

Forty First Regiment of Foot

(MLHG)

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Members of the 41st being inspected by Sgt. Hobbs before the Brigade Drill, Saturday at Stoney Creek, 2003

(Photo courtesy Paul Kelly)

FROM HEADQUARTERS

The activities of the Regiment thus far this season have been most satisfying. More than half our number have attended Longwoods, Fort Meigs and Stoney Creek, and our Pioneer, Terry Woods was present at Fort Meigs a second time for the filming of a documentary on the Battle of New Orleans.

At Fort Meigs the 41st formed the backbone and muscle of the small British contingent and, in the capable hands of Sgt Yaworsky, surprised all present by their nimble tactics on the field of battle. The site made the Regiment most welcome, and the Fort Meigs siege is a definite event for our calendars next year. After all, it was a 'Forty First Battle' in January 1813.

Stoney Creek was another fine event this year with a turn out of seven muskets for the week-end, augmented by three members of the 8th (KING's) Regiment. With the development of a Staff system for the Crown Forces over the past two years, the battle scenarios have become more enlivened. There is a greater flexibility for individual regiments on the battlefield, and this showed itself on Saturday evening especially.

Each 'wing' of the British Brigade was placed under independent command, and within this structure, each Regiment was given greater freedom in carrying out the general order of battle. This resulted on occasion in the 41st moving around the field to outflank American forces which threatened the British line. It was an exciting time, and much enjoyed.

On the Sunday morning this year at Stoney Creek there was a parade to the Battle monument for a brief service of remembrance for the fallen in the battle. They are buried nearby. It was a moving time of reflection.



Members of the British Brigade (8th, 41st, 89th) returning from the Memorial parade on Sunday morning at Stoney Creek. The division is under the command of Capt. Stutt of the 8th (KING's) Regt.

The event at Fort George this year, held on the week-end of the 18th-20th July, was an excellent one, and continued the improvements to the Brigade being brought in by DAG Peter Twist and his Staff. Five members of the Regiment were present (Hobbs, Bateman, Parkinson, Woods, Fournier) and we were also hosts to Pte John Greig of the IXth Regiment, who was accompanied by his wife.

Three tacticals were held over the week-end, and the battle lines are now becoming more flexible as wings and individual regiments are ordered to take particular objectives, and carry out certain tasks. Flanks move and redeploy as attempts are made by each side to outflank the other, and the ebb and flow of battle is certainly an interesting development.

One highlight of the week-end was instruction to all Brigade troops in Light Infantry tactics. On Saturday evening the Light Division of the Brigade (the 1st, 6th Regts. and the Canadian Fencibles of Fort York) ran out of ammunition and were relieved effectively and with speed by the Grenadiers of the 8th and 89th Regts. The 41st enjoyed this instruction, and performed well. It will be incorporated into Winter drill sessions.

At the event David Webb of the Staff at Fort George was made Honorary Colonel of the Regiment in recognition of his early work as a group founder, and his continued encouragement.



The British Line at Fort George, Saturday Morning, July 19.
(Photo Courtesy of Paul Kelly)

GROWTH IN THE RANKS

It is a pleasure to welcome to our ranks, **Kimball Toderian**, as a new member of the 41st. Kimball lives in Niagara Falls, and has ‘taken the king’s shilling’. He will be attending some events this season as an observer, and will spend the winter accumulating his kit, and learning the drill and manual of arms. Welcome Kimball!

Also ‘in the works’ are negotiations with three (possibly four) others who have shown keen interest in the Regiment. It is gratifying to see this growth. It keeps the enthusiasm level high, and attracts others to join our ranks.

Tom Fournier has been doing some thinking on active recruiting at events, and is rather taken with the idea of reviving the ‘Recruiting sergeant’ act at events. This would be an excellent move, and might well prove very effective.

PROMOTIONS

It is with pleasure that I announce the promotion of two of our members. Lance Corporal Bateman has been promoted to Corporal, and Private Rich Parkinson to the rank of Lance Corporal. Both attended the NCO and Officers' School at Fort York in April, and both have shown themselves capable of leadership and the assuming of the necessary responsibilities for their positions.

These promotions provide the Regiment with the necessary balance of command, and, with our steady increase, also provide us with personal for administrative, training and battlefield responsibilities. Congratulations to both!

These promotions were awarded at Fort George and are effective therefrom and until further notice.



The British Brigade deploying on Saturday afternoon at Ft. George, 2003

Photo Courtesy of John Greig, IXth Regt.

CAMP PROTOCOL

Ray Hobbs

As we work towards an authentic 1812-period encampment, here are some reminders of what to do, and wear, and what not to do and wear while in camp.

1. The first, “Modern Stuff”. Modern materials are often essential for some reenactors, e.g. medications, storage for cool water. However, if used, these items should be well-hidden from the public and other reenactors. One of the best ways to do this is to use an appropriate wooden box to store your modern things, or keep them in your car trunk. We shall have in future a wooden box to be used to disguise our storage of a cooler in which ice can be stored, along with water bottles. This will be kept in the Regimental HQ Tent (The Flanders).

2. What to wear in camp. Once you have come off the battlefield or in the mornings before the day begins, appropriate wear is white trowsers, shirt, barracks jacket and cap. A haversack can be used to keep your essentials such as money and wallet. This is standard encampment dress and should be used when called for.

3. What to wear at drill. Paintings and drawings of drill sessions from the period are not uniform (forgive the pun!) on this item. The two most often referenced pictures depict one regiment drilling in barracks jackets, stocks, bayonet belts, stocks and shakos. The other, of Fort George, has the garrisoned regiment drilling in full kit, including regimental coat.

The Staff of the Crown Forces has decreed that Brigade drills will be in barracks jackets, shakos, crossbelts, stocks and with muskets. This is the pattern we will follow for Regimental drills.

4. Ranks. I have on order a manuscript on the regulations and protocol of saluting officers by NCOs and Rankers. NCOs, of course, are never saluted (just obeyed!). As soon as I have read and digested this manuscript, I will pass on the details to the members of the Regiment. It is right and proper to salute superior officers - they are the ‘betters’ of Rankers and NCOs! Now, removing tongue from cheek - Watch this space!



The Forty First leaving Fort George for the Parade through Niagara on the Lake
(Photo Courtesy of Paul Kelly)

WHAT TO PUT IN A HAVERSACK

Larry Lozon

We all know what we carry in our haversacks and knapsacks. As Reenactors who are trying to portray soldiers of the 1812 period, may I tell you what a friend of mine carries in his bags.

Contents of Pte. Gregory Schultz's Haversack,

small horn containing pepper
soldier's folding knife in linen sac
horn spoon
tin plate (heavy) capable of frying
wet stone ~ small with stick
tobacco in tin box
pipe ~ hand made (applewood) hand drilled with nail ~ green stem
flint & steel ~ char cloth ~ tow ~ tamper (square nail from above)
cloth ~ linen ~ large enough to wrap a period loaf of bread or hardtack
salt beef ~ in linen sac
potatoes ~ in linen sac
car keys ~ in linen sac

Knapsack,

blanket
bedsack 2' x 6' ~ stuff with straw
canvas trowsers (summer) ~ woollen (winter)
army hatchet ~ not tomahawk
shirt - linen
stocking ~ wool
candles
candle stick holder ~ small
garrison jacket - wool
fatigue hat
great coat (seasonal)
japanned tin box, containing,
tin of boot black - wax, turpentine, lampblack (carbon)
tin of brass polish - oxalic acid, rotten stone powder, sweet oil
bottle (small) of sweet oil (olive oil)
doe skin (fine chamois) to buff brass
mainspring vice, spare flints, leather strip to hold flint

musket tool, worm
woollen wallet, containing,
bone tooth brush
straight razor, small razor strop
lye soap
small linen towel

Note: his canteen has water "sweetened" with rum or whiskey (if available) as in 1812

This re-enactor tries to maintain a correct persona of an 1812 soldier, thus, the only modern items that he takes into the event are the keys to his car, all other modern possessions are not taken or left in the trunk of his car.

Any of the above items would make great Christmas/Hanukkah /birthday/etc. gifts, once you have your mandatory kit in possession.



Drill, drill, drill - Fort George, 2003.
Photo Courtesy of Paul Kelley