



The BATTALION JOURNAL

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



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Firelock Field Cleaning

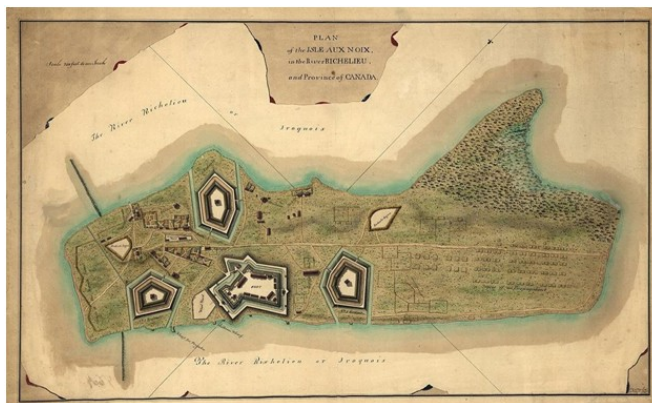
Article Submitted by Tom Flynn, Capt/Lt
Battalion Ordnance Officer

"it is necessary the inside of the barrel, the touch hole and lock be kept clean and the springs and moving parts of the lock properly oiled. The barrel should be washed at least after every eighteen or twenty fires where the best sorts of powder is used; but if the gun powder is an inferior sort, then the barrel will require the oftener washing" (A treatise of English Shooting, page 7-8 by George Edie 1772)

The paragraph above makes it clear that proper cleaning and maintaining of one's fire lock is just as important then as now. The process of cleaning and maintaining your fire lock has changed very little, however the tools used have. Often I have sat and watched after a battle reenactment or living history demo the troops returning to camp. Viewing the returning troops you can see the time and care many have taken to refine their impression. The uniforms and equipment have been researched and care has been taken to ensure everything they carry is period correct and correct for their impression. They return to camp, put water on the fire to heat so they clean their weapon and then ... pull out a plastic gun box or a green metal ammo box. They then screw the pieces of their aluminum cleaning rods to gather with their nylon

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Battle for Isle Aux Noix



Article Submitted by Thomas Pray, Ensign
Battalion Journal Publisher

(The following article is from the Vermont Historical Society.)

The English spent most of the summer preparing to strike at Montreal and keeping the French nervously awaiting attack. Murray's ships hovered around the mouth of the Richelieu for about a month but did not move up the river. The long wait for a major English offensive led Vaudreuil hopefully to conclude that a European peace was imminent. Meanwhile, Col. William Haviland was taking command of the English troops on the Lake Champlain frontier. Provided with 3400 men and about 40 guns he was to push down the Richelieu by batteau, capture Isle aux Noix, continue on to the St. Lawrence and join with General Murray moving up-river from Quebec and Amherst moving down from Lake Ontario.

In June Robert Rogers and his Rangers had been sent

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down the Richelieu, by-passing Isle aux Noix to raid French settlements. In the only frontier-style raid of the campaign Rogers burned Fort Ste-Therese to the ground. Patrols from Isle aux Noix got close to the Rangers on their way back but the Rangers got away.

Now the French had to step up their patrols along the river and this put a strain on the working force of the island. The garrison was re-inforced during the summer, however, when men from the regiments of Berry and Guyenne and 450 militia were sent to Bougainville. By the time of the final siege in August he had about 1450 men including labourers and servants.

Haviland moved his 3400 men down-river in the second week of August and landed just south of the island, 16 August 1760, on a point which sheltered them from French guns. They operated exclusively from the east shore of the river, the western channel not being navigable in August. Almost immediately his men began to cut a road through the woods (but still close to the river) along which the artillery from the boats was to move. For six days they built their batteries almost under the noses of the French. One English officer wrote: "they kept firing cannon at us, but hurt none of the men, though our camp is not half cannon shot from the enemy's fort, and nothing to hinder but only the trees, and them not thick." He found it very "remarkable that the enemy have not killed great numbers, when we are so much exposed.". Bougainville did complain that he had not one gunner who could shoot accurately" but he was referring to artillery-men. It is surprising that the French made little use of small-arms to fire on the English as they established their batteries: their militiamen must surely have been better marksmen with muskets and they did succeed at least in preventing the English from cutting the booms. The French themselves lost several men from English musket fire.

Firing on the English batteries might have delayed defeat for a few days but it was inevitable. The French knew they would have to abandon the island soon and being able to fight only a war of retreat and delay must have been utterly demoralizing—and there were so many

other factors affecting morale.

Bougainville was supposed to receive a detachment of Abenaki Indians from Fort Chambly. Brandy had kept them agreeable but they deserted on leaving for the island when they heard that the Five Nations Indians were coming to assist the English. The commandant of Fort St-Jean then refused to risk sending a detachment of regulars from his garrison.

Bougainville's own men were troublesome too: as early as May there were complaints about their poor tools and the low value of the paper money they were being paid. Garrison rations were cut two or three times during the summer, the deficiency often being replaced by brandy. There was also the ever-present friction between the French regulars and the Canadian marines and militia which was exacerbated by the strained relations between Canadian-born Vaudreuil and his European high command.

All this resulted in extensive desertion but another, external, reason was just as demoralizing. Murray was threatening to burn the houses of those families whose males were missing and presumably doing militia duty, and he was operating along the south shore of the St. Lawrence where many of the Isle aux Noix militia came from (i.e., the parishes of Contrecoeur, Varennes and Vercheres). More militia was lost just as Haviland advanced on the island for once again men had to be sent home to harvest the crops. There was some conflict between Levis and Vaudreuil on this matter as the former urged: "we must think of defending ourselves first before thinking of surviving the winter." Some were allowed to return home, however, and to help to compensate Vaudreuil sent, from the prisons of Montreal, a small party of captured deserters.

The island took a terrible pounding after the English batteries opened up on the afternoon of Saturday, 23 August. On Sunday night Rogers and his Rangers carried two light howitzers and a six-pounder through the woods within range of the remaining French gun-boats. They found it easy the next morning to capture or at

Battle... continued on next page

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least scatter the boats with their gunfire and then to cut the booms blocking the channel. Escape by water was now no longer possible and there was no part of the island the English guns could not reach.

On 27 August a French lieutenant arrived at Isle aux Noix bearing instructions from Vaudreuil in Montreal ordering Bougainville to evacuate when surrender seemed the only alternative. At the same time he bore an oral message from La Pause to hold the island "even to the last extremity." After considering the contradictory messages for some time Bougainville called a Council of War which decided to take the obvious course of following the orders of Vaudreuil—better to save the army for a last desperate stand at Montreal.

The time had already come to follow Vaudreuil's orders: the English were now in a position to land on the weakly defended rear, or north end, of the island. Le Chevalier Johnstone, a Jacobite refugee in the French army, claimed that there were only two days provisions left: the last oxen had been killed by cannon-fire and the fish of the Richelieu, the staple of the garrison, were no longer procurable due to the siege. Accordingly, under cover of darkness and in remarkable silence the garrison escaped that same night across the river to the west shore which, because of its marshiness, the English had not yet occupied. Silence was so strict that the English were not aware of the retreat until the next morning and by that time the garrison was well on its way to Fort St-Jean. After burning it they moved on to Montreal where New France was definitively surrendered on 8 September.

Bougainville left behind an officer of the militia and about 50 men, many of them wounded, who kept firing all night to cover the retreat. The next day they surrendered to Haviland, giving him a letter from Bougainville requesting care for the wounded and protection of the baggage left behind. However, despite keeping Rogers' Rangers from landing for fear they would plunder the island, Haviland was unable to keep his own men from pillaging.

Naturally La Pause criticized Bougainville for not holding out longer, especially since (he claimed) only ten men had been lost. Johnstone put the figure at 24 but he considered that number to be small. Amherst criticized Bougainville on other grounds when he subsequently visited the island: he "did not spike up his Cannon nor destroy one thing." He left behind 77 pieces of ordnance and 2586 rounds of shot besides a great deal of equipment, but surely Bougainville could not have taken the time or the risk of creating noise while trying to evacuate the island. Other English were contemptuous of the French for not putting up more intelligent or courageous resistance but they seem to have done everything in their power to resist. It was simply that they had little power left.

The problems encountered by the French in their resistance at Isle aux Noix reflect those encountered on a larger scale in the colony as a whole. It is true while there was a serious shortage of men due to desertion and sickness and for planting and harvesting, the authorities could hardly feed the men they had. And at Isle aux Noix the problem of provisioning was more serious than in many other theatres of the war due to its distance from settled agricultural areas and to the normal transportation difficulties to be expected in a frontier area.

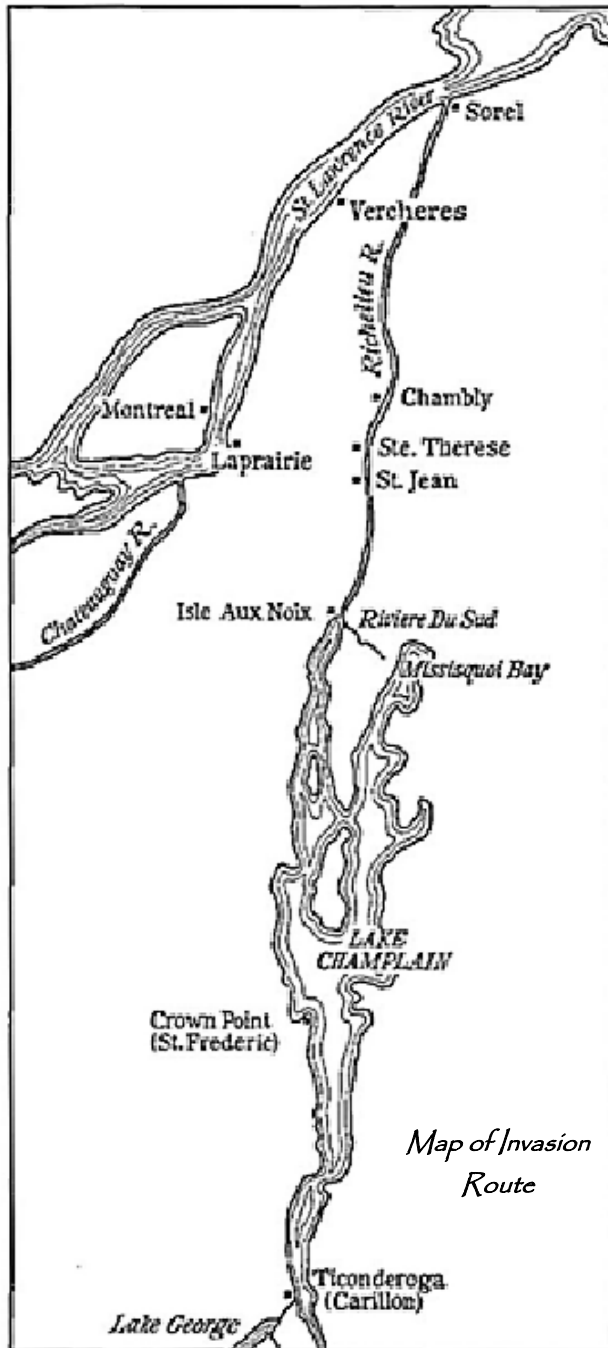
New France's most serious problem, however, was frustration. The Canadian marines and militia were unable to fight their traditional war of frontier raids and the regulars from France were unable to fight in traditional European style. For both a war of retreat and delay was unaccustomed and demoralizing and perhaps this was responsible for some of the antagonism between the two groups.

Although they must have been desperately demoralized the French worked surprisingly hard on their fortifications and put up strong resistance to invasion, yielding only when further resistance would have been ridiculous. It is surprising that there was not more friction and desertion among the troops. All these problems, however,

Battle - continued on next page

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can be traced to lack of support from France. Nothing could have been more frustrating and demoralizing than to see no prospect of help from home.

**Rogers' Account of Vessels captured ...**

About the 24th proposal was made for taking the enemy's vessels, three of which were at anchor a little below the fort, and some of their rideaus likewise. It was

introduced by Col. Darby, who was ordered to take the command of the party appointed for this service, which consisted of two companies of Regulars, and four companies of my Rangers, with the Indians. We carried with us two light howitzers and one six-pounder, and silently conveying them along thro' the trees, brought them opposite the vessels, and began a brisk fire upon them, before they were in the least apprised of our design, and, by good fortune, the first shot from the six-pounder cut the cable of the great rideau, and the wind being at west, blew her to the east shore, where we were, and the other vessels weighed anchor and made for St. John's, but got all aground, in turning a point about two miles below the fort. I was, by Col. Darby, ordered down the east shore with my Rangers, and crossed a river of about thirty yards wide, which falls into Lake Champlain from the east. I soon got opposite the vessels, and, by firing from the shore, gave an opportunity to some of my party to swim on board with their tomahawks, and took one of the vessels; in the mean time Col. Darby had got on board the rideau, and had her manned, and took the other two; of which success he immediately acquainted Col. Haviland, who sent down a sufficient number of men to take charge of and man the vessels; and ordered the remainder of the Rangers, Light Infantry and Grenadiers, to join the army that night, which was accordingly done; and about midnight the night following the French troops left the island, and landed safe on the main; so that next morning nothing of them was to be seen but a few sick, and Col. Haviland took possession of the fort.

Special Thanks

From the staff of the Battalion Journal.

This is to give special thanks to Gary Zaboly who has provided so many of his images for our Journal. The banner on the front always contains a Ranger created by Gary's artistic talent.

Also thanks goes out to all those who have submitted articles and helped with getting the Battalion Journal into the hands of our members.

Field Cleaning - continued from page 1

cleaning jags and then pull out the bottle modern powder solvent, Ballistol Remington gun oil, etc. The impression is suddenly shattered and all the work to look correct seems moot. You get the point.

So let's talk about how and what was used in the 18th century to clean and maintain a fire lock. The list of



what you need to field clean and maintain your fire lock is basic as shown in the picture above. You will need:

1. Tow
2. Tow worm and or cleaning jag
3. Turn key
4. Oil in period container
5. Brick dust and piece of leather
6. Spring vise (optional)

“Each commanding officer (of companies) are by 10 o'clock to see that all their men off duty to draw their charges and wash their pieces clean and have them very dry before loading” (Camp at Halfway Brook, 28 June 1759 Orderly book 08, J Hawks. Page 25)

To start you need the fire lock to be cleaned, and the ram rod of that fire lock. Now I know a lot of people for whatever reason don't like to use their ram rod for cleaning. Fine, so use a wooden range rod with the correct thread of the tow worm you are using. Water is the cleaning agent. Most of us use hot water it dissolves the

fowling more quickly than cold water and the heat from the water aides in drying the barrel. Interesting side note, in all of written accounts I have read not one has ever mentioned the use of heated water to clean. Next use the turn screw to remove the lock from the weapon and set it aside. Now take some tow and wrap it around the tow worm that is attached to the ram rod. Place a piece of wood like a tooth pick in the touch hole of the barrel to keep as much of the fowled water from the stock. Take the hot water and pour a quantity down the barrel to about half full. Swish the water in the barrel several times then dump out the water. Repeat until the water comes out almost clear. Now dip the tow that's on the end of the ram rod and scrub up and down the barrel. Repeat until the tow comes out clean. Save the tow you have used to clean, when dries it works great to use when starting fires. Next use the tow and hot water to clean both sides of the lock. Once everything is dry take some clean tow and apply some oil and oil the inside and outside of the barrel and both sides of the lock. The type of oil that was used in the 18th century was sweet oil, sweet oil was olive oil. I have been using olive oil on my musket for several years now and it works fine. If you want to use a modern lubricant make sure it's in a period container.

Your fire locks metal and brass will need to be polished periodically, for this I use brick dust and a piece of leather. In order to do this the bricks need to be very old, like 100 years or older. Modern bricks are made differently today and are far too course to be used for polishing. The bricks must be made of clay. I was fortunate that they were tearing down a house that was built around 1800 in downtown Lancaster and was able to grab a couple bricks. The bricks can be busted up and crushed to a powder. Take the piece of leather apply some oil and dip into the brick dust and use to polish all the metal and brass parts of your fire lock.

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Field Cleaning - continued from previous page

Over the years of reenacting I have heard several times reenactors while talking to the public make the statement that in the heat of battle soldiers would pee down their barrels to clean them when they became too fowled to fire. Finding no 18th century written account to verify this practice I found the concept of trying to pee down your barrel while under fire and in close proximity of the enemy to be dubious at best. Urine contains ammonia which is very corrosive to metal, mix that with the fowling and you have a mixture that will discolor metal and eat the varnish off you stock. Don't ask me how I know this!!! While researching for this acritical I found this in DeWitt Bailey's excellent book *Small Arms of the British Forces in North America 1664-1815* chapter 18 page 271;

"no soldiers to wash the barrels of his fire lock in piss on any account" (31st of foot regimental orderly book Aug. 1, 1758)

We must be mindful of our surroundings and never miss an opportunity to show the public what life was like in the 18th century for the Rangers. Even when were sweaty and tired and in no mood to clean our fire locks.

Your Humble and Obedient Servant
Tom Flynn, Capt/Lt; Battalion Ordinance Officer

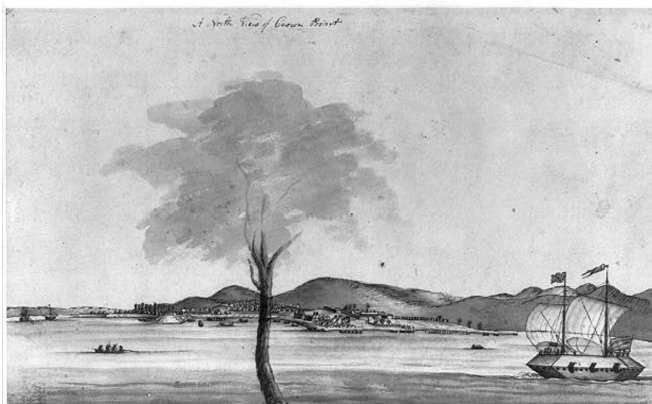


Duly Noted

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.



North view of Crown Point 1759
Captain Thomas Davies.

25th June, 1759
LAKE GEORGE

Parole, Portsmouth. Colo. of the Day tomorrow, Colo. Woriter; Field Officer for y^e Picquit this Night, Maj^r Graham; tomorrow Night, Maj^r Baillie. The 3 eldest Companys of Grenadiers, the 3 eldest Companys of Light Infantry under Maj^r Holmes, 200 Rangers and Indians under Maj^r Roggers, the whole under the Command of Colo. Haviland, to be ready to march when Dark. They will assemble in the Front of y^e Grenadiers half an Hour after Gun firing. Colo. Haviland will receive his Orders from the General. The Grenadiers to march in their Wait-coats, and as light as possible, but are to carry their Blankets and one Days Provision. The Generals Guard tomorrow

26th June, 1759
LAKE GEORGE

Parole, Edinburgh. Colo. of the Day to-morrow, Colo. Fitch; Field Officer of the Picquit this Night, Maj^r Baldwin; to-morrow Night, Majr -. Colo. Schuyler's

Duly Noted - continued on next page

Duly Noted... continued from previous page

Reg^t to receive one Days fresh Provisions tomorrow at 5 o'clock. The Regulars to receive 7 Days Provisions tomorrow at 5 o'clock ; first Gages, and following Light Infantry, Grenadiers, Forbells Royal Highlanders, Inniskilling, Royal Artillery, at the same Distance of Time as ordered June 22d. The Quartermaster of each Corps to give in a Return this Evening at 5 o'clock to Mr. Willson, of the Quaintity each Reg^t draws for. An Officer and 40 Men to mount on the farthest Post on the Right in the Rear of the Camp, to cover the Bateaux. A Serj^t and 12 Men to mount where the ould Fort stood. A Serj^t 2 Corp^{ls} and 12 Men for the Provision Guard. Brig. Gages Reg^l to furnish the fame escort on the road for The carriages, as this Day to be joynd by an Officer and 41 Rangers. The Regiments to receive their Provisions in the fame Order as mentioned this Day in Orders, but that in an Hours Distance one from another.

Tuesday, 8th July, 1760
Crown Point Camp

"This morning we were alarm'd about 6 oclock by the enemy, who fell upon a party of Major Rogers Rangers, just by their incampment on the other side the Lake, all in sight of our incampment & they have kill'd one on the spot and wounded six more, who are brought over to the hospitall. I have been down to see them, & 4 of them are mortally woundid,-2 shot through their bodys, & 1 shot through his head, the other both thighs; the 2 others may, with good care, git well. It was a very affecting sight to see the poor creatures lay weltering in their blood & fainting with death in their countenance. Immediately Major Rogers with his Rangers ran out of their breast work & pursued the enemy, who are almost all French, but very few Indians among the party. Tis suppos'd there was 300 in their party, & regular light infantry & several large partys of regulars to intercept them; & a sub of our troops & 25 men was sent down to the sloops to give them inteligence. It was a bold action right in plain view of our Forts & Camps, & and but a little way from Major Rogers incampment, & on the same side of the Lake; we have seen part of the Rangers return, but what news I cannot learn" Captain Samuel Jenks.

Earlier, General Amherst, had the Rangers moved to Rogers Point (later Chimney), because of a smallpox outbreak on board the sloop *Boscowan*, amongst the crew and Rangers who had been at Point au Fer. This quote shows their new camp was on the other side of the Lake from the Forts. I love such little tidbits that prove something sometime.

August 29, 1760

General orders

200 Rangers to Parade Immediately. Ye Officers commanding ye party will receive his instructions from Colo. Derby. Majr. Rogers will order ye officer commanding ye Hatchet men of his Corps to see his men grind their



Ranger At Tyonderoga

August 11, 1759

Tyonderoga

Major Rogers

Sir,

You are this night to send a Captain with a proper proportion of subalterns, and two hundred men to Crown Point where the officer is to post himself in such manner as not to be surprised and to



seize the best ground for defending himself; and should he be attacked by the enemy, he is not to retreat with his party, but keep his ground till he is reinforced from the army.

Jeffrey Amherst

August 12, 1759

Ticonderoga

This morn per orders of Major Rogers, I didst send ouer adjutant Captain Green from Boges with Captain Brewer & Sergeant Mathe plus two hundred men as order'd per instructions of Gen'l Amherst towards Crown Point & the Fortress Sainte Frederic. I had sent

Tyonderoga... continued on page 10

NEW FRANCE (CANADA) CONQUERED THROUGH THE MOHAWK VALLEY-1760

AND OVER THE MOHAWK-ST. LAWRENCE-CHAMPLAIN TRIANGLE
DIAGRAM MAP ESPECIALLY SHOWING MOHAWK RIVER FORTS, TOWNS AND INDIAN CASTLES IN 1760-ONLY FORTS THEN EXISTENT SHOWN KEY TO ARMY ROUTES ETC:- AMHERST →→→→→ HAVILAND →→→→→ MURRAY AND ROLLO →→→→→

JULY 15, 1760, GEN. MURRAY'S ARMY LEFT QUEBEC FOR MONTREAL-2,450 MEN IN 32 BOATS
GEN. ROLLO'S 1,300 MEN FROM LOUISBURG FOLLOWED-
MURRAY LANDED BELOW MONTREAL SEPT. 7, 1760

SEPT. 6, 1760, GEN. AMHERST'S AMERICAN AND BRITISH ARMY LANDED AT LACHINE, MARCHED NINE MILES TO MONTREAL AND PREPARED TO ATTACK-WITH GEN. MURRAY'S ARMY JUST BELOW MONTREAL, AND GEN. HAVILAND'S ARMY ON THE SOUTH RIVER SHORE, GEN. AMHERST'S FORCE NUMBERED OVER 17,000 MEN-
THE FRENCH GOVERNOR VANDREUIL (WITH ONLY 2400 FRENCH TROOPS LEFT) SURRENDERED MONTREAL AND NEW FRANCE (CANADA) SEPT. 8, 1760

ISLE AU NOIX TAKEN BY HAVILAND'S ARMY AND NAVY AUG. 27, 1760 IN ONLY BATTLE OF THE CAMPAIGN

FORT LEVIS (French) TAKEN BY GENERAL AMHERST'S ARMY AUG. 25, 1760
FORT DE LA PRESENTATION (French) also then called OSWEGATCHIE (now Ogdensburg)

FT. FRONTENAC (Fr.) (Kingston)

Lake Ontario

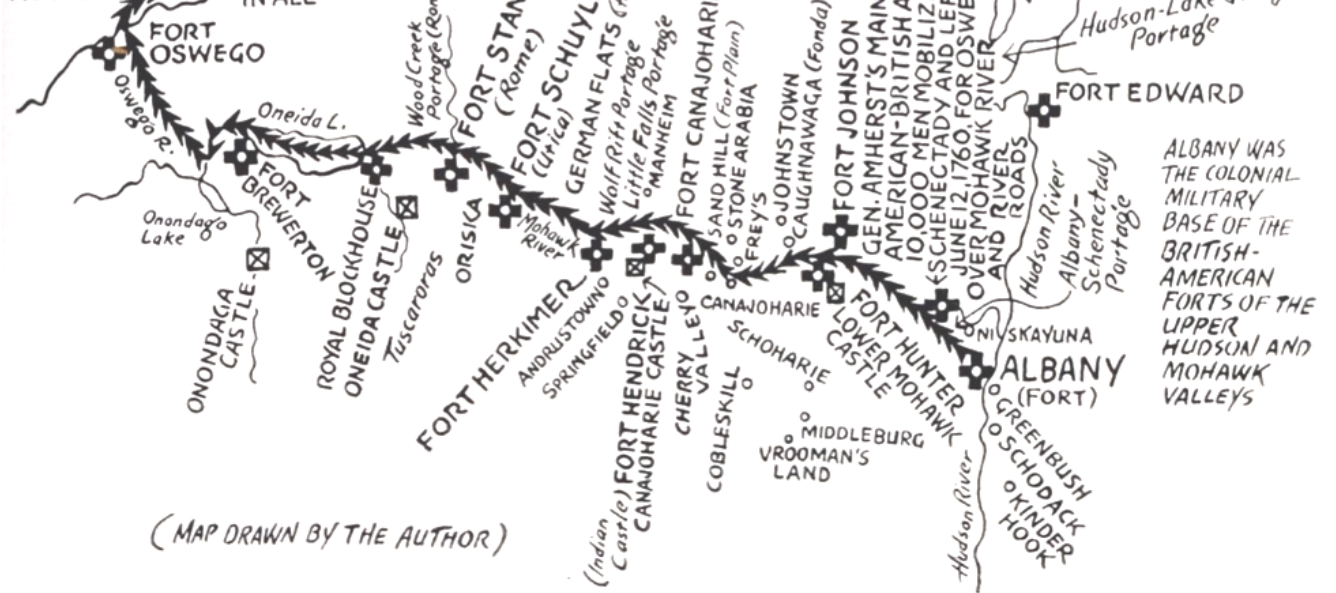
GEN. AMHERST'S ARMY REACHED OSWEGO IN JULY, 1760- EMBARKED ON LAKE ONTARIO IN 800 BOATS AUG. 10, 1760 FOR MONTREAL

AMHERST'S ARMY (MAIN BODY) HAD 6000 AMERICANS 4000 BRITISH AND 600 INDIANS UNDER SIR WM. JOHNSON 11000 IN ALL

GEN. HAVILAND'S ARMY OF 3400 AMERICAN MILITIA, BRITISH REGULARS AND INDIANS LEFT FORT CROWN POINT ABOUT AUG. 12, 1760

HAVILAND'S ARMY SAILS DOWN LAKE CHAMPLAIN IN ARMED FLEET FOR MONTREAL

ALBANY WAS THE COLONIAL MILITARY BASE OF THE BRITISH-AMERICAN FORTS OF THE UPPER HUDSON AND MOHAWK VALLEYS



(MAP DRAWN BY THE AUTHOR)

Tyconderoga - continued from previous page 8

Private Skellen from the Mills here we are encamped to fetch Adjutant Green from the Fort he being there wyth a small party digging up French artillery pieces the enemy had secret'd about.

Captain Daniel Schroth

August 12, 1759

Tyconderoga

This day I am sent to Fort Saint Frederic & the Cron Pointe. Happy to leave this Bogus land of low swamps & the pestilance of chiggers & moskitos. Such a horrid camp wyth such biting nuisances. To face the enemy in battle is less worrisome then seeking sleep & escape from the hordes of attacking inseckts. The blood letting ticks the worse ever I see.

Captain Timothy Green

Just a bit of whimsy. Bogus, a real 18th century and term for Ticonderoga which in sources pertains to a harsh, nasty tasting, rum and spruce beer drink, plus a place with nasty conditions to suffer in and from. Calibogus, Bogus, Boges, and various other spellings describe unwelcome conditions. Sgt Robert Webster in 1759 refers to Ticonderoga as Boges from the day he is ordered to go there, while there, and after leaving. Around the Low lying LaChute river and wetlands conditions must have been strength testing with the summer bugs plus the normal sickness of camp.

Gunflints found at Chimney Point

Submitted by Thomas Pray, Ensign
Battalion Journal Publisher

These are Gunflints found at Chimney Point. These illustrated plus two more a friend has have all been found in a field where once Rogers Rangers and Light Infantrymen camped. It is beside where the Smallpox Hospital sat near Hospital Creek. In 1760, after the Battle of Point au Fer, those who had been on that expedition were ordered there as Smallpox had broken out amongst the Crews of the ships that transported the Rangers. Fearing contagion amongst the troops, preparing for the Invasion of Canada, they were ordered to camp there. As all these flints are used perhaps a dumping ground was there also.



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 Eight

"If you oblige the enemy to retreat, be careful in your pursuit of them, to keep out your flanking parties, and prevent them from gaining eminences, or rising grounds, in which case they would perhaps be able to rally and repulse you in their turn." (Rogers 58)

Ranger Rules - continued on next page

Ranger Rules - continued from previous page

Even if the Rangers were able to break their enemy and force them to retreat, Rogers cautions his men against a headlong pursuit of the fleeing foe. The French and their Native allies were well known for their use of the ambush to lead their enemies into a devastating trap. Many times the enemy would look like they were retreating in total panic, but in reality they were merely trying to entice their foes into pursuing after the retreating force, only to have their pursuers plunge into an ambush set up for just that purpose. After the initial volley on what was thought to be the main force of the enemy at the "Second Battle on Snowshoes," about half of the Ranger force pursued after the remnants of the French party, only to run straight into what was actually the main body of the French patrol which greatly outnumbered the Rangers.

The pursuing Rangers were cut to pieces with only a handful being able to escape back to the rest of the main body. If the Rangers had used more caution in their pursuit, this battle, which turned out to be one of the deadliest of the war for the corps, could possibly have been avoided, or at least turned out differently.

Because of these factors Rogers cautions his men against such a pursuit in rule number eight. As we have discussed before the advantages of using a rising piece of ground to make a stand can be critical to your very existence. The Rangers had to be aware of the ability of the enemy, when in retreat, to find a piece of rising ground upon which to turn and rally their forces in order to make a stand against their pursuers. The advantage gained from this type of terrain may be just the thing needed to fend off any pursuits.

If you do decide to make a cautious pursuit of the retreating enemy, Rogers stresses the need to keep your flanking parties well maintained and strengthened, so that an ambush from either the right or left can be met with a strong defense. The importance of maintaining your flanking parties cannot be stressed enough. Without having your flanks protected, the enemy can press on the sides of your formation, and you will be receiving fire from

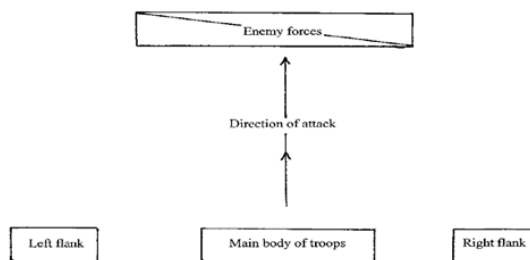
both the front, and from one or both of the sides. Even if your party makes use of the cover available to hide behind it will be very difficult to maintain your formation and hold your ground when under fire from more than one direction. The following diagram shows how to properly form your men, with strong right and left flanks, to pursue and engage a retreating enemy force. It is easy to see how much more secure a formation it is with strong flanking parties to protect the sides of your formation.

Battalion application:

When advancing in such a manner as directed in Rule #7, and if the ground permits such a formation, you should keep your flanking parties deployed and advancing as the individual ranks advance. This will insure that they enemy may not be able to counterattack against the sides of your formation. This will also prevent the enemy, if you are able to cause them to retreat from your advancing against them with a constant fire, from drawing your party into an ambush as you pursue them. The officers in command of the flanking parties will dictate these movements forward just as the officers in command of the first and second ranks do. If your flanking parties are large enough you may also be able to advance one half of your men as directed in Rule #7, or if not, you might want to keep you entire force loaded and ready in the event of an attack. The flanking parties should be divided up into fire teams as well.

Rogers Rules # 8

When attacking your enemy always keep out strong flanking parties to prevent the enemy pressing you on the right or left and possibly surrounding your forces.





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