

Forty First Regiment of Foot (MLHG) Journal

April/May 2003

Editor: Ray Hobbs



The Crown Forces march home from victory at Longwoods, May 3, 2003. The British line numbered well over one hundred. Leading the march are Deputy Adjutant General Peter Twist (centre), Major Jason Everett, 2 i-c (right) and RSM Steve Hartwick (left).

Photo: Courtesy of Tom Fournier

FROM HEADQUARTERS

As they say, “The best-laid plans...” Three times this past winter opportunities for social and regimental occasions were scuttled because of bad weather. But, things got better!

Our first big event of the season was at **Longwoods** on May 3-4 this year, and although it was sandwiched by periods of rain, the event went off perfectly in glorious spring weather. Our turn-out was very good, with nine attending on Saturday, and seven on Sunday. My thanks are offered to all those who made an extra effort to attend and to make it a memorable start to the 2003 season (more below).

Our new member Tom Fournier is now fully integrated into the Regiment after his first taste of battle at Longwoods. Tom is to be congratulated on acquiring almost all of his kit over the winter since he joined in October, 2002. His drill training has paid off well, and his conduct on the field was exemplary. Good to have you with us, Tom!

Also at Longwoods we continued our striving to depict as authentic a camp as possible for the 1812 period. To this end we set a line of seven wedge tents, the Bell of Arms and the large Flanders Bell tent, all indicated by the flying of the camp colours of the Regiment. The Flanders served as our Headquarters during the week-end, and outside was posted a notice board on which were written the orders of the day by the newly appointed Regimental Clerk, Pte Parkinson. Our camp fire was situated, as per regulations, behind the line of Officers’ marquees and tents.



The British line forming up before battle at Longwoods, May 3rd 2003.

Photo: Courtesy Tom Fournier

DRILL DRESS

At encampments in this coming season there will be ample opportunity to perform drill sessions both as a Regiment, and as a full Brigade. There is always something new to learn. The most famous drawing of the period depicting soldiers at drill is that by J.A. Atkinson from 1807. While sergeants and officers are in ‘summer dress’, i.e. red coats and white breeches or trowsers, it has soldiers in the following dress - Shako, Barracks Jackets, Crossbelt with bayonet. Cartridge boxes, and their Crossbelt are not in evidence, nor are the Canteen and Haversack. Canteens were issued usually for marches and battles, as were haversacks. Since soldiers rarely fired their muskets during drill (it being too expensive) there was no need for them to wear

cartridge boxes. DAG Twist has made known his strong preference for Barracks Jackets to be worn at drill for the whole Brigade. As a Regiment we shall comply with this, and it will become a Standing Order that the dress given above will be the regular dress for all drills. That is, Drill Sergeant or substitute NCO in Regimental Coat with Shako, men in Shako, Barracks Jacket, Bayonet and Cross Belt. On occasion we shall drill in full kit to simulate the battlefield conditions at events.

NEW MAN IN THE RANKS

Tom Fournier of Cambridge, Ontario, joined the 41st at the Annual Meeting in October, 2002, and has been busy putting his full impression together for the current season. Tom has been faithful at drills over the winter, and has relentlessly pursued items of his kit. The picture below is the result. Smart as paint, Tom! Well done, and remember, always obey your Sergeant!



Recruit Tom Fournier, proudly wearing his 41st uniform
at his first battle - Longwoods 2003.
Photo: Courtesy T. Fournier

THE BATTLE[S] OF LONGWOODS - 2003

While the nights were probably as cold as the original Battle of Longwoods - fought over snow and ice - the days at Longwoods Conservation Area this year were spectacular. The weather was clear and sunny, although not hot. Many men caught the sun and went home red-faced. This is a sure reminder that even in the Spring those UV rays can have an effect.

The British camp was established just west of the Sutlers' Village this year, and there was enough room to line up in formal Regimental Streets. British units in the camp were the 1st (Royal Scots), the 6th (Warwickshire) Regt. of Foot, the 8th (KING's) Regt, of Foot,, the 41st Regiment of Foot, the 49th (Hertfordshire) Regt. of Foot, the 89th Regt. of Foot, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and the Glengarry

Light Infantry Fencibles. Most units were well-represented, and it is good to see many of the units now expanding. In the Militia Camp some distance away were the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, the Lincoln Militia. An Indian encampment with several warriors and their families, and an American Camp on the far side of the battlefield, completed the picture.

The Saturday afternoon battle followed a morning of Drill and consisted of an attempted ambush of the Allied Native Warriors by Light Infantry of US troops. On entering the battlefield, the main British force had to contend with a roadblock, which they easily negotiated, and hid in readiness behind a grove of pines until called upon. The first move was to send the Light Companies (Royal Scots, 6th and GLI) on to the field in series to harass the advancing enemy who had pushed aside the bulk of the Native force. The Lights did extremely well with few casualties, and the US line faltered before withering enfilading fire.

To finish off the American force the entire line of British infantry was brought into the field, and, flanked on the right by cannon fire, it steadily advanced offering volley fire by Brigade and Regiment. While there were few casualties on the British side, the American force could not stand, and after some minutes decided to leave the field, abandoning their numerous casualties.

The day belonged to the British, and the entire force returned to camp triumphantly, having been accompanied throughout by the excellent Corps of Drums under the command of Drum Major Flowers.

The evening was spent at the campfire, and after a vegetable stew, conversation and some wine, the men of the 41st turned in.

The Sunday afternoon battle was a different affair. The US forces had established themselves atop a small incline, and were well-ensconced behind an abatis which gave them excellent protection. The British force, slightly depleted, were compelled to make several frontal attacks by two columns on the fortifications of the enemy. This approach was determined by the difficulty of the surrounding terrain, and the flanking fire of well-positioned light infantry.

Three attempts were made to storm the abatis, and all were repulsed with heavy losses. The 1st Regt of Foot leading the right column were cut down by accurate fire when they were within a few yards of the enemy positions. In this attack the 41st lost their commanding sergeant. The left column were held back, but two further attempts were unsuccessful, and the triumphant American forces added to the loss by their jeering and cat calls. It was a sad day for the Crown Forces, and they were forced to withdraw from the field. The week-end ended in a tie!

Following the Sunday battle a brief ceremony was held to remember Bud Powers, a loyal reenactor who had passed away recently. A lament was played by two fifes. It was a moving moment, and fitting end to a fine week-end.



The 41st returning to camp ahead of the Colours at Longwoods, May 3rd, 2003.
We were complimented several times on our increased numbers and turn out.

Huzzah the Forty First!

Photo: Courtesy T. Fournier

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2003 season promises to be a busy one, and the 41st Regiment of Foot has committed itself to three 'all-up' events for the season. One, Longwoods, has passed. Upcoming is **Fort Meigs**, on the week-end of May 23-25.

Fort Erie in August

'Authorised events', which indicate that unit insurance is effective for these events, are as follows:

Stoney Creek, Hamilton

Fort Henry, Kingston

Fort George, Niagara on the Lake

Fort Malden (Timeline), Amherstburg

Mississinewa, Marion Ind.

In September a small event is being held at Backus Mills (Sep.) and at the end of the month is the Fort Niagara British Encampment (Sep.)

This is not a complete list of 1812 events for the season, but it is hoped that they will be noted and attended by as many members of the 41st as possible. This year we have gotten off to a very good start, and I hope it will continue.

RECRUITING THIS SEASON

It is not unfair to say that our expansion over the past two years have been noticed and envied by other units in the Crown Forces. We now have a full complement of fourteen paid-up members in the Regiment, are working hard towards an authentic camp impression, and working hard on our history, our web-site, and are always improving our uniforms and kit and drill and new information becomes available. This is a long process, and has been a characteristic of the Regiment over the years of its existence. Special thanks are due to Jim Yaworsky for compiling data on the Regiment and its activities and uniforms.

This makes the 41st an attractive unit for potential reenactors to consider. We have nothing to be

ashamed of, on the contrary, we can be proud of what we can offer. With this in mind, let us make 2003 a year for recruiting. Talk to interested spectators, and offer them a role in the Regiment. This is an exciting hobby, so let's 'market' it.

SAFETY REGULATIONS

Some time ago the Regiment established safety regulations binding on all members. Since we carry pointed things (swords and bayonets), have real weapons which fire black powder, and since both of these can do serious damage if used improperly, these regulations are important to know. Below is a slightly revised form of those regulations **with which all members of the Regiment are expected to become familiar.**



The 41st Regiment of Foot Military Living History Group would like to be known for its professionalism, competence, authenticity, uniformity and high safety standards. In keeping with this tradition of excellence, the following Safety Regulations will be in effect for all members.

Safety is the responsibility of each member. No unsafe activity will EVER be permitted by anyone. Continued disregard for safety will mandate an inquiry and possible expulsion from The 41st Regiment of Foot Military Living History Group. A company will be held to the same standards as an individual.

Commanders Prerogative

At any time, the Officer in Charge (OIC) or Company Commander (CO) may impose additional restrictions due to site regulation, parent organization affiliation requirements, insurance regulations, or concern over a safety issue, in addition to this document. His word will be considered FINAL.

Mandatory Inspections

All weapons must be inspected at each event before the weapon is approved for use during that event. Inspection will be performed by the Regimental CO or responsible NCO whether an on-site inspection is demanded or not. After each firing, that weapon MUST be cleaned and secured and/or searched in an approved manner. Each officer and NCO are directly responsible for having the weapons secured after each firing and/or tactical.

1) Weapons Carriage

- 1.1) No one under the legal age will be allowed to carry a weapon in The 41st Regiment of Foot Military Living History Group.
- 1.2) No one will be allowed to participate in any activity with blank, ball, or bayonet until that person has been fully trained and inspected by the commander or his delegate. The new recruit will be paired with an experienced member as his guide and be answerable to him at all times.

2) **Bayonets**

- 2.1) Fixing bayonets on the field will be at the sufferance of the site and event sponsors.
- 2.2) No speed faster than quick-quick time will EVER be allowed with fixed bayonets.
- 2.3) Closing to within five (5) yards is not permitted.
- 2.4) No bayonet will EVER be sharpened. If the Bayonet has any questionable edge or point, IT WILL BE DULLED. All bayonets must be properly fixed to the musket.
- 2.5) All bayonets must have a proper sheath in good repair in order to be carried. If a sheath is of questionable repair, the bayonet will not be carried.
- 2.6) No one will fix bayonet except under orders, with the exception of sentries who will have fixed bayonets.
- 2.7) Bayonets will not be fixed when on uneven terrain or on slippery surfaces.

3) **Ramrods**

- 3.1) Ramrods will only be carried in the muskets on the field with the permission of the site.
- 3.2) Ramrods will NEVER be used on the field if there is any opposing force or visitors.
- 3.3) Ramrods may be used in drill only under the closest supervision.

4) **Cartridges**

- 4.1) LIVE ROUNDS WILL NEVER BE CARRIED WITH BLANKS. LIVE ROUNDS WILL NEVER BE CARRIED TO AN EVENT. THEY WILL BE USED FOR LIVE FIRING DRILLS, BUT ONLY UNDER THE STRICTEST SUPERVISION.
- 4.2) No cartridges will exceed 100 grains of 3F black powder.
- 4.3) All cartridges will be wrapped in a thick paper which will resist accidental tearing. Light weight paper such as phone book paper will not be used. No glue, staples, or tape will be used. Wax and string are permissible.
- 4.4) Unless otherwise directed, and then only under the closest supervision, will the cartridge be rammed home. Rammed cartridges will NEVER be used with opposed line.
- 4.5) Cartridges will NOT be carried in anything but approved containers. Loose cartridges will NOT be carried in pockets or haversacks.
- 4.6) Cartridges should not be rolled in camp. Every effort will be made to have pre-rolled cartridges on hand before the event. If the need for rolling cartridges does occur in camp, a safe environment, well away from any visitor, will be found. The cartridges must then be stored in approved containers.
- 4.7) Loading should not take place on the march (while moving).
- 4.8) All cartridges must be stored in approved containers. Ammunition cans will be painted light blue for blank rounds. Live Ball must be stored in ammunition cans painted red. BLANK AND BALL WILL NEVER BE STORED TOGETHER IN THE SAME AMMUNITION CAN OR CONTAINER.

5) **Powder Horns**

- 5.1) Powder horns will NOT be carried on or off the field by members of The 41st Regiment of Foot Military Living History Group

5.2) Loading muskets from horns is prohibited.

6) **Edged Weapons**

6.1) No displayed edged weapon will have a sharp edge.

6.2) Swords will not be drawn under any field condition with the exception of ceremonial evolutions. Swords may be used for drill and evolutions on parade.

6.3) Hand-to-hand combat is prohibited.

6.4) No wedged weapon (knives, hawks, etc.) will be thrown in camp.

6.5) All axes, hatchets and tomahawks will have full sheaths that cover the entire head.

6.6) Visitors will NEVER handle weapons.

7) **Lanterns**

7.1) Only approved lanterns will be used in camp.

7.2) No open flame will EVER be used in or near a tent.

7.3) Lanterns should not be displayed in the company street except after-hours. Lantern stands may be placed out only after hours and then care will be taken to place them where the lantern poses no threat to the tentage or passersby. The stands will be removed during business hours as per historic precedent.

10) **Muskets**

10.1) All muskets will be inspected daily. All firelocks must be fully serviceable, with a functioning half-cock or they will not be permitted to fire blank or ball.

10.2) No trigger pull will be under 12 pounds of pull.

10.3) All muskets will have flash guards properly installed and fitted.

10.4) All muskets will be fitted with frizzen covers.

11) **Addendum**

In any case where these safety regulations differ from the regulations of a reenactment site, the regulations on site take precedence.

The Journal
of the
Forty First Regiment of Foot
(MLHG)
is published several times a year.
Editor: *Ray Hobbs*
ray.hobbs@sympatico.ca
35 Dromore Crescent
Hamilton, ON L8S 4A8