



N° 35

GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

Du Août 2006

*Du BUREAU du PRÉSIDENT,
from the President's Desk**Le RAPPORT du CAPITAINE,
Captain's Report*

I want to thank every one who made the July events so successful. For those of you who don't know at Ridgefield we won the Bayonet contest and got the unit at \$450.00 Gift certificate (for Nejeckie's I believe). We also had a lot of fun in the field playing with Butlers Rangers (who were especially impressed with our bayonet charge, see a theme?). While we were traipsing around a portion of the field we dubbed the Mekong Delta, Teddy was having his own little adventure and provided us with an AAR (thanks again Teddy for writing it up).

The Grand Reconnaissance was a mixed bag. The camping accommodations left something to be desired, especially Friday night when we had no firewood! The tactical battles were at the same time great. Despite the rain we had Saturday afternoon I think every one had a very good time. It was very nice to see some of the Grogards like Dwight and Brian back on the field.

We have a lot going on and time is getting short to Yorktown. If you need equipment, clothing or anything else please speak up, there are plenty of folks who are willing to help you out. Since many of us will be in Virginia for a week (or more) it would wise to have at least a second pair of beaches and few extra shirts. I hope to see you all this coming weekend at Sturbridge Village. If you can't make it for the whole weekend it's a great event for day trippers.

*Your Humble Servant,
Adam Carriere,
Président Régiment de SaintOnge*

I would like to start off by thanking everyone for all of their hard work in the past couple of months. That hard work is paying off and it shows. We have a few new coats, hats, and gaiters, we have a few new recruits, and we have a few order members returning to our ranks. Our numbers are growing, for example, we expect to have 33 people at Old Sturbridge Village, 21 in uniform, 16 under-arms.

It's very difficult that we have 2 and half months before the big show. If you don't know what I'm talking about, then WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'm talking about Williamsburg and Yorktown. Things have been moving along very nicely. The regimental staff is now looking for help from the regiment. We have paper work that needs to be completed for the BAR, but in order to do that, we need information from all of you. We need to know who is coming (we need names of everyone attending Williamsburg and Yorktown), we need to know when you plan on arriving (Date and Time), we also need Serial Numbers of all muskets that will be at Yorktown. We are also looking for a few other things from the Regiment. The first thing is commissary. Seeing that Williamsburg and Yorktown are two separate events, we are going to treat them as such for commissary. These two events will have the same amount of people if not more then Quebec, so I'm suggesting that we have two teams to handle commissary, Liz Mees has volunteered to head one team, so I need a volunteer to head up the second team. Each team should have 2 to 4 people working together for commissary for the weekend. The last thing we are looking for is ideas for transporting equipment to Williamsburg and Yorktown. The current idea is for the regiment to rent a van load it up with regimental/personal gear, hook up the trailer and drive down to VA. A group of people can caravan down and take turns driving the van down. If anyone knows of a

good place to rent the van from, or a place that will donate a van to our Non-profit organization for two weeks, please let me know.

Anyone who is willing to help our with transportation, or commissary, please contact me as soon as possible. All information about Williamsburg and Yorktown, ie. Names, arrive time and serial numbers, should be sent to stonge85@comcast.net or call me at 978 758 9350

For Massachusetts and Congress
et
Pour le Roi et le Regiment!
Dana Rock



ÉVÉNEMENTS PROCHAINS, *Upcoming Events*

THE CROSSING AT KINGS FERRY, Verplanck, NY, August 25th, 26th, & 27th ~

Arrival: Detail: Two hundred twenty-five years ago, the Hudson River Valley was the major theater of the Revolutionary War, what George Washington referred to as the "Key to Victory." Each year through 2008, the region will observe Patriots' Weekend to commemorate and celebrate the War for American Independence. Patriots' Weekend, 2006 will highlight the 225th anniversary of the campaign in 1781 by General George Washington and the Continental Army and General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau and his French Expeditionary Corps first to lay siege to General Sir Henry Clinton's army in New York City and later to surround the main Southern British army under General Charles Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia.
Directions: Take I-84 West to Exit 13S (Route 9 South-Peekskill). Turn right at end of ramp onto Route 9 South. Take Route 9 south approximately 16 miles to the Welcher Avenue-Buchanan Exit. Proceed straight through the light at the bottom of the ramp onto Route 9A. Proceed 2/10 mile to the next traffic light and turn right onto Bleakley Avenue. Proceed to the next traffic light (Indian Point Entrance) and turn left onto Broadway. Follow Broadway about a mile into town and follow signs to parking and site

Schedule:

Friday, August 25, 2006

7:30 P.M. Lecture on "The Franco-American Encampment at Philipsburg and the Crossing of the Hudson, 6 July to 23 August 1781," Dr. Robert A. Selig,

Project Historian, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route. (The Cortlandt Historical Society will serve light refreshments after the lecture.)

Please make your reservations for the lecture by calling (914)739-0823 or writing Kingsferry@aol.com

Saturday, August 26

Old Cemetery at Van Cortlandtville, Corner of Oregon Road and Locust Avenue, Van Cortlandtville

9:30 A.M. Memorial service for the French soldiers who died in Van Cortlandtville sponsored by the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society and the Old Van Cortlandtville Cemetery Association. Madame Chantal Chauvin, deputy consul general of France in New York, will be the honored guest.

Verplanck's Point, Verplanck and Stony Point Battlefield, NY

10:00 A.M. Site opens to public; 18th century soldiers' camp and military activities all day; Music demonstration at the Overlook; Public and media meet General Washington and General Rochambeau

10:30 A.M. Drill and Tactical Weapons Demonstration

1:00 P.M. Re-dedication of the New York State marker at the Post-Hannock House

2:00 P.M. Re-creation of the crossing of the Hudson River by the French and American armies; Generals Washington and Rochambeau oversee troop movement to Stony Point from Steamboat Dock and speak to public and media.

3:00 P.M. Drill at Verplanck's and Stony Point

5:00 P.M. Military Retreat; camp closes to public until evening

8:00 P.M. People of the Brigade

8:30 P.M. Period music at the Gazebo

9:00 P.M. Fireworks at Steamboat Dock; camp closes to public after fireworks

Sunday, August 27

9:30 A.M. Site opens to public; 18th century soldiers' camp and military activities all day; morning divine services at Overlook

10:00 A.M. Music demonstration at the Overlook

11:00 A.M. Drill and Tactical Weapons Demonstration

11:30 A.M. Ladies Tea at the Gazebo; boat display in the Hudson River

1:00 P.M. Naval and land Tactical Weapons Demonstration

2:00 P.M. Memorial for soldiers killed at Fort Lafayette

3:00 P.M. Military Retreat; camp closes to public

http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/index.cfm?section_id=12&page_id=456



ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉALISÉS, *Past Event*

Ridgefield CT, These are some of the things that happened over the weekend. Prisoners were captured. After that, I fenced with small-swords and whacked with boffers. Sunday I was temporarily promoted. Everybody had a good time.

This is the first capturing. First of all, I was sent into the British camp to spy. Then, as I was walking around their camp, trying to figure out where their officers were I was captured by six loyalists. They thought I was pacing out their camp. They interrogated me and they took me to their commander, who was at registration, who also interrogated me. Since there were reenactors there I asked a colonist to take the message up that I was captured. I stayed there until about lunchtime. They took me up to our fly. They couldn't agree so they took me back down. I waited a while then our guys came back and rescued me. I got a lecture from Dana about not getting captured and we all went back to our fly. That was the first capturing.

A little later that afternoon we saw a Loyalist at the next fly over talking to some one there. So I went over to him and told him he was under arrest. We took him over to our fly and gave him some food. We escorted him to the American commander and gave my Loyalist to him.

An hour or two before camp closed Adam gave me a fencing lesson. Then, when people started getting ready for the ball, Adam got out the boffers and Harry and I beat the heck out of each other. All tired out we went to bed.

On Sunday, I got up early and talked to Adam until every one else got up. Later, we had an inspection and a bayonette competition. I was standing off to the side and went over to talk to a member of Rochambeau's staff. Then, he invited me to join them. A little later, he told me that I had been "promoted one grade". The only problem was that there is not anything for me to be promoted to. In all, I think every body had a good time.

Humbly Submitted by
Teddy Humphreys



Bonjour, Mon soldat les freres

The arrival at Pound Ridge was dark on Friday night, but the spirits were bright. Our location, graced by tall grass, was closest to the facilities and the sutlers. After setting up at the appointed location, the rest of the available regiment was located. Sleep was well deserved, although the camp at the top of the hill continued festivities until the wee hours of the morning.

Saturday saw us woodless and the resulting coffee deprivation was well-noted. Fortunately, Pvt. Collins managed to obtain some coffee of the Dunkin the caffeine addicts came streaming from the tents to receive their morning victuals. The day started warm, but overcast without any rain. A call for a volunteer to perform "guard duty" until noon netted one unsuspecting soldat who subsequently did picket duty and held the bridge until the entire British army, including artillery came. The "guard" managed to impress the others in the picket line with just how good the French really are in the field. The rest of the unit, ten muskets and music, engaged the British (having taken the bridge and crossed it) and it was up hill and down dale until the end of the battle and a return to camp for lunch.

During the nooning, a torrential downpour had nearly everyone huddled under the fly or stuck in their tents. It rained. Then it really rained. Those under the fly had a good visit, although the gun cleaning from that morning was curtailed and finally abandoned. After some discussion by those in charge, we were assembled for the afternoon tactical in the woods. The 85th was given the arduous task of holding the highest point. We must have looked intimidating since we were able to accomplish our mission without firing a shot, or indeed, setting eyes on the enemy. There was a mock skirmish afterwards for the benefit of those few spectators. Apparently, the British were allowed to fix bayonets and we exchanged volleys trying to scare them off. It worked well enough to allow us the rest of the day off.

The culinary arts of Adam Carrier and Bryon Bausk delighted us as we enjoyed roast pork with a fruit compote glaze and boiled potatoes for dinner. We ate very well! Some of us later attended the contra dance at the barn while others of us attended the tavern hosted by the 2nd Massachusetts at their tent. It was an evening to remember, if one was able.

The plans for Sunday were re-arranged and we were to be out from 9 until 1, able to pack and depart at the end of the tactical. We all stocked our haversacks with munchables and were marched to the woods and up a

semi-dry streambed. We then came out of the forest as reinforcements and faced the British artillery and the line of muskets as well. Although uphill, we moved quickly and well and our volleys were good. We managed to keep ourselves in line and gave the enemy good opposition. "Vite! Vite!" was heard frequently from our fearless leader, Steven and we upheld his faith in our abilities to impress the others on the field. After a short rest to take water and food, where our knees were tested by grounding our flintlocks, we were then marched up the road only to enter a field and then continue the fight through standing water, over the top of the hill and down into the valley. The British artillery sounded in our ears constantly. We marched back to the camp around 2 and enjoyed our repast before packing up and taking our leave of another memorable weekend.

One step closer to Yorktown!

Your humble servant,
Pvt. E. Hutchinson



A Brief History Lesson

On the afternoon of September 5, 1781, Washington was riding south from Chester, Pennsylvania, when a horseman came galloping down the road towards him. As General Rochambeau was heading to Chester by water from Philadelphia, inspecting river forts along the way, Washington headed back to Chester to greet him with the news he had just received. As Rochambeau's boat approached the dock, General Washington was waiting for him. There was no mistaking Washington's excitement. He was waving his hat to Rochambeau in great sweeps. When Rochambeau landed, Washington embraced him and explained his uncontrollable joy. On August 18 Admiral de Grasse had reached Chesapeake Bay from Santo Domingo in the West Indies and had brought three thousand French troops. No other could be nor more excuses. Washington laid out the alternatives starkly to Lafayette: "We must take Cornwallis or be all dishonored." Providence and His Most Christian Majesty the king of France, had given George Washington the change to save his country and to enter history as one of its greatest Generals.

At 5 am, September 28, 1781, the drums in General Washington's camp at Williamsburg struck the tattoo to march. The American officers wanted their men to begin this crucial campaign as freshly groomed as their French allies and ordered them to be well shaved. One brigade commander issued each regiment twelve pounds

of flour so that his troops could powder their hair. General Rochambeau's French troops followed the Americans with their artillery mixed into the column and not dragged along at the rear. After the first five miles, the troops reached a fork in the road. The Americans swung left and the French took the more direct path on the right. By evening the two columns had come within sight of the battlements at Yorktown.

Edited information from the text of "Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution" A. J. Langguth 1988 Simon & Schuster



Again, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of Gazette. I have received many After Action Reports in the past months, and I think they really add to the Newsletter. Please continue to send articles and pictures. All articles and pictures should be sent to stonge85@comcast.net



As some of you may have heard, after a hiatus of a couple of years, we recently began using the regimental trailer to haul equipment to events. We all owe a big debt of thanks to Steven for repairing the springs etc. We also owe a huge thank you to Ed De Flumeri, owner of West Concord Mobil, who found the time to diagnose and fix problems with the trailer wiring (as well as with our van's trailer wiring). Ed was helpful, friendly, and generous--just the way you always hope a local business will be. I can't say nice enough things about him or his station: West Concord Mobil, on Main Street (rte 62) in West Concord, 978-369-9117.

Sgt. Abe Fisher



Bayonett Practice, Ridgefield, CT



*Le PROGRAMME,
the schedule for 2006*

The events listed below are the official schedule for 2006

WORK PARTIES

Date	Unit	Event
Jan 24	All	Work Party (7-9) Bolton, MA
Feb 21	All	Work Party (7-9) Bolton, MA
Mar 11	All	Work Party (12-3) Bill Rose's House (Bolton, MA)
April 8	All	Work Party (12-3) Bill Rose's House (Bolton, MA)
May 13	All	Work Party (12-3) Bill Rose's House (Bolton, MA)
June 3	All	Work Party (11-2) Taskovics' House (Bolton, MA)
June 7	All	Rolling Party (7-9) Mixer's House (Bolton, MA)
June 10	All	Work Party (12-3) Rose's House (Bolton, MA)
July 8	All	Work Party (12-3) Taskovics House (Framingham, MA)

**EXERCICES et RENDEVOUS,
Drills & Distaff Gatherings**

Date	Unit	Event
Jan 14	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (12:30-2:00) Stow Town Hall
Feb 11	All	French Drill & Annual Meeting (10:30-2:00) Berlin, MA
Mar 11	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12:00) Bill Rose's House (Bolton, MA)
Apr 8	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12:00) Bill Rose's House (Bolton, MA)
May 13	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12:00) Bill Rose's House (Bolton, MA)
June 10	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12:00) Bill Rose's House (Bolton, MA)

Date	Unit	Event
Mar 5	4 th	Boston Massacre Boston, MA
Mar 19	85 ^{eme}	Evacuation Day Parade South Boston, MA
Mar 25	4 th	Muster Day Concord, MA
April 8	4 th	Liberty Pole Bedford, MA
April 15	4 th	Battle Road Lexington, MA
April 17	4 th	Patriots Day Ceremonies Concord, MA
May 20 & 21	85 ^{eme}	Wethersfield, CT
May 28	85 ^{eme}	Memorial Day Parade Somerville, MA
May 29	85 ^{eme}	Memorial Day Parade Andover, MA
Jun 17 & 18	85 ^{eme}	Providence, RI W3R
Jun 17 & 18	85 ^{eme}	Southbury, CT
July 1 & 2	85 ^{eme}	Ridgefield, CT
July 22 & 23	85 ^{eme}	Grand Reconnaissance White Plains
July 29	85 ^{eme}	Fort Revere Hull, MA
Aug 5 & 6	85 ^{eme}	From Redcoats to Rebels Sturbridge, MA
Aug 26 & 27	85 ^{eme}	Crossing at Verplank 225th, Verplank, NY
Sept 4	85 ^{eme}	Labor Day Parade Marlborough, MA
Sept 4	85 ^{eme}	Regimental Birthday Party Taskovics House
Sept 9 & 10	4 th	Brandywine Chadds Ford, PA
Sept 23	85 ^{eme}	Sudbury Muster Sudbury, MA
Sept 30	85 ^{eme}	Wilmington, DE
Oct 13 -16	85 ^{eme}	Prelude to Victory Williamsburg, VA
Oct 20 - 22	85 ^{eme}	225th Victory at Yorktown Yorktown, VA
Nov 18	85 ^{eme}	Plymouth Time Line Plymouth, MA

Ridgefield, CT July 2, 2006

*85ème Régiment de Saintonge
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