

N^o 34

GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

Du Juillet 2006

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

Well folks it's that time again! I don't want to scare anyone but as of July 1, we have approximately 4 months to get people set for Williamsburg and Yorktown.

Providence and Southbury were very successful, even if they did call us a *MILITIA!*? down in Rhode Island. You will hear about Southbury from Abe and many of you read about my little encounter with 'Molly Pitcher' in drag.

Ridgefield will have come and gone by the time most of you read this but I want to thank several people for their heroic efforts to get our equipment and commissary needs taken care of. This team consisted of, Sue, Dana, Matthew and Liz, and especially Abe and Colleen. Their hard work saved us after the Trailer developed a SNAFU in its wiring.

Looking ahead we have a work party scheduled at Steven's home on July 8 starting around 11:00 AM. (Keep an eye on the Saintonge list as the start time may change once Steven gets back.)

The pace doesn't slacken much for the regiment this summer but this month is slow compared to some. We have the Grand Reconnaissance, a huge tactical event, which looks like it will be a wonderful change of pace for us. Beyond that we have Sturbridge Village, Fort Revere (Hull Mass) and the Verplank event coming up in August.

If you need some piece of gear to complete your kit let us know so we can help you. Also we can always use more people to help us with the logistics of getting the regiment in the field. The people above are the ones who pitch in at every event it would be nice to let them relax for a change.

It's been a good year so far I hope it will continue to get better.

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

I would like to start off by thanking everyone who was able to fall out for of last month's events and make them a great success. We had quite a few events and we were able to have a decent turnout for each of them. As most of you have already heard, the regiment was soundly beaten by the 10th Mass Regt. in the musket firing competition, 3 Hazzars to them for a job well done. We however redeemed our selves that day with an outstanding performance on the battle field. The regiment was the first to engage the Rangers and Rifles. We somehow managed to blow through half a block before the American's even engaged. Our bayonet charge was a thing of beauty, we caught the British Lights with their pants around their knees. The Grenadier's had to turn their flank to us, which caused a very large whole in the middle of the British Line, too bad the Americans didn't have enough troops to exploit the opening.

Ridgefield was also a great success for the regiment. The turn out was a little lighter then we had hoped. Those who did show put on a great performance. I'd like to thank Abe, Colleen and Sue for all of their hard work to get our equipment to the event. After several trips to the mechanic to get the trailer repaired, they found out there was a wiring issue with van, as well as a grounding problem on the trailer. Despite the late night on Friday Night of getting everything setup, we had a great time. The tactical event on Saturday was a limited engagement with the British Army, yet very intense. We showed the American Light Infantry what it truly means to be a light infantry company. Not only did we chase them through the swamp, but we annihilated Butler's Ranger's with a bayonet charge, we also won the Bayonet Competition. The first place prize was a \$450 Gift Certificate to G.G. Godwin.

Looking forward we have the Grand Reconnaissance and OSC coming up. I will not be able to attend the Grand Reconnaissance, and have asked Steven to act as CO in my absence. We are still looking for volunteers to haul

gear to these events, as well as someone to head up commissary for the Grand Reconnaissance. Please contact either Adam or me if you are able/willing to help out.

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



ÉVÉNEMENTS PROCHAINS, *Upcoming Events*

REGIMENTAL DRILL & WORK PARTY, Saturday, July 8 ~ Arrival:

Directions: Take Route 20 East or Route 128 to Route 20 West. Follow Route 20 into Sudbury. At the set of lights immediately after the Shaw's Supermarket Plaza (heading east) or Sudbury Farms (heading west), turn onto Nobscot Road. Follow Nobscot Road into Framingham. (*It turns into Edgell Rd in Framingham*) Look for the Framingham Animal Hospital on your left. You will take the first real left after the Animal hospital onto Treeland Drive. (*Don't take the hairpin left turn onto Harrington.*) Follow Treeland Dr to the end, take a right and then a quick left onto Janebar Circle. Follow Janebar Circle down the hill and around the bend, take your first right onto Roundtop Road. #79 on the right, light grey with dark grey shutters. Park on the street. **Details:** Goals will be finishing hats and Gators (which mostly just need to be fitted to those who need them) and getting measurements for people who need waist coats and regimentals.



GRAND RECONNAISSANCE, CROSS RIVER, NY, July 22nd & 23rd ~ Arrival:

Upon arrival please sign in. Parking passes will be issued to display in your windshield—please put your name and unit on them in case we need to find the car's owner. **Detail:** At strategy meetings held in May, 1781 at Wethersfield, Connecticut between Washington and Rochambeau, Washington proposed using the joint armies to attack New York City. The Wethersfield Plan, as the product of the Wethersfield Conference became known as, called for diversionary attacks to be made against New York City in an attempt to draw British forces ravaging the south to reinforce General Clinton's army in New York. If French naval cooperation could be

secured the attacks might even lead to the recapture of New York. Rochambeau politely agreed but was not completely convinced. The Brigade of the American Revolution and its invited guests of the Continental Line and British Brigade will conduct a weekend of tactical operations recreating the movements and events of the Grand Reconnaissance on the 4700 acre site which is the jewel of the Westchester County Park system. This site has been used in three previous major re-enactment programs, most recently as the site of the 225th anniversary recreation of the Battle of White Plains in 2001. **Directions:** Ward Pound Ridge Reservation is located a few miles east of Katonah, NY, approx. half way between I-95 (to the south) and I-84 (to the north). From all points take I-684 North or South to exit 6 (Rt. 35) and proceed east on Rt. 35 about 4 miles to Rt. 121. Turn right onto Rt. 121 and look for the entrance to the park on the left shortly after the turn. Proceed up the long drive into the park to event registration in the building to the right of the toll booth. WebSite:

<http://www.brigade.org/barcal/2006/PoundRidge2006.html>

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, JULY 21

10:00AM Set-up Camps
10:00PM Quiet in Camps

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Until 9:00AM Set-up Camps
7:00AM Morning Gun, Reveille
7:30AM Formation in Camps, Roll Call
9:00AM Provost Rounds, Camp Inspections
10:00AM Camps Open to Public
10:00AM Formation on Parade, Inspection, "Gen Lincoln's Expedition against King's Bridge"
11:00AM People of the Brigade—18th Century Soldiers and Women's Fashions
1:00PM Formation on Parade, Inspection, "Skirmishes at Morrisania"
2:00PM Field Music Practice—Fife and Drum Performance

3:30PM Formation on Parade, Review and Feu de Joie

4:00PM Camps Close to Public

6:00PM Retreat

10:00PM Taptoo, Quiet in Camps

SUNDAY, JULY 23

7:00AM Morning Gun, Reveille

7:30AM Formation in Camps, Roll Call

9:00AM Provost Rounds, Camp Inspections

9:00AM	Church Call—Public Welcome
10:00AM	Camps Open to Public
10:00AM	Formation on Parade, Inspection, “Grand Reconnaissance”
11:00AM	People of the Brigade—18th Century Soldiers and Women’s Fashions
1:00PM	Formation on Parade, Inspection, “Scouring the Countryside for Refugees”
2:00PM	Field Music Practice—Fife and Drum Performance
3:00PM	Formation on Parade and Closing Remarks
3:00PM	Camps Close to Public, Break Camps



*FROM REDCOATS TO REBELS,
STRURBRIDGE, MA, August 5th & 6th*

It is time for the Regiment to take the show on the road yet again but this time to a location that is close to home and to an event that is very fun. So here are the details.

Arrival: Check-in and set-up will ONLY be between the hours 3:00-8:00 on Friday August 4, 2006 and 7:00 – 9:00 AM on Saturday August 5, 2006. Camp set-up will ONLY be permitted during these hours. Private motor vehicles are not allowed in the historic Village before 5:15 on Friday. Please plan on transporting your gear on handcarts, which will be provided, if you arrive before 5:15. (Camps will be ¼ to ½ mile from the parking area.) Vehicles will be allowed to drive in to unload after 5:15. You are asked unload and remove your vehicle as soon as possible as limited numbers of vehicle may be allowed into the Village at a time. The breakdown of camps may not commence until after 5:00 PM on Sunday August 7, and must be completed by 8:30 PM.

Directions: From Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90): Take Exit 9, then first right after tolls onto Route 20 west. Continue approximately one-half mile, staying in the right-hand lane, and turn right into the jug handle entrance, following signs to the Village.

Details: This is a very relaxed and fun event. There is a battle for the 18th Century re-enactors. We will not be doing hour long parades like we did last year so that is a good thing. Also we have the best camp site in the whole village...right next to the meeting house which is also the main entrance to the living museum. Dress is French of course but this is a good event to maybe use a different French kit if you have one so people we ask questions. We all know that this event is where I really took to the DuPont role that I play from time to time. Beth and I will be doing the cooking and preparing a very French meal for dinner on Saturday. So please let

me know ASAP so we can get OSV the numbers we have and so we can have great attendance for this event.



*GALERIE des IMAGES,
Picture Gallery*



Gen. Washington & Gen. Rochambeau Review the French Troops. Ridgefield, CT. Sunday July 6, 2006



*ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉGALISMS,
Past Event*

After a day spent in Providence Saturday (somebody else can tell that story), a number of us drove down to Southbury on Sunday for the day. It was hot. You probably knew that already.

Teddy and I arrived around 9:30. The allied camp was up on a hill, with a dirt road cutting across the hill below the camp. The Brits were off at the bottom of the hill, beyond some trees. At the bottom of the hill was a huge, basically rectangular field, used at one end for parking and at the other for the battle.

As we made our way from the parking area up towards the camp, we could see a long line of infantry stretched across the field in extreme open order, with two white uniforms at the far right hand side of the line. Many of you may have observed some visual similarities between Dwight and Neal Dixon--I can tell you that the similarity extends to their silhouettes and posture. I knew, at a

distance such that I couldn't see any detail, that it was the two of them, just by their stance. Scary.

So anyway, apparently they were involved in a tactical. I never heard what went on there--maybe one of them will fill us in.

So we hiked up to camp, where we stashed our gear in a tent and went to sit in the shade by the tree line (did I mention it was hot?). People started drifting in: the Dixons returned from the tactical; Jerry J. had already arrived; Adam, Frank, and Bill Rose were coming up from the parking area; Todd and Nate Bailey appeared. The first order of business was to figure out who was going to be on our team for the firing competition. The rules of the competition were a little hard (at least for me) to decipher, and it turned out in the end that they had changed from the version posted on the web anyway. Ultimately we selected a team and all marched off (at a snail's pace) for the competition--essentially 3 blank round, no wadding or ramming involved, misfires have to be made up. The competition was not a smashing success for us, but given the confusion and lack of preparation we had made as a group, that could have been predicted. 10th Mass won the custom musket hands down, so now they need to figure out how a team of 4 splits a single musket. (BTW, I handled the gun later--it was absolutely gorgeous, but it weighed a TON. Not something I'd particularly want to carry in the field, and that is not sour grapes).

We then had a nice long time to nibble on our lunches. Nobody had a whole lot of appetite, and we were hanging out by the 2nd Mass fly, so naturally they offered us some of their extra food. But it was hot, so there wasn't a lot of eating going on. A guy from some other unit was wandering around with a concertina (one of those miniature accordion doobers) and he & Mark Nowacki started investigating what was in their mutual repertoires. A good deal of very pleasant singing followed. We all had a chance to chat, visit the sutlers, and generally have a pleasant, if hot, time.

Eventually it came time to form up for battle. We paraded at the far left end of the line, putting us first on the field and, as the line reversed in action, at the far right flank of the line in the battle. That put us closest to the crowd and also closest to the play-by-play announcer, George Neumann (sp.?). George is incredible, as most of you probably know. After the battle, Teddy's comment was something like "the guy isn't human. He talked for the entire battle, out in the hot sun, standing up, without ever breathing, taking a sip of water, or pausing."

We marched about halfway up the field and the line engaged the British lights. Fairly quickly, we extended to open order, and fairly quickly again moved to a single rank, extending our line further still. We were firing rapidly, and incredibly well. We kept having those "Wow, that was a good volley" moments. In fact, we had

so many of them that we stopped commenting on them. They were ALL incredible volleys. And there were a lot of them. We pushed up the field, until the main body of the British line came on the field, at which point we were pretty significantly outnumbered and began to withdraw. We were still firing rapidly and well as we began to withdraw and fire by sections.

But it was too much. We reached a point where we simply had to stop and water down. Remember, it was darned hot. So eventually we just plain stopped and grabbed our canteens. In retrospect I suppose it was unsurprising, but the Brits respected that moment and didn't push us.

We continued to fight, primarily continuing to advance to the rear, until word came that we had permission to charge the enemy gallantly if we so desired. By this time we all were getting pretty wiped, so charging and dieing had a definite attraction. We presented our imaginary bayonets and began to charge the enemy flank. Clearly we either caught them totally off guard or were far more intimidating than we think we are, because the force in front of us froze, unable to respond to us. We halted at a safe distance and then, when a full company of grenadiers began to charge us, breaking away from the main line to do so, we broke. (It's my view that had this been a real battle, most of us would have died at that point but that the main American line might well have been able to use the break in the British line to their advantage).

We had started to take casualties by that time, and, it being hot (I think I mentioned that already), I decided to go down at the next opportunity. Naturally that opportunity took a lot longer in coming than I expected, but fairly soon thereafter, I got to lie down and have a drink :).

The battle ended shortly after that. I don't have a clue who "won," although in terms of possession of the field, I guess the Brits were getting the best of it. We formed up, saluted our opponents, and began to march back to camp. We reached some shade and chose to halt and wait for the rest of the army to catch up with us--but they never did. It was SO hot (think Monmouth or worse) that they dismissed on the field and straggled back to camp. We rested a good while, aided by cold water from the girl scouts by way of Dr. Selig, who accompanied us for the day, and then marched, barely, back to camp. We dropped our gear, those of us who had tents & other baggage got themselves organized, and we headed for home.

Oh, and did I mention it was hot?

Vive le Roi!

Abe



*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	85eme	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	85eme	Wethersfield, CT
May 28	85eme	Memorial Day Parade Somerville, MA
May 29	85eme	Memorial Day Parade Andover, MA
Jun 17 & 18	85eme	Providence, RI W3R
Jun 17 & 18	85eme	Southbury, CT
July 1 & 2	85eme	Ridgefield, CT
July 22 & 23	85eme	Grand Reconnaissance White Plains
July 29	85eme	Fort Revere Hull, MA
Aug 5 & 6	85eme	From Redcoats to Rebels Sturbridge, MA
Aug 26 & 27	85eme	Crossing at Verplank 225th, Verplank, NY
Sept 4	85eme	Labor Day Parade Marlborough, MA
Sept 4	85eme	Regimental Birthday Party Taskovics House
Sept 9 & 10	4 th	Brandywine Chadds Ford, PA
Sept 23	85eme	Sudbury Muster Sudbury, MA
Sept 30	85eme	Wilmington, DE
Oct 13 -16	85eme	Prelude to Victory Williamsburg, VA
Oct 20 - 22	85eme	225th Victory at Yorktown Yorktown, VA
Nov 18	85eme	Plymouth Time Line Plymouth, MA



Ridgefield, CT July 2, 2006

*85ème Régiment de Saintonge
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