

41st Regiment of Foot (Military Living History Group) JOURNAL



January - February, 2004

Welcome to the 2004 Season!



With longing thoughts of Summer, members of the 41st Regt. shiver in minus twelve degree temperature at the Memorial for the fallen at the River Raisin Battlefield, Jan. 17th, 2004.

already sent out, and preparations are well under way. This will be a marvelous event, and has been selected as our first authorized ("all-up") event of the year. This means that all members are expected to attend for the entire week-end.

The reenactment of the battles of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane takes place on the week-end of July 3rd-4th. This is our second all-up event, and will be a first for this combination of battles. The site at Chippewa has been recently reopened as an historic site, and is well worth a visit. One can imagine that not much has changed in the area since 1814. The open ground between the river and the woods is still visible, the position of the American artillery is clear. A few years ago the battlefield received an intensive survey and examination and a battlefield tour is available today.

The third 'all-up' event of the season is Fort Erie, August 6th-8th. At this event we will probably be reinforced by six members of the 41st Grenadier company from Cardiff, Wales, UK. Also in our line for that week-end will be a surprise guest (more on this later).

The Forty First Regiment of Foot (MLHG)
Journal is published six times per year.

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The Journal and the Military History Group are dedicated to the life and work of the British soldier during the War of 1812, especially those who served in the 41st Regt. in the Canadas from 1799-1815

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Of course, these are not the only events available for us for the season. Battlefield House, Stoney Creek will host its annual battle reenactment on June 4th-6th. There are also rumours of an event at Fort Henry, Kingston. Chatham, Backus Mill, Put-in-Bay also add to the opportunities for fielding the Regiment this year. Members of the Regiment paid a visit to Mother Theresa School, Cambridge on Monday, Feb. 2nd, 2004 to give the History Class a taste of some hands-on, War of 1812 experience.

Back to School

About forty kids were given a sample of life as a Private Soldier (Pte. Fournier), a Pioneer (Pte Woods) and a Sergeant (Sgt. Hobbs), then were divided into three small platoons, armed with muskets (well, actually, plastic hockey sticks!). They were drilled, taught how to shoulder, order, present, and then how to load their muskets in preparation for opposing lines.

Orders were strictly obeyed, and the members of one line were clearly annoyed that they could not simply charge at their enemy, but had to wait to receive fire. They were not yet loaded!

All-in-all it was an excellent time of education and fun, and I am sure we have an invitation for a return visit.

The school teacher was very impressed, and we noticed him looking longingly at the red coats, muskets and other kit. He could be a recruit! However, if he joins he would be a close rival of Pte Swaffield. The man is tall, and could hardly fit into my old sergeant's coat.

The visit was ended with a fine display of loading and firing by Ptes. Woods and Fournier in the parking lot of the school. As we departed we were the centre of attention in the parking lot, and in the lakeside cafe where we retired for lunch. Thank you, Pte Fournier for arranging this.



Camp Etiquette - Standing Order

At encampments and during event weekends, the ideal is for members of the Regiment to cultivate "first person" impressions. That is, to adopt the persona of a soldier of the period of 1812-1814. This is done to create an authentic atmosphere at the 41st camp, and so that visitors and the public will experience such a camp firsthand.

1. The encampment shall be set up in the fashion of a typical British encampment of the period. The sergeant's tent should face out at the end of the line of tents, and to its right should be placed the Regimental Camp Colours. To the right, and a little behind the Sergeant's tent should be placed the Bell of Arms.

All other tents should be placed in a straight line, behind the Sergeant's tent with their entrances facing the street. Behind this, when available, should be placed the Officer's marquee, in line with those of the other Regimental commanders.

At the sergeant's and/or officer's tent a Regimental notice board shall be placed on which the schedule for each day of an event will be inscribed by the Regimental Clerk.

2. Nothing should be visible in the encampment which is not authentic to the period we are reconstructing. The use of sleeping bags and metal camp cots is discouraged, unless absolutely necessary because of health concerns. At best the contents of the wedge tent should consist of the necessary uniform and accoutrements, a groundsheet, a straw-filled pallias, and a blanket. Additional warmth can be generated by the use of a greatcoat. A box of suitable proportions and manufacture can be used to store any modern necessities, such as medicines, and extra period clothing, such as shirt and socks.

3. When in camp, as in the battle line, it is important that each member of the Regiment behave in a manner consistent with the period soldiers we are representing. No soft drink cans, plastic bottles, wrapped candy etc. will be allowed in the camp with one exception. Water will be stored in the Regimental Headquarters in a sealed cooler. This cooler will be stocked with ice, and contained inside a wooden box which can be closed. To have access to this box, permission must be gained from an NCO or Officer of the Regiment.

4. When in camp, and when not preparing for battle, NCO's and Private soldiers shall wear barracks jackets, white trowsers, stocks and white forage caps. Such clothing should be worn to all meals and other events of the full camp, unless other clothing is specified.



For Regimental and Brigade drills clothing should be as above, with the addition of crossbelts and musket.

5. Seating in the camp for NCOs and Private soldiers is limited to a box, or small slatted or canvas-seated folding chairs.

6. Candle lamps should not be used in the camp street, with the exception of lighting for the Field Mess. All lights used inside tents should be in proper period enclosed lamps, and must be used with the utmost care and safety in mind.

Approved this day (February 15th, 2004)
Barton, UC

Signed: R Hobbs
Commanding Officer

Information and Appointments for the 2004 season

1. **Headgear** (1). It is hoped that before the season gets too old (i.e. by the Grand Encampment or Stoney Creek at the latest), all members of the Regiment who take the field and encamp will have the proper barracks headgear. This is the "Bonnet de Police", or "elf hat", (see the picture on the left). Sergeant Hobbs has the pattern and Private Yaworsky should have scraps of white wool and red wool to make up the



hat. Please acquire the materials, and begin your sewing. It is not a difficult thing to make.

2. **Headgear (2).** It is also my hope that by the closing weeks of the season, say Fort Erie, we will all have a “Belgic Shako”, with the proper cording, shako plate and hackle. This will be worn with grey trowsers. This will give us a ‘late war’ appearance. By the beginning of the 2005 season all members of the Regiment should have grey trowsers and the belgic shako (‘late war’), in addition to their stovepipes and white trowsers (‘early war’).

3. Included above is a Standing Order on “Camp Etiquette” which depict the standards of the 41st camp we wish to maintain hereafter. Please read it carefully, and comply with its conditions.

4. **Appointments for 2004.** The following will serve on the field staff of the Regiment in 2004.

Corporal - Andrew Bateman. The Corporal will act as CO and Field Commander in the absence of the Sergeant/Officer. When the Regiment falls in Cpl. Bateman will take the right side of the front line, immediately adjacent to the CO.

Lance Corporal - Rich Parkinson. The L/Cpl will act as 2ic to the Corporal, and 3ic to the Commander. In line he will take the left of the front line. Lance Corporal Parkinson will also act as Regimental Clerk for the coming season, keeping the daily schedule up-to-date, and also keeping attendance at events. When ordered L/.Cpl Parkinson will drop back and act as “Cover NCO” to ensure the straightness of the line, and to watch for misfires and infractions of line regulations.

5. **Pioneer - Terry Woods.** Pioneer Woods will be responsible for the collecting of wood for the campfire which will be situated in the proper place, as designated by the Crown forces Staff. Pioneer Woods will also be responsible, with the Provost, for the maintenance of a tidy camp.

6. **Camp Provost - Private Fournier.** The Provost will be responsible for the maintenance of a period camp, especially, but not restricted to the times when the public is present. His duties will be to ensure that the camp is presented according to the Standing Order on Camp Etiquette (see above).

Memories of Drill



When we are sweating under the sun at Lundy’s Lane, Chippewa or Fort Erie in the coming season, this picture will remind us of ‘cooler times’ on the Caldwell’s estate in Lynden, Ontario!!
Reminder - March 13th is a regular Saturday drill at Caldwell’s and Ft. Malden. April 3rd is our all-up drill at Ft. Malden

In the picture are. l to r, Sergeant Hobbs, Recruit Toderian Private Fournier, Lance Corporal Parkinson, Private Woods and Corporal Bateman braving the elements on our Valentine’s Day drill.