



XIX Light Dragoons Dispatch



Quarterly Newsletter - April 2013

By Troop Sgt Major Luscombe

This is the first quarterly newsletter of the 19th Light Dragoons. Our goal is to foment the communication between members of the Regiment and keep everyone informed of our activities. If members have articles or interesting items they wish to see in the newsletter please send them in to me at Brian@19th-light-dragoons.ca

A Brief History of the Unit:

In 1998, Chris Franke began re-enacting the 19th Light Dragoons in Canada, portraying Major Robert Lisle of the 1st Squadron. In 2008, Brian Luscombe and Markus



Schneider approached Chris Franke to join with him and create a unit. Since then the Unit has grown steadily with quality members and authentic

uniforms and accoutrements.

When in the field, our members are resplendent in their uniforms and accoutrements and when relaxing in the Mess Tent after some hard campaigning, take delight in fine food, spirits and company. The goal of the 19th Light Dragoons is to portray the British Cavalry in the War of 1812. Although several hurdles exist in the reaching of this goal, steady work continues to go forth to make this a reality. We have been mounted at various events over the years and dismounted at others. We will maintain our

goal to be mounted as much as possible with the realization that the Regiment did perform dismounted duties as well and that it is not an unrealistic impression to portray from time to time. Efforts are ongoing to procure horses for events and members practice horsemanship on their own time when able.

The structure of the Unit is as follows; Major Franke represents Squadron Headquarters as the Officer Commanding 1st Squadron. Capt Potts is the Officer Commanding A Troop, which is the first and senior troop of the 1st Squadron. There were two Troops per Squadron and as many as five Squadrons per Regiment. Each Squadron carried their own Guidon and the senior Squadron carried the King's Guidon as well. Troop Sergeant Major Luscombe is the Troop Sgt Maj of A Troop under Capt Potts. Sergeant Horton is one of the Sgts in the Troop and has been selected to carry the Squadron Guidon, with Troop Sgt Maj Luscombe carrying the King's Guidon.

Senior NCOs were selected to carry Guidons, as opposed the Infantry who used Junior Officers. The NCOs carrying Guidons were expected to defend them with their lives in single combat, whereas the Officers carrying Regimental Colours were defended by a Colour Party of Senior NCOs.



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Dispatches

Squadron HQ:

Major Franke reports that a complete set of safety regulations is being drafted at Squadron Headquarters and that they will be distributed through the chain of command.



OC A Troop:

Sir, Gentlemen

I hope you will all join me in congratulating Sgt. Major Luscombe on the institution of a Unit Newsletter. This will prove a most valuable means of communication, and serve as a means of coordinating the work of members of the unit as we strive to further hone our impression. By keeping us all abreast of what is being undertaken, and by whom, we can avoid duplication of effort whilst also ensuring that in our dealings with those outside the unit we are all "singing from the same song sheet".

The coming year is an important one for the Nineteenth Light Dragoons as it marks the bicentenary of the arrival of the Regiment in Canada, and of a number of the actions that were to eventually earn the Battle Honour "NIAGARA".

I fully support the Sgt. Major's aspirations to develop the impression, and I personally would like to see us develop some displays that can be presented to the public in our camp in order to show aspects of the life of the Cavalry soldier. In particular I would

like to see dismounted sword drills carried out formally in a squad - which will have the added bonus of developing the skills of members so that when we are able to appear on horseback we should not appear clumsy or "Awkward" as the period expression was.

In addition I will be working with Sgt. Major Luscombe on some notes I have on cavalry carbine drill, so that we are able to demonstrate the difference between our weapon in use and that of the footsloggers.

I would also like to see us lay out the camp in a correct manner, and to include a picket line, whether or not we actually have horses present. Again I have some notes from primary sources to help in this. It not only marks our camp as a Cavalry line, but also gives us a point of interest to help to engage the public. It also means that when we do have horses in camp we are already familiar with the necessary layout, so we can be more focussed on working with the mounts rather than struggling to also become familiar with the associated paraphernalia.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as are able to attend at the School of the Soldier in Fort George in April, and to getting in to the field at as many events as possible during the year. In the meantime I urge you all to keep up to date with the newsletter as it is published. I would also ask you all to look out for and respond to warning orders and other communications coming out of Troop Head Quarters.

I remain Sir, Gentlemen
Capt Geoff Potts
OC A Troop
XIX LD



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Troop Sgt. Major:

Training:

As we move forward this re-enacting season, I want to institute training days where the members can get together to work on kit, practice drill and horsemanship. Private Schneider has offered us the use of his land and guesthouse to facilitate this.

Tentage:

The Unit tents need attention. I would like to see a painting party where the poles of all tents are painted a uniform colour - either yellow or dark blue. I would also like to visit the idea of creating fabric or painted canvas wall panels in the mess tent in the dining area to spruce it up a bit. Perhaps the artists among us can recreate battle scenes of our Battle Honours etc. Ideally it should happen prior to the Fort George event in May. Members are reminded the only acceptable tents for NCOs and men are Bell tents.

Uniform items:

Gaiters: Glendon Hovey of Sew Historic has agreed to make knee gaiters for our dismounted order of dress. They will be black wool, fitted with 15 buttons. Cost is \$70.00. He will be forwarding a measurement template and measurements will be taken at the April Drill day at Fort George. The aim is to have the Unit measured and accoutred by the fall.

Boots: All members are expected to obtain civil war brogans to wear in dismounted

order. These can be purchased from Robert Land. Hessian boots can be purchased through Robin Upton and thence altered by Capt Potts. Spurs are not to be worn when engaged in dismounted battle.

www.robertlandhistoricsshoes.com

Neck stocks: Members are authorized to wear black silk rollers in lieu of leather neck stocks or cotton ones. They can be obtained from Glendon Hovey at Sew Historic. He also sells white silk rollers for Mess Dress.

www.sewhistoric.bravehost.com

Field Gear: The accoutrements to be worn for battle are called field gear. They consist of a grey linen haversack and an ordinance blue painted wooden canteen. The supplier of these items is Peter Twist and all members are expected to acquire them as soon as possible. The field gear is to be fitted in such a manner that the haversack and canteen are not swinging low enough to get in the way of movement and as such should be snug under the left armpit. See Sgt Maj Luscombe for the proper height of fitting them. Members will probably not want to drink from the canteen so a plastic water bottle inside the haversack is acceptable. We need to obtain canvas sleeves for the water bottles so as not to show any modern items in use on the field. I expect members to carry a musket tool, rag, spare flints and any medications required and health card in the haversacks as well. The haversack was primarily used to carry the soldier's rations so a snack inside is entirely acceptable.

www.militaryheritage.com



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Orders of Dress:

We are simplifying our orders of dress to four orders; Stable, Field, Parade, and Mess as follow:

Stable Dress	Stable cap
	Stable jacket
	White duck trousers
	Ankle boots
Field Dress	Tarleton helmet
	Dolman
	White duck trousers
	Gaiters (dismounted)
	Ankle boots (dismounted)
	Hessian boots (mounted)
	Field gear (haversack, canteen)
	Sword belt and sabretache (mounted only)
Parade Dress	Cartouche belt
	Tarleton helmet
	Dolman
	White duck trousers
	Hessian boots
	Sword belt and sabretache
Mess Dress	Cartouche belt
	Dolman
	Waistcoat
	White duck trousers
	Frilled shirt with white neck stock
Ankle boots	

Administration:

Dues: Any outstanding 2013 dues are due. \$50 per person. Outstanding billing for the Regimental Dinner is due to Capt Potts as well for anyone who stated they were attending but didn't make it as their meal was paid for.

Ordinance:

Weapons: Private Sabo reports that work is being done on obtaining Paget Carbines from India since an earlier attempt met with no success.

Ammunition: Sgt Horton reports that we have 12 lbs of XXX black powder in stock at \$26.00 a pound. Please contact him directly in order to make your purchase.

Guidons:

Sgt Horton reports the new guidons are being sent back to the manufacturer for removal of the stiffener so that they will fall better. We hope to have them back in time for the dedication ceremony to be held at the Fort George event in May.

Horses:

Members are encouraged to take riding lessons in their local area with a view to build relationships at stables to encourage the participation of rented horses at events.



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Past Events Review

Battle of Queenston Heights

Submitted by Sgt. Horton.

Friday 12/10/2012

The weekend started out with perfect weather, which was sunny, but brisk. The Queenston Heights general area was robust with visitors, most of the Sutlers were open and flogging their wares, and there was a marked Military Presence throughout the area.

One could feel the crowd's anticipation on the morrows coming battle.

Then, down to Fort George with a small mixed Unit of participating Soldiers. The Fort was bustling with activity, and I had cause to be briefed by the Brigadier, and had a meeting with the Provincial Dragoons on behalf of Captain Potts, who despite a very busy schedule would be attending the coming Battle.

In lieu of my disabled mount, the Provincial Dragoons would provide escort on the long march to Queenston Heights the next morning. The 19th Light, would attend General Brocks Funeral Sunday as part of his Honour Guard.

Saturday 13/10/2013

The morning brought a chill in the air with a mix of sun and cloud, the morning also brought Captain Potts and Lady Sara, and Dragoons Marev and Traverse, Dragoon Szabo and I were already on station. As we all began to make

last minute preparations, all attention was directed to the massive troop columns marching up the Heights, Fife and Drum, perfect Military Precision.

Captain Potts was then able to attend an all Officers briefing for any last minute instructions. Of course, by this time American Forces were already dominating the Heights, and were well entrenched in their defences.

As we all formed up to march into battle, the 19th were posted towards the end of the column. Whilst waiting for orders to charge the field, we all watched with heavy heart as General Brocks charge was repulsed with much loss, and he fell amongst his men. Fortunately, several brave souls were able to retrieve the Generals body and his Aid de Camp, under murderous fire from the American Lines.

The Main Body of British Troops was thus thrown into the conflict and Captain Potts led us onto the firing line with our Infantry Brother at Arms. Amid the shouts of Avenge the General! And Shoot the American Officers, British, Canadian, and 1st Nation Forces, all loyal to the Crown, forced an American surrender and withdrawal from Queenston Heights.

As the 19th did not officially participate in this Battle, Captain Potts quietly marched the 19th off the Battle Field, where we disappeared into the tree line.

The end of the Battle was followed by ceremony, more Fife and Drums, etc. A good day indeed!



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Sunday 14/10/2013

Although the public attendance was stellar Friday and Saturday, there was well over fifteen thousand in attendance for General Brock's Funeral.

Dragoon Szabo and I, Corporal Horton, were requested to provide an Honour Guard for General Brocks Horse.

The entire Funeral Procession started inside Fort George, and Marched in Column to the centre of the Town of NOTL, formerly, the Town of Newark. All the Roads and Streets were lined with members of the public, and the press corps. When the Funeral Procession reached the centre of town, orders were issued and the General's Body, the Body of his Aid de Camp, and his horse, were taken charge of, and the Column marched to the Church where a great sermon and service was given for the General and the fallen.

After the service, the Procession marched back to Fort George, for the General's Internment under the Gun Battery, and there was much Ceremony and speeches given, (Mostly in French...).

At that, Dragoon Szabo and I marched away into the Fortifications and disappeared from view.

This was by far, the most impressive Event and Dedication regarding 1812, that I have ever had the pleasure and honour to be part of.

I look forward to seeing all the members of 1st Squadron, A Troop, 19th Light

Dragoons, during the 2013 Campaign. Huzzah!

For photos of the event go to www.19th-light-dragoons.ca - Dragoons in Action

Upcoming Events

- **April 13-14 2013**
Officer/NCO School and Drill weekend at Fort George, Niagara on the Lake. Please note April 13th is for Officers and NCO's only.
- **May 24-26 2013**
Battle of Fort George, Niagara on the Lake
- **July 12-14 2013**
Crysler's Farm
- **August 10-11 2013**
Fort Erie
- **Oct 4-6 2013**
Battle of the Thames

Battle Honours

Battle of Assaye next issue.



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