



# The BATTALION JOURNAL

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



N<sup>o</sup> 83

Summer 2017

## *Sad News*

Rangers:

On February 3, I notified you that Honorary Member Robert Griffing's daughter had passed away from brain cancer. On Saturday night, while we were at the Kalamazoo Living History Show, Griff got the word that his wife Justine had just passed away from the same form of cancer, which she had been battling for several years. Please keep Griff and his family in your thoughts and prayers. If you wish to send a card, his address is 109 Fisher Lane, Gibsonia, PA 15044.

Major Tim Todish

## 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 (Ensign Thomas Pray) has a gift with words so we hope you enjoy these short stories.

March 18, 1760  
River Sable

This day we arise and set out to discover this Chasm before us. Crossing shallow water at the basin and Island we have camped by Capts Davies and Knitis lead privates Jones, Evans, Skellen, Hauke, and Flickenger along the East rim to explore a route upstream. Capt. Zaboly, Sergant Parks, Privates, Hubbscmitt, Millard and I travel the west rim. Rock ledges form high walls along the River witch is sometime no wider then twenty feet or so. It would be easy to in places fell trees and bridge to the other side. The height rises and we are hundreds of feet above the river. Cracks and fissers appear along the route. The river fast in rapids the calm in bends ware we sight a whirlpool. Capt. Zaboly notes and maps. A large waterfall at two miles witch commands a large basin. Here we rest and Capt. Zaboly takes to drawin the high falls. A meal of stale bread and hard cheese, our pleasure. High trees line the sides of the falls clothed' in ice. Never have I seen such a sight. Capt Zaboly tells he has seen high cliffs like this much further South along the Hudson River that river not so narrow skweed. We rest whilst the Capt. Does draw more. He even doest one of us. We turn West about a league across sand hills and follow a gully downhill to just above our camp. Capt. Zaboly says at some time past this must have been another river channel. It will be our route upstream and a possible portage should anyone ever wish to travel by battoo. I would not advise the task. It is still steep. The other party returns with same news of high cliffs and difficult trail. Thus ends my entry this day. Rum

*FAUX JOURNAL - continued on page 8*

**Battalion Staff**

Commanding Officer: Major Tim Todish      [tjtodish@juno.com](mailto:tjtodish@juno.com)  
 Adjutant: Captain Bill Blair      [JaegerAdjutant@cox.net](mailto:JaegerAdjutant@cox.net)  
 Recruiter: Capt/Lt Chris Matheney      [Battaliondrum@gmail.com](mailto:Battaliondrum@gmail.com)  
 Armor: Capt/Lt James Brown      [jbrown\\_14105@yahoo.com](mailto:jbrown_14105@yahoo.com)  
 Ordinance Capt/Lt Tom Flynn  
 Quartermaster Cpt/Lt Jerry Knitis      [fknitis@aol.com](mailto:fknitis@aol.com)  
 Sgt. Major: Sgt. Tim Green      [tcgunner54@gmail.com](mailto:tcgunner54@gmail.com)  
 Battalion Webmaster ... Ensign Mark Ulrich      [mru61@yahoo.com](mailto:mru61@yahoo.com)

**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](http://www.schrothscompany.com)  
 Anglum's Illinois' Company ... <http://illinoisrangers.blogspot.com/>  
 Maryland Company ... <http://www.rogersrangers.com/MDCompany/>

**Battalion Journal Staff**

Publisher: Thomas Pray ...      [atlatl@charter.net](mailto:atlatl@charter.net)  
 Editor: Jerry Knitis ...      [fknitis@aol.com](mailto:fknitis@aol.com)  
 Associate Editor: Lou Tramelli ...      [ljtramelli@gmail.com](mailto:ljtramelli@gmail.com)

Send all correspondence to  
 Thomas Pray, Publisher  
 Battalion Journal  
 637 Telegraph Road  
 Peru, New York 12972

**Renewal Information**

By Jerry Knitis, Editor

If the mailing label on the back of this Fine Publication shows a [81] in the lower right-hand corner of the address label, this will be your last issue.

Please renew your subscription today! Also if you know of a member that is not getting the Journal, encourage him/her to do so.

See contact information below for renewing a subscription

Ensign Thomas Pray, Publisher  
 Battalion Journal  
 637 Telegraph Road  
 Peru, New York 12972  
 Email: [atlatl@charter.net](mailto:atlatl@charter.net)

**Adjutant's Note**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the battalion for your support during my tenure as British Commander at Old Fort Niagara these past two years. Knowing you were there and could be counted upon made the task so much easier. Again, Thank You!

In accordance with orders from Major Blair, I hereby relinquish the position of Battalion Sergeant Major and accept the appointment as Battalion Adjutant with the rank of Captain. I very much appreciate the kind words of support I have received thus far from across the Battalion. It is with this support that I hope to continue to carry

*Adjutant's Notes* – continued next page

on the traditions of Jaeger's Battalion and move forward into the future. I request that all company commanders continue to forward your returns to Major Blair until we have the opportunity to conduct a proper turnover in the fall.

Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant  
Timothy C. Green, Captain

### "Siege of Niagara" - Behind the Scene

By Jerry Knitis, Capt/Lt New York Company  
Event British Quartermaster

The average reenactor that attends the event arrives on check-in day and proceeds to find the Area where the unit is billeted and goes forward with setup of the unit camp, participation in the event, tear down and go home. However, behind the scenes, there is a crew of dedicated volunteers and fort staff members who organize this event.

In the cold of winter, month of February, those individuals drive to the fort for a planning meeting headed up by the director, Bob Emerson. The event is gone over step by step. Bob usually submits to the committee a planning agenda (following).

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Pre-registration/processing/attendance analysis and deadlines
3. Reenactment/Public Program
4. Camps
5. Registration
6. Safety and Security
7. Tavern
8. Logistics, meals, ice, firewood
9. Crowd Control & Parking
10. Marketing
11. Other

The members of the committee steps down the list and discuss all items extensively. Bob takes notes on the conversations. Everyone participates. For those who cannot make the journey, there is a phone connect so they can add their views.

A few days after the meeting, the fort director sends out a copy of the meeting minutes. Also he renders a tentative schedule for the weekend which is gone over and scrutinized carefully. The committee tries to balance the schedule so reenactors are kept busy with the event while having time to pursuit shopping and visiting. Once the meeting is over, the director puts together the findings and mails out the meeting notes for approval. Each of the volunteers and the fort staff start getting the event off the ground. For marketing, the events starts at that meeting, the grounds crew also start planning where the wood piles will be located, marking them and placement of the latrines. Other crews work ramps up as the event date nears.

The military commanders work on the tactics that will be used and coordinate it with the fort. This may be accomplished by more visits to the fort or by electronic communication.

So what does this mean to Jaeger's Battalion or its members. We turn in a roster and our unit attends the event. Well to many that what it looks like. However, several of our members serve on the committee.

For the past 6 years, the British Commander or Adjutant were members of the New York Company and Jaeger's Battalion. Both Captain's Schroth and Green served in both positions. During there tenure, we have been able to accomplish a better battle and other demonstrations of the 18th century. Working out the battle plans and

coordinating them so they look real to the public is a real challenge. Adding some new events and removing older ones has made the public returning every year. Also there have been challenges for the reenactors to meet. This year, reenactors who felt they were physical fit, walk in from Four Mile Creek (the landing area of the British Forces) to participate in the battle on the beach (1st Battle of the Event).

The logistics, march and being there on time was a challenge for Capt. Green. He and his staff pulled it off without a hitch.

For the past 11 years, Capt/Lt Jerry Knitis has served as British Quartermaster. This job entails knowledge of castrementation (layout of a camp) according to British standards. I have had people like Capt. Green and Major George Bray guide me in the layout concept. So how does it get done? Once all the unit returns are sent back to the fort, I get a copy and start calculating how many square feet each unit will need in the tent line. Many units do not send an accurate count of tents so it is a guessing game at time. Some units wait until the last minute to get their returns turned in. This makes it hard to plan. I usually spend the evening before I leave for the fort verifying or adding units to the tent lines. Since we have a nice location with plenty of room, we have allowed some units to just show up and register at the door.

Arriving at the fort a day before check-in, the quartermaster and his crew mark out the camp based on the CAD plan. The crew is made up of members of the New York Company (Karen Jones, Thomas Pray, Tim Green, Kate Keel and Dan Schroth). If the crew is large enough, we can mark out the camp in about an hour and a half. This is a far cry from when I started, doing it by myself, it took over four hours. Two other units will have people present just in case.

The grounds crew makes sure that I have stakes and string for the layout. They also place the wood and ground plates in strategic locations. They have started a method of marking these sources with signs. They are also responsible for trash removal and latrine locations. I as Quartermaster, can advise them if a position for these resources is not favorable.

The next two members that provide a service to everyone are Capt/Lt Jim and Cheryl Brown. They are responsible for feeding the whole family, both British and French, a nice hot breakfast. Their crew for several years was made up of members of the New York Company. Now they have volunteers from the fort doing the service and cooking. Jim and Cheryl spend a great deal of time planning this wonderful feature. They have many goodies for a good nourishing breakfast to start off each day of your stay. I have heard that Cheryl spends a lot of time baking some of the goodies on the service line. It is hard to find a better served meal anywhere.

Our Battalion commander, Major Todish, has served as Event Adjutant for more years than I can remember.

Thus one of the premier French and Indian War events has several of our Battalion members supporting it. One might call it the "Jaeger Influence".



"Under Attack"

Photo by J. Knitis



*THE ROAD TO ST. FRANCIS*  
by Gary Zaboly (1976). Collection of John Blaschik.

## *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.

### **Eyewitnesses to Disaster**

#### **Journal entries of British Forces in 1758 attack on Fort Carillon**

Many books have been written about General Abercromby's defeat in the attack on Fort Carillon on July 8th, 1758. Such studies describe the campaign and the Battle. Much is written about the British command of Lord Howe and General Abercromby. Little is written about the common men who endured the Battle and the mistakes of their Commanders suffering horribly in the debacle before the French lines. In searching through period journals written by participants one sees the story from their viewpoints. Ranger Private Augustin Hayden, Provincial Captain Samuel Cobb, and Provincial Private David Perry describe their roles and the event. Such eyewitness accounts are key to those men and how they with New England stoicism saw the event. The brevity is interesting. The wit and humor also noteworthy.

#### **Augustin Hayden's account:**

*July ye 1st Day* we set away from there over to the

East Side of the Lake and there we stay'd till the 5th Day and then our Armi set away up the Lake For Ticonderoga Fort.

*The 6th Day* in the morning we Got up to the Narrows and landed that Day. Before night we took about one 150 Prisonors and kild sum. We lost sum but not menny. Lord How was kild in the taking of those Prisonors.

*The 7th Day* about Sun Down we set away the Narrows up about a mile. It Being Dark we lay upon our Arms that night.

*The 8th Day* we set way from there up to Ticonderoga Fort. And there our Armi had to Fight the ENemi Being Intrench and we had left our kannon whare we landed as the Reggulators were imboded and Marched up in about 15 yars of the Trench and the ENemy kild a vast menny of hem but we no not how menny. We do not no how menny we kild of them Tis to be thought not menny bt after the fight being over sum came back to Canaan and sum a Little Back of the Fight and the Rest Lay a long upon the Rode.

#### **Captain Samuel Cobb's account:**

*Thursday 6th July, 1758* At 1 oclock in the morning imbarked and came at 8 oclock and landed within 3 miles of the Fort. The French Guard ran at our appearance. Majr. Rogers Rangers came up with part of the French Guard. Killed 7 of them. Lost 2 of our men. In the afternoon Ingaged the French. Took 180 of them Prisonors and killed 110 more. Lord Howe was kill'd in the Battle and about 60 of our men amissing.

*Friday July 7th, 1758* We marched from where we Camped to the end of the Lake where the

*Eyewitnesses to Disaster - continued on next page*



Lake empties itself into Lake Champlain which is about one mile from the Fort. Brought up 3 of our Brass Cannon and hove up a breast work for our Fortification.

*Saturday, July 8th, 1758* Marched on the Army and about 1 oClock in the afternoon the Battle began at the French lines and continued a Constant firing on both sides till sun sett at which time we retreated and retired into our breastwork. Our loss killed and wounded and missing is 2 thousand men. Their numbers is unknown to us. I had 2 of my company killed on the spot and 4 wounded.

*Sunday, July 16th, 1758* This day I received a return of the killed, Wounded and missing Vizt In the Battle found on the 6th and 8th instant. Provs. (Provincials) killed, Missing and Wounded 422. Regulars 1522. Total Regulars and Provs. 1944

#### Private David Perry's story:

When we arrived at the Lake, consisting of British and Americans, (we) amounted to about 20,000 men. It was commanded by Gen. Abercrombe... Major Rodgers, with his Rangers was the first to land. He was joined by Lord Howe and his party; and we had proceeded but a short distance into the woods, before we were met by the enemy, and a brisk fire ensued. It was the first engagement I had ever seen, and the whistling of balls, and the roar of musquetry terrified me not a little. At length our regiment formed among the trees, behind which the men kept stepping from their ranks for shelter. Col. Prebble,...was a harsh man, swore he would knock the first man down who should step out of his ranks; which greatly surprised me, to think that I must stand still to be shot at. Pretty soon, however they brought along some wounded Frenchmen; and when I came to see the blood run so freely, it put new life into me. The battle proved a sore one for us. Lord Howe and a number of other good men, were

killed....In the morning we had orders to move forward again, in a column three deep, in order to storm the enemy's breastworks. Our orders were to "run to the breast-work and get in if we could". But their lines were full, and they killed our men so fast, that we could not gain it. We got behind trees, logs and stumps, and covered ourselves as we could from the enemy's fire. The ground was strewn with the dead and dying. It happened that I got behind a white oak stump which was so small that I had to lay on my side, and stretch myself. The balls striking the ground within a hands breadth of me every moment, and I could hear the men screaming, and see them dying all around me. I lay there some time. A man could not stand erect, without being hit, any more than he could stand out in a shower, without having drops of rain fall upon him; for the balls came by hands full. It was a clear day-a little air stirring. Once in a while the enemy would cease firing a minute or two, to have the smoke clear away, so they might take better aim. In one of these intervals I sprang from my perilous situation, and gained a stand which I thought would be more secure, behind a large pine log where several of my comrades had already taken shelter, but the balls came here as thick as ever. One of the men raised his head a little above the log, and a ball struck him in the center of the forehead, and tore up his scalp back to the crown. He darted back and the blood ran merrily and rubbing his face said it was a bad blow, and no one was disposed to deny it for he looked bad enough. We lay there till sunset, and nt receiving orders from any officer, the men crept off, leaving all the dead and most of the wounded. We had two of our company killed. Our Captain (Winslow) received a ball in his wrist which passed up the fleshy part of his arm....Our Lieutenant was wounded by a shot in the leg and one of our Sergeants received a ball in his arm.

We got away the wounded of our company, but left a great many crying for help, which we were unable

to afford them. I suppose, that as soon as we left the field, the enemy let loose his Indians upon them....We went over the Lake with about 21,000 men, in high spirits, with all kinds of music, but returned back melancholy and still as a funeral.

The Battle with it's horror, anquish, and heart-break for these three men would be over. All three would continue to record events of the French and Indian war in their own style. All three would Happily survive the folly of their Commanders and the fates bestowed upon them by the pushing and shoving of France and Britain for control of the Colonial Continent. All three would return safely home unlike the many whose bones lay scattered under the forest around Fort Ticonderoga.

Thomas Pray, Ensign of Rangers  
New York Company



*Faux Journal... continued from page. 1*

sothes my Ackes &, bread fills my stomach.

Ensign Thomas Pray

### March 18th, 1760-2nd entry

Sable River Chasm

Before dark we heard a hallow from across'd the river. It was Sgt Green, with Sgt Coirin and the Privates, Boocock, Beurlen, Mandivel, Winglair, Milk, Groth and Boiyer. Nine men each carrying fresh supplies from Crown Point. They were greeted with much joy. We set about bilden more shelters amongst the trees and lining them with boughs. Capt Zaboly plees'd that more parchment sent and some quills. A whole pack of dried pease. A pack of hard cheese. Two packs of dried beef and other food stuffs. we will use our stale bread to make gravy and thicken soops. We set out guards and prepare for the morrow.

Ensign Thomas Pray

March 19, 1760

Sable River Chasm

This day we did have chokolatt. Capt. Knitis did allow two whole cups per man served boil' d with water. Some add' a little flour to thicken. With this a hunk of cheese and bread. It was decid'd to send Sgt Parks, with Privates Jones, Boocock, an, Allen, back to the Battos and those camped there. Captain Davies decid'd to go back also. Capt. Zaboly to continue mapping and drawing the route. Capt. Zaboly Pikt me to assist him along with Sgt Coirin and Privates Skellen & Millard. We would travel the West side of the rim and the others with Capt Knitis and Sargent Green the East. All three party's sett out. Travell'd 4 miles of ledges, falls, and steeped Collims of stone. Capt. Zaboly stoop' d every mile to draw a memorial of our path. We lost sight of Capt Knitis and his party after two Myles. After 3 Myles the River came to a flat valley but the now shallow river was with ledges and boulders filled. Around a bend with sandy beach we did find a bank of kaolin clay which Capt. Zaboly did record in his journal. Not far upstream a little brook did confluence with the river. Here we saw our first sight of Savage life. Four old abandonnt wigwams sat. Empty but one witch had a Copper kettle with a broken bale and an old hole ridden blanket. We saw no sign recent of them that left here. There was a fire pit and by it a broken Rum bottle. Capt Knitis with Sgt Green an Company arrivd two hours later having seen no sign of French or Sauvage. Did send Privates Millard and Skellen to explore the brook with Sgt Coirin but order'd to travel no more then a mile. They retun'd 2 hours later repotin no sign of enemy. They Britt a Porkpine they had discove' d in a hallo tree. Private Skellen kilt it with his axe.

We all support on Porkpine soop with salt and dryd peas and stay in the abundant wigwams for the night. Privates Winglair, Boirer, and Evans guard. Before dark Capt. Knitis gives us each a piece of chocolate. Capt. Zaboly draw and draws.

*Faux Journal... continued on next page.*



Ensign Thomas Pray

After note-It the Sabbath Capt. Zaboly did read a couple of passages from the Bible. He also prayed solemnly for our three party's and gave thanks for our safe journey. He then asked the Lord to Spare him from any more Porkpine Soop with Peas. He would be content with ash cake or chewing the bark from a tree.



By Jerry Knitis, Capt/Lt  
Editor of the "Battalion Journal"

### Introduction

This article is to make all those who read it aware of a group of reenactors in Poland who are doing the French and Indian War era. These men and women are working hard at doing our hobby and I find it very interesting that citizens of another country find our history so interesting.

I do not remember how I connected with Michal, but the friendship has been really worth while. I would like to help these people with their hobby, so if there is any information that you can give them, please do so.

The following information is from their web site.

### *Jura Rangers*

URL: <http://rogersrangers.com.pl/>

### Welcome wanderer!

You've come to the site dedicated to Robert Rogers and his Rangers. Information included here are not exhaustive, they are only the tip of the iceberg, which is the story of Rogers Rangers.

This page is dedicated to the Polish attempt of historical reconstruction of this innovative unit from the period of the French Indian War. To properly play any formation you need to know its history.

Therefore, the purpose of the page is not a glorification of Rogers, but the search for truth.

In early January 2014 as part of our GRH Ticonderoga was built in 1758 2 bed nucleus of Jurassic Ranger Company - Jura Rangers Company. We managed to get permission from the Jaegers Battalion Rogers Rangers to translate and use within our company Guide proper clothing and equipment from the years 1750's. As a result, we could start working on the correct direction play this famous Ranger unit.

A member of the company can be not only a person "uniforms" but also an interesting person in the history of Rogers Rangers and possibly helping explain the rich literature Rangers.

If you have any questions or comments you can write to the following email address:

[michaljozia@wp.pl](mailto:michaljozia@wp.pl)

The FACEBOOK page link:

<http://www.facebook.com/Ticonderoga1758/>







*Change of Command—Fort Niagara—1 July 2017*

*Photos submitted by Capt. Tim Green*

## *Sustenance and Libation of the Rangers*

By Thomas Pray  
Ensign, Schroth's New York Company

### Ranger Bulrush Soup

Ingredients:

- 5 chopped Ramps (wild onion or green tails)
- 6 medium sized bulrush roots
- 10 slices bacon, fried, dried, and diced
- 2 pounds pork cut into 2-inch cubes
- 4 cups water. (or Chicken Stock)
- 1 cup peas (optional)
- 1 bottle Ale
- 1 cup rice
- 8 bulrush shoots
- salt/pepper to taste

After studying the Rations available to Rangers while on campaign a Soup was developed. The reasoning behind it is sound. Considering that Rangers were often on campaign and in close contact with Mahican, Mohegan, and Mohawk allies, and also familiar with foraging wild edibles, such a Stew or Soup, as they were called is logical. General Jeffrey Amherst on Campaign in the Champlain Valley in 1759 instructs the men to make "soops" to further their rations and because it is healthy. The Natives of the region had been using all parts of the Bulrush as food for years. The roots, boiled or steamed taste much like a mix between asparagus and potato, with a slight hint of sweetness. It also imparts a thickening, like cornstarch, to any liquid. I had often wondered about some Journal entries such as Sergeant Robert Websters while at Fort Ticonderoga. On Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1759 he writes: "I went after Bushes to cover the Pork." At first I surmised it was to protect from the elements but I now suspect that such a note was talking about adding to the meal. The Old English term for the Cattail is Bulrush, Reed mace, and Bushes. American terminology is Cattail, Punks, Grass, and Bulrush. The Cattail and Bulrush are two separate species yet the roots and shoots of both are

edible. Evidence has found that they were eaten in Europe for over 30,000 years. They were also used as a starch substitute and vegetable in the colonies. Sergeant Webster may have been thickening up the evening meal and preparing gravy, another item one sees being used to further the ration in journals. The Ranger Soup combines foraging and staple items from the ration. Wild Onions, or Ramps, as they are called in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, grow profusely in the Champlain Valley. Bulrushes and Cattails can be found anywhere at the waters edge. All mix well together to make a simple meal. Scrape and Boil the Bulrush or Cattail roots for 30 minutes in the kettle. Drain off boiled water and refill. Add the Shoots, Rice, Pork, Spices, and Ale. Slowly simmer for 15 minutes more checking liquid level. Use more water if needed. Fry Bacon on side until crisp. Break into small pieces and stir in with onions. 5 minutes more cooking time-remove. For modern tastes, use 3 cups Chicken stock instead of water.



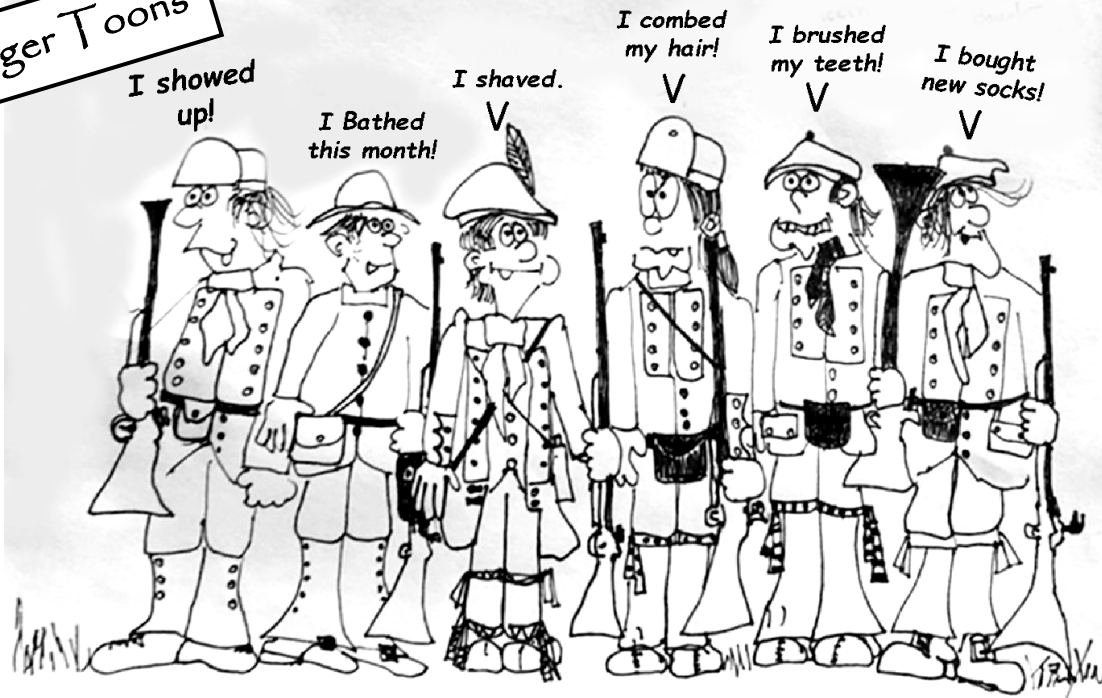
18<sup>th</sup> century Taverns and Inns served a large variety of drinks. It is logical to imagine that Rangers, or any soldier, for that matter, would have known of variations on these concoctions. The two recipes that follow were popular for the period. Rum, being the most prevalent and favored of alcohol, was the basis for these mixes. When you look at the ingredients, you may think that much of it would not be available, but Sutler's surprisingly supplied a large amount to the men. The closer one was to Settlements, Forts, or Trading Posts, allowed the men easier purchase of ingredients but Rum and Sugar was almost always available.

### Second Horse Punch

- 1/2 pint light-bodied rum from the West Indies
- 1/2 pint peach Brandy, as made in South Carolina
- 1/2 pint juice of the lemon
- 5 Tablespoons of bitters
- 4 tablespoons brown sugar
- Stir thoroughly and serve.



Ranger Toons



**Change of Command Motivation**

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637 Telegraph Road  
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