



The BATTALION JOURNAL

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



Nº 90

Winter 2019

From the Adjutant's Desk

I certainly hope this finds you all well and looking forward to the end of winter. The weather had been a bit cold and snowy here in Western New York, not to forget the mass quantity of wind. I spent some time going over the volumes of company binder, trying to familiarize myself with each company. The real kicker is the amount of information contained on an external hard drive given to me by Major Blair. It reminds me of what Colonel Sink told Captain Winters when he was moved to battalion OX, "you're a solid tactician, don't worry about paperwork"....Right.

Since the fall, we've had several new members join us. I am also happy to see the number of promotions coming across my desk. Congratulations to Tabitha Dauthrich and Kyle Curtis upon their promotions to Ranger Private. Their hard work is a good sign for the future of the Battalion.

Since September we can welcome Terrence McKenna, Joshua Shores and Geno Jankowski to the Maryland Company as well as Jonathan Truax to Michigan. My apologies to anyone I may have missed.

Once again, I had the opportunity to attend this year's School of the Ranger at Ft Fredrick. We had an excellent group of cadets which included members of the Michigan, Maryland and New York companies. Always, a learning experience. Hats off Captain-Lieutenant Tramelli and Rick Seidemann and their support staff on a job well done.

I hope to see many of you at Market Fair and lets not Fort Niagara in July. And for you hardy souls, we have an opportunity to attend Fort Ticonderoga in later July. Sent me an email if interested.

Winter Event Niagara Winter Scout

Sir,

The following is a report of the recent scout made towards Fort Niagara and the ensuing action.

The day began bright and sunny while Serjeant Mathe and I continued our trek from near False Bay towards Niagara. We were able to rendezvous with Private Skellen and company near La Belle Famille. After a short break we made our way to the fort and were able to gain entry undetected. As luck would have it, the French were entertaining a group of visitors and we were able to move about freely. Entering the great castle we found the place bustling with activity. In the kitchen the French had prepared a large meal with many breads, roasted meat, puddings and soup, to which we helped ourselves. After scouting the enemies strength we decided to withdraw.

Moving just east of the fort beyond Signal Hill, we entered the woods and found a scouting party made up of Croghan's and Hosington's men. Also, we found Pvt Evans of NY Company as well as Recruit Jankowski of the Maryland Company.

After holding a war meeting it was decided that we would set an ambush along the woods road and await any

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Battalion Yahoo Group Address

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

Battalion Companies' Web Pages

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

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Renewal Information

By Jerry Knitis, Editor



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Winter Event...continued from page 1

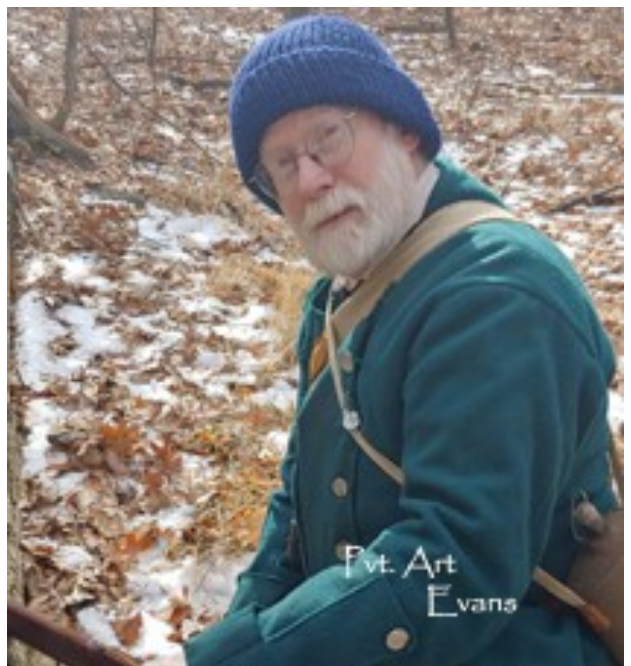
French that may come out. We were rewarded shortly as a French patrol did appear with the party of guests that we had observed earlier. French scouts stumbled into our advance pickets who gave fire and retreated to our hidden line. More French came forward to press the woods.

As they came near, our line rose up and gave a devastating volley. The French line held only briefly as they began to flee. Pressing forward on the left flank the New York company advanced in pursuit. The French soon scattered into the swampy woods. We counted five dead Frenchmen on the field.

We discovered that the party of guests were in fact prisoners taken during raids, who were under escort to Montreal. After taking time to warm up, providing them with hot drink, we withdrew from the area making our way safely home.

I submit, Your Humble Servant,
Timothy Green, Captain-Adjutant

Jaeger's Battalion Rangers Present:
Captain-Adjutant T. Green
Serjeant Stephen Mathe, NY Compy
Private Jeremy Skellen, NY Compy
Private Arthur Evans, NY Compy
Recruit Geno Jankowski, MD Compy



All these Rangers are members of Schroth's New York Company of Rangers



*In Regards to Old Fort Niagara
Clothing Standards*

I recently spoke with Bob Emerson regarding the subject authenticity standards. His main concern is the number of persons displaying costumes that do not fit the historic context of the event. Persons dressed as pirates, fairy/elf fantasy, science fiction, cosplay or steampunk, etc., simply do not fit within the OFN stan-

Clothing Standards... continued on next page

Clothing Standards - continued from previous page

dards and are not allowed.

The OFN staff conducted a review of historic material in their possession regarding period clothing and created the subject set of guidelines. Each of the individual interpretations, British, French, Native, Provincial, and Ranger, have been provided with a set of guidelines. These guidelines are presented as: Best, Better, Acceptable, Discouraged and Unacceptable. Clothing and accoutrement examples are given in each as to what is considered appropriate or not.

Previously in 2017, Fort Ticonderoga published a set of standards not unlike those of OFN. At present, Fort Frederick just recently also published similar clothing standards. Like OFN, their concern is that there are number of people attending their events, most notably Market Fair, who are not in step to the clothing policies. While we can blame some of the visiting public for this still, many participates are at fault as well.

What can we do? Basically, nothing. There will be no clothing police hunting you down and we should expect business as usual. However, look at the top paragraph and understand the guidelines. Best, Better, Acceptable, Discouraged and Unacceptable. Now look at your kit and seen where you fall.

The following are points submitted to me by Major Todish, and generally reflect requirements across the whole of Jaeger's Battalion;

1. At events which are pre-1758, no green regimentals should be worn.
2. Generic events such as Market Fair or those time specific after 1758, green regimentals are considered appropriate. Prior to such events guidelines should be issued as to clothing expectations.
3. When time and event schedule permits, a morning inspection of all Rangers on parade in full kit, under arms with packs and regimentals. Decision for the actually parade turn out should be determined by the senior officer/NCO present.
4. The uniform during the active part of the day should reflect the duties being performed as well as to take

account of the weather conditions. As before, this decision is to be made by the senior Ranger commander present or as delegated authority may be given.

5. Morning and evening Color Parades required turn out in best possible dress, underarms. Marching kit is not generally required unless directed.

If you truly have a concern, shoot me an email: captadjt@gmail.com. Major Blair and I plan to address this issue during Officer's Call at Ft Frederick Market Fair. Perhaps we can hold a more open form if needed.

Regards, Timothy C. Green, Captain-Adjutant



Duly Noted

BACKGROUND

The following quotes are taken from various sources; Journals, newspapers, diaries, etc testifying to the clothing during the 18th century. The following are submitted by Thomas Pray, Ensign; Schroth's New York Company

August 1st, 1759—Ticonderoga

Commissary Wilson's Orderly Book

Interesting that no numbers of shoes for Rangers. Possibly they were still buying out of their own pay from Suters seperate from this Supply.

Adjutant of the Day to-morrow Predeaux. As a Number of Shoes are come up, intended for the Use of the Army, and will be delivered to them at the prime Coft in England, which three Shillings and six Pence per Pair. The Regiments may receive in the following Manner and Proportion, or as many of that Proportion as they like to take by applying to Mr. Tucker, agent to Mr. Kilby at the Landing Place.

Royall, 384	Grenadiers, . . . 288
Forbes, 276	Light Infantry, . 288
Inniskilling, . . 276	Gages, 276
Royal Highlands 366	Royal Artillery, 056
Predeaux, . . . 276	3000
Montgomerys, . . 514	

The Quartermasters must pay for them at the above rate, and each Corps may immediately send and receive the Numbers they want, each Corps to send an Officer and a Partie with Arms to escort the People and keep proper Order. A Corp^l and 6 Men to mount on the Provisions

Duly Noted - continued on next page

Duly Noted - continued from previous page

More shoes to be given out in same amount as before. No Rangers listed. Perhaps they could purchase those not done so by regulars but no order for such.

Wilson's Orderly book

As there are three thousand Pair of Shoes arraved at Ticonderoga which are for the Use of the Troops, at 3^s and 6^d per Pair, and are to be deliverd to the Regiments in the same Manner as by the Order of the 31st July, each Corps will send a Return to Major of Brigade Moniepenney of the Number they chuse to take that they may be sent for accordingly.

The below entry from a Boston newspaper describes so of the clothing worn. This article was submitted by Ensign Thomas Pray.

February 26, 1756

The Boston Weekly News-Letter

Extract of a letter from an Officer at Fort Cumberland in Nova-Scotia Dated February 6, 1756.

Col. Scott having fitted out a Party of Men in the same Dress of the Canadians and Indians, which party, Ensign Brewen commanded, being 30 they seyt out after a Snow fell towards Memramcook, and had not gone far in that Road before he met with thre Acadians, who came to him imaging them to be one of teir own Parties, and would have taken fix more immediately, but by the Eagerness of the Serjeant who fired, discovered the Wolf; therefore to return without other Success.

These Prisoners upon Examination acquainted Col. Scott, That Monsieur Beaushebere, Mon. De Ber Ville and 15 Regulars with 18 Canadians and about 300 Indians with their Families to the Number of 1000 were assembled at Shediac (opposite the Isle of St. Jon) to live upon the Cattle of the Country.

That Monsieur Beaushebere were preparing to come with a Party to fall upon our People when getting their Wood. Upon which, Col. Scott purpose'd going to visit M. Beauhebere; whereupon all the Taylors were employed in making Indian Stockings, Cafes for their Firelocks, Mittens, and Waistcoats, and the French Prisoners in making Mogasons [moccasins]. When our Preparations were about two Thirds completed. A deserter came to us, (a German who had been one of the first at Halifax) who acquainted us of M. Beauhebere's being marh'd with

about 130 Indians, and that he came with Certainty of Success, as he had sent a Party 10 Days before to reconnoiter, who had it in their Power alone (as they reported) to have kill'd 50 of our Men; but their Orders were not to discover themselves. The Deserter assur'd us that he knew the very Place where M. Beauhebere would halt, and that he would lead a Party directly upon him in the Night.

This to us was welcome News; and was immediately resol'd upon to set outwith 350 Men which Col. Scott himself went to command. We began our March at 11 o'clock, and thro' as bad a Road as was ever march'd being half Leg deep al the way in Snow Water; We got to the wish'd for Place just before dawn, but to our breat Mortification there nono Enemy there; and by the hurry and eagerness of our Front who first came to the House where we imagin'd they were and fir'd a Platoon which making an Alarm, we concluded it would be in vain to seek furthers. We made Fires there and refresh'd our Men, and in two Hour set out upon our return; but we had scarce quite the Woods with our Rear when they set up their Yell and gave us Fire which our brave New-England Men quickly return'd and answer'd their Cry; and the whole facing about pursued them into the Woods, but to little Purpose.



More on Winter Accoutrements (Creepers—Part 1)

Written by Capt/Lt Jerry Knitis
From Senior Ranger Paper

INTRODUCTION

An ice creeper is a metal frame, that has spikes protruding downward, that is attached to the bottom of a shoe or moccasin instep to prevent slipping when traveling on foot over slippery surfaces such as ice. In cold climates, winter travel into the backcountry is usually done on foot. To travel into this environment, the person used waterways to travel since they are flat and usually free of deep snow. In order to navigate on these slippery surfaces, one used the ice creepers for improved traction.

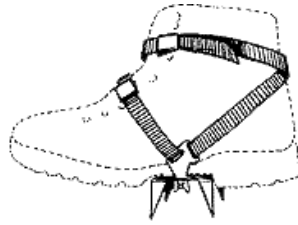
During the 18th century, iron was the material of choice to construct the creepers. Captain John Knox

Creepers - continued on next page

Creepers-continued from previous page

describes the ice creepers that were used during the French and Indian War.

It froze, thawed, snowed, rained and froze again. Soft dropping weather today, fell heavy rain at



night. Open weather, with rain; at noon a snow storm; it froze hard at night. Most severe weather with an intense frost, and the snow flies in thick drifts the ground is become so slippery that it is dangerous to stir out of doors: the troops, throughout this province, are obliged to have recourse to various expedients to prevent meeting with accidents by falling: Some by wearing coarse stockings over their shoes, with an additional sole or two, of thick frize or other woolen cloath; some wear moggosans; and others again use what are by us termed creepers, which are an invention calculated for the hallow of the foot, that buckles on like a spur; it is a small plate of iron an inch broad, with two ears that come up on both sides of the shoe between the ankle and instep, with a stud on each of them, for leathers: from the two extremities are four stout points turned downward, to the length of two thirds of an inch, which, by the weight of the person who wears them, are indented in the ice, this contrivance is actually necessary, and prevents many fatal falls”¹

Today the creepers are made of other metals such as steel (a by product of iron), aluminum, etc. Today, in the 21st century, ice creepers are called 4/6-point instep crampons.

The method of fastening the instep crampon to your boot is similar to the method used in the 18th century to fasten the ice creepers to your moccasin or shoe. (See *drawing at right*). The difference in the crampons (creepers) of today from those in the 18th century are the type of material used to make the creeper, the process of manufacturing the creeper, and small changes in design for fastening the creeper to the shoe or boot.

In addition, the cost of reproduction ice creepers is between ten and twenty dollars (\$10.00 - \$20.00) depending on where you purchase them.

HISTORY OF ICE CREEPERS:

Whatever their origins, around the year 1 A.D., northern groups of people near the Bering Strait began to develop more sophisticated techniques for hunting and migrated over the Bering Land Bridge to what is known as Alaska today. One such group of hunters was the Yupiks.

These people settled along the channels and deltas of

the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. The Yupik moved seasonally between summer fishing camps, fall hunting camps, spring trapping camps, and permanent winter homes. For much of the year, the people traveled over frozen rivers, lakes, and trails. They had flatbed sleds constructed from driftwood and fitted with ivory or baleen runners. They pulled these sleds by hand. Wood or ivory ice creepers (see creepers on page 7) and a pointed staff helped the people to maintain their footing on the ice.²

The ice creeper developed amongst Native American tribes as well as in the northern climates of Europe and Asia. In the 18th century, we find both the French and British soldiers are equipped with creepers for winter use even though warfare was wage very limitedly during the cold months.

RANGERS USE

During the winter months, the rangers put on snowshoes, ice creepers and even ice skates to ease their traveling, and penetrated deep into French-held territory to conduct successful raids and counter the French irregular forces that also remained active during the winter. The ice creepers were an important part of their equipment during the winter campaign. In the book *Battle on Snowshoes*, the author describes in detail the equipment that the rangers carried on their winter scouts. “Packs and Haversacks were carried on the Ranger’s back on the left side and would contain his food rations, personal items, ice skates, and ice creepers. (Ice creepers could be attached with leather thongs to the bottom of shoe, moccasins, or snowshoes...”³

The rangers tied the creepers to their moccasins, which were preferred over shoes, when going onto an icy waterway and removed them when exiting. They also attached them to their snowshoes if the terrain on which they were snowshoeing were icy or slippery. This method is noted in the following passage:

On the third day of the patrol, 12 March 1758, the listening posts were brought in and the march resumed at sunrise, the rangers moving in extended order up the lake, using ice creepers on their feet, snowshoes stowed on their packs. Rogers kept the men close to the east bank so as to minimize observation on the lake.

About three miles up the lake, the point spotted a dog running across the ice. Rogers immediately pulled his party into the fur trees along the east shore and sent a small reconnaissance party forward to investigate the islands that lay just ahead because of

Creepers- continued from previous page

the possibility of ambush. Everyone knew that dogs frequently accompanied parties of Indians. Ranger Historian Burt Garfield Loescher suggests that the lost dog may actually have belonged to the war party of fifteen Indians that attacked a local patrol near Fort Edward on the morning of 12 March 1758. Rogers was taking no chances. His recon party returned with a negative report. Nevertheless Rogers ordered ice creepers removed, snowshoes donned, and took his force into the woods where they moved parallel to the east shore of the lake as far north as Sabbath Day Point on the opposite side.⁴

There have been examples of ice-creepers found at many French and Indian War sites, especially Rogers' Island (see images on the right).

In the next issue of **The Battalion Journal**, we will describe how to make a set of Ice Creepers for your use on winter patrols.

Endnotes:

1. Knox, Capt. John "HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF CAMPAIGNS in NORTH-AMERICA, FOR THE YEARS 1757, 1758, 1759 and 1760: Vol 1" p 101 – 102
2. **Alaska History and Cultural Studies; Southwest Alaska; The Sea, A Common Bond**
 URL: <http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=93>
 Date accessed: Not available online anymore
3. Bearor, Bob "Battle on Snowshoes" Chapter 5, page 17
4. This excerpt was taken from Joseph Meany's article "Frigid Fury". The article was written and published for the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center. This information is found in the section labeled "The Patrol".
5. The description here is a synopsis of blacksmithing principals done by Glenn Conner (Blackstone Forge). He created a step-by-step tutorial for a beginner on how to forge metal in the 18th century tradition.
 URL: <http://www.anvilfire.com/index.htm>
 Date: 22 March 2019



kiksak "ice creepers". Also called: ice grippers

Language: St. Lawrence Island Yupik

But back then we were using skin boots a lot, and the soles tend to get very slippery on ice sometimes. —Branson Tungjyan, 2001

Cleats (crampons) made of bone or walrus ivory are an ancient arctic invention that gave sure footing on slippery ice. On St. Lawrence Island, men wore them to launch skin boats from the ice-edge in spring.

Culture: St. Lawrence Island Yupik

Region: St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

Object Category: Travel

Object Type: Ice creepers

Dimensions: Length 30cm

Museum: National Museum of Natural History



Ranger Ice Creepers—artifacts

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."

Rogers Rules Number Seven

"If you are obliged to receive the enemy's fire, fall, or squat down, till it is over, then rise and discharge at them. If their main body is equal to yours, extend yourself occasionally; but if superior, be careful to support and strengthen your flanking parties, to make them equal to theirs, that if possible you may repulse them to their main body, in which case you push upon them with the greatest resolution with equal force in each flank and in the center, observing to keep at a due distance from each other ten or twelve yards. If the enemy push upon you, let your front fire and fall down, and let your rear advance thro' them and do the like, by which time those who were before in front will be ready to discharge again, and repeat the same alternately, as occasion shall require; by this means you will keep up such a constant fire, that the enemy will not be able to easily break your order, or gain your ground." (Rogers 57, 58)

Even with the muzzle loading firearm technology of the 18th century, most of the Rangers, as well as their French and Indian counterparts, were excellent marks-

men, and both sides could fire and reload their firelocks quickly and efficiently. Unlike the regular troops of both the British and French armies who stood in close ranks and fired volley after volley of musket fire at each other on open ground, the French Canadians and their Native American allies would use whatever cover was available to hide behind while shooting at their exposed enemy. Robert Rogers advised his Rangers to do the same, using whatever cover they could to protect themselves from the enemy's fire, and to fall or squat down when fired at to try and protect you from the enemy's attack.

Rogers also stresses in rule number seven that you must be extremely careful when engaging the enemy. If the enemy force is equal to your own, Rogers advises his men to push at them occasionally with equal resolution in the center and on the flanks.

Often a strong push against the enemy, while maintaining a constant fire against you them, might allow you to break their formations and cause them to retreat. If the enemy force is superior to your own, you must be careful to protect your own flanks in case the enemy tries to make an offensive push against your formation or position. If your flanks are not protected, the enemy can overwhelm you on the sides, and possibly surround your party.

If the enemy does attempt to push upon your force, Rogers advises his men to have one half of his men fire at the enemy, then fall down and let the remainder advance through the formation and discharge their firelocks at the enemy. After the second half of the party had passed through and fired, the first half should be reloaded and ready to advance and discharge their firelocks again.

By doing this you will always have one half of your party loaded and covering the enemy as you push them back under a constant fire. This type of withering fire will most likely stop anything but a vastly superior force from gaining your position, breaking your formations, and defeating your forces. A larger enemy force would also not expect a smaller force from going on the offensive

Ranger Rules - continued on next page

Ranger Rules - continued from previous page

against them, possibly causing enough confusion to cause their formations to break. The following diagrams show how to advance your troops, while maintaining one half of your party loaded and ready to fire at any given time.

Battalion application:

The Battalion should always take the time at reenactments before taking the field for a tactical demonstration or recreated battle to separate into "Fire Teams." Every two men are paired up and will communicate with each other so that both never discharge their firelocks at the same time leaving them both unloaded in the face of the enemy. This way one Ranger always has his firelock loaded and ready while the other is reloading his firelock after taking a shot at the enemy. Communication is vital between the two men in order for this to work. The men also can advance or retreat in this manner, one man firing and moving forwards or back, while the other man remains loaded and covering for his partner while he is moving or reloading. Using whatever cover is available, such as moving from tree to tree if in the woods, is always a good idea, especially for a Ranger who was known to use such tactics.

In the following diagram it shows how you should advance through the other half of the party in order to always keep one half of your force loaded at all times. This is usually done in two ranks, but with practice it could be done in a woods setting, or other types of terrain. The placement of your officers and NCOs' is vital to the success of such a maneuver. If performing this in two ranks, the NCO should be in the first position of the right side of the first rank, with a junior officer such as a lieutenant or ensign in the last position on the left. The second rank should also have a NCO and a junior officer in the same location if such officers are available, and if not, a trusted Ranger can assume this duty. By having an officer and a NCO anchor both ends of the line your communication and movements should be much more fluid

and concise. The officer in overall command would an order such as this:

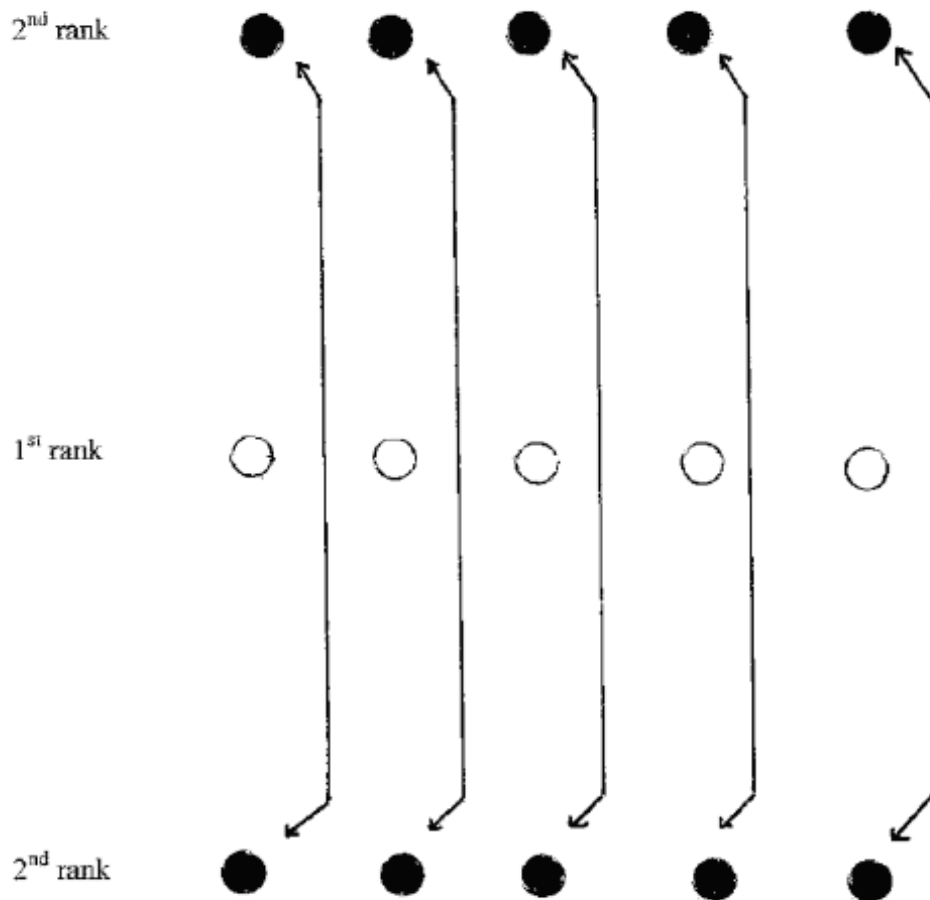
- 1. "Second rank advance 10 paces through the front rank."*
- 2. The second rank NCO would order the rank to "spring up and advance 10 paces."*
- 3. The men will move through the first rank on the right side of their fire team partner directly in front of them. It is important that we always pass on the right side of the man in front of you to avoid any collisions between the ranks as the movement is proceeding. When the second rank advances the men should move in step with the NCO and the officer on the left to ensure that the rank stays in line. These two officers dictate the speed of the advance.*
- 4. When the second rank reaches their spot 10 paces forward the NCO commands them to halt and take a knee to lower their silhouette to the enemy.*
- 5. If, and only if the first rank is loaded and ready, can the NCO of the second rank order his men to fire. This will be done by a direct command of, "make ready," "present," and "fire." After firing the men should immediately begin to reload unless ordered not to. When you have reloaded bring your firelock to the recover position so your officers can visually see that everyone is ready by the position of their firelock.*
- 6. When everyone is loaded and at the recover position the second rank NCO should call out to the first rank that they are loaded and ready.*
- 7. If ordered to do so, the first rank can now advance through the second as done before and take up a new position putting pressure on the enemy while maintaining a constant fire and one half of the party loaded and ready at all times.*



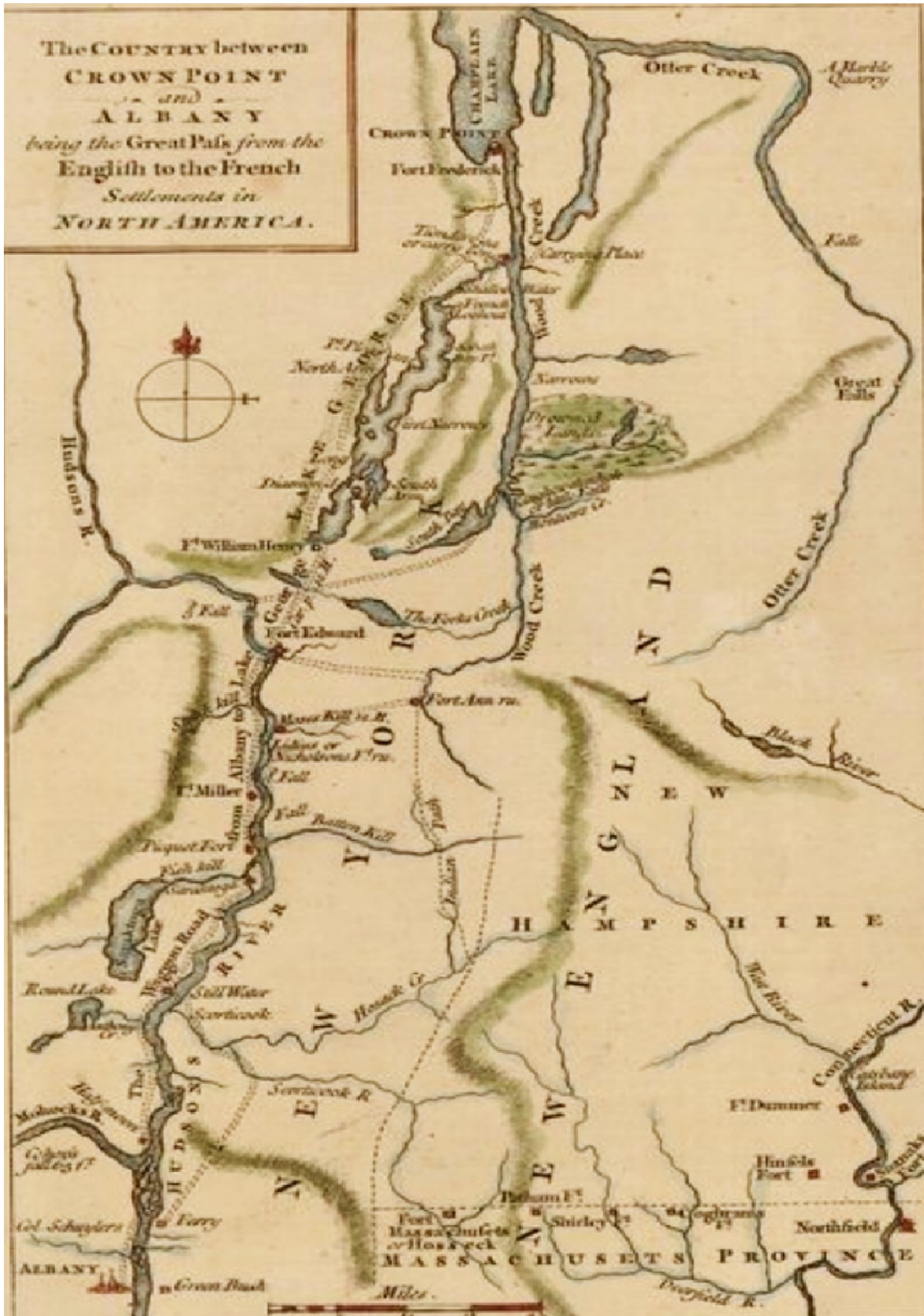
Ranger Rules - continued on next page

Rogers Rules # 7

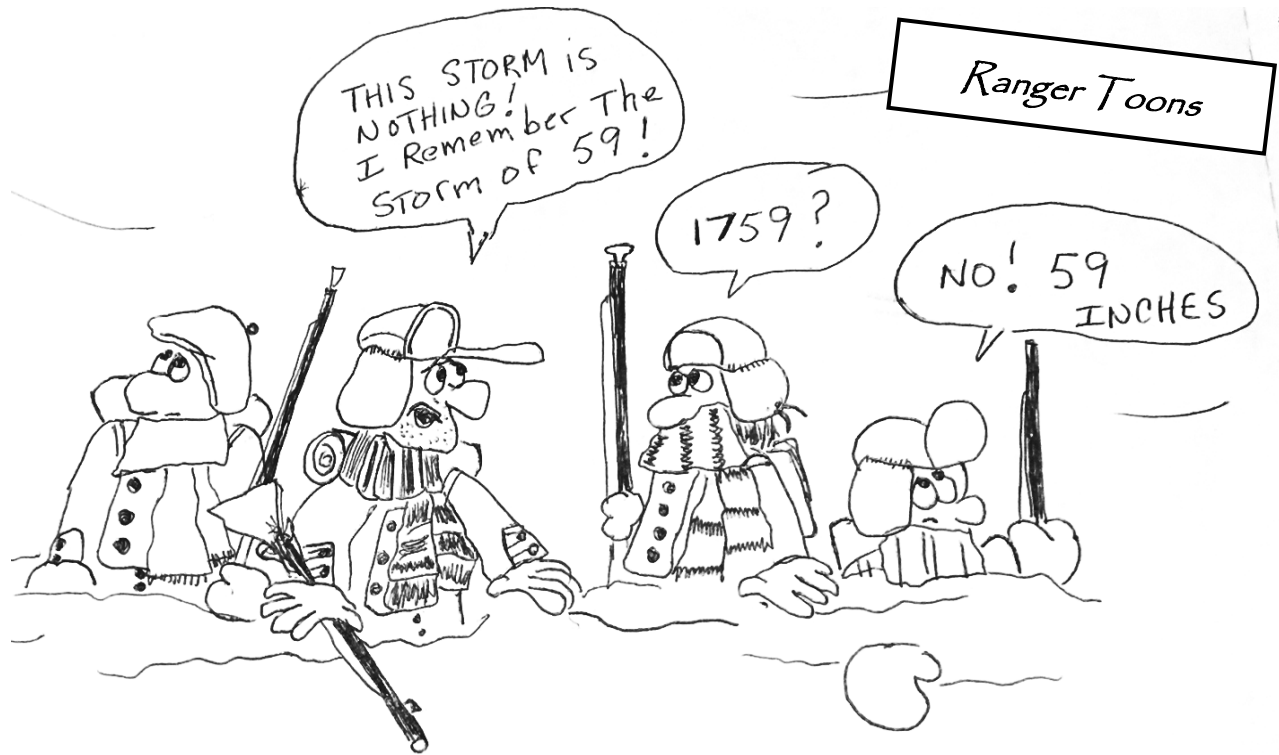
Maintaining a constant fire against your enemy by advancing by alternate ranks, keeping one half of your forces loaded at all times.



One rank is always loaded in reserve as the other rank advances against the enemy.



Campaign Map 1755-1758



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