



The BATTALION JOURNAL

*The Newsletter of Jaeger's Battalion,
Rogers' Rangers*



N^o 86

Winter 2018

From the Adjutant's Desk

Rangers,

On 9 March 2017, Major Blair and I conducted a review of all Battalion administration and company records. This included the financial records as well. As a result, any new business, recruit applications, or company returned, etc... may be send to me from here on. My email for all Battalion business is:

captadjt@gmail.com.

My mailing address is

3397 Dewberry Lane, Macedon, NY 14502.

I look forward to being of service and encourage any other communication as you see fit.

Your Servant
Timothy C. Green,
Captain-Adjutant
Jaeger's Battalion, Rogers' Rangers



Rangers and Families,

As I sit here in WNY watching the return of winter, again, I know well that soon we will be out on the trail. I'm sure you are looking forward to getting out, and I hope to see many of you at Fort Frederick's Market Fair.

I will arrived Wednesday afternoon and begin the castermentation of the Battalion. Please look at your arrival times as entrance to the site is restricted during

the day. Last year we set up a combined kitchen cooking area which worked out fantastic and I expect to do the same.

FYI: Plan on a Battalion pot luck dinner for Saturday. Officers and NCO's are reminded that we will be supervising the rifle range as before and be prepared to take you turn in rotation. The sutler's list looks substantial, plenty of blankets sales too. I'm sure everyone will have a great time.

Last note, Old Fort Niagara event is just around the corner, note the dates 29 June-1 July.

Regards,
Timothy Green
Capt-Adjt, Jaeger's Bn.



From the 18th Century

Found: Two gunflints

Two gunflints found Chimney Point near Hospital Creek where Rangers and Light Infantry camped after June of 1760.



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Battalion Web Address

Battalion Web pages ... <http://www.rogersrangers.com/>

Battalion Yahoo Group Address

Battalion Dispatch ... <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BattalionDispatch/>

Battalion Companies' Web Pages

Schroth's New York Company ... www.schrothscompany.com
 Anglum's Illinois' Company ... <http://illinoisrangers.blogspot.com/>
 Maryland Company ... <http://www.rogersrangers.com/MDCcompany/>

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Renewal Information

By Jerry Knitis, Editor



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For Information and Pricing

Pease Porridge

INTRODUCTION

Something that is both good and filling can be as nourishing from the first serving until many days later. Pease Porridge, a thick Pea soup of 18th century fare, was tasty the first day it was made until it was totally consumed. The rhyme certainly says it was still good in the pot nine days old. Good information about Rangers, gleaned from past sources is much like the Pease Porridge.

In the back pages of the Battalion Journal are some tasty bits of knowledge that are still worth being used and shared. As the Battalion grows and changes, with new members being added, it is only right that we go back into the pot and pull out a tid-bit or two no matter how old.

Editor's Note: I have asked Lt. Wulff permission to rerun his excellent articles on "Rogers' Rules for Ranging."

Robert Rogers' Rules For the Ranging Service

Robert Rogers was a frontier born man in his early twenties when he became Captain of one of the Ranger companies in the New Hampshire Regiment, raised under the Command of Joseph Blanchard, to fight the growing encroachment of the French in what would become the last of the series of "French and Indian Wars."

These companies of "Rangers," or men who were experts in the woods, many of them hunters and trappers, would soon become invaluable to the British Army in this struggle for the control of North America.

Rogers Rules Number Three

"If you march over marshes or soft ground, change your position, and march abreast of each other to prevent the enemy from tracking you (as they would do if you marched in a single file) till you get over such ground, and then resume your former order, and march till it is quite dark before you encamp, which do, if possible, on a piece of ground that may afford your sentries the advantage of seeing or hearing the enemy some considerable distance, keeping one half of your whole party awake alternately through the night." (Rogers 55, 56)

The terrain that the Rangers had to travel over on

their scouting missions toward the French held forts could vary greatly. 18th century maps of the areas surrounding Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point are filled with section labeled swamps, or "drowned lands." These areas of soft ground would show the tracks of anyone traveling over it very readily. To combat this Rogers advises his Rangers to change their formation from the single file march, to marching abreast of one another in a spread out line. This would lessen the amount of tracks left behind by having only a single man leaving tracks as opposed to a number of men all following each other in a line. By spreading the line of men apart, the chances of an enemy patrol picking up one of these trails is also greatly diminished. After the Rangers had passed through the area of soft ground, Rogers then orders them to resume their single file track as ordered to do in rule number two.

Rogers also advises his men to march until it is quite dark out before stopping for the night and making camp. By doing this the movements of setting up their encampment would be covered by the darkness of night. Any enemy that might be observing your party would not know the disposition of your encampment, and might hesitate to attack. Rogers also advises his Rangers to choose a piece of ground that will give his sentries the advantage of seeing the approach of any of the enemy first, so that the party may be prepared to disperse in the face of a superior force, or defend against an attack. By seeing the enemy first, from as great a distance as possible, they would have a greater amount of time to prepare for the coming action. Rogers also orders that one half of the party remain awake at all times alternately throughout the night so that a strong part of their force would be awake and alert to repel any attack from an enemy. This is just another example of the importance that Rogers put on always being prepared to try and prevent any surprises from the enemy. The use of something as simple as the ground you encamp upon to gain an advantage over your enemy was a trademark of the Rangers' tactics.

Battalion application:

At most historical sites the type of ground we will be marching upon will not require us to change our formation and march abreast of each other. This however would be very practical in a woods type of setting, such as a small scout, or at private tactical events where the type of ground you encounter could vary greatly. This formation also would allow your party to "sweep" the area for any sign of an enemy force or ambush. This spread out for-

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mation will envelope the flanking parties with the main body, but a strong advanced and rear guard must still be maintained.

If you are staying in the woods overnight you can look for the most advantageous piece of ground available on which to make your encampment. Higher ground will not only allow you the advantage of being able to see the approach of any enemy, it will also usually provide a drier place to camp in that any moisture will seek lower elevations to collect in.

Even in a modern setting the need for camp security should not be neglected. We all have invested large amounts of time and money into our portrayals. Theft is not common, but it is also not unheard of. The posting of sentries will not only make your camp that much more authentic, it can provide the needed security to keep your goods and families safe. Keeping your troops up during the night on sentry duty may result in the loss of sleep for some, but what better way to get a feel for the life of a Ranger.

Rogers Rules # 3

When marching over swampy ground change your formation from a single file to one where the men are marching abreast of one another at a due distance.



Advanced or forward guard twenty yards in front of the formation



Rear Guard twenty yards to the rear of the formation



Battle on Snowshoes - 1758

A Battalion Journal Archive File

The 1758 Battle on Snowshoes occurred on March 13, 1758, during the French and Indian War. It was fought by members of British Ranger companies led by Robert Rogers against French troops and Indians allied to France. The battle took place near Lake George, now in northern New York, but then in the frontier area between the British province of New York and the French province of Canada. The battle was given its name because the British combatants were wearing snowshoes.

Rogers led a band of about 180 rangers and regulars out to scout French positions. The French commander at Fort Carillon (called Ticonderoga by the British) had been alerted to their movement, and sent a force consisting mostly of Indians to meet them. In fierce fighting, the British troop was decimated, with more than 120 casualties. The French believed that Rogers was killed in this action, as he was forced to abandon his regimental jacket, which contained his commission papers, during his escape from the scene.

This battle gave rise to the tale that Rogers escaped capture by sliding 400 feet (120 m) down a rock-face to the frozen surface of Lake George. That rock is now known as Rogers Rock or Rogers Slide.

Background

The French and Indian War broke out in 1754 between British and French colonists over territorial disputes along their colonial frontiers, and escalated the following year to include regular troops.[4] By 1756, the French had enjoyed successes in most of their frontier battles against the British. Their only notable failure occurred when the British stopped their southward advance from Lake Champlain in the 1755 Battle of Lake George. From bases at Fort St. Frédéric (located at what is now Crown Point, New York) and Fort Carillon (known to the British as Fort Ticonderoga), the French and their Indian allies continued to scout and probe the British defenses on Lake George and the upper Hud-

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son River.[5] The British, who had fewer Indian allies, resorted to companies of rangers for their scouting and reconnaissance activities.[6] The ranger companies were organized and directed by Robert Rogers, and eventually became known as Rogers' Rangers.[7]

Prelude

Captain Rogers was sent on a reconnaissance mission from Fort Edward northwards toward Fort Carillon on March 10, 1758.[8] Lieutenant Colonel William Haviland, the fort's commander, had originally planned on 400 men taking part but reduced the number to 180, [9] even though he had reason to believe the French knew of the expedition. The French had captured a man from an earlier expedition by Israel Putnam's Connecticut rangers and it was suspected that he had informed his captors of the British plans. Putnam's reconnaissance revealed that there were an estimated 600 Indians encamped near Fort Carillon.[2] The expedition was composed mostly of men from Rogers' ranger companies, but it also included a few volunteer soldiers from the 27th (Inniskilling) Regiment.[2] On March 13, they wore snowshoes as they marched through snow four feet deep, with a rivulet to their left and a steep mountain separating them from Lake George to their right. They had stopped for a three-hour break when their advance guard spotted what Rogers reported as "ninety-six, chiefly Indians".[10]

On March 12, Captain Louis-Philippe Le Dossu d'Hébecourt, the French commander at Fort Carillon, heard rumors from the encamped Indians that the British were nearing. He sent Ensign Durantaye with a company of 200 Nipissing Indians and about 20 Canadians in response to these reports, but they found nothing. The next day two Indian scouts reported that they had found tracks of an enemy party. Around noon on March 13, Durantaye led 100 men (again a mixed company of Indians and Canadians) out of the fort. These were followed shortly after by 200 Indians under Ensign de Langy.[1]

Although the two French groups joined forces, Durantaye's company was about 100 yards (91 m) ahead of

Langy's when they were spotted by Rogers' men.[11]

Battle

Rogers' men immediately set up an ambush. When Durantaye's men came within range at 14:00, the British opened fire, killing "above forty Indians", according to Rogers.[10] Durantaye's force broke and retreated in disarray. Rogers and about half his men gave chase, critically forgetting to reload their muskets, while the others stopped to collect scalps.[12] Langy's men, alerted by the gunfire, set up their own ambush. When Rogers' men arrived, the attack by Langy's force killed or wounded an estimated 50 men. The Rangers fought bravely, considering they were outnumbered and their numbers were falling quickly. They made several successful attempts to prevent themselves from being flanked, but after an hour and a half of heavy fighting, their numbers were significantly reduced. The remnants of the British force then tried to escape the battle. Rogers and some of his men did get away, but one group of men surrendered, only to be killed and scalped when a scalp was discovered in a pocket of one of the men.[13]

Aftermath

Rogers and his decimated company returned to Fort Edward on March 15.[14] Rogers himself was originally reported by the French to have been killed, but had actually survived. The report stemmed from the manner of Rogers' escape during which he discarded some of his belongings, including his regimental coat, which contained his military commission.[15] This episode also gave rise to a local legend that Rogers escaped the battle by sliding 400 feet down the side of a hill to the frozen surface of Lake George. While there is no proof of this event, the rockface he supposedly went down very quickly became known as Rogers' Slide.[16]

Reports of casualties, and of the numbers of forces involved, starkly differed in this battle. Rogers' report of the event estimated the French-Indian force at 700, with one to two hundred casualties,[16] and his accounts of the battle were doubted by a variety of commentators, as they were inconsistent with other accounts. A letter by Henry Pringle, written while held in captivity at Carillon,

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restored his reputation by clarifying the French advantage following the second ambush; Rogers went on to rebuild his companies and serve in the Battle of Carillon in July 1758.[16]

Notes

Nester (2008), p. 15

Nester (2008), p. 10

Casualty figures are as reported by each side in Nester (2008), p. 17. Each side estimated the casualties on the other side to be somewhat higher. According to [1] French Casualties were totaled 30–8 Indians killed + 2 Indians mortally wounded & 17 Indians and 3 Canadians wounded.

Brumwell (2004), p. 55

Brumwell (2004), pp. 59–82

Brumwell (2004), pp. 70–71

Brumwell (2004), pp. 103–105

Nester (2008), p. 9

Rogers (1883), p. 93

Rogers (1883), p. 96

Nester (2008), p. 16

Brumwell (2004), p. 114

Brumwell (2004), p. 115

Rogers (1883), p. 99

Brumwell (2004), p. 117

Brumwell (2004), p. 118

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Brumwell, Stephen (2004). *White Devil*. Cambridge, MA: Da Capo. ISBN 0-306-81389-0. OCLC 57655778.

Nester, William (2008). *The Epic Battles of the Ticonderoga, 1758*. Albany, New York: State University of New York Press. ISBN 978-0-7914-7321-4. OCLC 105469157.

Rogers, Robert; Hough, Franklin Benjamin (1883). *Journals of Major Robert Rogers*. Albany, NY: Joel Munsell's Sons. OCLC 1999679.

Further reading[edit]

Bearor, Bob (1997). *Battle On Snowshoes*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books. OCLC 37299292.



Sustenance and Libation

“The quantity of turtledoves, pigeon, or rock doves is so large that we are obliged to destroy them because they are destructive to wheat. These animals are very good dining and in any case, but particularly roasted and in soup they arte very agreeable bouillon. The Canadians seem to be very attached to all the ways.” Jean Baptiste Carillon—1756



Traditional English Recipe 18th century

Pigeon

To boile ye pigeons with pease; Wash them in water then take salt & rub them in and out then ye rubs. Grated nutmeg plus one quarter a Pound of dark sugar. Putt pease inside Wyth butter & salt. Boile the pot till tender & Beate the pease into a mash & season With sugar . Let the sauce stand in a dish To pour upon the pidgeon.



Pigeon Pye

Your crust must be good, and force [stuff] your Pigeons with good Force-meat; then lay some at the Bottom of your crust, and your Pigeons on top; lay your Giblets between with some hard Eggs; Asparagus Tops' Coxcombs and Sweetbreads; put a piece of Butter on top of your Pigeons, and a little Liquor, [broth] so lid and bake it; put in a little Gravy and Butter when you open it. [1732]

Note: When butchering, I have saved rooster combs and cooked them for period recipes, however, I found it more for garnish than adding anything substantial to the dish.



Young Captain Robert Rogers

Gary Zaboly, Artist and Historian

Young Captain Robert Rogers meets General William Johnson, August 1755, on the upper reaches of the Hudson (the northern end of what would soon become Rogers' Island at left). Johnson reads a letter of introduction from New Hampshire Colonel Joseph Blanchard, recommending the frontiersman Rogers "as a person well acquainted with the haunts and passes of the enemy, and the Indian method of fighting." As Johnson's army advances on the military road cut through a stand of white pine, typical of the region around Lake George, Rogers and his tired rangers wait. To the right of Johnson are two of his Mohawk war chiefs, and a white officer serving among the Indians,



Duly Noted

BACKGROUND

The Rangers of Major Rogers Companies performed various duties for the British army. Scouting was foremost as was information gathering, obtaining prisoners, and keeping the French occupied with their movements. They also were escorts and many times guards for both Provincial and Regular soldiers. They protected Work crews that gathered Spruce, built Bateaux, cut firewood, or made roads. It was the Ranger presence and safety provided by them that allowed this work to progress. These Duly Noted writings attest to their value.

January 20th, 1759

General order-Quebec. Under Colonel Murray

Spruce drinks having been brewed from branches and twigs are deliver'd to the hospitals. This drink, found to be beneficial to the sick and those in scorbutic stages. This time of year the disorder prevails among the troops and populase. Ordered to be given to all the troops and sick as presarvitive against disease. Daily brewing of Spruce will continue until the disease abates.

Take 5 gallons of water. Put seven pounds of loaf sugar, and one pound spruce tips in a pot. Add 1 pint molasses. Boil and skim 2 times. Remove spruce tips. Put into another pot and when cool add 1/2 pint yeast. Allow to stand for 3 or 4 days. Pour into a cask and bung. Store for another week.



FAUX JOURNAL of an Ensign

INTRODUCTION: In these troubling times, we find rumor and false news headlines are commonplace. That being said, the editor and publisher decided that a little humor every now and then would bring a smile to everyone's face. So we agreed to put this article in our Journal based on the antics of members of the New York Company. The Publisher (Thomas Pray) has a gift with words so we hope you enjoy these short stories.

March 20, 1760

Sable River

This day we did tarry the morn repacking. Long narrow valley of sand and flat land surround'd by steep hills for 6 more miles. River shallow. No batto could travel lest dragged up. No sign of French or Sauvage. A few tracks of deer.but naught else. Privates Millard and Skellen along with Sgt Coirin on advance ahead of main party. Good men to have. A Sergant position for both or more should Space occur I am sure. Their merit must be seen and the same with Sgt Coirin to advance. Many are the good who elect to other regiments.bend after bend in this torturous river. Capt Knitis and his on other side advance slow. Mid day we stop in a valley with steep sand banks on the North and mountains close on East side. The river filled more with boulders. Capt. Zaboly draws the valley as we have a repast of cheese. I had sav'd my chocolate and it did refresh me more. This would be good land if not skulked by French and Sauvages though no sign other then the abundant camp. The river shallow. captain Knitis and Sgt Green with party join and remark of hardness of travelled on East side. It is decid'd to stay together. We pass to where river now Forks.

We build shelters for night. Capt Knitis and Capt. Zaboly tell us West branch is Capt. Tutes last year route . They plan to send a party East though to explore a few miles. Capt. Zaboly draws more and shows me the wonders he has produced by charcoal and quill. One can turn the pages and travel our journey and still sit by a fire with food and drink suffering no aches. He tells me someday people will revisit here and follow these maps but we must win this War to throw out the meddlesome French for the Sauvages wouldst be manageable if not for them. Bread, beefe and rice over meal. I put some powder' ginger in my Rum to ease my ache. A button lost from a pocket and a missing flint . Thus ends this nothing special day.

Ensign Thomas Pray

March 21st 1760

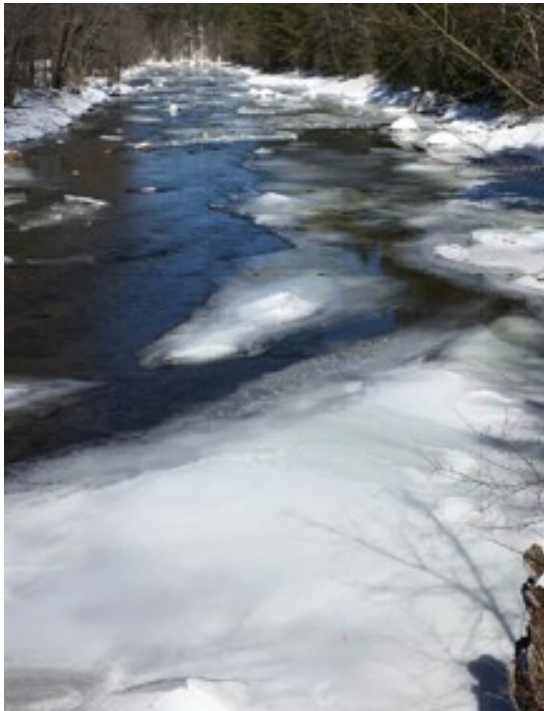
The Sable River Forks

Whilst the rest of the party rests and taries on the West Branch of the Sable River I , with Sgt Green, and the Privates Millard and Evans are sent up the East channel ordered to explore for no more then five Myles. Capt. Zaboly gives me quill, ink, and parchment paper of three pieces. I am ordere'd to record what I see and draw any points of interest. We proceeded. The river shallow and narrow filled with boulders. Ice breaking up

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Ensign Thomas Pray



so we travel high sand bank then rock ledges and along river edge. At midday we have travelled 3 miles and see nothing changed. Sand banks in valley, more boulders and river still shallow. A meadow on west side. River must flood and wash away any growth. I send private Millard to West Bank beyond meadow to view ahead. He reports the river goes straight into a wide valley. We continue. What to draw and report but trees, boulders, and sand

Rest at five miles in valley surrounded by mountains. A meal of parch' corn and some tuff dried beef. Pvt Evans remarked maybe Capt Zaboly was rite about eaten bark off a tree-this beef is hard und dry. Still we eat it for there is naught else. We return wet and tired for the day is warm and the snow melts. All have wet socks, leggings, and moccasins to dry. Having fallen some of us have wet breeches also. We return near dark to find the others boiling a deer soop. We had herd no musket shot but were told Sgt Coirín and Private Skellen had found it fresh dron'd and frozen by the river edge. They had Britt the haunches back. Some meat bein broiled on sticks some in soop. Capt. Knitis reminded us that soops were better for our health but Capt. Zaboly says this meat on a stick taste healthy even more.. We laff heartily for as rankin officer that is approved and we'd set to eatin and drying clothes. Half naked but in a blanket and long shirt with meat in ouer hands and grease on ouer faces. There is plenty of soop and more chocolate with Rum.. A good day for all.

March 22 1760

Camp at Forks of Sable River

This day I find my moccasins Dry but shrunk'd and stiff. I will have to wear my shoes but tyed for the right one buckle broke. My leggings dried as did my beeches. Sgt Green has two small fires to boil with a kettle of water on one. The other already in ashes banked and a flat rock at the bottom. Private Millard cuts ginger on another flat river stone. They take a mug of water and two of flour and mix. To this in a tin bowl is added half a cone of sugar and Capt. Knitis pours in some Molassis. Then three spoons of white ash from the fire and a hunk of crumbl'd stale bread. All mixed and set next to fire. They do this twice and when each bowl has risid they shape into loafs and lay on the stone covering with hot aches. Some tea in linen bag in kettle. Thins strips of meat hang from a rammer skewer' bubbling with fat drip-p'd. We set about our day. Some to stay here and others to proceed up the West branch to pick the next camp. Capt. Zaboly drawin the kettle and fire and when I ask why he replies it is habit to practice thusly. He then draws private Millard at the fire with a mug of tea. A likeness well done. Others wipe rust from weapons using fat from the deer. Almost gone haunches last not long amongst hungry bellies. Not much but bones left. Some working on setting their packs. Capt Knitis sends Out to replace the guards. Nothing to note. Sgt Green brushes back the ashes and two nice loads of warm bread have rose well. Brushed off the ash he cuts two slices for each of us. I have no butter left a last piece of chocolate. Wrapt in a warm slice like the finest cake ever. I take a mug of warm water and set to working the stiffness out of the moccasins. Sgt Coirín gives me a sooon full of bear fat from a tin and Work it into the leather., he saying not too close to the fire for French may smell the Bear grease and come running for breakfast and we just don't have Enuff. It starts to rayne and Capt. Zaboly says we will wait till it clears. This gives all of us time to set ourselves. Capt. Knitis orders Sgt Coirín, myself and Privates Hauck, Skellen, Millard, and Evans to accompany Capt Zaboly at his leisure. Capt Knitis noting for days no sign of French or Savage allows us a pipe. Sgt Green, Private Skellen, and I share a bowl each of Virginia tobacco with some dried Sumac and nutmeg mix'd. old and biting it still is a pleasure. We await Orders as I write

Ensign Thomas Pray



Battalion Archive



Battle on Snowshoes Jaeger

June 1976: Major John C. Jaeger and Sergeant Timothy J. Carlson at the March 13, 1758 Battle on Snowshoes marker, on the golf course of the Ticonderoga Country Club.

Photo supplied by Gary Zaboly,
Artist, Historian



MORE CURRENCY

Submitted by Ensign Thomas Pray
Schroth's New York Company

We always read or hear about payment to the troops and Rangers BUT what did it look like. This is an example of the currency that the troops would have been paid with.



Goodbye to a Friend

In 1997, negotiations were made with the AuSable Chasm Company for one of their 19th century Guide boats.

A large Spring washout flood in 1995 had destroyed all cables on the river tour and rebuilding would be in the millions of dollars so the boats were shelved in a boathouse stacked three high in four berths. The Company went to using large rafts. I asked about purchasing one and after explaining why I wanted it was very pleased when they donated it and trailer to me.

A year of changing a few things later she (Prudence) was ready. The original plans for the building of her were 18th century Whaleboat so not much needed to be done. Launched in 1999 she came into Schroth's New York Company service a year later in 2000. From that time till 2017 she served well at Oswego, Crown Point, Ticonderoga, Point au Fer, Plattsburgh, Basin Harbor, Lake Champlain and Otter Creek. She also explored part of the Ausable River. From the French & Indian War to the War of 1812 her presence was known. She served as part of History Tours of America adventures. Sailors, 46 Regiment of Foot, 60th Regiment of Foot, Batteau-men, Rangers, and more served on her. For the Battalion, members of the New York, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, & Mississippi fought aboard.

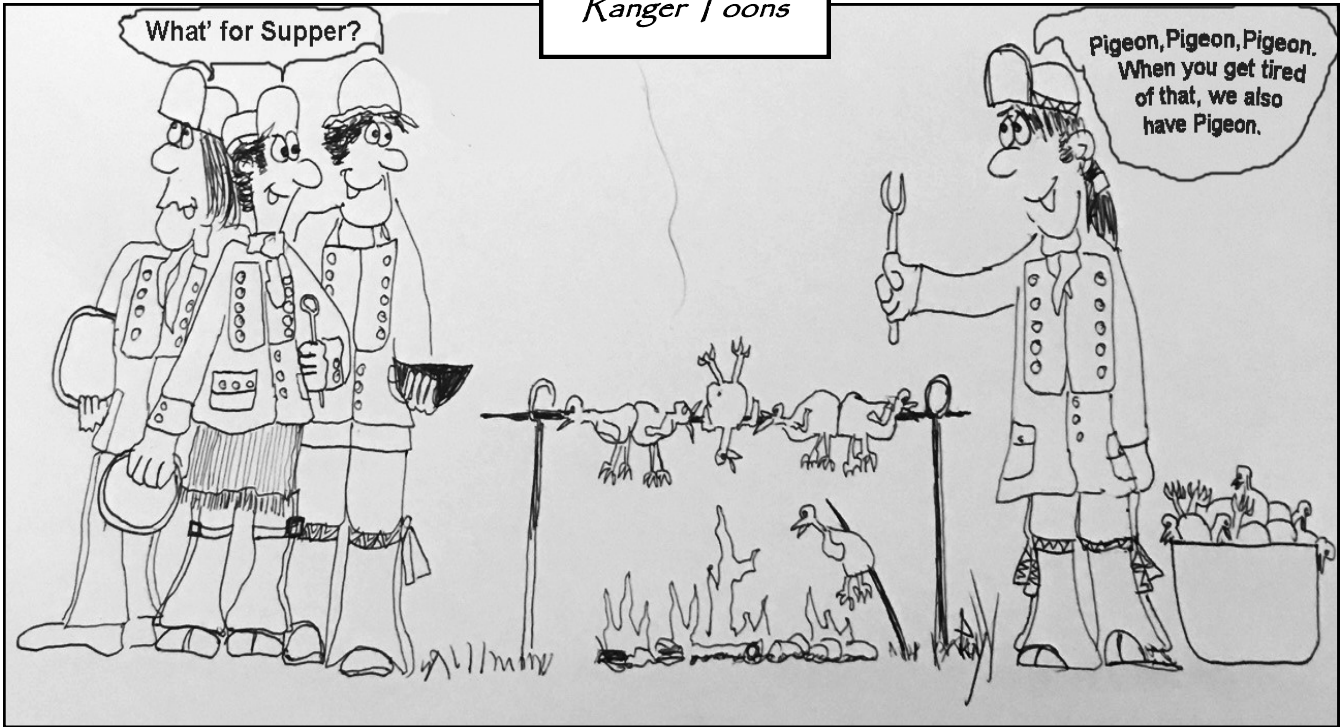
In 2017 she took ill and her fighting days were over. Goodbye to a great comrade and thank you for the memories. They are many and grand. 17 great year.

Huzzah,
Ensign Thomas Pray
New York Company





Ranger Toons



The Battalion Journal
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