



GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

Du Octobre 2005.

*Du BUREAU du PRÉSIDENT,
from the President's Desk*

*Le RAPPORT du CAPITAINE,
Captain's Report*

This past month has been very busy, and I would like to thank everyone for coming out and supporting the regiment.

The Sudbury Faire was a huge success. I'd like to thank everyone who showed up and helped out. We had an absolutely gorgeous day. The stew that we cooked for the after party was a great success. Thanks to everyone who lended a helping hand.. The music did a superb job as always. Congratulations to Klaus Schneller who was elected to be the new Colonel of the Sudbury Militia.

We have a few more events schedule for the rest of the year. The first is Chelmsford, which is right around the corner. This event will take place on Oct. 8th & 9th. Currently there is a tactical planned for Saturday at noon, and a public battle demonstration on Saturday and Sunday. If you plan on attending, and you have not yet contacted me, please send me and email, or call me ASAP.

The next event scheduled is a filming that is being done in Williamsburg VA. Further details are available later in this newsletter. Originally Steven, Bill and I were planning to attend; however, we recently found out that the Northern Departmental Continental Line meeting is on the same weekend, so Steven and I will not be able to attend. Williamsburg is looking for a handful of French Troops. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

Finally, we have the Plymouth Time Line Event in November. This event takes place on November 19th, in the town of Plymouth. We will be setting up a small encampment, and participating in the Thanksgiving Parade. That's all for now. I hope to see everyone soon!

*Your Humble Servant,
Dana Rock,
Président Régiment de SaintOnge*

Framingham on the Sudbury
October 2005

Hi Folks,

It's that time of year, color on the trees and a little nip in the air. Yes, it's fall and the campaign season is beginning to wind down (yeah right!). We actually have a few events before the end of the year and one right at the beginning of the year. Before we get to these new events, a review of the events from September.

September started off as it usually does with the Marlboro Labor Day Parade. This event almost didn't happen due to funding, but the town came through. I was actually able to pull off what I've done in past parades and march in two groups. Afterwards we retired back to my place for a cookout in which a good time was had by all. For those who were present Bill, Dana, and I gave you an overview of what is to be expected for the coming year. More on these events a little later – suffice it to say, we'll be busy.

At the end of the month we had two events – yup two. The Sudbury Muster is our traditional end of the year welcome to fall event. The day was just gorgeous – abundant sunshine and not too hot or cold. As usual, the Regiment was split between our French and 4th Middlesex/Sudbury impressions – depending on what we had to do for the muster. The Line was actually asked to cook; from all reports, the stew was an absolute hit at the after party. The Musique performed in their first muster of the year to rave reviews from the sideline. Kudos to Reed Harder for going for it and being the solo snare drummer for the event! Carrie, Beth and I rounded out the musique and Dana commanded the Line consisting of Beth, Brian, Abe, Todd, Adam, and Bill. Next year – for the 225th of Yorktown, I really want to do something really special.

The Battle for Redway Plain in Rehoboth was in our 4th Middlesex impression. We fell out with the Lexington Train Band – effectively more than doubling their number. Dana and I finally figured out which end of the musket to put powder into and off we went into the field. Suffice to say, these were some of the *best* volleys of any group all year. To quote Abe, “I had to check my musket to make sure it went off! Most of the volleys sounded like one musket!” Alex Cain was ecstatic – we can fall out with the LTB anytime!

Finally, I want to mention the event in Lebanon and Medford. There will definitely be some after action reports in next month’s newsletter. I just want to thank everyone who made the trek to Connecticut. It was obvious during the entire event that we were the show. I was extremely proud to be a major part of this unit during the ceremony in which we demonstrated our martial prowess. Your execution was *flawless* absolutely *flawless*! I was forwarded an e-mail from Rich Sheryka of the Bourbonnais from one of the event organizers – everyone could not have been more pleased. The bayonet demonstration that we did was a wonderful camp activity that will make an appearance at future events. Thanks to Bill who came up with the frame and bags. It was also great to see Sterling and Todd – hope to see you guys more throughout the year! Thanks again to the Mees family for keeping us really well fed and hydrated through the event – very tasty vittles! For Medford, I was watching you guys from the back – since you guys were ahead. Crisp volleys and good marching! Beth and Reed did a great job keeping the beat despite the juggernaut behind them. You also impressed some of the MCV Colorguard folks, so you may be seeing some new faces in the near future.

Part of my job as Captain is to appoint positions that help the unit in our organization, presentation, safety, and execution. One of these positions is that of adjutant. I have asked Bill Rose to become adjutant to help us organize the 225th events through Yorktown. Bill has made some fantastic inroads to the W3R committees and the BAR staff as well as working with other organizations that plan these events. His knowledge of these events was apparent at the cookout at my house after the Labor Day Parade. Further, the sheer volume of requests for us is bigger than the small team of Bill, Dana, Myles, and I – so we’ll be asking for help through the entire year. Dana and I will still organize the newsletter, but we’re looking for volunteers to help us with that as well.

As I’ve said before, I’m extremely proud of this group in what we have done during this year. Newport and Lebanon have been pinnacles of what this group can accomplish. We are also having a blast doing it as well.

Watching folks from outside the group and hearing their comments makes all the most worthwhile.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in the near future!

*Pour le Roi et le Régiment,
Steven*



ÉVÉNEMENTS PROCHAINS, *Upcoming Events*

**WARREN FARM, CHEMSFORD, MA,
October 7, 8 & 9, 2005 ~ Arrival:** All participants are asked to arrive on site at 6:00pm on Friday for Setup. Day trippers should plan on arriving no later than 9:00AM on Saturday Morning. **Directions:** 91 Boston Road Chelmsford, MA 01824. From Exit 34 on I-495 (Chelmsford RT 110/ RT4 Exit) -Proceed to Chelmsford Center. At 3rd set of traffic lights; GO STRAIGHT on Route 4 SOUTH towards Bedford. Continue on Route 4 out of Chelmsford Center past the Library (on left of 1 way street). Roughly 2/10^{ths} of a mile is the entrance on the RIGHT IS ABIG BROWN HOUSE WITH RED ROOF ON EDGE OF ROAD. Enter to the right of the house, proceed to sign in registration. **Details:** As part of the Celmsford’s 350th Anniversary Celebration, Col. Knox’s Artillery and The King’s Rangers are hosting a reenactment at Warren Farm in Chelmsford, MA.

Event Schedule:

Saturday, October 8th	
7:00 AM	Morning Gun
10:00 AM	Camp opens to the public
12-2:00PM	Tactical Exercise
3:00 PM	Public Battle Demonstration
5:00 PM	Camp closes to the public

Sunday, October 9th	
7:00 AM	Morning Gun
9:30 AM	Bus to Aldersgate Church Service
10:00 AM	Camp opens to the public
1:00 PM	Public Battle Demonstration
3:00 PM	Camp closes to the public

Participants welcome to stay Sunday night into Monday morning.

YORKTOWN FILMING, November 5 & 6, Williamsburg, VA. ~ Steven and I have received this from Carl "Chip" Gnam. We are still getting details on this filming, and we will keep everyone update to date: Jeff Lambert and I are working with Colonial Williamsburg on a shoot for their classroom documentary series. They have arranged to film material depicting aspects of the Yorktown siege and surrender as part of the series. We are looking for reenactors to participate in the shoot and here are the details as we know them now. This e-mail is to gauge your unit's level of interest as the actual number of paid participants will be limited to about 100.

The date is Sat. - Sun., Nov. 5 - 6. I believe that shooting on Saturday evening will go fairly late as they plan to film the storming of the redoubts.

The location will be in and around Yorktown, VA (including the NPS site).

At this point they are providing the following remuneration:

- \$75 per person (total) for the 2 day shoot;
 - motel accommodations for those that don't live nearby in one of their CW facilities;
 - all meals during filming (typical film shoot style catered meals I believe)
 - CW passes for anyone who wants them (rather than hand everyone a pass, they prefer to just give them to people staying over who will use them)
- Chip



GALERIE des IMAGES,
Picture Gallery



*Le Music de Régiment de Saintonge. September, 5 2005
Labor Day Parade, Marlborough, MA*



*Le Music de Régiment de Saintonge. September, 24 2005
Sudbury Fife and Drum Muster, Sudbury, MA*



*Le Régiment de Saintonge. September, 24 2005
Sudbury Fife and Drum Muster, Sudbury, MA*



*Le Régiment de Saintonge on the March. September, 5 2005
Labor Day Parade, Marlborough, MA*



Infantry Regiment Saintonge (85th),

1780-1782

FORMED in September 1684 around companies detached from the *vieux* Regiment de Navarre, Saintonge had maintained an honorable record through the War of the League of Augsburg (1688-97), the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-13), and the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-48). During the Seven Years War (1756-63-our French and Indian War), Saintonge saw service in the West Indies.

On 10 April 1780, it embarked at Brest as part of the French expeditionary force under Gen. Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, arriving at Newport, Rhode Island, on 10 July. A French history credits it with the capture of Stony Point, New York-which actually took place a year earlier (15-16 July 1779)! (A French officer volunteer, François de Fleury, serving as lieutenant colonel of the 1st American Light Infantry Regiment, who was the first into the fort and cut down the British flag-for which Congress awarded him a silver medal-was a major from Saintonge, on extended leave for a little on-the-job training and adventure.)

Saintonge apparently was not a happy regiment. Claude Blanchard, Rochambeau's chief commissary (roughly, his G-4), noted in March 1781, "On the 4th a captain ... named Laforest, held in esteem in his regiment, to whom M. de Custine had addressed some language for which he had in vain demanded justice, killed himself in despair. This event, which became known just before guard mount, created great excitement there. M. de Custine was insulted there, and if it had not been for the presence of some superior officers, worse would have befallen him."

After the Yorktown campaign, Saintonge wintered in America; in 1782 it was transferred to the West Indies, returning to France in July 1783.

Three of the infantry regiments of Rochambeau's expeditionary force-Bourbonnais, Soissonais, and Saintonge were uniformed according to the royal decree of 21 January 1779: coat and waistcoat of white woolen cloth, lined with white, and breeches of white jersey. (Deux-Ponts, being a "foreign" regiment, retained its sky-blue coats.) Saintonge had yellow buttons: seven small ones on each lapel, three large ones on each pocket flap, four small ones on each sleeve. Cuffs were dark green; collars, lapels, pocket flaps, and shoulder straps were white, edged with dark

green braid. Gaiters were black for service, white for full dress.

Headgear was the cocked hat with white cockade and black braid edging. As an economy measure, grenadiers were to give up their bearskin bonnets, being distinguished by red epaulets and a red pompon on their hats. Chasseurs (light infantry companies) were to have green pompoms and probably-green epaulets. Chevrons of grade were silver, edged with dark green. The front of the fatigue cap-white, braided with dark green-had a dark green fleur-de-lis for fusiliers, a red "flaming grenade" for grenadiers, possibly a green hunting horn for chasseurs. The same emblems were used on their coat turnbacks.

All French infantry musicians wore "royal livery"-a dark blue coat with their regiments' distinctive facings (for Saintonge, its dark green cuffs and braid) and a crimson lace with a white chain pattern. Drum majors had the same uniform with extra lace down the seams of the back of their coat and silver lace on their hat and cuffs. Apparently they carried an ordinary civilian-type cane instead of the formidable batons of the *Grand Armee*, which combined display with lethal capabilities.

Officers' uniforms were the same as enlisted men's, but of better material and therefore brighter in color. Their grades were indicated by their epaulets and sword knots. For lowly ensigns these were "fire color": orange red with a thin trim the color of their regiments' buttons (gold for Saintonge). The proportion of gold to red increased with each step up in grade. Gorgets were worn only while on duty.

In this plate the grenadier is in undress uniform-sleeved waistcoat and fatigue hat (*pokalem*). The blue chevron on his left arm shows he has reenlisted after eight years' service. Note that the waistcoat also has green cuffs. The *fourrier* (combination company clerk and supply sergeant) wears regular service dress; the double silver stripes on his upper arm indicate his grade. He carries his company camp color, dark green with its regimental number in a "contrasting color"-probably yellow or orange.

*Eugene Lelievre
Brooke Nihart
Pierre M. Piffaretti
John R. Elting*



*Le PROGRAMME,
the schedule for 2005*

The events listed below are the official schedule for 2005 - as approved by the membership at the annual meeting. Questions and suggestions may be directed to members of the BOD.

Date	Unit	Event
Jan 11	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Feb 8	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Feb 26	All	Regimental Annual Meeting (10-12) Berlin, MA
Mar 8	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Apr 12	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Jun 14	All	Work Party at Steven's (7-9) Framingham, MA

*EXERCICES et RENDEVOUS,
Drills & Distaff Gatherings*

Date	Unit	Event
Jan 8	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12) Old Town Hall, Stow, MA
Feb 12	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12) Old Town Hall, Stow, MA
Mar 12	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12) Old Town Hall, Stow, MA
Apr 3	All	4th Middlesex and 2nd Massachusetts Drill Dunstable, MA
Apr 9	All	4th Middlesex and Sudbury Drill Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
May 14	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (TBA) TBA
June 11	All	Fencing Seminar Burlington, MA

Date	Unit	Event
Mar 12	4 th	Dorchester Heights Dorchester, MA
Mar 13	4 th	MMNHP rally Lexington, MA
Mar 20	85eme	St. Patrick Day Parade Boston, MA
April 16	4 th	Battle Road Lexington, MA
May 13 – 15	85eme	225th Siege of Charleston Charleston, SC
May 21-22	Music	Drummers Call Williamsburg, VA
May 21-22	85eme	Little Farm Newbury, MA
May 29	85eme	Memorial Day Parade Somerville, MA
May 30	85eme	Memorial Day Parade Andover, MA
July 8,9,10	85eme	Landing of Rochambeau Newport, RI
Aug 6 -7	85eme	Old Sturbridge Village Timeline Sturbridge Village, MA
Sept 5	85eme	Labor Day Parade/ Regimental Birthday Party Marlborough, MA
Sept 17	4 th	Applefest Parade Northborough, MA
Sept 24	85eme	Sudbury Muster Sudbury, MA
Sept 25	4 th	Rehoboth Rehoboth, MA
Oct 1	85eme	Lebanon Lebanon, CT
Oct 2	85eme	Medford Parade Medford, MA
Oct 7 -9	85eme	Warren Farm Chelmsford, MA
Nov 19	85eme	Plymouth Time Line Plymouth, MA



French Forces on Parade, September 2005

Labor Day Parade. Marlborough, MA

85ème Régiment de Saintonge

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