



# The BATTALION JOURNAL

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



N<sup>o</sup> 94

Vol. 2020-01

1740 FOWLER, 62 CAL-SCRATCHBUILD

RECEIVE THE BATTALION JOURNAL

## INTRODUCTION

During the 18th century, muskets were all hand made by skilled craftsmen. The cost of a musket could be a year's income. If a musket failed or broke, the owner might use parts from another musket to repair it.

This series of articles will depict, for the most part, construction of a musket as it might have been done in that time period. The gentleman, Paul Meier of Schroth's New York Company, who is building the musket has built several kits and is now trying to advance his skills. He has most graciously offered his notes and photos to the Battalion Journal for publication.

We hope to provide our readers with a new serial on scratch building musket parts and then the final assembly of the musket. Some may want to make these parts to customize their muskets to making them more like the originals instead of today's cookie cutter version.

## THE START

by Pvt. Paul Meier  
Schroth's New York Company

(January 30, 2020)

I (Paul Meier) will be building a 62 caliber 1740 English style fowler. Curly cherry stock, and brass furniture.

I want to challenge myself further. With the exception of the barrel and lock I will be making every part from scratch, including all the bolts and wood screws. The lock is a gunmakers lock which will need to be heavily customized and shaped.

## For All the Latest News of Jaeger's Battalion

The Official Newsletter of Jaeger's Battalion Offers - News, Stories of Interest, and the Latest Dispatches from the 18th Century.

Publisher Thomas Pray (Ensign, New York Company) and Editor Jerry Knitis (Capt./Lt., New York Company) are pleased to announce the publication of the Battalion Journal, the Newsletter of Jaeger's Battalion is now electronic delivery and free to all. Oh!, it is also in color.

The Journal is the only complete resource for information about Jaeger's Battalion, including calendars of events, news from the Companies, articles on how to be a better Ranger, and more.

The Journal is printed quarterly, giving you the latest news four times a year. We encourage **ALL** to give the Battalion Journal a try.



In each issue you'll find:

- Important Dispatches from Major Blair and Captain Green.
- The latest in News from the Companies
- Important articles on how to improve your portrayal of a Ranger
- Classifieds for your Ranger-related goods
- Book reviews and articles on food and clothing
- Quarterly articles on food, clothing and gear

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**Sad News**

Gerry Orvis had died on Wednesday, April 1st, from complications associated with a heart attack and possibly the corona virus. Many of you knew Gerry, who would always visit with us at the Market Faire to share a drink or two, dressed in his Culloden/Jacobite attire.



You may also recognize Gerry performing our 1757 Manual of Arms on film, produced by myself, of which eventually over 2000 copies made available on DVD to living history French & Indian War units in order that

everyone would be on the same page in our military drill of the period. It was Gerry who originally did much of the research (in consultation with Bob Starzinsky, then commander of the 42nd Regiment of Foot, (the famous "Black Watch" as well as being commander of the then 77th Regiment of Foot, or "Montgomery's Highlanders") to determine exactly what Manual of Arms the troops at Fort Edward, including Rangers, would be using in 1757.

All of that extensive research and Gerry's performance of the drill, coupled with what little I contributed with overall organization and content—and hand and foot positioning—produced what has become the standard Drill for the French and Indian War living history community. Gerry was an outstanding and well-read historian, a

*Sad News... continued on next page*

*Sad News... continued from page 2*

great drinking companion—where one could talk history with him for hours on end—and a good friend to us all. Shortly after the Manual of Arms was produced, Gerry became an Honorary Member of the Virginia Company and Jaeger's Battalion.

Gerry is to be interred in his hand-picked ammo can at Quantico National Cemetery, date uncertain at this time. I'll be happy to forward any additional information as it becomes available. RIP Gerry.

Submitted by Randy Flood, Captain; Virginia Company  
Photo of Gary supplied by Bonnie Watson

**More Sad News**

I have some very sad news to report. Jaeger's Battalion member Mark Romitus, of our Pennsylvania Company, has passed away from the corona virus. He was retired from the Pittsburgh Police Department and was currently serving as chief of the

Ambridge, PA Police Department. Please keep Mark and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Submitted by Major Tim Todish, retired, Michigan Company  
Photo submitted by Darylee Foertsch, Mississippi Company

**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 logs, 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.

The following has been submitted by Major George Bray, Bray's Company of Rogers Rangers

(Part of a Letter from the Camp at Lake George dated July 10.)

*"We sent out a scout of 30 Indians, under Captain Jacobs, three days ago, who after having reconnoitered Ticonderoga, on their return were 3 in the First Narrows pursued by 7 bark canoes, and only 11 of the party are yet come in; the rest, we fear, are either killed or taken prisoners."*

(Weyman's New York Gazette, July 16, 1759)

*"From Albany we learn, that . . . six of Colonel Schuyler's men, Captain Jacobs, and three Indians are carried to Ticonderoga."*

(Weyman's New York Gazette, July 30, 1759)

*"By letters from New-York, dated June 30, we learn that they had advice from Albany, That Major Rogers had burnt a small town called Teresa, and taken 35 men prisoners. The woman and children he let go where they pleased, with their bedding and some necessaries.*

*That when the news of this affair was carried to Montreal, it occasioned much consternation, as they imagined it was done by the vanguard of General Amherst's army. That two deserters who left Montreal the 19th of June related, that every thing there was in great disorder; that the commanders were far from being on a good understanding, blaming each other as the cause of their present misfortunes.*

*These deserters also said that the Indians had suffered much in the affair with Major Rogers near the Isle aux Noix, insomuch that on their return to Montreal, they went home to a man, to do honour to their departed friends, not all the French could do being able to prevail upon them to stay: this circumstance was kept by M. Levi and the officers as secret as possible from the French at Montreal. That there was a great scarcity of provisions of all kinds except bread at Montreal; a bushel of salt was sold for 25 L. sterling, and a gallon of brandy for 42 livres. That most of the sensible people gave up Canada as lost, notwithstanding M. Levi's boasts that he would fight the first English army that should make*

*DULY NOTED... continued on next page*

*DULYNOTED*- continued from previous page

*its appearance. That the inhabitants about Montreal were greatly alarmed with a report that Sir William Johnson was coming down into their country with 3000 Indians."*

(From the Royal Magazine, August 1760, pp. 105-106.)

(New London Summary or Weekly Advertiser, September 19, 1760)

(New York, September 15, 1760)

*"On the 29th Major Rogers took a grenadier of Berry's Regiment, at St. John's, who says, that French were gathering all the troops at Montreal, to make a capitulation, That General Murray had landed on the island of Montreal at Pointe Aux Tremble, and that Colonel Haviland and his troops were the 30th, between St. John's and La Prairie."*



The following has been submitted by Ensign Thomas Pray, Schroth's New York Company of Rangers

August 4, 1759

*"Sent Mr Rogers on the other side the Lake to see for best place for cutting timber to erect the Fort. Gave him leave to shoot deer; he killed three and Seven Bears."*

General Jeffery Amherst



Commissary Wilson's Orderly Book

August 17, 1759

*"10 Rangers and 15 of Gages, fifteen of the Light Infantry of regiments to assemble tomorrow at revallie beating at the left of the Light Infantry; a Sergt to command each of these corps, if a subaltern Officer chuse to command each corps the Commanding Officer may send them; they are to go a Hunting on the other side the Lake, and obey such orders as they shall receive from Major Rogers. A Sergeant and ten Grenadiers to go over at the same Time and remaine as a Guard to the Boats till Major Rogers returns; the whole to take a days provisions with them. If two officers of the Light Infantry and two of the Grenadiers chuse to go a Hunting the Commanding officer May permit them."*



The following has been submitted by Capt./Lt. Jerry Knitis, Schroth's New York Company of Rangers

(Journals of Jeffery Amherst)

August 14th, 1760

*"The Lt of Rangers that I sent to Col Haldimand with a Letter returned & could not find him. I wrote back to Col Haldimand & sent Lt Rogers\* who arrived in the night & the Lt of Rangers with him. About ten I ordered the General to beat. Rowed in three Columns, the Artillery on the Right, Regulars on the Left, Provincials in the Center . . . Rowed about 15 miles & encamped on Haldimand's Island, arriving in pretty good time, it continued raining most of the night. I ordered the Regulars to receive provisions at break of day & the whole to be ready to move on the beating of the General. The lake with a variety of Islands is so very different from what is laid down in the C(h)art, that it cannot in the least be a Guide. I had sent Capt Wilyamos & one other officer on purpose to view the properest Route which is a great help to the Army proceeding down."*

\* George Rogers



*1740 Fowler Build... continued from page 1.*

I have spent the past 6 months collecting materials. Pictured are: curly cherry billet (2.1 x 10.5 x 66), brass (sheet & rod), steel (sheet & rod), Rice 62 cal octagon to round smooth bore barrel (36 inch), left hand gunmakers flintlock, 3/8 hickory dowel, coin silver, and pewter.

I have spent time studying what I will need to know, but many of the skills I will need to make this gun I have never done before. I'm a bit intimidated, but also excited. If it wasn't hard then it wouldn't be fun.



The parts for the musket as compiled by Paul. Photo taken by Paul Meier.

**Basic Layout of the Stock**

(February 3, 2020)

Made my giant piece of graph paper with two pieces of poster board and began my scale drawing.

Things looking a bit off in the tang and wrist area, and about time for a break anyway, so stopping here.

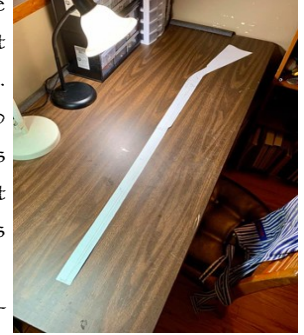
Dramatic shift from the last gun kit I assembled as the bore size is almost double. I'm sure that is playing into my issue in the drawing.

I have a slightly larger margin between the ramrod hole and both the barrel and bottom of the gun than many do, but no larger than on that last gun. (1/4 inch instead of 1/8.) I like the extra safety when drilling the ramrod hole.



Have the rough profile drawn and cut out, ready to trace to the wood.

The pattern is not exactly as the gun will be, but what I need for cutting. For example, I left the full thickness of the ramrod, but will be less than half when done, but that is only after I drill the hole. I also may shorten the comb and the ramrod hole, but excess wood is better than not enough, and those decisions can be made later.



In many ways this was easier than the last gun, not only due to experience, but the major decisions are already known, such as: length of pull, drop, and butt plate angle.

I did not draw in the lock, butt plate, or trigger guard. I haven't made them yet so size and shape are not yet known, and at this moment don't matter. I did however mark the critical spots like touch hole and sear bar.

Top view not drawn yet, but also not needed yet.

*(More articles to come in future issues)*

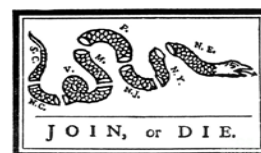
*Battalion Journal - continued from page 1*

- The latest research into the life, times and equipment of the Rangers
- Stories on life in the 1750s

The Battalion Journal is your Newsletter. We encourage you to send us your articles and any other pertinent historic information you think would benefit the Battalion as a whole.

There are two ways you can get the **Journal**;

1. Send your name and email address to the editor, and the Journal will be sent to your email box every time it is printed.
2. Get it from the Battalion web site.





## 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:** "Rogers' Rules for Ranging," reprinted with permission by the article author, Matt Wulff.

### Rogers Rules Number Eleven

*"If your rear is attacked, the main body and flankers must face about to the right and left, as occasion shall require, and form themselves to oppose the enemy, as before directed; and the same method must be observed, if attacked in either of your flanks, by which means you will always make a rear of one of your flank guards." (Rogers 59)*

With the possibility of the enemy pursuing your party after a scouting into their territory, Rogers advises his Rangers to be prepared for an attack at the rear of your formation as the men make their way back to their forts or outposts. The formation should be with the men marching in a single file as advised in rule number two, with the proper flanking parties and an advanced guard. This formation would also have a strong rear guard in addition to the advanced guard and flanking parties. This is a difference from the formations Rogers has discussed in earlier rules, and shows the concern he felt would be nec-

essary to protect his men from a possible pursuit and attack in the rear of the column. When the rear is attacked, the column must face about to meet this attack, and Rogers orders that these men form in combination with the rear guard to make a strong front to meet the enemy attack. The flanking parties must also face about to the right or left and maintain their strong positions on either side of the newly formed front so that the enemy cannot press on either side of the formation and surround your party.

If the direction of the attack comes against either the right or left flank, then the main column must combine with that flanking party to form a front to meet the enemy attack. The flanking party that is now in the position of the rear guard assumes the duty of the rear guard. The flanking party which is now in the rear guard position assumes that duty as well. With the concern that the enemy will try to outflank your formation and try to surround your party, the need to maintain your rear guards and flankers is critical.

The speed at which these movements are made is another factor that cannot be stressed enough when trying to protect yourself from an attack from the rear, sides, or even directly against the front of your formation. Many of the tactics taught by Robert Rogers to his Rangers had been in use for years by other New England Rangers, and were based on tactics used by the Native Americans and Canadians. The lightning quick hit and run attacks were especially hard to defend against unless you met speed with speed. The Rangers would have to keep calm and collected as they moved quickly and efficiently to meet and defend themselves against an enemy attack. Only by fighting the enemy on their own terms would the Rangers be able to survive, and eventually defeat the French forces they faced during the course of the war.

### ***Battalion application:***

*An example of using this rule would be if your party is marching in a single file formation. You have strong flanking parties out to the left and right sides of your formation. Suddenly your rear guard is attacked.*

1. *The overall commander orders the main body to face about and form a front in combination with rear guard to face the enemy attack.*
2. *Both flanking parties face about and face the*

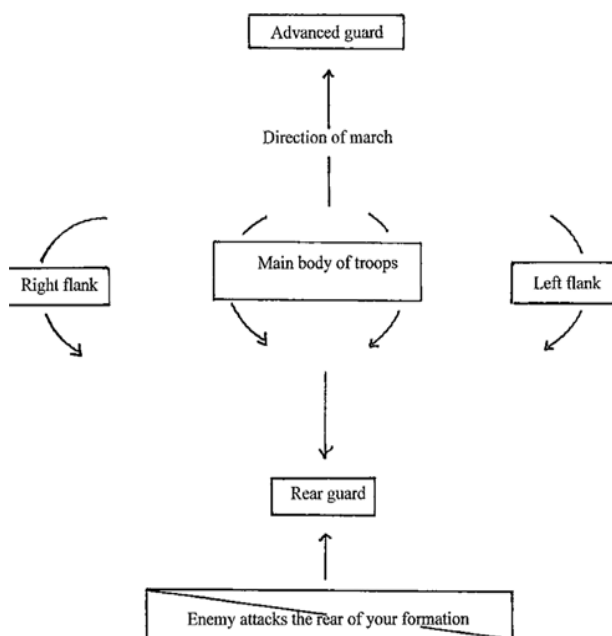
*Ranging Rules ... continued from previous page*

*enemy. The left flank is now technically the right flank, and the right is now the left.*

3. *The advanced guard now becomes the rear guard, and assumes the duties normally assigned to them such as watching the rear of the formation for any attack, or is held as a reserve in case they are needed in the front or flanks to help repel any strong attacks in these locations by the enemy.*
4. *Your force should have been divided up into fire teams before the outset of your march. This will allow your party to keep their continuous fire up against the enemy attack.*
5. *The placement of your officers and NCOs' is critical in able to hear orders during the heat and*

## Rogers Rules # 11

If your party is attacked from either of the flanks or from the rear, your formation must face about to the direction of the enemy attack, and reform your forces maintaining a strong rear guard as well as strong flanking parties to the right and left.



The rear guard now combines with the main body to form against the enemy attack. The right and left flanks face about, the left becoming the right flank, and the right becoming the left, and the advanced guard now does the duty of the rear guard

## SUSTENANCE & LIBATION

### Salt Meat

Submitted by Thomas Pray, Ensign  
Schroth's New York Company

We usually get corned beef brisket today, but in colonial times any beef could be salted for preservation. The slow moist cooking that always followed meant that some otherwise undesirable cuts of beef might be found in the brine barrel. The beef was also used more sparingly, as much as a flavoring agent as a source of protein, so nobody expected succulent slices of tender beef from the pot unless a special effort was made for a holiday meal. Huge quantities of salt beef was made and shipped from Cork and the rest of Ireland to support the instruments of the British Empire, while the hungry Irish had to content themselves with potatoes, cabbage, and a bit of streaky bacon on a good day.

During the campaigns for the reduction of French Canada the British Regulars, Colonial Provincials, and Rangers were fed by a variety of Foodstuffs. One of the main foods of the daily ration was Salted meat. Though Salted Cod was also available at times it was Beef and Pork that was mentioned most. Such meat for military use was a cornerstone of victualling as it had been used for centuries prior. Large Brine vats could be found in Taverns, Townspeople's homes and Aboard Ships. Salt Beef and Pork is simply meat that before refrigeration was preserved by immersing in a very salty brine. Today's Corned Beef Briskets are not much different then Colonial salted meat. The term Corned came from Irish use of the word corn for grain as the large coarse salt grains reminded them of barley.

Lord Chief Baron, during the French and Indian War, described the grades of beef for Salt production in a letter to a friend:

*" I had the curiosity to enquire how they dispose of all parts of the ox slaughtered for exportation, and was informed they had two methods of doing it. If it was for merchants service, the whole beef, neck as well as other coarse pieces were barrel'd up together, but if it is for the English Navy (or Army)..the necks and coarser pieces were not put into the barrel. They have a third sort which they call French Beef that is old Cows and Beeves that but half fat, which in time of Peace they*

*Sustenance ... continued from previous page*

*sell to the French. This sort of beef turns black and flabby and almost to a jelly."*

Interestingly, during the War, these barrels of French beef, no longer being sold to the French, became part of the Old Stores distributed amongst the Colonies armies. Black, blue streaked, years old, often condemned stocks were part of the rations. These barrels did often contain heads, leg bones, and other less often used parts.

Those cities producing salt beef for the Military followed a grading system. It did not grade by quality of meat but did so in age or size of animal. The system was Small Beef, Cargo Beef and Best Mess Beef. Worst grades were traded or sold elsewhere and not used in Salting yet in times of shortness of supply they would be incorporated.

And, knowing such barrels were being sent to far off lands and scrutiny of the contents not apt to be as hard, some unscrupulous practices occurred. Many a barrel had more fat and gristle than meat, more small pieces than anything of substance, more brine than beef.

The importance of the production by cities of salt preserved meat for standing or moving British forces by cities was expressed by Brigadier General John Forbes in 1758. He wrote that:

*"Salt Provisions is the sole dependence of an Army...Live Cattle does very well where you can feed them or keep them along with you with safety but where both those means fail salt provisions is our only dependence."*

A few problems plagued the preservation and distribution of the salt meat. Improperly or shoddily packed barrels were regularly discovered and many condemned or destroyed yet many times the meat would be offered about the camps to whoever would accept. If only partially spoiled sometimes the meat was utilized and salvaged by serving in soups. Blue And Black streaked somewhat rancid meat was better than nothing. There were various means of salting. Most cut the meat in 4 or 5 pound sections, rubbed salt all over, sat for days then they were packed tight in a barrel and a salty brine totally immersed it. This would keep indefinitely if properly stored but unscrupulous wagoners would drill holes in the barrels to lighten the load. Figuring the meats would be quickly consumed and this lightening not noted the

practice was rampant. Unfortunately in summer campaigns the meat would quickly become rancid. This faced Amherst in 1759 at Ticonderoga and Crown Point. Fortunately Rangers at times travelled the roads escorting fresh Beef Cattle and Sheep to feed hungry mouths plus they supplied meat foraged like Deer and Bear. Rangers fished Also. Yet, the Salt Provisions seem to be preferred as there are many complaints when not available.



Pottage

To boyle yong Peason or Beanes: First shale them and seethe them in faire water, then take them out of the water and put them into boyling milk, then take the yolks of Eggs with crums of bread, and ginger, and straine them thorow a strainer with the said milk, then take chopped parcely, Saffron and Salt, and serve it for Pottage.



*Winds of Change ... continued from previous page*

### A Brown Rago of Rabbits

Take middling rabbits, nether too young nor old. Cut them in joints, then wash them clean & flower them well. Fry them a little in boyling lard, but not too much. Then draw them well and put to them a pint of strong gravy, two larg onions cut grose, lemon peel cut small, some thyme & parsley shred, two naggins of white wine, some dried mushrooms, some artichoake bottoms. Cut in bits some bits of ham, a spoonful of capors, two anchovys, some blades of mace. Let this stew a while. Then tos them up with a lump of butter rold in flower. Dont put in ye artichoak[es] till last. Garnish with lemon & red beet pickled.

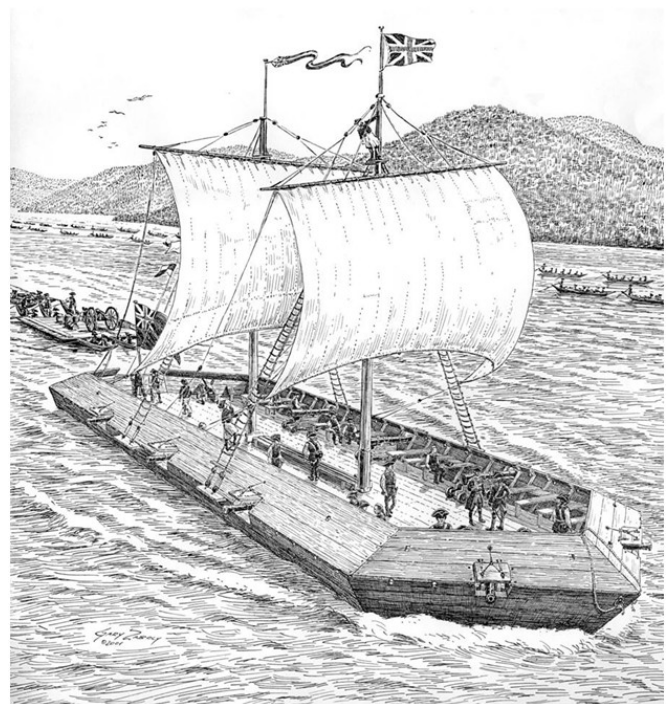


## BATTERY RADEAU

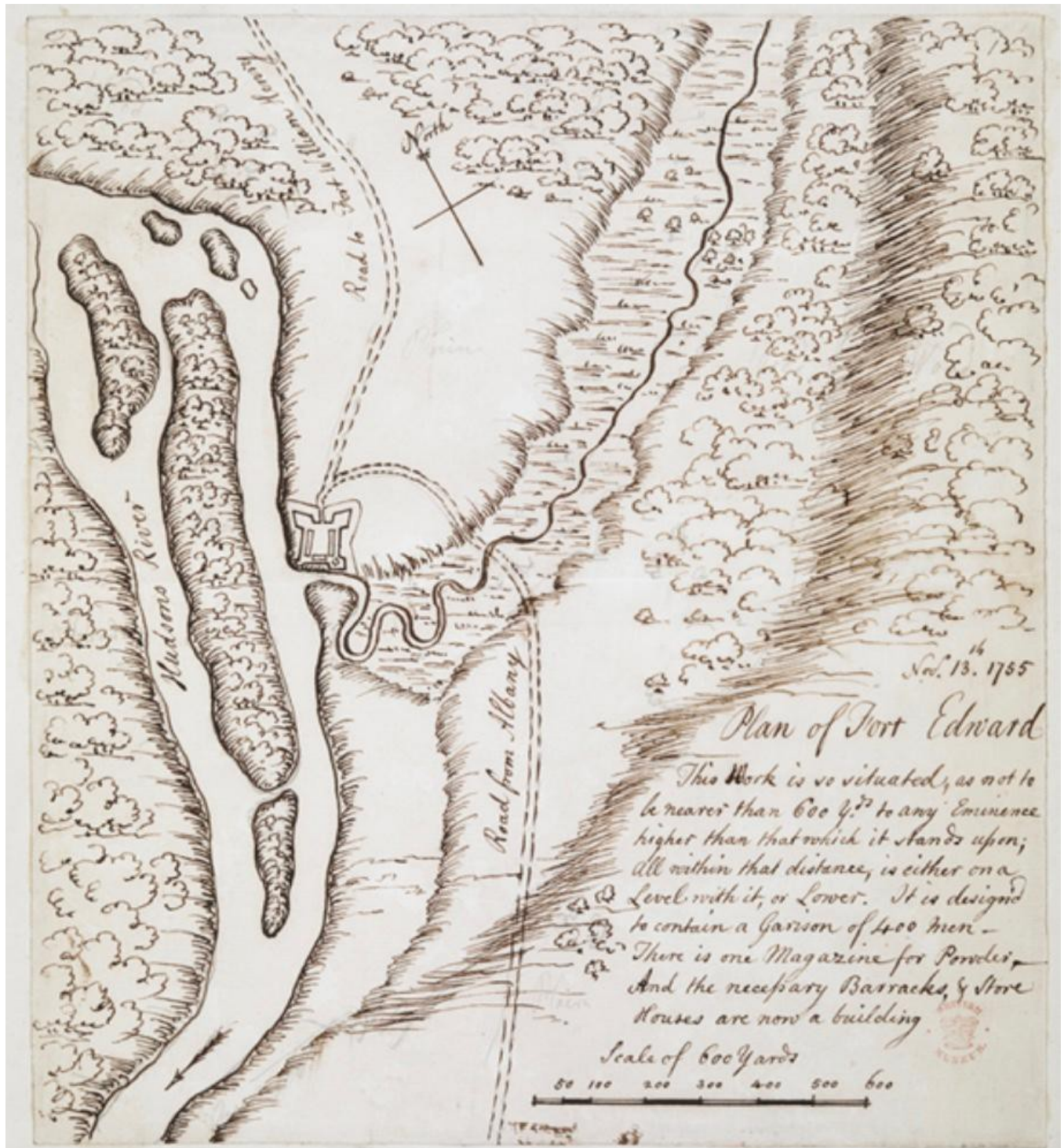
by Gary Zaboly

The battery radeau *LAND TORTOISE*, a nearly complete relic of Abercromby's 1758 campaign, is preserved at the cold bottom of Lake George in upstate New York. It was deliberately sunk by the Anglo-American army for intended retrieval in 1759, but over

the intervening months French engineers found it and moved it into deeper waters. The English never located it, and had to build a new radeau for Amherst's drive against Ticonderoga.



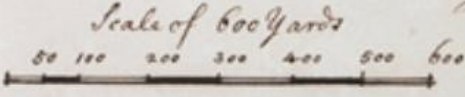
I drew this in 2001 to show the Radeau galley *INVINCIBLE*, built by Amherst's Anglo-American army at the southern end of Lake George in 1759. It took part in the advance of the army against the French at northern end of the lake. Amherst had more radeaux built on Lake Champlain after capturing the forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point. This shows the guns and gunports, and seats for rowers.



Nov. 13. 1755

### Plan of Fort Edward

This Work is so situated, as not to be nearer than 600 Y<sup>ds</sup> to any Eminence higher than that which it stands upon; all within that distance, is either on a Level with it, or Lower. It is designed to contain a Garrison of 400 men - There is one Magazine for Powder, And the necessary Barracks, & Store Houses are now a building.



November 13, 1755

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BATTALION NEWS/EVENTS

School of the Ranger



ABOVE  
The Michigan contingent at the School of the Ranger. Left to right are: Chris Hanley, Jon Truax, Greg Waldron, Jim Dauthrich, and Lou Tramelli. Darrel Lang is standing behind.

## *Jaeger's Battalion Senior Ranger Program*

For those who wish to enter the Senior Ranger Program, send \$5.00 NYC and a letter with your intention to join the program to Captain Lt. Mathenev's quarters at:

Captain Lt. Chris Mathenev  
1310 Ridgewood Way, N.E.  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
Email: [battaliondrum@gmail.com](mailto:battaliondrum@gmail.com)

**Note:** For those members who are already candidates in the program: please don't forget to send your completed requirement slips to Captain Lt. at the above address.

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### Method Two:

1. Go to the Battalion Website.
2. Go to tab "Battalion Journal."
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4. This will allow you to download the latest as well as archived Journals.

**DISCLAIMER:** There will be articles that will have spelling and grammar that was used during the 18th century. When an individual submits an article, it is checked for proper grammar and spelling. We have many excerpts that are from 18th century sources and those said items are not changed. Articles in the Journal pertain to the time period of Rogers life/French and Indian War.