



N° 38

GAZETTE FRANÇOISE.

Novembre 2006

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

Is everyone over their Yorktown hang-over? What a week! I know I had fun, and I hope everyone else did to (it certainly looked like everyone did).

Before I get into talking about Yorktown, I want to deal with a few items for the near future. We have one more paid event this year at Plymouth. It's an easy parade followed by some light drill and talking with the public. I'll bring the fencing gear so we can play, and maybe Bill will bring the bayonet target so we can work on that. I have a feeling someone may try to challenge us for top honors with that weapon.

We'll be having a regimental party on December 10th at the home of Bill Rose. This party will be combined with our annual 'November' meeting to make life easier during this hectic time of year.

I also want to formally welcome Heather Mixter to the Regiment. Heather arrived with impeccable timing on the morning of October 19th. Congratulations, once again, to Beth and Brian.

Ok, now on to Yorktown stuff! I want to personally thank a number of people for their efforts this year and especially at Yorktown. Steven, first and foremost, who was sewing until his fingers nearly bled, taking care of new clothing for so many. Bill Rose also went above and beyond with the regimental flags not to mention the various supplies he obtained for us from Pakistan. Sue and Liz handled our commissary and did a spectacular job feeding so many of us, with very little time for preparation. The field officers, Dana and Abe, for working on drilling not just the members of our group but for working with other groups as well. I know I must be forgetting someone so please forgive me; so many people did so much. Thank you all for your hard work this year, both those who went to Yorktown and all those who stayed behind, but assisted in other ways throughout the year.

Personal highlights for the week included: Just waking up in Williamsburg every morning. It was a wonderful experience to just soak in living in the 18th century on campaign. Going back behind the scenes at the Maritime Museum. Storming the Redoubts! The practice storming with Paul providing friendly banter was also a lot of fun. The 'night action' Saturday, and the night action of a different sort on Friday (12 'soldats' down in one evening)! The music! Once again Beth, Steven, and Carrie your hard work made the French music the best... I mean when was the last time someone said they liked Reveille? Seeing that long line of white and blue uniforms, and all those flags. The unplanned Ceremony in Redoubt No 9 with the French veterans and Rev War descendants. That will do for now but I could go on forever, well at least for a week

We've had a great year, let's finish strong. We need volunteers for leadership positions next year. Please contact Brian Mixter if you are interested.

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

*Le RAPPORT du CAPITAINE,
Captain's Report*

After all those months of work, all the preparation, and weeks of sewing; it's all over. It was worth every second. I think it's safe to say that everyone had a great time. I need to thank everyone for all of their efforts in the past year. This was a team effort, and without everyone's help, we wouldn't have had such a successful event. With that said; everyone should give themselves a pat on the back. To celebrate our successful year, the Roses are hosting a party. The party will be on December 10th, starting at 1pm. There will be more details in the December newsletter.

As some of you already know, there is an effort taking place right now to collect pictures of our French Campaign. We are collecting pictures from Newport to Yorktown, and all events in between. I am currently collecting all the Yorktown pictures that I can get my hands on. Bill Rose is collecting all the other pictures. When all is said and done we will be making CDs/DVDs of all the pictures for members of the Regiment. I would like to collect as many pictures as I can before the December 10th party so I can make a slide show and display them at the party. Please give me call or send me an email if you have pictures of Yorktown that you would like to share.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to be on the nominating committee. The committee will be made up of the following people, Les Malecki, Colleen Humphrey, Steven Taskovics, Ellie Hutchinson, and Brian Mixer. In the past we have kept the committee to five members, and thought it best to keep with what we know works.

The committee will be getting together soon. They will be responsible for working with members of the regiment to determine which names will be on the ballot in 2007. If you would like to nominate someone to be on the ballot, please contact Brian Mixer.

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



ÉVÈNEMENTS PROCHAINS, Upcoming Events

THANKSGIVING PARADE, Plymouth, MA, Saturday November 18th ~ Arrival: We will be following the same schedule as previous years. Camp setup will begin in Brewster Park promptly at 8am. We would appreciate it if people could arrive no later than 8am to help setup. We will be setting up a small camp, a few tents and a kitchen. **Directions:** From Boston, take Route 93 South to Route 3 South. Take exit 6A off Route 3. Follow the exit ramp to the right, which puts you on Route 44 East. (You will quickly have to move into the middle lane to avoid the entrance ramp to Route 3 North). Follow Route 44 East into downtown Plymouth and then turn right onto Court Street/Route 3A. Court Street will turn into Main Street. Brewster Park will be on your left between

Leyden Street & Water Street. A local area map of downtown Plymouth can be found later in the newsletter. No information about parking was available at the time of printing so please watch your email or check with event volunteers upon arrival. **Details:** Thanks to Brian we will once again take part in the festivities in Plymouth. This is a paid gig for us, so I would like to see a lot of people at this one. The town has set aside a small park for us to setup our camp and demonstrate 18th century camp life to the spectators. The event will be taking place in Brewster Park. In addition to the encampment, we will be participating in a short parade around downtown. Camp opens at 9am, we'll assemble at 10am for an 11am parade step-off and finally we'll return to camp around 1pm to spend the afternoon drilling and demonstrating French military and civilian activities for the public. The Regiment is getting paid a little more this year than in previous years for our participation in the parade and encampment – so please make every possible effort to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be served to all members of the regiment – so please take the time to let Dana or Brian Mixer know if you will be there... or you might go hungry! More information can be found on these websites.

<http://www.usathanksgiving.com/2006b/activities/thanksgiving.html>

<http://www.usathanksgiving.com/2006b/info/hvillage.html>

See you there.



ÉVÈNEMENTS RÉALISÉS, Past Event

Running With the Lights

It was Saturday, October 21st. The weather was cool but fair and sunny. The rehearsal for the storming of Redoubt #9 the night before with the fusiliers had gone well. I had stormed the redoubt successfully twice and had made secret footholds for the real battle. I was looking forward to it. My musket was clean. My name is Will. Private Will.

Roll call was early that morning. Muslin bags of sustenance were issued to the regiment. We fell into our familiar formation and awaited instructions. While I was checking my cartridge box, I realized that the man to my left and the man to my right had both stepped back two steps. I thought that I had missed a command and stepped back also. Chasseurs. Two Dixons, Bailey, Bausk, Arn, McConnon, Brown, Cooke. They were Chasseurs alright, a real bee's nest. The horns on the uniform turnbacks confirmed my suspicions. Yes, I had definitely landed myself in with a tough group. I offered

to trade my position for another man, but they seemed to think I was a keeper. So they kept me. I knew I was in for it when the remarks started flying fast and furious. My mind worked feverishly to keep up with the quick wits that surrounded me. I had my day's work cut out for me and I hadn't even gotten into the battles yet.

Cooke took my partner and me to the plantation later that morning. We went through our paces for the officers and the spectators. The French troops looked great. The Chasseurs were the best of the best. It was cool in the shade, but I knew that it get hot later on and I checked my canteen. Full. Our first assignment of the day was to storm the Fusiliers redoubt. We received some quick, spur-of-the-moment orders and we were off down the field with the line. We split off, running, and managed to get ourselves up close to the enemy. A drunken officer put our skins in danger, but we were able to affect his rescue while covering for our other troops. He had been hit, but was too drunk to know what happened to him. We were on our knees while rapid firing and had to throw ourselves on the ground to avoid being killed by the British. "Prime and load" rang in my ears, but I didn't always know who was calling the command. I fired as rapidly as I could while trying to remain safe. The Chasseurs ran and fired a great deal while covering the seriousness of the situation with a running commentary of wisecracks. I watched and listened to Dixon for all my cues. They were certainly loose cannons and I learned a couple of maneuvers that I had never seen before. I was able to keep up with them although I wished that I could perform the verbal rapid fire drill as quickly as they could. The Chasseurs are a tough, tight knit, crusty old group, but they commanded my respect, even if they did get a little randy and inane at times. I had burned nearly a block of powder and I was packing a whopping 27 charges. I had only a single misfire. We were able to get to safe ground where we fixed bayonets and made our charge back down the field along with the colors and the rest of the line, including Continentals.

Lunch was out of our muslin bags and consisted of beef jerky, cheese, bread and an apple. My biggest area of vulnerability is my picky eating habits, having already been awarded the title of Fussiest Eater of 2005 by the Artillery Company of Newport. A little trading was in order and I managed to get enough to eat before facing the battle of the afternoon. I checked out my musket, powdered up again and was ready for the afternoon. Then it hit me. I had practiced with the fusiliers, not the chasseurs. My secret footholds would be useless to me and I hoped that someone else would discover them. We made our way down the field, again running and firing independently of the line. When we reached the redoubt, we were grateful for the work of the sapper and

miners. However, this side of the redoubt was steeper and higher than the one I had practiced on earlier and I had no hidden footholds. There was very little hay in the trench and a great deal of red Virginia clay and mud. Once again, I followed Dixon's call. I jumped into the trench and over the side into the redoubt, being not quite last, but all in one piece with a working musket. We ran out the back of the redoubt to pursue the British and chased them into the woods. As we worked our way to safety around the side of the redoubt, we eventually again entered the trench and took up a firing position, keeping up voluntary firing. Chasseurs don't ever give up. When it seemed that the British were backing away into the woods, we came out of our trench and continued firing. When we were reaching the end of our powder, we fixed our bayonets and charged up to the edge of the woods. We managed to accomplish our goal of taking the redoubt and taking revenge (in the form of used wine corks from the evening before) on the British officer O'Shaughnessy. Naturally, the British took a great deal of time exiting the field, while the French troops were still in fighting condition and marched to quicker music.

We entered the camp as victors. I was still in sound condition and one piece and quite pleased with myself for having been able to keep up with the running and firing. I hope I did them proud. The next time I'll brush up on my verbal repartee.

Will. Private Will.



Folks,

The canvas is now dry, the uniforms are back from the cleaners, pictures are back from developer (or in the computer), and some great memories were made. Yes, Yorktown was exactly as we thought it would be – fraught with initial issues which became one of the most enjoyed and memorable event of the 225th reenactment. To say it was a lot of work to get to Yorktown is an understatement. Pat yourselves on back – all of the drills, parades, events, work parties, etc. paid off. Just take a look at the pictures – better yet – listen or read what other folks have said about us. We made a fantastic impression. Look what we accomplished – we started with a group that usually consists of 10-12 men-at-arms, 2 officers, 2-3 musique, and 3-8 distaff. By the time we hit Yorktown we had over 25 men-at-arms, 3-4 officers, 4 musique (out of 9 total), and 12-16 distaff. Wow! As an officer for the event, watching the Regiment march back from the Surrender was a site to behold – perfect wheels, straight lines, and upright muskets – what more could one ask for, except for more troops like us!

We also can't forget Williamsburg – more great memories! Watching the line march around on patrol – literally for the hell of it – was fantastic. What an impression we made. The staff enjoyed having the camp up the entire week; they told me it brought the town alive. I was always amazed at what the entire Mees and Fishrey family could make over the fire in between events – there was always something going on in camp.

One of the other things that struck me for both events is how sharp we looked as a unit. Compared to other units in the field, we were among the best – if not the best – turned out at both events. The uniformity was superb and drill was just crisp. This is not accident - a lot of people did significant work to make this happen. Bill Rose did the impossible and found accessible sources for leather goods, buttons, and materials that escaped us – as well as providing sword and leather goods for the artillery and 11th PA/Gatanois. Cory Rose assembled and painted most of the colors in the entire French Line – with the exception of our colors, with Sue working on the Regimental colors and Rhonda the Colonel's color. The NCO staff pulled extra duty by running extra drills for our newer members – often under floodlights. The BOD and staff worked through the events for the year from Battle Road (yes we did most, if not all, of the planning for the *entire* event) to Yorktown. New uniforms were made or altered by various folks including Cory Rose, Rhonda, Anita Bausk, Colleen Humphries, and I so that the impression could be improved or expanded – the result is that we trotted out an amazing Regiment and French Line. Others improved their personal impressions as well – from Bill's fantastic Admiral de Grasse impression to entire families like the Mees and Fishreys and individuals like Sue and others which I've obviously missed.

However an event, or for that matter a campaign season, can't be successful without the contributions of others. This year there were some outstanding personal and family contributions that, without their efforts, this year would not have been as memorable or impossible to manage.

- Bill and Cory Rose were exceptional throughout the year. Bill's one goal was to have at least 100 uniforms in the French Line and he was driven to get that goal. We did it! Aside from what I stated above, Bill provided significant support to get the 11th PA going as the Gatanois, including even meeting up with them for a drill. Bill spent countless hours calling the Regimental staff as well as event organizers to cull through the 225th events that were thrown at us – a daunting task. Bill also worked through our outstanding QM supply issues as well as hosting a number of the work parties. Both Bill and Myles were our main points of

contact for Battle Road 2006 – another daunting task! I can't tell you how many hours Bill, Dana, Myles, and I spent at Bill's table working through numbers for Yorktown and making calls to the various Regiments and event organizers.

- Dana, Bill, Myles, Brian Mixter, and Adam for working through this year's events as well as being event organizers.
- Cory, Sue, and Rhonda for assembling the French colors.
- Sue and Liz Mees for organizing and running most of the commissary this year.
- Carl and Ellie Hutchinson and Abe and Colleen for dragging the trailer around to events. Special thanks to Carl for ripping through the trailer and taking inventory and cleaning up things that needed it, and removing things that were unnecessary.
- Matt Mees for translating some of our French documents – in particular the document describing how to run a French Army.
- Dana and Holly Parent for organizing, editing, and distributing the newsletter.
- Frank and Rosemary Marini for hosting our rolling parties, meetings, and drills!
- Adam, Brian, Sue, Liz, Abe, Ellie, Dana, and Bill for being on the BOD and staff throughout the year.
- To our musique for their extra rehearsal and keeping us in step!
- Especially to all of you for showing up at drills, recruiting your friends, helping run events, participating in work parties, and looking sharp to be the best reenactment group in the country. Again, we proved ourselves as "Premiere das la Place".

Finally, I want to share a call that I got while in Washington, DC late last week. This call proves that we made quite an impression. This call was from Isabel (I think – it's an airport so it was noisy) and she wanted to know if I was the French commander. I stated that I was. She then asked – for everyone; the answer was yes. However, I stated my Regiment is the Regiment Saintonge. Oh, the group in green. Yes, was the answer. Well, the Ambassador was very impressed by your group as well as rest of the French troops. He wanted to state that he noticed us first in Newport and was watching for us at Yorktown and was very impressed. Isabel then asked if I knew how to contact the excellent French musique that was at both Newport and Yorktown. I stated, well – that would be me also. Well, the Ambassador was VERY impressed with the musique. Now the conversation got garbled (a lot) but I think the gist of the conversation is that he would like a recording or the group to play for him. Either way, Isabel is with the ambassador in Florida and would get

back in touch with me for an interview when she is in DC or Boston.

Folks, we did good – real good!

Steven



GALERIE des IMAGES,
Picture Gallery



Le PROGRAMME,
the schedule for 2006

Remaining events for the year:

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

Dec 10 ALL **Yorktown Victory Party**
Bolton, MA

Jan 13, 2007 ALL **Drill, Distaff Gathering, & Music Practice**
Berlin, MA



*Storming of Redoubt #9
Yorktown, VA*

*85ème Régiment de Saintonge
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