ***The Fusilier:*** I will do my best to get *The Fusilier* out in a timely manner and would like to incorporate significant activity summaries from the COs. They don't have to be anything extravagant or lengthy, but would like to share "good news stories" in terms of events, recruits, etc with the other members of the 23rd. I would also like to incorporate articles of interest written by our membership on topics pertinent to our unit, hobby and/or time period. We have a very diverse range of subject matter experts who can collectively help improve our knowledge about the 23rd, the American War of Independence or other related topics. I want to use *The Fusilier* as a vehicle to do that, but need contributions from our membership.

Internal Support: All of us have a collective interest in the future of our organization, but many of us, myself included have at one point assumed "someone else would do it" in terms of event coordination and administrative duties. In the ranks, we had the fortune of showing up at a site, marching,

shooting and then packing up and going home. While participating on the field is always needed and appreciated, there are also “off the field” requirements (which I will address later). If we intend for our organization to grow and to flourish, it’s imperative that we fill these duties with the skilled members of our ranks. Our membership possesses diverse sets of skills and expertise and we need to employ these skills and subject matter experts to the benefit of the 23rd. Keep in mind, that there is no rank advancement associated with these duties and there most certainly isn’t a paycheck involved unless the Ministry of Defence decides to employ us (which is highly unlikely!). Some of our most critical vacancies are:

- **Regimental Quartermaster:** In addition to his service as the RSM, Ron Turfitt is stepping down as the Regimental Quartermaster. He generously offered to remain QM until a replacement is identified, at which point we will conduct a transfer of duties and materials. If anyone is interested, please contact your CO.
- **Social Media Editor:** Information age technologies can provide us with a cost-effective way of promoting our unit, mission and encourage recruitment. We need an individual to serve as our website administrator and social media editor responsible for managing and updating social media sites (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) in order to promote our organization. Any costs associated with website improvement/modification(s) will be paid for through Regimental funds. If anyone is interested, please contact your CO.

I. **Administrative:**

Gentleman Volunteer Eric Spaar is on an extended leave of absence due to a military commitment. Stay safe Eric and get back soon...don’t worry we’ll save a couple of rebels for you...we promise!

Grenadiers and Lights: My promotion left vacancies at the Captain and Serjeant positions of the Grenadier Company. Steve Raby will continue to serve as the Serjeant of the Light Company in addition to his RSM duties. On the administrative side both the Grenadiers and Lights will be added to the distribution list for monthly newsletter for

the Colonel's Company ("The Flash"); will submit their dues through Serjeant Paul Astle and pay the company dues for the Colonel's Company in addition to regimental dues. This is a temporary arrangement until we have sufficient numbers of muskets (15-20) and trained personnel in key leadership positions in each of those companies.

II. Operations:

British Brigade Meeting Notes and Proposed Event Schedule for 2015:

Major Jeff Morgan, Major (Retired) Ken Siegel, Serjeant Steve Raby, Drum Major Joe Siegel and I attend the Annual British Brigade Meeting on 10 January in King of Prussia.

While most of the matters and discussion were on administrative topics and voting, the ones most pertinent to our membership are:

- There may be a slight increase in Brigade membership costs in the future (not this year) due to the increased costs of putting on events.
- The British Brigade created a "Distaff" organization, which is composed of campfollowers and families who develop educational programs on 18th Century life (i.e. sewing, cooking, fashion shows, etc.) to supplement the Brigade's military impression. I listed myself as the POC for information. Please let me know if your spouse and/or children would be interested in participating.
- The 2015 Schedule of Events (will be addressed in more detail later)
- Camp Timelines and Safety: The Provost addressed the topics of camp schedules (i.e. when camp is "open" to set up and "closed", tattoo (quiet time), etc. Brigadier McGaughey will issue guidance on these topics. Related to the timelines is safety, specifically when vehicles are allowed in camp for breakdown. It was noted that at Mount Harmon, vehicles were in camp before the allocated time, which created serious safety issues. This will also be addressed in the Brigadier's forthcoming policies. It was stressed the safety is a UNIT responsibility.
- For event participation credit, a unit must field a minimum of six members.

2015 Brigade Event Schedule:

Note: This event schedule is for the Eastern seaboard; Captains Pieper and Mack will identify regional events and publish their own schedule.

The events are categorized as follows:

- One “Colour”/Regimental Event: This is a British Brigade event that the 23rd will attempt to maximize its participation in. Coordination will be made with Captains Ferguson’s and Grey Groves Companies to determine if their attendance is feasible.
- Secondary Events: Regional events that may/not be British Brigade events which provide us with the opportunity to fine tune our craft as well as conduct recruiting for the local Company of the 23rd. Members are also encouraged to identify local events to participate in, *but must have regimental approval to ensure that the participants have insurance coverage for the event.*
- Suggested local Companies are indicated in parenthesis after the event dates. [GLICC—Grenadier/Light Infantry/Colonel’s Companies]

Contact your company commander and advise him of the events you plan on attending this year.

Colour Event: Fort Ticonderoga, 12-13 Sept 15

This will be our main effort this year. A large brigade event combined with a scenic area and the largest 18th Century fortress in North America should make this one of the better events this season. The scenario is based on the raid of Colonel John Brown and the Massachusetts militia against the Crown Forces garrison in September of 1777. The change of command ceremony will also be conducted this weekend.

Secondary Events:

17 January: (Southern Company): 234th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens, Gaffney, SC

15 February: (GLICC/Southern Company): Fort Ward Park, Alexandria, VA

14-15 March: (Southern Company): Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC

10-12 April (GLICC): British Brigade Academy, Boone's Homestead, Birdsboro, PA

18-19 April (Southern Company): Battle of Petersburg, Petersburg, VA

18-19 April (GLICC): Allaire Village, Farmingdale, NJ

2-3 May (GLICC/Southern Company): Mount Vernon, Alexandria, VA

16-17 May (GLICC/Southern Company): Gunston Hall, Lorton, VA

30-31 May (GLICC): Battle of Bunker Hill (BB event), Epping, NH

6-7 June (GLICC): 2015 Artillery School, Huntington Homestead, Scotland, CT

20-21 June (GLICC): Battle of Monmouth, Freehold, NJ

1-2 August (GLICC): Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA

14-16 August (GLICC): Encampment at Daniel Boone's Homestead, Birdsboro, PA

3 October (GLICC): Battle of Germantown, Philadelphia, PA

18 October (GLICC): Fort Mercer, Red Bank, NJ

7-8 November (GLICC): Hope Lodge Encampment, Fort Washington, PA

22 November (GLICC): Retreat Day, New Bridge Landing Park, Rivers Edge, NJ

Under the Redcoat (Williamsburg):

Major Morgan forwarded an e-mail from Radford Polinsky regarding the status of UTR for 2015. Essentially, Colonial Williamsburg is still waiting on its Board to approve funding for the event and they aren't sure if it will be approved. I e-mailed Radford and advised him that due to the uncertainty of the event, the RWFIA would not be supporting UTR this year, but are interested in potentially supporting it next year. I will keep you posted with more information as I receive it.

III. Quartermaster

Jeff is also in the process of coordinating with a potential tailor in North Carolina. I will provide more details after I speak with him.

Former Grenadier (Now 43rd Hatman) Rob Doescher is selling some of his kit:

- Grenadier Coat: \$200.00
- Matchcase (x2): \$45.00 each
- Gatiers (x2 pair): \$30.00/pair

I told him that the Regiment is interested in purchasing them for loaner kits, but want to provide current members with the opportunity to purchase them first. I will contact Rob on 15 February and purchase what is left over for loane

His Majesty's
23rd Regiment of Foot
Royal Welch Fusiliers in America
Reenlistment for the Conflict in America

One of His Majesty's most distinguished Regiments is offering you the opportunity to obtain honour and glory known only to the 23rd through noble service in the present conflict. The term of this contract is for one year and encompasses supporting Army and Regimental operations throughout the troublesome 13 Colonies.

Each Fusilier is expected to help fund the Regimental treasury through the payment of Regimental dues of **\$20.00**; which does not include Company Fees. An addition fee of \$25.00 is required for membership in the Brigade of the American Revolution.

Company Commanders will consolidate their Company's funds and send the requisite amount to the Regimental Adjutant **no later than 15 March**. Make the check payable to: "Royal Welch Fusiliers in America". His post is:

Lieut. David Leslie-Hughes
P.O. Box 73

Mechanicsville, PA 18934

Failure to pay Regimental dues will result in being dropped from the Regimental muster rolls and prohibition from Regimental activities.

Cut and mail along with payment to Company Commander

Name:_____

Company:_____

Regimental Dues: \$20.00

Company Dues:_____

BAR Dues (optional): \$25.00

Total Enclosed:_____

Primary Phone:_____

MailingAddress:_____

E-Mail Address:_____

St. David's Day Dinner

Saturday, 28 February 2015

The Dilworth Inn
1390 Old Wilmington Pike
West Chester, PA 19382

Notes:

-- Dinner starts at 6:30

-- Cost: \$35.00/Person*

-- Make checks payable to: "RWFA"

-- Mail checks to: GF Morgan, 195 West Side Drive, Verona Island, ME,
04416

Menu:

FIRST COURSE

Field Greens Salad

Toasted Sesame Dressing

MAIN COURSES

Pan Roasted Free Range Chicken*

Whipped Potatoes, Oven Roasted Brussels Sprouts, Petite Carrots

Oven Roasted Organic Salmon

Goat Cheese Gnocchi, Heirloom Beets, Arugula Pesto

Seared Culotte Steak*

Dauphinoise Sweet & Yukon Gold Potatoes, Roasted Hen of the Woods
Mushrooms, Demi-Glace

DESSERT COURSE

Your Server Will Offer Selections

Coffee, Tea, Decaffeinated Coffee

**-Participants can pay at the restaurant, but please contact Jeff so that he
can provide a headcount to the restaurant; e-mail:*

gmorgan53@gmail.com; cell: 215.262.6013 or home: 207.702.1338