

COUNTY & REGION

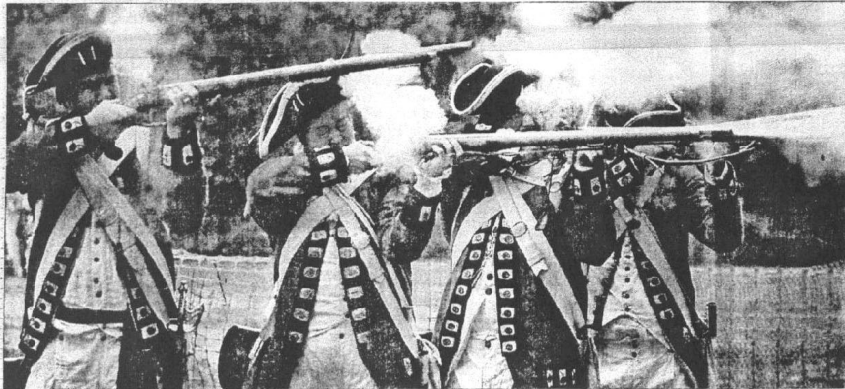
Monday, November 1, 2004

■ Briefs - B2 ■ TV Listings - B4 ■ Comics - B5

Section B

Military re-enactors camp out in Burl. City

More than 100 participate in event



BCT staff photo/JOHN JABLONOWSKI

Re-enactors dressed as British redcoats fire their weapons Saturday in the military re-enactment in Burlington City.

By Josh Bernstein
BCT staff writer

jberrstein@phillyburbs.com

BURLINGTON CITY — At first glance, the soldiers firing cannon rounds from the city's riverfront promenade across the Delaware River over the weekend appeared poised to invade Bucks County, Pa.

But this force was not launching the first salvos of the nation's second civil war. More than 100 actors portraying soldiers from the American Revolution to the Vietnam War were participating in the city's first military re-enactment.

The free event began Friday night and concluded yesterday. Many participants stayed overnight at the promenade, sleeping in tents and cooking

over open fires.

On Saturday, spectators held their hands over their ears as re-enactors from Battery C of the Confederate 1st North Carolina Artillery fired blank rounds from reproductions of Civil War cannons.

"At this range, I could knock you off your horse without hurting your horse," Patrick Peters, a unit member from Vineland, Cumberland County, said after demonstrating one cannon's firepower.

John Houck of Bel Air, Md., a major general in the unit, said he wanted to give spectators "a little bit of history, some of what their ancestors had to face if they participated in (the war)."

Only a few yards from the Confederates, the 1st New Jersey Volunteers,

See RE-ENACTORS B2



Re-enactors (from left) Tim Jiannone and John Vogt talk about Civil War weapons with spectators at the military re-enactment along the Delaware River in Burlington City on Saturday. BCT staff photo/JOHN JABLONOWSKI

Military re-enactors camp in Burl. City

RE-ENACTORS From B1

a group loyal to the British during the Revolutionary War, camped.

Rose Flynn of Cape May County portrayed the wife of a soldier. Flynn said the British tried to reduce desertions by having soldiers' families go along on military campaigns.

Over a campfire, Flynn cooked the types of foods that soldiers ate during the late 1700s. She offered visitors samples of biscuits and chicken stew.

"When you read about the Revolutionary War, you read about George Washington," she said. "You don't read about the other side. Textbooks aren't written that way. It's a lot of fun. I get to talk to people. ... This makes history and learning more fun."

Among the re-enactors were people portraying German and American soldiers from World War II.

One military unit represented at the encampment was the 6th Regiment of the U.S. Colored Troops. About 209,000 blacks, including many escaped slaves, fought in the segregated Union regiment during the Civil War.

Burlington City resident Butch Ireland and his 11-year-old son, Josh, spent most of Saturday at the event.

"I think it's great," Ireland said. "It's a shame there aren't more people here."

Scott Milloy of Maple Shade

said the event was "very informative — a chance to meet people who are really dedicated to preserving America's history."