



# THE CONTINENTAL SOLDIER

*The newsletter of the Continental Line, Inc.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



CHIP GNAM  
[carlgnam@verizon.net](mailto:carlgnam@verizon.net)

The Continental Line was originally created to foster communication between our units, leading, among other things, to better events. We have an incredible amount of knowledge, gained through individual research over the 40 + years the hobby has been active. I hope we can continue to look for opportunities that will allow us to share and build on this knowledge for the future.

To that end, welcome to the revived the Continental Line Newsletter. It's purpose is to promote our events, to share ideas and research, and hopefully help grow the hobby.

This is your newsletter. The content will be, in large part, what you contribute. I know we can produce an interesting and useful publication, but only if you, the members help. We have some very talented people among our units, so please spread the word to your members as I have (note the stories from a member of the First Virginia in the issue!).

Contributions and suggestions can be sent directly to editor Erick Nason at:  
[Erick.Nason.ctr@jpra.jfcom.mil](mailto:Erick.Nason.ctr@jpra.jfcom.mil)

***I look forward to seeing everyone this coming campaign season!***

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to introduce myself; I am the new editor for the Continental Line newsletter. I am always looking for ideas, inputs, or suggestions for the newsletter, especially from the different departments. If you have anything you would like to have added to the newsletter, please e-mail them to me ([erick.nason.ctr@jpra.jfcom.mil](mailto:erick.nason.ctr@jpra.jfcom.mil)) and I will make sure it's added. The intent of the newsletter is to keep the members of the organization, as well as for those who are active or interested in the hobby to know what is going on with events, and to add some historical articles for flavor. This is your newsletter, so please let me know how to make it better and what you would like to see.

*Erick Nason, 2nd South Carolina, Editor*



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# UP COMING EVENTS

## Northern Department

May 8-9	Artillery/Infantry School, Rebecca Nurse Homestead Danvers, MA
May 15-16	War in Schohary Gilboa, NY 2nd Albany
June 5-6	Gelston Castle, Mohawk, NY
June 12	Little Farm, Newburyport, MA 1st New Hampshire
June 19-20	Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey   British Brigade
June 19-20	Black Creek Village, Toronto, Canada
July 10-11	Battle of Wyoming, Moon Lake State Park
July 31-Aug 1	Fort George, Ontario, Canada-National Event, <a href="http://www.fortgeorge2010.org">www.fortgeorge2010.org</a>
Aug 7-8	Redcoat and Rebels, Sturbridge, MA (invitation only)
Aug 14-15	Fort Ontario, Niagara-on-the Lake, Ontario, Canada   (British Brigade)
Aug 28-29	Fort Taber Park, New Bedford, MA
Aug 27-29	Newtown, Elmira, NY
Sept 11-12	Fort Ticonderoga, Ticonderoga, NY
Sept 25-26	Philadelphia 1777 Campaign , Brandywine Sate Park, Wilmington, NY
Oct 2-3	Time Line, Lebanon, CT
Sept 8-10	Arnold's Expedition to Quebec, The Carry Ponds, Bingham, ME
Oct 15-17	Richardson Farm, Millis, MA Lexington Training Band
Nov 5-7	Putnam Park, CT
Sept 25-26	Philadelphia 1777 Campaign, Brandywine Sate Park, Wilmington, NY

## Mid-Atlantic Department

April 10-11	Battle of Bound Brook, Bound Brook, NJ
April 17-18	Jockey Hollow Encampment, Mendham, NJ
April 24	Batsto Village, Hammonton, NJ
May 15-16	Colonial Plantation, Ridley Creek
May 22-23	Dept. School of the Soldier Antes House, Pottstown, PA
June 19-20	Battle of Monmouth, Freehold, NJ
July 9-11	Raid on Wyoming, Moon Lake County Park
July 17-18	Stony Point, Stony Point , NY
July 31-Aug 1	Fort George, Ontario, Canada-National Event, <a href="http://www.fortgeorge2010.org">www.fortgeorge2010.org</a>
Aug 28-29	Battle of Newtown, Elmira, NY
Sept 25-26	Brandywine Creek State Park Near Wilmington, Del.
Oct 2	Battle of Germantown, Philadelphia, PA
Oct 17	Fort Mercer, Red Bank, NJ
Oct 23-24	Mount Harmon Plantation, Earleville, Md.
Nov 6-7	Hope Lodge, Whitemarsh, PA
Nov 13-14	Fort Mifflin, Philadelphia, PA
Dec ?	Battles of Trenton, Trenton, NJ

## Southern Department

Mar 13-14	Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC
Apr 10-11	Historical Time Line, Camden SC
Jun 19-20	Battle of Monmouth, Freehold, NJ
Jul 10-11	Battle of Huck's Defeat, Brattonsville, McConnells, SC
Aug 7-8	Battle of House in the Horseshoe, Alton House, NC
Oct 2-3	Walnut Grove Plantation, Roebuck SC
Oct 9-10	Prelude to Victory, Colonial Williamsburg, VA
Nov 6-7	Battle of Camden, Camden SC
Dec 4-5	Grand Illumination and British Night watch St. Augustine, FL



## EVENTS OF INTEREST

There are many smaller events that are out there that may be of interest to other groups, such as time line events or living history. If you have an interesting event that may not be part of a Continental Line event, then send me (*Erick.nason.ctr@jpra.jfcom.mil*) the info if you would like it posted.



## FORT GEORGE, NIAGARA-ON-THE LAKE

**JULY 31-AUGUST 1ST.**

[www.fortgeorge2010.org](http://www.fortgeorge2010.org)

From July 29 to August 2, 2010, Hoplologia member groups and others will recreate an 18th century military encampment, the largest military and civilian recreation of 18th century life in North America this year.

The site is Fort George, located in downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake, close to one of Ontario's finest tourist destinations, with hundreds of shops, the Shaw festival, B+B's, hotels, etc. within easy walking distance.

The weekend will include five military scenarios, dancing, fencing, horsemanship, archery, Fop Fest and Promenade, Polly Johnson Day, a Tavern of unbelievable vice and squalor, prize fighting, gambling, liquor, beautiful ladies, dashing gentlemen, rakes, thieves, soldiers, the finest craftsmen, most daring adventurers...

An escalade, a night assault, cannons, cavalry, the best clothes in the history of the world - and that's just on Saturday!

The Fort itself includes barracks space in period block houses, a Georgian Officer's Mess building available to reenactors, as well as camping space inside and outside the fort; probably the finest fully recreated Georgian military buildings in North America.

Fort George is located in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, just across the Niagara River from Fort Niagara in Youngstown, New York.

**From New York and points east and south:**

Follow the New York State Thruway west to Buffalo, then take I-290 north towards Niagara Falls. Exit at I-190 N and enter Canada. Continue west on the 405 to the Stanley Ave exit toward County Rd-102/Niagara Falls. Turn right at Townline Rd, then left at Portage. At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit onto Niagara Pkwy and continue onto Niagara River Blvd. Follow Niagara River Blvd. about 1.5 miles - Niagara River Blvd. branches to the right and Queen's Parade continues straight ahead. Turn right to stay on Niagara River Blvd. and take the first left to stay on it. At this point the fort wall will be on your right and you are approaching the main gate.

### **The Battles**

There will be at least five scenarios, but only one of them will be a major engagement with all of the forces available on site all in the field at the same time. This is the “Convoy” scenario. The other scenarios will feature selected troops doing what they do best — grenadiers assaulting walls, Rangers and Indians fighting in dense terrain, Cavalry foraging, Artillery battering away... Every unit will participate in two.

In each of these scenarios, we have tried to balance the fun and adrenaline of the participants with safety and education — every one of these should provide the public with a little more understanding of 18th century warfare.

If you would like your unit to participate in one or more specific scenarios, please inform us by dropping an e-mail to [ccameron@hoplologia.org](mailto:ccameron@hoplologia.org). I don't guarantee that every unit will get its wishes — but I'll sure try.

### **Scenario #1 — Coup de Main**

A Coup de Main is an attempt to storm a strong place by surprise. This scenario will open the fighting part of the weekend and will be run Friday afternoon. Elite elements of the Continental Advance Guard will attempt to seize the fort's main gate by surprise. Almost all fighting will occur inside the fort and will feature some exciting “house to house” action as well as skirmishing and, we hope, a cavalry action. We would like to know who is intending to be present, set up and available for a fight at 3 PM on Friday, July 30th, 2010!

### **Scenario #2 — Opening the lines**

The “opening of the lines” was the moment at which a siege formally commenced. While some gabions and entrenchment areas may have been pre-prepared by Saturday morning, this scenario will mark the opening of the siege, as the Continental artillery is rolled from camp into their prepared positions and opens fire on the walls. Royal Artillery units inside the fort will answer, and skirmishing will commence between the lines. (Artillery, Line Infantry, Boats)



### **Scenario #3 — The Convoy**

Hard pressed by the Continental bombardment and undermanned, with insufficient powder to stand a lengthy siege, the crown forces will be facing desperate times by Saturday afternoon. But help is at hand — a convoy full of military supplies, more guns, and reinforcements. Can the convoy pass the Continental lines and enter the fort? This scenario will involve all of the participants, and we ask all those with civilian impressions to make themselves available for crowd control and commentator slots.

### **Scenario #4 — Escalade**

A night assault by elite Continental forces on a bastion that has been breached. British attack on a Continental battery. (Saturday 8 PM) (Continental elite troops, British LI, Boats)

### **Scenario #5 — Ambush/Boat Raid**

Foragers from the fort are ambushed while attempting to gather much-needed supplies and refugees from the countryside. But the ambushers are themselves surprised! (Sunday AM) (Rangers, Indians, Cavalry, Riflemen, Boats)

### **Scenario #6 — The Last Ditch**

Despite the best efforts of the Crown, the Continental Army holds a redoubt and is moving guns closer to complete the siege. Can the garrison and its reinforcements re-take the redoubt? (Sunday noon) (Royal Artillery, Grenadiers and Lights, Continental Line infantry and Artillery)



## BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK

SEPTEMBER 25-26

[www.philadelphiacampaign.org/Philadelphia\\_1777/Welcome.html](http://www.philadelphiacampaign.org/Philadelphia_1777/Welcome.html)

### Directions

Brandywine Creek State Park is located three miles north of Wilmington at the intersection of Delaware Routes 100 and 92. The entrance is on Adams Dam Road

» From I-95 North or South/US-202:

Exit on 202 North to Mt. Lebanon Rd. (about 5 minutes from exit, see Talleyville fire co. on right, Taco Bell in median, and Boston Market on left) make that left at the traffic light.

At second stop sign, at the bottom of the hill, make a right. Go over bridge and bear to the right. Park entrance will be on the right side.

» From Concord Pike/Route 141:

Take Concord Pike North to 141 intersection (Zeneca Corp) Turn left onto Route 141 South.

At next light make a right (Rockland Rd.)

Follow Rockland Rd. to split in road.

Bear right at split, park entrance approx. 1/2 miles on the right.

From Concord Pike/Naamans Road:

Follow Naamans Rd. (Route 92) West across Concord Pike (Route 202)

Make first available left and continue on Route 92 (apprx. 3 miles)

At four way stop sign make a left onto Adams Dam Rd., park entrance over hill on left

» From Prices Corner/Newark:

Kirkwood Highway to Route 141 North

Route 141 North to Route 100 North

Route 100 through two lights and a stop sign (3-4 miles)

At stop sign make a right onto Adams Dam Rd., park entrance over hill on left.

### Event Registration

A registration form will be posted soon to register for the event and must be received by July 30, 2010. Registering units must be members in good standing of either the British Brigade or Continental Line with proof of liability insurance coverage on record. Those with horses must submit proof of a current Coggins test with their registration for all horses brought to the event.

### Onsite Registration

Registration will begin at 2PM Friday through 1AM, and reopen at 6AM Saturday morning through 10AM. Late arrivals will be asked to carry their belongings into the camps as a courtesy to those already set up and in anticipation of visitors arriving. Exceptions will be made for emergencies.

### Camp Set Up

After on-site registration, you will be directed to your respective camp. The Quartermaster's tent will be marked within the respective infantry encampments, with instructions for artillery and cavalry as well. Participants may begin to set up on Friday, September 24, after 2 PM. All participants are strongly urged to arrive before 1AM Saturday morning, in order to access the site with a vehicle.

The camps will be closed to vehicular traffic from 10AM Saturday morning until the camps close at 3PM Sunday. While there is always an exception for emergencies, and the quartermaster will attempt to accommodate late arrivals, those arriving after 1AM should be prepared to carry equipment from the parking area into their camp. Units wishing to camp together should endeavor to arrive at the same time, or send their tentage together.

There will also be advanced piquets, or campaign camps, for both armies.

### Encamping

The encampments will be laid out as described in Lochée's *An Essay on Castrametation*. The Quartermaster and quartermaster serjeant will assign spaces to units after they arrive.



### Tents

Private soldiers should not have excessive camp equipment--most participants should be using standard size wedge tents unless they have a command position. Please plan accordingly. Wall tents and marquees should only be used by officers in the military camp. Accommodations will be made in an adjacent area for those who are not officers but wish to bring a larger tent.

### Kitchens

Participants are asked to limit themselves to tin kettles or iron pots of an appropriate period design. No fires will be allowed in the military camp other than in the camp kitchens. Event coordinators encourage participants to construct brush arbors next to the camp kitchens as an alternative to "dining flies", which are not historically documented. If units opt to bring dining flies, they must be set up in the camp kitchen area. For more information about the historical use of camp kitchens, read "As many fireplaces as you have tents...": *Earthen Camp Kitchens* by John Rees.



### Cars in Camp

No cars will be allowed in the encampment after 1AM Saturday morning until 3PM Sunday afternoon. You help all participants by unloading as quickly as possible.

### Pets

No pets are allowed in the military camps, both for their safety and the safety of other participants and spectators.

### Special Impressions

Special impressions are encouraged such as surgeons, sutlers, laundress, etc. Please contact the quartermaster for your camp so that accommodations can be made ahead of time.

### Fires/Lantern Stands

All fires must be in the camp kitchens--no fires will be allowed in the company streets. No open flames are allowed in tents, all candles must be enclosed in period correct lanterns. Lantern stands are not allowed, so please store your lanterns in your tent when not in use. Also, no modern lanterns or camp stoves will be allowed in the encampment.



### **Logistical Needs**

Water will be available from the site, while straw and firewood will be available at the quarter guard. Hay bales taken from the quarter guard must be either used in a tent or broken up; no baled hay is allowed in camp. Straw is rationed at one-half bale per wedge tent with no straw in the officer lines or in the kitchen area. Restroom facilities are adjacent to the camps and supplemented by portable restrooms. A first aid kit will be kept at the adjutant's tent (center of the encampment, on the parade) and emergency personnel will be on site.

### **Camp Appearance**

All modern items and equipment (such as coolers, "sleeping bags, etc.) should be kept out of sight. The following items should not be visible to the public in camp at any time:

- Camp furniture in the company streets of military camps
- Non-period cookware, such as blue enamel speckleware
- Visible plastic bags or ground cloths
- Visible cots or sleeping bags
- Lanterns stands
- Unbroken hay bales used as furniture in camps
- Two piece camp chairs in camps or other anachronistic furnishings
- Visible non-period foodstuffs
- Visible modern food packaging including beverage cans, bottles, etc.

### **Non-Public Tactical**

There will be a voluntary free form, non-public tactical Sunday morning before the park opens to the public. Those interested in participating should assemble at 7:30AM Sunday to participate.

### **Local Accommodations & Places of Interest**

Listings of local accommodations can be found at [www.visitwilmingtonde.com](http://www.visitwilmingtonde.com) or by calling (800) 489-6664. Also, US-202/Concord Pike has a number of hotels, grocery stores and eateries. The Brandywine Valley is also home to a number of historic and cultural sites of interest, including but not limited to the Winterthur Museum in Delaware and the Brandywine Battlefield in Pennsylvania.

### **Modern Camping**

Those wishing to camp in modern tents will have a separate area if needed. Please contact the event coordinator well beforehand if interested.

### **Ice/Food Vendors**

The Friends association for the park has sold five-pound bags of ice during past events and coffee and donuts in the mornings for those interested. There also may be a food vendor on site during the event. Details will be posted as they are confirmed.

### **Emergency Contact**

For emergency contact during the event, please call Brandywine Creek State Park at either (302) 577-3534 or (302) 655-5740.

### **Event Coordinator**

Todd Post

### **Crown Forces**

Overall Commander: TBA

Battalion Commanders: TBA

Artillery Commander: TBA

Cavalry Commander: TBA

Brigade Major: TBA

Quartermaster: Delos Wheeler

Drum/Fife Major: TBA

### **Continental Forces**

Overall Commander: Todd Post,  
2d Virginia Regiment

Battalion Commanders: Matthew Murphy 2nd New  
Jersey Regiment; Chip Gnam,  
1st Virginia Regiment

Artillery Commander: Jim Stinson,  
Proctor's Artillery Company

Cavalry Commander: Robert Healey,  
4th Continental Light Dragoons

Adjutant: Kevin Coyle, German Regiment

Quartermaster: Thad Weaver, German Regiment

Drum/Fife Major: TBA

### **Registered Merchants**

- Blue Hen Bakers
- Burnley and Trowbridge
- Carl Giordano - Tinsmith
- G. Gedney Godwin
- Historic Delights
- Mountain Gull Trading Company
- Najecki Reproductions
- Red Haw Creek (Floorcloths)
- Rancocas Merchant

### **Schedule**

Please note that exact times are subject to change More  
details to be determined

### **Friday September 24**

2:00 PM -1:00 AM — Arrivals, Camp Set Up  
Registration and camps will be open for set up.

### **Saturday September 25**

6:00 PM-10:00 AM — Arrivals,  
Camp Set Up Continue

10:00 AM — Camps Open to the Public

All modern intrusions must be concealed; all cars must  
be out of camp.

4:00PM Camps Close to the Public

6:00PM-7:00PM Blanket Sale/Swap

Need to clean out your closet or in the market for new  
clothes or equipment? Sell or buy from fellow partici-  
pants at the Pavilion.

### **Sunday September 26**

7:00 AM — Reveille

7:30 AM — Formation for Non-Public Tactical

10:00 AM — Camps Open to the Public

All modern intrusions must be concealed

3:00PM — Camps Close to the Public,  
Safe Drive Home

**After Action Reports:** None

### **Notes from the Northern Department**

None Received

### **Notes from the Mid-Atlantic Department**

None Received

### **Notes from the Southern Department**

None Received



# BRITISH BRIGADE EVENTS

Mar 13-14	Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina
Apr 17-18	Battle Road - Minuteman National Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts
Apr 19	Patriots' Day- Lexington, Massachusetts
Apr 24-25	The Siege of San Juan, Puerto Rico (1797)
Apr 24-25	BAR School of the Soldier - New Windsor Cantonment, NY
May 8-9	Siege and Surrender of Charleston SC - Fort Moultrie
Jun 5-6	Gelston Castle Estate - Warren NY
Jun 12-13	Little Farm - Newbury MA
Jun 12-13	Ridley Park PA
Jun 19-20	Battle of Monmouth - Freehold NJ
Jun 19-20	Black Creek Pioneer Villiage - Toronto ONT Canada
Jun 26-27	Under the Redcoat, Colonial Williamsburg (Invitation Only)
Jul 10-11	Battle of Hubbardton VT
Jul 31 - Aug 1	Fort George - Niagara-on-the-Lake, ONT Canada <i>BRIGADE EVENT</i>
Aug 7-8	Old Sturbridge Village - Sturbridge MA - (Invitation Only)
Aug 28-29	Battle of Newtown- Elmira, NY
Aug 28-29	Fort Taber - New Bedford MA
Sept 11-12	Revolutionary War Encampment - Fort Ticonderoga NY, Contact - Neil Sorenson
Sept 25-26	Philadelphia 1777 Campaign - Brandywine Creek State Park, Wilm. DE <i>BRIGADE EVENT</i>
Oct 16-17	Richardson's Tavern - Millis MA
Oct 16-17	Yorktown Victory Celebration - Yorktown VA
Oct 23-24	Mt Harmon Plantation - Earleville MD Contact - website
Oct 30-31	Battle of Red Horse Tavern - Sudbury MA Burning of the Valley - Schoharie NY
Nov 6-7	Hope Lodge - Fort Washington PA
Dec 4-5	British Night watch - St Augustine FL



Since the Continental Line only covers the American forces during the war, Line events are often co-sponsored by The British Brigade, a like-minded umbrella group that encompasses units representing our opposition. Because the Line and The British Brigade already have an established relationship, battle scenarios are smoothly executed, and all safety measures are consistent.

***“...I am no advocate for blindly following the maxims of European policy.”  
American/European Training Manuals in the Era of the American Revolution***

Part I  
by Gustav Person  
1st Virginia Regiment

In December 1777, General Nathaniel Greene summarized his attitude to a council of war about using European training/drill manuals, rather than relying on practical experience.<sup>1</sup> Yet, before and during the War of Independence, Americans largely relied on those European manuals, or American reprints, that could be used to train their militia and fledgling Continental forces. This article will examine those British and American training manuals. An examination of French and German manuals will be deferred for a further Part II.

In the 18th and early 19th Centuries, the terms drill and tactics were synonymous. Period manuals usually also included regulations for discipline, encampments, marches and the like. Because of language and cultural similarities, Americans relied most frequently on British manuals. Even a cursory look at the enclosed Bibliography would indicate that a wide range of these manuals were available, some extending to the turn of the 18th Century.

The two most important manuals, early in the 18th Century, repeated the best aspects of the Duke of Marlborough's army: Humphrey Bland's *A Treatise of Military Discipline* in 1727, and Richard Kane's *Campaigns of King William and Queen Anne* in 1745. Under the Duke of Cumberland and Field Marshal Ligonier, the British came under the influence of Prussia and Frederick the Great. The Prussian drill manual of 1757 was further expanded in 1759 (see Part II).

That regulation led to the publication of Adjutant General Edward Harvey's *The Manual Exercise*, as ordered by His Majesty in 1764. The "64" remained the standard British drill manual until replaced by David Dundas' work in 1795. Harvey's 1764 *Exercise* became the paramount manual for American officers from 1766 until 1777. Nineteen imprints appeared in cities stretching from Boston to Williamsburg. Notably in 1774, Virginia, North Carolina and Connecticut officially adopted it for their militia and Continentals. Washington owned six copies of the "64." British writers also produced two other drill manuals with some appeal during this period: Campbell Dalrymple's *A Military Essay* in 1761, and William Windham's and George Townsend's *Norfolk Discipline*, a simplified volume published in 1759 for the use of the militia.<sup>2</sup>

Two other Englishmen authored widely-read volumes in the 1760s and 1770s. In 1768, a collection of miscellaneous orders and notes were prepared by Major General James Wolfe, mostly while a regimental commander, which appeared posthumously under the title, *Instruction to Young Officers*. However, it contained no systematic theory. William Young was a prolific writer of volumes dealing with drill, fortifications and outpost duty. In 1771, Young's work appeared as *Manoeuvres, or practical observations on the Art of War*.<sup>3</sup>

Then, about 1768, there was a general shift in the New England area to a simplified military system that had been prepared for the militia of the county of Norfolk in

England in 1759. Timothy Pickering, a militia colonel, further simplified the “Norfolk Discipline,” in *An Easy Plan of Discipline for a Militia* which he published in his home city of Salem, Massachusetts at the outbreak of the Revolution in July 1775. Pickering’s system was essentially the Norfolk plan, but he reduced it to its bare essentials, and with every step carefully spelled out. It was adopted by a resolution of the Council and House of Representatives of Massachusetts Bay on 1 May 1776. Washington’s copy was always well-thumbed. He described Pickering as “...a great military genius cultivated by an industrious attention to the study of war.” Pickering later went on to serve as the adjutant general and quartermaster general of the Continental Army.<sup>4</sup>

Drill manuals constituted the largest category of published imports and imprints in the early 1770s. The popularity of Bland’s *Treatise* at the beginning of the opening phase of the French and Indian War had already extended to America, where a dozen editions appeared between 1743 and 1759. In 1776, Dalrymple’s *Military Essay*, and the Earl of Cavan’s minor work, *A New System of Military Discipline*, all appeared to great interest. Washington himself owned copies of Bland, Cavan, Windham’s *Norfolk Discipline*, and Young’s *Manoeuvres*. Both Massachusetts and later Connecticut adopted Windham’s manual for official militia use.

In 1776 in Philadelphia, Thomas Simes published *The Military Guide for Young Officers*, which was a reprint of an English edition. This work was in two volumes; the second a military dictionary. The first volume was a military scrap book containing many quotations from Bland and the French Comte de Saxe. This work was popular in America. When von Steuben later arrived at Valley Forge, he found only two books in general circulation, those of Bland and de Saxe.<sup>5</sup>

Also in 1776, Lewis Nicola published his *Treatise of military exercise*, calculated for the use of the Americans, and Thomas Davis, adjutant of the 1st Virginia Regi-

ment, brought out a brief handbook, *A Treatise on the military duty*. Neither work enjoyed the readership of Pickering’s work.<sup>6</sup>

With so many manuals available, the arrival of Baron Frederich von Steuben during the Winter of 1778 at Valley Forge was a godsend. At about the same time that Washington directed army officers to expand their professional horizons, he moved to establish a standard system of “discipline, maneuvers, evolutions [and] regulations for guards” which every unit would follow; an important development to improve battlefield performance.<sup>7</sup>

Steuben later wrote Benjamin Franklin that ...”circumstances... obliged me to deviate from the Principles adopted in thee European Armies, ...Young as we are, we already have our Prejudices as the most ancient Nations, [and] the prepossession in favor of the British service has obliged me to comply with many Things, which are against my Principles.” Steuben’s genius created an entirely new system in which he borrowed from British, Prussian and American practices. The drill emphasized a single manual of arms, improved execution, new techniques of marching and the use of the bayonet.

A column of fours replaced single-file marching to produce more compact formations and better deployments on battlefields. The standard pace became the Prussian 75 two-foot steps per minute, not the British standard of 60. Officers, not non-commissioned officers, now had the responsibility for drilling the soldiers.<sup>8</sup>

Shortly after the close of the campaign of 1778, Steuben took his staff to Philadelphia and was soon hard at work on his new manual, later commonly known as “The Blue Book” because of its binding. While his staff translated and copied, Steuben engaged Captain M. Pierre Charles L’Enfant, the future designer of the new nation’s capital, to engrave the plates and diagrams to accompany the text.

Once the manuscript was completed, Steuben forwarded it to Washington. With his full support, a copy of the new Regulations was forwarded to Congress which greeted the work with enthusiasm, and adopted the manual on 29 March 1779 for the use of the entire army. After some initial printing delays, copies of the manual were soon in the hands of the troops. Washington's personal copy is now in the possession of the Boston Athenaeum. During the war years at least six editions were published. The Regulations passed through many later printings and compilations, and it was to remain the

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3 *Ibid.*, 219.

4 Joseph R. Riling, *Baron von Steuben and his Regulations* (Philadelphia, PA: Ray Riling Arms Book Co., 1966), 1-2; Harold L. Peterson, *The Book of the Continental Soldier* (Harrisburg, PA: The Stackpole Company, 1968), 19-20; Colonel John Womack Wright, *Some Notes on the Continental Army*, New Windsor Cantonment Publication No. 2 (Vails Gate, NY: Hope Farm Press, 1963), 3

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8 Steuben to Franklin, 28 September 1779, Steuben Papers, New York Historical Society; Robert K. Wright, Jr., *The Continental Army* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, 1989), 141.

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*“...I am no advocate for blindly following the maxims of European policy.”*

Part II

French/German Training Manuals in the Era of the American Revolution

By Gustav Person, 1st Virginia Regiment

Part I of this article examined the British and American training manuals in use and available for study by American leaders during the War of Independence. This part will examine those French and German (mainly Prussian) manuals that were also available and widely read.

During the Seven Years War in Europe, the Prussian infantry enjoyed the preeminent position as the finest on any field. Their discipline and ability to maneuver, sometimes under very difficult conditions, marked them as the infantry to be emulated. When the Prussian drill manual of 1757 (later adapted in 1759) appeared, it was widely copied. It also formed the basis of the British ‘64’ manual (see Part I). English language translations and adaptations soon appeared to wide acclaim. Indeed, during this period anything vaguely “Prussian” enjoyed wide popularity. For example, note George Washington’s interest in Frederick the Great’s *The King of Prussia’s Instruction to his Generals*, published in English in 1760.

Prior to the Seven Years War, the French excelled in many areas of military endeavor. In the 17th and early 18th Centuries, Marshal Sebastien de Vauban led the way in military engineering and siegecraft. Yet in the aftermath of the humiliating defeat of 1763, the French cast about to improve their battlefield performance. Beginning in 1764, General Jean Baptiste de Gribeauval standardized gunnery and ordnance. In the ten years preceding the American War of Independence, a prolonged debate evolved over battle tactics. This argument

pitted advocates of heavy, massed infantry formations (l’ordre profond) assaulting with the bayonet, against those favoring linear tactics (l’ordre mince). The heavy column concept was originally championed by the Chevalier Jean-Charles de Follard in the 1730s. In the 1760s and 1770s, Marshal de Bellisle and François-Jean de Mesnil-Durand also favored columnar tactics.

Comte Turpin de Crissé had already set forth his ideas on light infantry in his 1754 *Essai sur l’Art de la Guerre*. In 1766, the Comte de Guibert presented the French War Ministry with a memorandum introducing a compromise identified as l’ordre mixte. This memorandum, subsequently refined and published in 1772 as the *Essai général de tactique*, stressed flexibility and utility. Infantrymen, trained for both line and light infantry tactics, could deploy in line or column, or a combination of both, depending on the tactical situation. Guibert’s manual has been called the most important military book of the 18th Century. By the end of 1778, most French officers became disciples of the mixed order, even though the French Army did not formally adopt Guibert’s ideas until the *Reglement* of 1791, when they became the tactical norm during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. Guibert’s manual was a particular favorite of Washington, who also familiarized himself with Mesnil-Durand’s writings. The writings of de Saxe and Guibert also contributed to the intense interest in *petite guerre*, or partisan operations, which seemed to fit the “natural genius” of Americans for ranger operations in the North American wilderness. Generals John Forbes and Henri Bouquet (a

Swiss in the British service) had turned to several European thinkers to solve the problems of operating with regular and provincial troops in the American forests.

Forbes based his successful 1758 campaign against Fort Duquesne in the French and Indian War on Turpin de Crissé's *Commentaire*. Washington served as a brigade commander in this campaign. Bouquet refined Forbes' techniques during Pontiac's rebellion by consulting de Saxe's *Mes Revêries*, a posthumous work published in French and English in 1757. De Saxe had paid particular attention to aimed musketry in skirmishing operations, and emphasized combined arms training by infantry, artillery and cavalry. Bouquet's "Reflections on War with the Savages of North America" appeared in 1765 as an appendix to William Smith's *A Historical Account of the Expedition against the Ohio Indians in the Year MDCCLXIV*. Both de Saxe and Guibert had forcefully argued that Roman military history demonstrated that regular line infantry could function in broken terrain if they were trained as light infantry.

In summary, on 8 May 1777, Washington expressly ordered all Continental officers to read "military authors" in their spare time. French and German professional soldiers noted that they readily obeyed. Captain Johann von Ewald, a Hessian Jäger officer who became a leading theorist of light infantry tactics after the Revolution, commented on this fact: "I was sometimes astonished when American baggage fell into our hands...to see how every wretched knapsack, in which were only two shirts and a pair of torn breeches, would



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