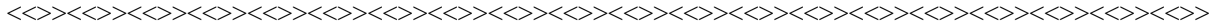


# Official Communiqué of the 11<sup>th</sup> PA Regt.

February, 2005



## *Annual 'C.O.U.T.E.R.-U.P. Information*

Attention! This year's Conference Of the Unit for the purpose of Training and Election of Required Unit Personnel ('C.O.U.T.E.R. U.P) has been scheduled and confirmed for the weekend of March 5-6, 2005, to take place at Ft. Mifflin on the Delaware. Agenda and other important information regarding the annual meeting will also be made available on the Unit Website and in the Unit Newsgroup.

This year's meeting will be combined with a work weekend at the Fort. Come prepared to get grungy as we will be painting, and cleaning as well as clearing some of the overhanging vines from the tops of the walls (weather permitting). Work will be done Saturday morning and early afternoon, and Sunday (for those who wish to stay and do some more work).

Bunks are available, but limited, so it is suggested that if you want to sleep over at the Fort (always a fun thing) bring along a cot.

Dogs are permitted at the fort as long as their owners clean up after them. Dogs cannot stay in the Soldiers barracks but can be housed in the small room at the sallie port (adjacent to the entrance).

A word about proxies for the General Election at the Annual Meeting for 2005. Here is the exact wording that was worked out by the Board – "All members are asked to select three other members in descending order to act as their proxy in the General Election of Officers. The Secretary will communicate this motion to the membership. Members will respond to the Secretary by Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> via e-mail or USPS."

Here is what all that means: All members are encouraged to attend the Unit meeting. Keep in mind that you are not under any obligation to appoint a proxy. If you do not want to appoint a proxy, you do not have to. If you cannot attend and **want** to place your proxy with someone, you must select three other Unit members in descending order (i.e.: "I, Alphonso Cannotcome, select the following Unit members to act as my proxy in the following order: Annie Conda, Justin Case, Ima Goodguy") and send them to the Secretary **no later than Friday, March 4, via e-mail or USPS** (this means they must be IN the Secretary's hand on that date, folks, not postmarked by that date. I'll be heading to the Fort early the next morning.). (E-mail address: [yiffi@aol.com](mailto:yiffi@aol.com). Mailing address: Kristy Bell, 527 Clearview St., Pottstown, PA 19464. Your proxy will be passed on to one of those three chosen members at the meeting to vote for you. It is suggested that you communicate with your three chosen members prior to your selection to make sure at least one of them will be at the meeting. If none of the chosen members is in attendance, your proxy will not be voted.

Here is the proposed agenda for the weekend:

**Friday, March 4** – Arrival after 4:00 PM - Meet and Greet, Settle In, Review Events Book

### **Saturday, March 5**

10:00 AM Work teams at the Fort under the direction of Sean Corcoran

2:00 PM Clean up, lunch, naps, Review of Events Book

(If work started early, and is completed, break can start earlier)

3:00 PM Unit Meeting, Call to Order

3:10 PM State of the Unit – Donah Crawford - President

3:20 PM Financial Report – Sean Corcoran - Treasurer

3:30 PM Review of Policies and Procedures – Justin Blocksom, Vice President

4:30 PM Secretary's Report/Review of Events – Kristy Bell – Secretary

Fort Frederick – Terry Carnahan

The Meadows - R. Iain Haight-Ashton

5:15 PM Break: Register for events  
 6:00 PM Reconvene: Commander's Report – Captain Mitchell Baker  
 6:10 PM Selection of Official and Unofficial Events  
 6:40 PM Equipment Report – James Bell – Quartermaster  
 6:50 PM Website Report – James Bell – WebGod  
 7:00 PM Nomination of Officers, Introduction of Candidates, Elections  
 7:30 PM Member New Business Items  
 8:00 PM Installation of Full Members, Board Members and the Cadre  
 8:30 PM Adjournment

Sunday, March 6 – Drill if folks want to, more work if folks want to, clean up and depart the fort.

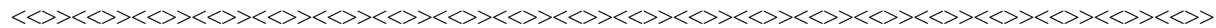
**Directions to Fort Mifflin:**

**From Center City, Points North of Center City, New Jersey via Ben Franklin Bridge/Walt Whitman Bridge**

On I-95 South, after the bridge that crosses over the Schuylkill River, take Exit 13 (Island Avenue/Enterprise Avenue). A short distance after leaving the off ramp there is a sign for Old Fort Mifflin (If you get to a hard right at the airport you went too far). Make a left onto Fort Mifflin Road. Go one mile, make a left into Fort compound.

**From Delaware County, Chester, State of Delaware, Commodore Barry Bridge from South Jersey**

North on I-95 take exit 10 (Philadelphia International Airport/291) drive past the airport to the large intersection at Island Avenue (the Hilton Hotel will be across from you on the right). Make a right onto Island Avenue. Follow the road around, and make a right onto Fort Mifflin Road. Go one mile, make a left into Fort compound.



## *Upcoming Events – 2005 (and Beyond)*

For your consideration -- an advance look at some of the events that we will be looking at during the annual meeting. Don't panic! Not all of these will be on our official calendar as either official or unofficial events. Get your calendars ready:

February

- 19 – Philadelphia City Institute Library
- 21 – President's Day at the Jewish Museum

March

- 5-6 – 11<sup>th</sup> PA Unit Meeting at Ft. Mifflin
- 19 – Hancock House

April

- 1-3 – Medical Program at Washingtons Crossing
- 2-3 – Siege of Charlestown
- 9 – Colonial Market Day at Hope Lodge
- 16-17 – Jockey Hollow
- 23-24 – Bound Brook
- 30 – Crooked Billet (April 30 – May 1)
- 30 – 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration at Paoli

May

- 13-15 – 225<sup>th</sup> Charlestown
- 21-22 – Ft. Niagara
- 21 – Battle for Toms River Blockhouse

June

- 4-5 – Brandywine "Remember the Ladies" Weekend
- 5 – Oldwick, NJ

19 – Proprietary House – Arrest of Wm. Franklin  
 25-26 – Battle of Monmouth

July

4 – Washingtons Crossing  
 8-10 – March to Yorktown  
 9-10 – Battle of Crysler's Farm  
 9-10 – Fort Adams

August

13-14 – Old Mill Village  
 20-21 – 225<sup>th</sup> Camden

September

10-11 – Battle of Cedar Bridge  
 23-25 – Battle of Redbank Plain – Rehoboth  
 24-25 – Mons Jones  
 24 – Washingtons Crossing M, M & M  
 25 – Battle of Brandywine  
 25 – Long Pond

October

1 - Germantown  
 8-9 – Whitpain  
 8-9 – Historic Soldiers Timeline  
 23 – Ft. Mercer

November

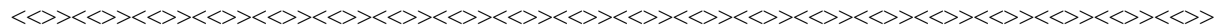
5-6 – Hope Lodge  
 5-6 – Rev War Field Days  
 12-13 – Ft. Mifflin Siege Weekend

December

Colonial Ball  
 Washingtons Crossing Rehearsal  
 Washingtons Crossing  
 Monroes Crossing  
 Trenton

*Looking forward ...*

Cowpens (Jan 2006), Yorktown (Oct 2006), Battle Road (2006)



## *Commentary*

*By John Curtis*

*In favor of the supposed Light Infantry "uniform" being included as an integral part of the 11th Pennsylvania's impression.*

### ***Timeline:***

#### **Origin:**

11th Pa formed in November & December 1776. Gathered with other regiments into a brigade by Brig. General Thomas Mifflin and moved to Bordentown New Jersey by January 1st 1777 (in time for second Trenton & Princeton).

#### **Uniform Described:**

The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* of April 22, 1777 mentioned that the 11th had "... A new suit of regimentals, consisting of a light infantry cap, blue coat with scarlet cape and cuffs, white woolen waistcoat, new buckskin breeches."

Washington's Order creating the Light Infantry Corp: Head Quarters, Wilmington, August 28, 1777.

Parole Albany. Countersigns Kingston, Kildair.

A corps of Light Infantry is to be formed, to consist of one Field Officer, two Captains, six Subalterns, eight Serjeants and 100 Rank and File from each brigade.

As we see in the timeline the supposed LI uniform predates the creation of the LI Corps by some months. While there were LI units then in existence in the American Army we don't know that the 11th was formed with a Light Co. Some Regiments did indeed have light company's and some Pa Regiments were formed with rifle companies. This suggests that some units were organized on the British model with line and flank companies in the same regiment. In British regimental usage the LI company would form at the right, the Line companies in the center and the Grenadier co. to the left. It was British practice to form the LI and Grenadiers in separate Battalions and giving them the hardest most dangerous service: assaults and frontal attacks for both and much of the flanking, skirmishing, picketing patrolling, and rear guarding for the LI. Their strength was maintained at cost to the rest of the Army by drafts of the best men suitable for the respective Battalions. In the American Army in the period of the 11th's existence rifle armed units performed many of the LI functions and were part of the two Light Corps created in '77 and '78.

Was the deserter in question a Light Infantryman? Well he was wearing a LI cap but what about other distinguishing items? The coat though unusual is listed as coat and not a coatee jacket short coat or LI coat. Accoutrements, belly box, hatchet? Not mentioned. Personally I believe that the 11th was organized with a light company who formed to the right and performed other light duties within the regiment. Do I have any evidence of this? Nope, just something I believe. What we do have evidence of is that someone wearing the described uniform deserted some four months before the forming of the LI Corp., everything else is conjecture, opinion or belief. If we extrapolate back to the 11th's creation and say yes they had a Light company then the lights, maybe even the culprit himself, did their duty from late December '76 to late August '77 as part and parcel of the 11th Pa Regiment. This period includes the battles of Princeton and 2nd Trenton and the Forage War in north Jersey(Bound Brook and the 11th capturing a British Ship on the Jersey Shore). So we have a period of possible inclusion in the line of the LI cap wearing man and any possible company mates.

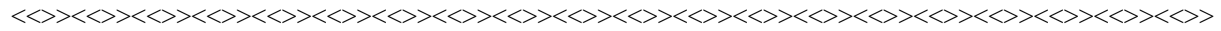
The Continental Army on Aug. 28th '77 had about 11 infantry brigades. The 11th was brigaded with 3 other Pa regiments. I would suggest that the 100 R&F drawn from each brigade would be the fittest troops available *regardless* of regiment due to the nature of LI duty. It is entirely possible that *more* 11th than just the supposed LI Co. were drawn from the regiment, or conversely *less* than a company(thus leaving some LI cap wearing troops in the line). The Order creating the LI Corp was made on Aug. 28th'77(with Maxwell being named the Commander on the 30th) seeing their first action Sept 3rd at Cooch's Bridge while Brandywine occurred Sept 11th. This timeline suggests that re-equipping was highly unlikely and training very limited if at all.

At Valley Forge in May '78 the 11th was about 90 R&F and a bunch of NCOs and Officers in *eight companies*. The company strength was between 8 and 17 per. Many other regiments were in the same shape and were ordered to reorganize themselves into battalion's of between 80 and 111 men--until Washington could spend the time to reorganize the Army after Monmouth(at which time the Old 11th ceased to exist) I think it likely that for the '78 campaign season this meant that the 11th's various companies served as *one company sized unit*. Hence, many different uniforms in one "company".

I think the goal of having all the different uniforms described for the 11th an admirable and attainable one. However I believe that any attempt must include all of the described uniforms to present a historically relevant impression. If presented as such I don't think that we will have any problems with any confusion over our role. Remember that the 11th goes to open order at the drop of a hat and can do many different maneuvers easily, including LI drills, and is very successful with incorporating other units into our line. We are as or more adaptable and skilled as anyone. The 11th is special and I think a very historically accurate unit. Our openness to change based on research and new

interpretation should be a model to all units. This is an exciting time for us and I encourage everyone to continue digging and thinking and discussing these and all topics that make our hobby the thing we love so much.

{A note on research. What I am doing cannot be considered research. I am just reading books written by Historians who DO real research, and I dig into the Washington Papers. This is an enjoyable type of learning and for me one of the best parts of the hobby. John}



## **“Why Do You Carry Your Gun on the Wrong Shoulder?”**

*By David Giacconi*

Whenever Civil War and Rev War reenactors get together, this question will inevitably be brought up.

I put this question out on one of the Civil War lists and received several replies.

By 1830, an army manual advocated switching from the left shoulder to the right for units of light infantry and riflemen.

The typical line company normally marched at 90 paces per minute and went to a quick time of 120 paces per minute for some movements.

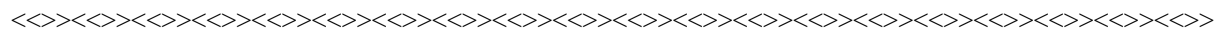
The light infantry marched at quick time and went to a double quick time of 165 paces per minute during some movements.

Experimentation showed that the right shoulder positions seemed much more stable at the faster pace.

Hardee's 1855 manual was designed exclusively for light infantry / riflemen and abandoned the old left shoulder position. Other manuals of the period still used the old position well into the Civil War.

By the time Upton's manual in 1868 was published, the right shoulder position was the proper one.

One Civil War unit that had been using one of the older manuals was ordered in 1864 to use the newer manual of arms.



## **The History Of Chess**

*By James David Bell*

European Chess is said to be in roughly the same form as was when it was created in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. European Chess is partially replacing other versions of chess in their own cultures. Some examples of partial replacement are: Burmese Chess, Japanese Chess, and Korean Chess.

Other than changes in the designs of the pieces, European Chess added a few new features to way the game is played which had not been utilized in other cultural chess games including Burmese, Japanese and Korean Chess. These new features including the use of a checkered board, the First Move Option for Pawns, castling, changes to the properties of the Bishops, and the addition of the Queen.

The First Move Option allows the pawns to move two spaces on their first move instead of one. This move gives the pawns a single space head start. However, the rule only applies to pawns that have not already moved.

Castling was introduced to the game around the mid 1700's. Castling is a cooperative move using the Rook on the King's side of the board, and the King. This rule allows the King to move 2 spaces to the right while moving the

Rook the same distance to the left and jumping over the king. Castling is the only occasion in which a piece other than a knight can jump another piece. In order for the rule to apply there must be no pieces between the Rook and the King, the move cannot be performed if either the Rook or the King has been moved, and a player cannot castle to get out of check.

Changes to the properties of the Bishops consisted of giving the Bishops the ability to move an unlimited number of spaces diagonally and restricting the movements to movement only on their starting color (one Bishop on the black spaces, one Bishop on the white spaces).

European chess also includes the Queen, which is arguably the most powerful piece on the board today. The Queen has unlimited range in which it can move, meaning that she can move any distance and at almost any angle from her starting position. The only thing that really inhibits the Queen is that the piece does not have the ability to jump other pieces.

All of the pieces and their properties are as listed below:

### **The King**

The King is the main piece on the board and the game is over if one of the kings is checkmated. The King can only move 1 space at a time in any direction and can attack other pieces. However the king cannot put itself into danger by moving into an unsafe spot. The King can only be put into check by the opponent's movements. The only time the king can move more than 1 space is when castling.

### **The Queen**

The Queen is the most powerful piece on the board. She can move any number of spaces vertically, horizontally, or diagonally unless she is blocked by other pieces. Aside from the King, the Queen is the Highest Ranking piece on the board.

### **The Bishops**

Bishops can move diagonally for an unlimited number of spaces unless blocked by other pieces of their own color. The Bishop is the next rank down from the Queen.

### **The Knights**

The Knights can only move in an "L" shaped form (over two spaces and up one, or over one and up two spaces) in any direction. The reason that the Knights are considered by some to be the most versatile pieces on the board is that they are the only pieces that can jump over other pieces. Knights can only attack an opponent's piece if it is at the end of the "L" shaped move. Knights are the second ranking down from the Queen.

### **The Rooks**

Rooks have a lot of the same qualities that a bishop does, except that they have no specific color to move on, and they can move any number of spaces horizontally and vertically rather diagonally like the Bishops. The only real specialty that the Rook has is the role it plays in castling. Castling is the only time any piece other than a Knight can jump another piece. The Rook is the third rank down from the Queen.

### **The Pawns**

Pawns are the lowest ranking piece on the board. Pawns only have one real specialty, and that is their worth as an item for exchange when they reach the opposing side of the board. At this point a Pawn can be exchanged for any piece except a King. The movement properties of the Pawn are extremely pathetic. A Pawn can only move forward and only one space at a time. The only real exception to this property is on the first move when it is allowed to move two spaces forward instead of only one. A Pawn can only attack an opposing piece when the piece is one space forward of the pawn in a diagonal direction. A Pawn cannot move diagonally at any other time during a game. Pawns make up the first row of pieces, standing in front of the King, Queen, Bishops, Knights and Rooks. They are the first line of defense, an army of eight protecting the higher ranking pieces.

Each of these pieces have undergone numerous design changes over the years, but the modern design for the pieces came about in 1847. Two people claim the design: John Jaques, a resident of London, and Howard Staunton. It is

unclear who actually designed the pieces, but some sources mention that Staunton may have simply claimed responsibility for Jaques design. The modern design is still referred to as Staunton's Design.

The First International Chess Tournament was held in London in 1851. The event occurred at the International Exposition (also known as the Crystal Fair) and was organized by Howard Staunton. That year a German by the name of Adolph Anderssen took home first prize and the title of the First World Champion Chess Player. The World Chess Foundation was organized in 1946 and governs all worldwide chess events. Today chess tournaments are held annually and the championship has changed hands many times. The games are harder, the players more experienced, the competition is tougher, and the stakes are higher.

The way chess is played is constantly changing. With new technological advances and the desire for newer and more complicated games, different versions of chess have been developed, including Giant, Avalanche, Computerized, Three Dimensional Chess, and futuristic designs based on movies and television series. But even now the most popular version of the game remains European Chess. Anyone ready for a game?

(Information from various Internet sources, Compton's Encyclopedia, Encyclopedia Britannica)