

# *245<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Retreat from Fort Lee*

*November 20th – 21st, 2021*

## ***Brief Summary of Event and Plan -***

An accurate representation of the chaos of the retreat and evacuation. Fort Lee will be the staging point for those who arrive on Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup>. Fort Lee will be manned by the Continentals throughout the day on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>, up until the British attack and chaos ensues during the rearguard action at Fort Lee. Through the whole day, soldiers will work fortifying the defenses and preparing to evacuate the fortress. Supplies will be accounted for and organized for removal. After the public leaves, both sides camp within the Fort for the evening.

On Sunday morning there will be a retreat march to Historic New Bridge Landing as ragged Continentals are hotly pursued by the advancing Crown. Once New Bridge is reached, an intense rear guard action over the bridge occurs, temporarily leaving the British to make camp on one side while the retreating rebels make camp on the other. More information below. Over the day various programs occur engaging the public in every aspect of 18<sup>th</sup> century life during the retreat. A vignette will be held in the afternoon as the Officers of the 4th NJV recruit in the now “liberated” Bergen county. Public and colonials alike will be invited to join their ranks.

## ***Registration***

Every unit commander should register their unit through the link below ~

<https://forms.gle/t6gtN3PjDrfhDgFQ8>

## ***COVID-19 Protocols***

There will be no masks required outside on the site grounds. Masks will be required and worn inside the museum at all times. Tents should be spaced 6 feet apart and hand sanitizer will be available at a variety of locations throughout the park.

## ***Camping/Overnight Accommodations -***

There will be two camps designated for overnight campers on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>, from 5 PM on as well as on Saturday night, the 20<sup>th</sup>.

18<sup>th</sup> Century campers should space their tents out 6 feet apart. Indoor facilities are left open overnight to ensure access to running water and restrooms as needed. There will also be outdoor facilities available in the Southern Parking lot for overnight campers and accommodations.

## ***Marches ~***

### *Town Memorial March - Saturday, November 20th, 11:30 AM*

Continental Soldiers in camp will march the traditional route to the Memorial in the center of Fort Lee to honor those lost. Police will be contacted and made aware of the ability to join the route. In addition, local officials will be made aware in order to participate in the ceremony.

### *Retreat March, Sunday, November 21st, 6 AM - 10:15AM*

Contact James McKane at [jmckane907@gmail.com](mailto:jmckane907@gmail.com) for more detailed information. The route planned will be the retreat march from Fort Lee to Historic New Bridge Landing. Marchers will meet at Fort Lee Historic Park by 6am sharp and will step off at 6:30am. Any Crown wishing to pursue shall leave 10 minutes after. The 4 hour march will trace the original route taken by the continental army, with historical stops along the way. A chase car for safety will also be monitoring the marchers to lend a helping hand or in case of emergency. The marchers will end up at Historic New Bridge landing at 10:15 - 10:30 AM, and begin a rearguard action against the crown, who is not far behind.

## ***Tactical Weapons Display –***

### *Saturday, November 20th - Fort Lee Tactical -*

The soldiers within the fort will try their best to fend off the invasion force for as long as they can hold out, allowing the main army to evacuate and escape west. Artillery and muskets will sound off periodically to keep the British and their allies from taking the fort as Continentals jump between barricades, trees, and abandoned gear to keep fighting. At the end of it, prisoners are taken and equipment accounted for, while the main American force is pushed to the rear of the fort to retreat and fight another day.

### *Sunday, November 21st - New Bridge Tactical -*

Tactical- The column of marchers (departing 6:30am) from Fort Lee should arrive by 10:15am to New Bridge Landing with the crown hot on their heels. At 10:30am, a sharp rearguard action ensues with the colonials falling back as organized as they can as pressure mounts. Reinforcements come from Washington's main army that allow the continentals to hold long enough to make it over New bridge somewhat orderly. The crown makes a serious attempt to pursue the Americans over the bridge and even gain a toe hold before being pushed back by the determined continentals. Lord Howe, trying to

avoid casualties, is content to follow pursuit again the next day, while Washington continues his retreat.

***Food -***

*Saturday, November 20th -*

Fort Lee Historic Site generously provides a group meal every year and will continue to do so. There will also be coffee and refreshments inside the museum for participants throughout the day. Eating will be restricted to only outdoor areas. Eating indoors will be prohibited. All participants should still bring their own period eating and drinking utensils, along with rations for use on both Saturday and Sunday.

*Sunday, November 21st -*

Bergen County Historical Society has generously volunteered to provide a group meal on Sunday as well. Eating will be restricted to only outdoor areas. Eating indoors will be prohibited. All participants should still bring their own period eating and drinking utensils.

***Sutlers -***

Sutlers will take space inside the museum. Sutlers should register on the registration form and note that they are Sutlers in the comment sections. If there are any questions, please contact Dakota Griffin at [dakota.lee.griffin@gmail.com](mailto:dakota.lee.griffin@gmail.com)