

# 41st Regiment of Foot JOURNAL



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Editor: Ray Hobbs  
[ray.hobbs@sympatico.ca](mailto:ray.hobbs@sympatico.ca)  
<http://fortyfirst.members.tripod.com>

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## REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES

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In August representatives of the Regiment attended the Fort Malden “Timeline” event. Present were Hobbs, Bateman, Yaworsky, Swaffield, Fournier, O’Halloran.

The big event of August, and incidentally,

the final event of the Regiment's "all-up" calendar this year, is Fort Erie. The event is held always on the second week-end in the month, and is usually very well-attended by reenactors portraying both sides of the conflict. This year was no exception.

An excellent turn-out of British reenactors, paired with an equally good turn-out of those portraying regiments of the US Army, characterized the event this year. The American forces present were there in such numbers that

"reinforcements" in the form of Canadian Militia units fighting on the other side, were not necessary. Among the British contingent, nine members of the 41st were present for the exciting week-end.

The excitement began on Friday evening with one of the worst thunder storms to hit the Fort Erie/Buffalo area in decades. Fortunately, apart from some damp clothes and kit, the storm did not do any significant damage to the encampments although the winds accompanying the rain were high.



*Members of the Regiment being drilled at Ft. Erie*

On Saturday evening, following the battle, Ptes O'Halloran, Woods, and Volunteer "Alec", accompanied by Marie Zorniak, stayed in the fort to aid with the Lantern tours. This group portrayed a surgeon's work after a battle, much to the delight of the many visitors who passed through the fort. Jim Hill, Director of the Fort, made special mention of the group, and offered his heartfelt thanks for their activity and time. Well done Gang!

On Sunday the six remaining members of the Regiment were augmented by Don Zorniak of the 10th Royal Veterans, Fred Carsted and a colleague, Barry Webb, from the Regiment de Meuron, and three members of the 8th (KINGS) Regiment for the afternoon battle. This was a spectacular movement of lines, attacks, counterattacks, thunderous artillery and volleys of musket fire.

Members of the Regiment present were Hobbs, Bateman, Parkinson, Yaworsky (Sat. only), Fournier, Woods, Swaffield, O'Halloran (Sat. only), Volunteer Alec (Sat. only), and Toderian (Sat. only).

On the first week-end in September a total of five members were present at the reenactment event at Backus Mill, nr. Port Rowan, Ontario. On Saturday, Sgt. Hobbs, L/Cpl Parkinson, Pioneer

**Well Done  
Gang!**

On Saturday three battles/skirmishes took place. In the morning there was a brief reenactment of the surrender of the

Fort to the US Army by Major Buck. This was not the most glorious moment in the history of the war for the British. The reenactment consisted of a brief skirmish and exchange of musket fire, then the running down of the British flag followed by the exodus from the fort. In the afternoon an attempt was made against the Enemy outside the fort, and in the evening the famous night assault was reenacted. The 41st received yet again the honour of being the Forlorn Hope in the assault. Six members managed to scale the ladder, after a hair raising slide down the ravelin under heavy fire from above. However, the initial assault - as always - was rendered ineffective by the blowing of the bastion, and the ragged retreat of the British force.



Woods, and recruit Toderian were in the line, and on Sunday, Pte. Fournier attended. The beautiful setting of Backus Mill was matched with excellent weather for the week-end, and because of the small numbers attending, the skirmishes were compact. On the Saturday the British attack on the US camp was a near disaster, as the British forces took heavy casualties, and fell victim to a hidden artillery barrage. The 41st suffered 50% casualties, but retreated with some dignity from the field, firing the last volley at the Enemy.

Pte Fournier reports a fine couple of skirmishes on the following day, with more success to the British line. On our return journey from the site we stopped off at the Baptist cemetery at Vittoria, Ontario. The town is named after Wellington's victory in 1813, and originally known as Tisdale's Mill. In the cemetery are buried many of the original Loyalist settlers in the region including the Methodist branch of the Ryerson clan, and the three sons of Solomon Austin, Sr., who served with distinction in the Norfolk Militia during the War of 1812.

One final event of September is yet to take place, at the time of writing. It is the British encampment at Fort Niagara on Sept. 27-28. the Regiment has been invited to attend, and a few of us will be present. In October the event at the Forks of the Thames, Chatham will take place (October 4-5), Mississinewa 2003 (Oct. 11-12), as will our Annual General Meeting (October 18th)

## **DRILL SCHEDULE**

Of special importance this coming Fall and Winter are drill sessions. The Hamilton/Cambridge group will be drilling each month at the Caldwell's farm, Lynden, and the schedule is provided below. At the Windsor/Detroit region we have secured the use of the facilities at Fort Malden, and when arranged, Cpl. Bateman will post a schedule of drills. For the coming season marching in 'lock step' - with the toes pointed forward, as per the instructions of the period - and volley firing in unison will be the areas of concentration. These elements of drill will be uppermost in our minds.



*The 41st drilling at Ft. George. Third from the right is Pte. John Greig, IXth Regt. our guest from the UK.*

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## **LYNDEN DRILLS - 10.00 am**

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October 4th  
November 1st  
November 29th  
January  
February  
March

## **FORT MALDEN DRILLS**

To be established

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## **STANDING ORDERS, Etc.**

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During the winter months Standing orders concerning Safety, the Encampment at events, Mess will be fine-tuned. They will be distributed well in advance of the coming 2004 season.

Membership is renewed each year with the paying of our dues (\$25 Cdn, \$20 USD). At the Annual Meeting a Renewal form will be distributed for members to sign, and to commit themselves to the support of the Regiment, acquisition of proper

kit and accoutrements, and attendance at events. All new members now sign such a form.

Our encampment in this past season was noticed by many, and we received several congratulations from officers and others on our general demeanour. The use of the 41st Camp Colours, the Regimental notice board has enhanced our layout. As our numbers increase at events I will appoint a "Camp Provost" to ensure the tidiness and the appropriateness of the camp line

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## CONTINUED GROWTH

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I am happy to report that this past year our



*The British Line firing by Company at Ft. Erie. The 41st is on the left.*

growth has continued. Kimball Toderian has marched with us twice towards the end of the season, and there are several others showing interest in taking the King's Shilling and enlisting in the 41st.

Our current membership is as follows: Sgt, R, Hobbs; Cpl. A. Bateman; L/Cpl. D. Legebaw; L/Cpl. R. Parkinson; Pte Yaworsky; Pte Edwards; Pte Fisher; Pte Swaffield; Pte Moulder; Pte O'Halloran; Pte Woods; Recruit/Pte Fournier; Recruit/Pte McCallum; Recruit Toderian.

Negotiations are going on with three potential members, and this looks very promising for the coming season.

All members are responsible for 'talking up' the Regiment with visitors at events, acquaintances and others who show interest. There seems to be a renewed interest in the War of 1812, and certainly in reenacting. While some Regiments within the Crown forces have experienced some decline, others are growing and adding to their battle lines at an encouraging rate. Please take advantage of this interest and speak to friends and others about joining the 41st.

Tom Fournier has come up with an excellent scheme to involve the Media in our work, and this will be reported on at the Annual Meeting - it will provide us with good publicity.

## 41st DATABASE

With the help of members of the 41st Grenadiers in Wales, a database is being compiled of the names of all the soldiers, NCOs and Officers who served with the 41st during their stay in Canada. This will prove to be an excellent tool for research. At our end, Jim Yaworsky and Tom Fournier are involved. Thanks guys.

## TIPS 'n STUFF

If you saw the movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding", you will remember the faith the father of the bride had in the healing power of Windex. Well, it can do more than remove spots and sterilize cuts! After cleaning your brass with Brasso or any other cleaner, and after buffing it completely, squirt on some WINDEX and dry and buff it with a paper towel. This will clean off all the black residue and bring the article to a very fine shine. Buff once more with a dry paper towel this will ensure it is dry and shiny!

When cleaning your musket and you have everything cleaned with dish soap and hot water and dried, give the whole musket a few squirts of WINDEX and then dry and buff it with a paper towel. You won't believe the difference it makes. Some Black powder shooters carry paper towels and WINDEX with them to the shooting range to clean out the barrel and ignition after firing a few balls. WINDEX works great on windows as well ..... so I am told! (*Larry Lozon*)