

THE MILITIA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013-14



The Militia Newsletter www.themilitia1815.weebly.com

From the Chairman

By Andre Schmidt

A very happy and profitable New Year to you all! 2014 is shaping up to be a very exciting year with a packed calendar as we take part in the accelerating 'Road to Waterloo 2015'. It is important that you take some time to visit the Militia website and check on it regularly as The Organising Team (previously known as the 'Horseguards'...note the name change) will be posting useful information and warning orders for you all under the 'members' section.

In this newsletter you'll find guidance on Militia/Napoleonic Association membership, details of your new Organising Team members, details of your new 'battlefield' commanders, useful guidance on catering and ideas for authentic 'haversack rations', an early 'heads up' for the two main international events of the season (Reims and Hoogstraten) and some guidance on equipment (including some new traders).

Finally, thank you for your engagement with the electronic AGM. The Organising Team took 'on board' all of your comments and discussed them in some detail at their last meeting in mid-December. The outcomes are as follows:

- The AGM will remain in its electronic format as this was felt to be the best method to meet the requirements of the Militia Articles relating to the AGM and its purpose.
- The need for a public Militia forum in the format of an OGM to discuss questions raised by the membership has been clearly noted. **As a result a draft date for this is set for Sunday 16th February at Grafton Regis Village Hall, Northamptonshire (close to north Milton Keynes on the A508 MK to Northampton road).** This is an open meeting for all Militia members. If you have a question to ask and/or a discussion point to present please e-mail it to the Militia Secretary Simon Lockwood (simlock@btinternet.com) first in order that we can put it on the agenda.

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Well...there we are. Thank you for your continuing support of 'The Militia'; we've had something of a 'roller-coaster ride' over the past couple of years and we've now established ourselves as a premier organisation both in the UK and on the continent...our new Chairperson chums can't get enough of us!

View halloo...jolly well done and Mitt Gott fur Koenig und Vaterland!

Smithy

Your Chairperson

Membership News

By Simon the Secretary, aka Oscar Schlosswald

Membership for 2014:

To align ourselves with the Napoleonic Association, we are setting the membership date from 1st March 2014-28th February 2015. It was agreed 2 years ago that the membership of the Landwehr would automatically include membership of the Napoleonic Association. Therefore, there will be one membership form to serve both. This is yet to be designed, and will include the cost of both. We envisage the Landwehr cost to remain the same, at £10, and the NA membership, which was £22 individual, £29 family in 2013. We hope this will be similar in 2014.

For all of you who wish to be members of the Militia, but not taking part in the Landwehr, membership will be free. However, all non Landwehr events will be on a pay-to-play basis.

What's new on the Website?

Members' area password: Y0rckscher (0 is zero)

Take a regular look at the website to read:

- A full and fascinating report on our expedition to Leipzig in October 2013
- The minutes of the last Organising Team meeting
- The full calendar of events for 2014
- Information on the Napoleonic Association AGM – 25th January.

Coming soon:

- Detailed warning orders for Reims, Hoogstraten and Ickworth, all events early in the year (April and May)
- Membership details and forms for 2014 (February, we hope).

News from the Napoleonics



- The 2014 AGM to be held at 1030 on Saturday 25th January 2014 at The Harpenden House Hotel, 18 Southdown Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 1PE
- All members are welcome and should have received the agenda and briefing papers. However, we have put these onto the Militia members' page just in case.
- As soon as the AGM is complete, the NA will publish its membership price and forms for the coming year.
- The Militia will then get membership organised for 2014 and posted to all interested parties as well as put onto the member's page of the website.

A Change to the Committee

As of 1st February 2014, Simon Cox has stepped down from his position on the Organising Committee to focus time on establishing his business interests post-university. He will maintain his commitment to his officer role in the Landwehr.

The Team would like to thank Simon for all his hard work with us and wish him luck with his professional ventures.

As a result, there is now a vacancy on the Team. Anyone who is interested in working on the Team will need to inform the Secretary, Simon Lockwood, simlock@btinternet.com or the Chairman, Andy Smith, Andrew.smith@northampton.ac.uk, by the last day in February. The Organising Team will arrange the statutory voting arrangements thereafter.



It's in our colours!

It really is a Prussian cannon.

Events in the Militia Calendar

By

Serial	Date	Event
1	25 Jan	NA Winter Party (Burns Night)
2	3-7 April	Tinquex Fete Napoleon (Bicentenaire De La Bataille De Reims)
3	11-13 April	Road to Waterloo Event – Ickworth House
4	1-5 May Bank Holiday	Hoogstraten – 200 th anniversary event
5	23-26 May Bank Holiday	Battle of the Nations
6	30 May- 1 June	Moonfleet Smuggling Festival
7	27 to 29 June	Chalke Valley History Festival
9	12 July (Sat)	Battle Prom (Road to Waterloo)
10	18-20 July	Festival of History (EH)
11	Aug (date tbc)	Worcester Re-enactor Weekend
12	Dec (date tbc)	British Military Tournament

Notes on Events – Andy Smithy

There will be a Militia Ladies Mess Night event...watch this space, details will be published soon. Probably around a buffet-style meal with some authentic dance practice (although this is to be confirmed as it ain't to everyone's taste!)

No news (as yet) of the Howard Giles's "You're History" multi-period event at Broadlands. Don't forget to go onto the NA website (or to read your copy of 'The Adjutant') as there will be, from time-to-time various NA events and social functions which 'pop up' (don't rely on The Militia to highlight these for you). For the dancers amongst you, there are frequent Regency dance events around the country...contact Smithy, Sarah, Mad Dog Weir or Mad Pup Weir for info. on these.

Leipzig proved to be a massive 'eye-opener' for us in terms of the sheer size/scope of European Napoleonic re-enactment and the fundamental meaning of recreating and commemorating 1813-1815 in terms of German national identity and culture. Our drill has now changed – in order to fit in with the requirements of our European counterparts and to create a more authentic facsimile of the original Prussian drill book. The German groups who met with us were awed that British re-enactors (us!) wanted to portray Prussians – as a result we've got a lot of responsibility in (a) supporting our German friends (b) respecting their history and culture during this time of national 'liberation' (c) trying to get as many of us over there as possible to take part in European events in 2014 (Reims & Hoogstraten to name but two major events...book your ferry now!) and (d) making sure that we now develop and then maintain a very pro-active and highly visible presence at home and on the continent

Finally, *The Organising Team are always very careful not to create any 'clashes' with events which are put on by other groups you may be members of. The Militia calendar is usually set and confirmed a long time in advance of many other groups' calendars which might still be in a 'working towards/unconfirmed' format, so if there is a clash this is certainly not intended. If you do find yourself in a quandary as to which event you wish to attend (a Militia event or another group's event) the Militia's*

policy is that we put no pressure on you at all – the decision is entirely your own choice...all we ask is that you let us know if you will be attending our event or not (in order to work out the living history camp layout, general logistics and powder allocation).

Final...final note...make sure that you have the following key items for all events abroad: your shotgun licence; black powder licence; RCA Certificate, and the European firearms passport. These four items cannot be emphasised enough! Without them, firers cannot fire, and guns will be impounded at ports!. Apply for your European firearms passport now – this can be done by e-mail to your local firearms officer. Make sure you explain that you are travelling abroad with your musket for historical re-enactment, give them your name, address and shotgun licence number. Passports are issued in a matter of days. Also, for travelling across France you'll need: GB sticker, headlamp conversion kit fitted, a full first aid kit, warning triangle, spare bulb set, a reflective jacket and 2 x breathalyzer kits...and your passport (of course)!

Reims and Hoogstraten

By Simon Lockwood, with help from Simon Cox and Max Prestwood

By the time this newsletter comes to you, you will all have received the recruitment form for these events. They are being organised together for ease of administration and to keep a common spread sheet of who is going to what. It is important that we have a presence at these events, having made some good contacts (and friends) in the Prussian Army at Leipzig and impressing them with our skill, turnout, historical detail, and so on. They are warmly looking forward to forming up with us at both these events this year.

Having been to Leipzig, we have a fair sense of the costs of these events. For anyone doing an event abroad, it is good sense to budget around £200 for each event. This will cover travel, including fuel and Tunnel/Ferry, food and incidentals. The Organising Team have decided that events abroad, especially those close to the Channel, as Reims, Hoogstraten and Waterloo, will be organised like any other event in the UK, with members attending travelling under their own steam, or by sharing transport. Max Prestwood is organising a large van for both events to carry the cannon. He assures us that there is some space in the van for carrying some extra kit, such as community tenting and catering equipment. Simon Lockwood also has a trailer available for use. The cost of the van will be covered by those travelling with it and benefiting from the equipment it carries. The initial deposit of £15 per person will be part of this and any final deposit will be determined by the group when such costs as food. As both events will also carry a subsidy, this will be evened out with the group attending.

The camping arrangements will be dictated by the organisers, but are likely to be of a common pattern – dormitory tents in rows and communal tents and cooking arrangements at one end of the rows, so we end up with a long "street" of regimental fireplaces, very much the large-scale version of what we call "Section Mess" arrangements. The way we organise the catering will depend on the numbers attending and how they are bivouacked, as a fair contingent will be part of the artillery group, who may be on a different bivouac site. For more information, see the recruiting sheet that has gone out, or contact Simon Lockwood (simlock@btinternet.com) or Max Prestwood (immax@btinternet.com).

Reims: A town in France! This event is taking place 3rd-7th April 2014

The current details we have of this event can be found on the public website: <http://www.tingueuxfetenapoleon.com/en#/accueil>. More details will be on the Warning Order and given out to attending members.

Hoogstraten: A town in Belgium! This event is taking place 2nd-5th May 2014

The whole event is tied up in the attempt by the British and Prussians to break the hold the French had over Antwerp, and important city that, linked to Rotterdam, was involved in Napoleon's Continental System – his long term attempt at blockading all European trade to and from Britain. It also represented a major transport route through northwest Europe that would link any British forces with those of the European Allies. However, on this occasion, the British did not break the French control, and Hoogstraten was the scene of a major skirmish in the attempt. Recently, in renovations to the town a Prussian cavalryman was found and it is planned that he will be reburied during the event with full military honours and the re-enactment forces will be joined by Belgian and German military forces and dignitaries to do this. For details of the background and the event organisation, go to

<http://www.slagvanhoogstraten.be/Home-English.html>

<http://www.slagvanhoogstraten.be/Info-re-enactors-English.html>



Firing by Zug in
battalion

Forward in line
following Major
Gunther



In the Camp – the debate on how we live in the field

Landwehr Catering

The last re-enactment season has seen major developments on the catering front; some of which were already being raised at the last major lagerbande meeting hosted by Jane Cox 18th October 2012. The growth of the Landwehr membership and the strain placed on cooking capacity was being discussed back in 2012. The discussions at that meeting recognised the restrictions placed on catering by the size of cooking pots and aired concerns about the logistics necessary for planning shopping and bringing supplies for large numbers of people.

The 2013 Chalke Valley event attended by 30+ members was certainly a logistical challenge. We all know the adage that 'too many cooks spoil the broth' and so far, as a lagerbande, we have agreed that the catering needs to be run by one person with support and help from the others. However, as the numbers catered for increases, the organisation of helpers becomes a logistical exercise itself. Catering for large numbers and organising a team of helpers is two jobs not one! Co-ordinating what equipment is where and who is bringing what to each event is a third job; organising a set of menus and shopping requirements is a fourth, while transporting food in bulk is a fifth. Our collective experience over several events during 2012 & 2013 is that the co-ordination of all these different jobs becomes highly time and energy consuming. On top of which there are the dietary requirements of many different members of the group. Our success and growing numbers have brought overwhelming catering challenges during 2013.

To reduce this spiraling workload, the Horse Guards' solution was to implement section mess catering starting at Spetchley 2013. Currently the Landwehr membership has two catering sections; as numbers continue to expand, it is hoped that more members will feel able to invest in fires and catering facilities.

At Spetchley catering for smaller numbers

through section messes proved to reduce the burden of all the different jobs and responsibilities. Catering for smaller numbers released both time and energy for members of the Lagerbande to explore other aspects of living history and interaction with the public. Although section mess reduces the core shared experience for Landwehr members, and this is a major concern for several members, smaller numbers of mouths to feed enables greater flexibility in responding to the needs and interests of both members and public alike.

To combat this perceived loss of group identity, TOTs (The Organising Team, was Horse Guards) suggested the membership might consider garrison fish and chips (or similar) in the evening once the public were off site. Section catering during the day supplemented by a commitment to garrison activity in the evening should give us a workable compromise.

Developing Roles

Over the next year, members are invited to begin considering different roles in the camp: to portray crafts and artisan activities where they are appropriate. The Organising Team are keen for support with new Style Guides – for catering, skills, backgrounds in Silesia, and so on. The events in Europe this year will enable us to study the crafts and artisan skills on display in other groups.

We are also keen to develop our understanding of the health of soldiers on the move (we all look terribly healthy and robust!) – what state would their equipment be in? What diseases and symptoms of malnutrition will they be sporting? Any thoughts, advice and style guide information would be wonderful, especially from scientists and doctors in the team!

Useful Information

Your Organising Committee

Name	Position	Contact Point
Andrew Smith	Chairman	Andrew.smith@northampton.ac.uk
Simon Lockwood	Secretary	simlock@btinternet.com
Andrew George		andygprb@gmail.com
Simon Cox	Treasurer/Quarter-master	stcox@hotmail.co.uk
Declan McCabe	Master-At-Arms	deckyprb@gmail.com
Richard Brown		Richard.brown1645@yahoo.co.uk
Elizabeth Lockwood	Non-combatants	forelocks@btopenworld.com
Terry Scarrott	Company Clerk	terryatno6@yahoo.co.uk

Stop Press!

The Warning Order for Reims and Hoogstraten is now on the members' page of the Militia website