



Bard's News



Volume 3 Issue 5

Nov 2004

**Special points
of interest:**

- 1st muster
- Xmas party
- School trip



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From the Commanding Officer

I must be getting old. this season's come and gone in the blink of an eye. a very good season, well done one and all.

At the moment its been reported that the first major is at Ripley, and that Basing will be early May bank holiday. No news at present for a training venue at Easter, but the search goes on. The major at Cheriton (August b/h) will have approximately 100 horses present.

A large proportion will be meeting Sir Henry Bards impetuous advance, this is an experience not to be missed, so please rejoin and recruit your friends, we need to be strong.

John

Happy Christmas to you all, like John I do not know where this season went but go it did. It has been a good year for the regt. with Basing House to start and Detling at the end with a good few events in between. The regt. has grown ,but the newsletter's in tray is still in need of items, Please remember, it is your newsletter! Captain Errington's Company is holding a Xmas party in Essex. This would seem to be a good event to bring pos/new members to met us all.

Ray

My First Muster

Before I start, I must first explain that I am not a religious person, this does not mean that I do not have a belief. I do Reincarnation.

Saturday morning, early August, Detling, Kent. I am met at the gate by a friendly face “ Were over there” an arm points. A sea of tents, caravans, campers confronts me. Hundreds, no, thousands of people. At least I have a guide. We arrive at a caravan, a mass of smiling faces greet me. A mug of coffee in my hand. I have arrived.

“ This is your uniform”, stockings, strange shoes, a shirt and a hat. “ Put them on” I am told. I disappear in confusion. I finally emerge, dressed in funny clothes, funny, yet I feel at home wearing them, they seem familiar.

Muster I assemble along with lots of other people I do not know. I feel strange, yet nobody takes any notice of how I look because we are all dressed the same.

“ What are you going to do?” a tall, bearded, distinguished gentleman asked me. He must be in charge. There is no cannon for me to man, I am lost. “ Here hold this”, a musket is thrust into my hands “ You point it this way and pull the trigger” (note a dummy musket Ed,) I am told. This is no sten gun, a strange weapon and yet familiar. I know how it works, a powder horn, yes I know how?

We march onto the battlefield to the eerie sound of the drums, I am enjoying this. I don’t need to be told what to do. I know. Noise, smoke confusion, shots, cries, people are enjoying themselves. Maybe to-day, but not then, the cries were not of fun, they were fear. I know. I have been there.

Retreat at last. The beer tent looms. Sanctuary at last.

Detling 2004 Did I enjoy it ?	Yes
Would I go again?	Yes
Would I recommend it to others ?	Yes

With thanks to Dennis Pepper and family for all their help & support in a new venture

Dick Weymouth

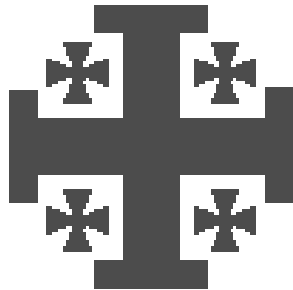
Cheriton a Memorial

At last the battlefield at Cheriton is getting the recognition it needs to remain as unspoilt as possible. The Battlefields Trust and Hampshire Council have made great advances in marking important parts of the site and raising the local awareness of its whereabouts to preserve as much of the site as is feasible today, with new signs and information points.

So it was on a wet and windy Friday afternoon that I journey down the M3 to attend the mini muster. As our historical counterparts had been recorded at the battle and had partaken in a significant part of the action, it was only right that we had made the decision to make this a maximum Bard effort. A good proportion of the Regiment was in attendance at the camp on the top of East Down. Luckily, by Saturday, the weather had improved and was now dry!

As a tribute to those who came 350 years before us we marched down to the memorial stone to lay a wreath with a guard of honour. This coincided nicely with the unveiling ceremony of the new tour sign highlighting the main area of the battle, which had been erected near the memorial. When representatives of both armies had arrived and the local dignitaries and Arthur Jackson of Rupert's had made their speeches, unveiled the sign and been filmed for local television, we were able to hold our commemoration by placing a wreath on the memorial stone. This our C.O. John Fairbrass did with great dignity and pride.

For the afternoon battle we were brigaded historically with Gerard's and for show fielded our Colonel's, Major's and 1st. Captain's Colours. We started the battle by re creating "Bards" impetuous advance which ended in our either being killed or captured along with Sir Henry, portrayed by our Tercio Commander Phil Allmark. We who were captured later rejoined the fight using our Lieutenant Colonels Colour as the Regimental rallying point. Being only a mini, the battle was over all to quickly.



That evening at the beer tent I witnessed the strangest and probably largest game of tabletop football I have ever seen. Ballard's had challenged Rawdon's and with the use of pikes and plenty of spectators to retrieve loose balls, a good match ensued that was won by Rawdon's. It was a pleasant evening for socialising whilst the folk singers sang in the beer tent and many people lounged about outside in the fine weather. Many, though were saving their energy for the night fight. They set off around midnight to pre-determined starting points with the aim of defending or capturing a supply of rum that the hosts had "hidden" in their camp. Some shots were heard in the night, but by the end of the "engagement" many of the participants had returned to camp through sheer boredom. Apparently nobody found the booty so it was to be donated to the Medics who had been on duty "just in case."

A lot of sleepy heads could not be roused for the drill that Gerard's had asked us to join them for on Sunday morning, but enough did turn out to make it worth their while. That day's battle seemed to go more to plan, but then don't they always on the second day!!!!

We'll do it all again next year, for the August Bank Holiday muster, though I suspect the night fight might not!!! We'll just have to wait and see. I am certainly looking forward to it already.

Yours in the cause, Captain Colin Poulton.

Please note there will be no pub night meeting on:

Monday 6th of December.

Due to our regt. Christmas Party at the same pub on Friday the 10th.

Detling 2004, certainly an Odd muster.

The August Bank Holiday muster at Detling this season was definitely a change from the norm in many ways. Not just the fact that it was a multi period event. The availability of showers, the masses of trade stands and the incredible diversity of “kit” on show was immense. Yes we were camped on our own little cramped site with no beer tent, but it was just a short walk away to another world (or worlds as it seemed.). It suffices to say, that such was the diversity of the periods on show it would take a whole article on it’s own to go into depth on the full list of “participants” drawn as they were from far and wide geographically as well as historically. Where else could you stand in a massive beer barn and rub shoulders with anything from a Spartan warrior to an SS panzer commander.

Yes I know we have a lot more members than probably all the other societies represented there, but at least we can get all our kit and ourselves to an event relatively easily. Well, even some of the most diehard living history bods must not have it as hard as some of the 20th. Century types. Just imagine the logistics of getting the likes of an Skdfz 250 or 251, even an M3 Sherman or M24 Chaffe there, then you have to run it and clean up the muck that the so usually wet bank holiday weather provides, bet they don’t get out to play in them as often as we do! Not that they’d have it any other way, I just hope they had a better route in and out than we did!

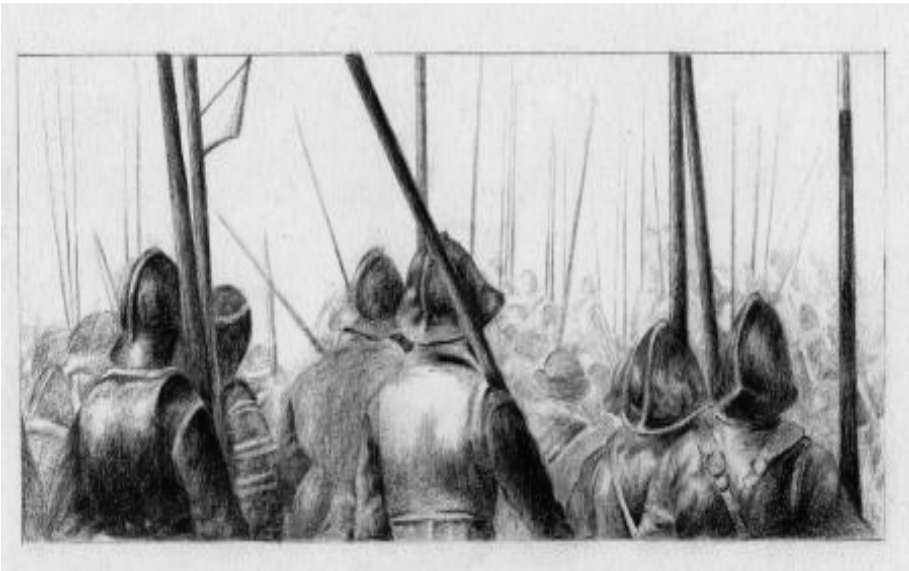
I was so glad to see such a large turn out for our ever-growing regiment, especially when about 30 of us ambled out together on Sunday evening, heading for a game of “Laser Quest”. Yes it was a bit of a damp evening, but this did little to dampen our enthusiasm for a new adventure (for some anyway). With teams of 7 we gather ready to do battle as, “Bard to the Bone”, “The Water Babes”, “The Water Babe Killers”, “The Blue Dolphins”, “Muppets!” and “Charles’s Blue Avengers” we entered the dark wobbly arena and were soon chasing our foes all about the place, gaining kills and being surprised at every turn of the labyrinth (well, nine interconnecting areas within the square inflatable arena.) All, young and old, tall and short, expert and novice, certainly had good fun. By the end of our competition, we had a winning team, “The Muppets” and as a group booking of 6 games a £20 refund, which was, by a majority vote, donated to the Regimental Uniform fund. Then it was off to the beer tent for more

good fun and dancing to the band, or listening to the sad karaoke attempts next door.

But for me the most mesmerising event of the whole weekend was whilst sat on the battlefield on the Sunday, as our battle came to a close with the main body on the adjoining field having left and the fighting in our area moved away to near the 25-pounder WWII Battery at the far end of the arena, was to just sit and absorb the wonderful sight and sound of 4 Merlin engines of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's Lancaster bomber as it roared over head. Yes, directly over where I was sat, which for an Aviation enthusiast who normally is kept a sanitary distance away from the performers at Air Shows, well that was sheer Heaven to behold. Just a shame she didn't come back on the Monday.

I for one would love to do more shows of that ilk, yes we are Big and do great battles, but an Audience needs to be entertained for more than 1 ½ hours today and see a deal more than most of our backsides!!!!!!!!!!

Yours in the cause Captain Colin Poulton.



Worth a Look

I came across the following book which maybe familiar to many members. I found it of great interest as it deals with the events, in some detail, what lead to the Civil War.

As opposed to most books which dealt with the actual battles.

The Kings Peace 1637–1641

Author C.V.Wedgwood

Penguin Classic History 2001 (first pub. Collins 1955)

Dick Weymouth

BARRIFFE

In 1661 the London printer Gertrude Dawson published a 6th edition of William Barriffe's infantry manual *Military Discipline or the Young Artilleryman* bound with his shorter work *Mars His Triumph*, a cavalry manual. This combination gave readers at the time a guide to all they needed to know of the basic military arts for infantry and cavalry of the day.

From an original in his collection , Keith Roberts was able to publish a facsimile in 1988.

Published by Partizan Press

ISBN 0 946525 55 2 (cloth) ISBN 0 946525 56 0 (card)

Ray Brewster

Bard's on line

Did you know that we now have to date 26 Bard's listed on the SK web site?.

Did you know that the Forlon Hope has a site with a section for Bard's? Please visit via a link on **www.bagots.co.uk**

Did you know that our very own Moira Grundy now has her pictures on the SK web site? See Cheriton on muster gallery.

Work on the new Bard's web site is well underway, and is in the hands of Chris Crowther.

Chris Crowther is now part of the SK web team.

17th century shoes, Discount Offer.

If we can order 10 or more pairs of shoes in one order from Gary Soame (SK merchant) he will give us a discount. Normal price £ 60.00 a pair,

discount price £ 55.00 a pair

Please write/e-mail with order to Ray Brewster or phone me on 01621 840931

(we have a order for 5 so far)



Captain Errington's Christmas Party 10th December

8 pm on Friday 10th December at
the William Boosey public house,
in Hatfield Peveral, Essex.

All the regt. is invited. Please
give Ray a call if you will need
overnight sleeping space.

It is in SK kit and we have a
raffle in aid of cancer research.

Four go to school

In October three members of the regt. (Ray, Jim & Rob) and a Skippon (Chris) went to the Bromfords School in Wickford, Essex at the invitation of teacher Jane Fulford.

They were to act the parts of E.C.W. people at the start of the war - 2 good guys and 2 bad guys. It was part of a special day for local school's sixth form students. The students had to present a talk at the end of the day, stating which side they had chosen and why.

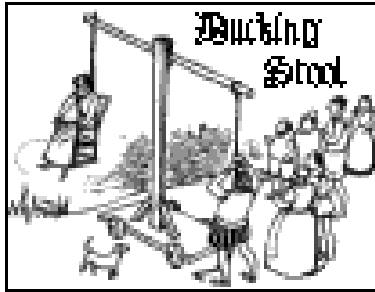
The students seemed upset that they could not get the members out of character with their questions. Each group had approx 20 min with each of us.

Jane Fulford wrote to thank us and give us a donation of £20.00 for our charity fund. In the letter she advised us that all the groups chose Parliament (interesting that in preparing for the day most had been Royalist). She put this down to most of the students of today being very aware of their rights.

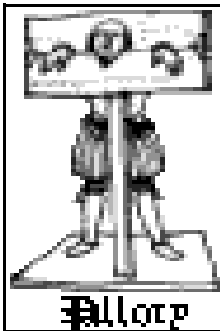
Quotes from the students, when asked what did you find most enjoyable and why?:

“Meeting the civil war characters because they gave me a whole different view about the war”

“When the Characters acted their parts in the year 1642 and you got to ask them questions”



Possible use of women in the knot as pre-battle display?



Possible use of men in the living history camp?

What do you think?

Copy date for next issue Feb 2005

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Notices

News

Lt. Col. Ray Brewster has been made 2 I.C. of Bards.

Lt. Poulton has been promoted to Captain.

If you are still waiting for your uniform or have not filled out a uniform measurements sheet, please contact John Fairbrass on 01252 844409

Membership of the Sealed Knot

We have had a good return of re-joining forms this year, but there are still one or two outstanding. Please remember that you will lose rank and length of service if you do not rejoin very soon (to be with me by mid of December latest)) If you have any problems with rejoining please speak to me or John Fairbrass.

Colin Poulton 01353 723921

New members

Tim Bond has joined as a pikeman , transfer from Belasyse's

Mark Brassington joined as a musketeer, transfer from Belasyse's

Paul & Lynn Chipperfield , transfer from Belasyse's. Paul is a pikeman

Tony Elston and family , transfer from Belasyse's Tony is a musketeer

Malcolm & Gillian Hancock, Malcolm has joined as a pikeman

Kymn Stroud, transfer from Belasyse's to work with the artillery

Robin and Maxi Stroud, transfer from Belasyse's to work with the artillery

All the above have joined Captain Errington's company.

Malcolm & Maureen Foster

Ian Mead & family (in Japan)

The above have joined us as Friends of the Knot.