



The
**BATTALION
JOURNAL**

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



250 Anniversary
Point au Fer
4-6 June 2010

N° 95

Vol. 2020-02

JAEGER'S BATTALION

SENIOR RANGER PROGRAM

By James Dauthrich, Serjeant
Michigan Company

Hello, I am Serjeant James Dauthrich, Michigan's company of Rogers' Rangers. Also, Senior Ranger number ten.

Many of you Rangers have heard about the Senior Ranger Program, and may also know one or more. As of this writing there are only ten Senior Rangers in the Battalion. There are three Senior Rangers in Michigan, one in Mississippi, two in New York, three in Ohio and one in Virginia.



Here are the major areas of qualification:

- 1) Uniforms and Equipment.
- 2) Event Participation.
- 3) Ranger Skills.
- 4) Development of a Historical Persona.
- 5) Visits to Historical Sites.
- 6) Historical Knowledge and Research.

And each of these has sub units, which I will not get into right now.

Now you are asking yourself what this have to do with me? Well a lot!

Believe it or not you may have already done many of the things required in the Senior Ranger Program, and just did not know it. When you got into this hobby, you looked around or just knew what you wanted to re-enact. Or when you were younger you and your parents may have visited historical sites and gotten the bug then. See, you have already started on number 5 without knowing it, yet!

Then once you joined your Ranger company, you are now working on numbers 1, 2 and 3. Once you started getting used to falling out with your company at events, more questions enter your head. Your fellow Rangers will help as best as they can, sometimes they cannot answer your questions. This is when they might send you to someone else or tell you what book might help you solve your question. Well you just started on number 6, which in turn may help you with number 4.

All of us that re-enact do lots and lots of research on everything we do, wear and use. But the Senior Ranger Program pushes us just a little farther, but not to the point of not having fun.

The Senior Ranger Program takes a minimum of three years to complete, it took me eight years to finish mine. As you see there are really no time limits to finish the program, per say. But there are two timed items, one in number 3 and one in number 6. Which you are given ample time to finish within the three-year period.

When the Senior Ranger Program Committee, created in 1990, included Major John C. Jaeger, Commanding; Captain Tim Todish, Adjutant; Captain-Lieutenant Terry

Todish, Historian; Ensign Maynard Lockwood III, Michigan Company; Ensign Kevin Oltmanns, Ohio Company and Jerry Olson, Cadet! When they set this up, they wanted to make it hard enough so it would not just fall in your lap. But not so hard that you had to have a Ph. D either.

When I got my paperwork to start on my way to become a Senior Ranger, the first thing I did was to look it over. I saw some easy stuff to do and some hard stuff to do, which is what the Senior Ranger Program Committee had in mind. Some of us are good at one or two things, but not all of the things in the program. On the Jaeger's Battalion Website: www.rogersrangers.com, on the top of the page you will see the tab for "Senior Ranger Program". Have a look see. I think once you send your \$5.00 dollars to Major Bill Blair, he can best tell you how to send the money (his e-mail is: varangercox.net). You will discover, damn, I can do most all of that, but may need help with this or that. Your fellow Rangers and those who have become Senior Rangers will help you as needed.



Subscription Information

To Subscribe:

There are two ways that you can get the Battalion Journal.

Method One:

Send your name, address, city, state, email address and Ranger Company to Either of the following Journal Staff Members below [use the format given for the staff contacts]. Also if you know of a member who is not getting the Journal, encourage him/her to do so.

Ensign Thomas Pray
Publisher, Battalion Journal
637 Telegraph Road
Peru, New York 12972
New York Company
Email: atlat@charter.net

Captain Lt. Jerry Knitis
Editor, Battalion Journal
303 North Greece Road
Hilton, New York 14468
New York Company
Email: fknitis@aol.com

Method Two:

1. Go to the Battalion Website.
2. Go to tab "Battalion Journal."
3. Look for the Red box on the right hand of your screen. Push the button and it will take you to a login screen. You need the password which your company commander can provide you with.
4. This will allow you to download the latest as well as archived Journals.

THE BATTLE OF POINT AU FER
ROGERS RANGERS FINAL BATTLE
ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN



By Thomas Pray, Ensign
 New York Company

In late spring of 1760 Major General Jeffrey Amherst ordered Colonel William Haviland, headquartered at Crown Point, to send Major Robert Rogers to Albany for instructions regarding a secret mission. Major Rogers was scouting in the region of Windmill Point and the Richelieu River observing the French forces entrenched at Isle Au Noix. Upon being recalled to Crown Point, Rogers received his instructions from Colonel Haviland. On May 19th 1760, Major Rogers traveled to Albany. In his journals he would write of the dangerous mission he and his men had been assigned. Robert Rogers companies were the most reliable of the Provincial groups for scouting. Major Rogers had trained his men to use the warfare tactics of the Natives whom he opposed. It was his belief that you studied your enemy and you used their own tactics and methods against them. You improve and build upon that knowledge to best and defeat your enemy at their own game. He would yearly strive to perfect that belief. He was sure that the year 1760 would be no different and that he and his men would again be in the forefront of any campaign. In his journal he would describe the beginning of what some historians think was his greatest expedition and battle of the French and Indian War.

“Rogers set out in obedience to this order, the 19th of May and waited upon the General at Albany the 23rd, and gave him all the information I could, in regard to the passage into Canada by the Island de Noix, or nut island, and likewise that by Oswego and La Gallette. The General being acquainted by an express, that Quebec was then besieged by the French informed me of his intentions of sending me with the a party into Canada, and if the siege of Quebec was continued, to destroy their country as far as possible, and by constantly marching from one place to another, try to draw off the enemy’s

troops, and prolong the siege till our vessels got up the river. (Richelieu) He strongly recommended, and ordered me to govern myself according to the motions of the French army; to retreat if they had raised the siege, and in case, by prisoners or otherwise, I shall find the siege still going-on, to harass the country tho it were at the expense of my party.”

These orders gave Major Rogers authority to fight the French as he saw fit. Though he would receive further instructions regarding his objectives and how they might be achieved, implementation was largely at the discretion of Rogers and his companies of Rangers. Major Rogers and his men would be the spearhead force of a much larger campaign to follow. On May 25th, General Amherst gave Rogers his written instructions:

“Major Rogers, you are to take under your command a party of 300 men, composed of 275 Rangers with their proper Officers, and a subaltern, two sergeants, and twenty five men of the Light infantry; with which detachment you will proceed down the lake, under the convoy of the Brig (90 foot-Duke of Cumberland), where you will fix upon the safest and best place for laying up your boats, which I imagine one of the islands will best answer, while you are executing the following services”. “You will with 250 men land on the West-side, in such a manner that you may get to St. John’s without the enemy at the Isle Au Noix having any intelligence of it, where you will try to surprize the Fort, and destroy the vessels, boats, provisions, or whatever else may be there for the use of the troops at the Isle Au Noix. You will then march to Fort Chamble, where you will do the same, and you will destroy every magazine you can find in that part, so as to distress the enemy as much as you can.” “This will soon be known at the Isle Au Noix, and you must take care not to be cut off in your retreat; for which reason, when you have done all you think practical on the western-side; I judge your best and safest retreat will be to cross the River (Richelieu) and march back the east-side of Isle Au Noix. When you land on the West side you will send such officer with fifty Rangers, as you think will best answer their intended service, which is to march for Wigwam Martinique, to destroy what he may find there and on the east side of the river, and afterwards join you, or to retreat in such a manner as you will direct him.” “You will take such provisions as you judge necessary with you, and fix with Captain Grant (Brig-Duke of Cumberland Commander)- who shall have orders to wait for your return, the places where he may look out for you when you come back.” “You will take your men as light with you as possible, and give them all the necessary caution for the conduct, and their obedience to their officers; no firing without order, no unnecessary alarms, no retreating without an order, they are to stick by one another and nothing can hurt them; let every man whose firelock will carry it have a bayonet; you are not to suffer the Indians (Stockbridge company) to destroy women or children, no plunder to be taken to load your men, who

*shall be rewarded at their return as they deserve.
May 25th, 1760-Jeff. Amherst."*

General Amherst, while not personally chiding Rogers for the conduct of his men after the St. Francis Raid the previous fall, was clear in his instructions that there was to be no the taking of plunder. There would be no killing of women or children. He did not want a repeat of such conduct by anyone. The behavior of the Rangers and Stockbridge Natives in that 1759 raid had cost lives and also spread propaganda that still reverberated in the region. The killing and eating of Chief Gill's wife wasn't forgotten by either side. There would be no excuses allowed and it was stressed the men would obey their officers, which in turn meant him, General Amherst.

Major Roger returned to Crown Point to fulfill his objectives. The orders had been what Rogers expected. He and his men would be headed into what could prove to be a beehives nest of opposition. The Abenaki tribesmen and their other Native allies were still smarting from the attack on Odanak (St. Francis). Though Rogers had suffered immensely on the return trip, the Abenaki were still angry. The loss of women, children, and the elderly in that attack still made Native cries for revenge echo through the forests. The risk of surviving any capture by Abenaki warriors was slim for a Ranger. The loss of many of his men and officers during that hard campaign had weakened his remaining companies. Recruitment had been slim. He still had a good amount of veterans but his ranks had also been filled with conscripts and new volunteers.

He wasn't allowed much time to train them and he must have been a little apprehensive about the mission. He had always been an active man when such odds faced him. He would fulfill his orders even if it was at the expense of his company.

The Stockbridge Native Company, being mustered at Albany, was late in their departure for the mission. There had been a question of rank for the Native Officers that had slowed recruitment. Just twenty-five Natives had arrived. Colonel Haviland sent the following letter about them to the commanding officers of the four posts between Crown Point and Albany. Haviland's dislike for Major Rogers spills over onto his description of Rogers Stockbridge Company:

"As Major Rogers informs me Captain Solomon's Company of Indians are on their way from Albany, That they get drunk at the posts, by which they are rendered incapable of coming here, Agreeable to his Excellency, General Amherst's Orders. Therefore it will be for his Majesty's service to prevent their getting Rum, and not let them remain longer at your post then is reasonable for their refreshment, it is also hoped the commanding officer at Fort George will forward them and any Rangers that arrive, by way of the Lake, without delay."

Major Rogers would also gather his most trusted and senior Rangers and Officers for the mission. Captains Jonathan Brewer and Noah Johnson would lead two companies of 50 men. Lieutenant Simon Stevens would be recalled from command duty at Fort #4 on the Connecticut River, and bring 26 Rangers with him to add to the force. Ensign Wood of the 17th Regiment, a Sergeant, and 12 light infantrymen also were part of the vanguard. Lieutenant Holmes

would lead 50 men; Lieutenant Bill Phillips would also attend with a company. Major Rogers and his men would gather their provisions, load their bateaux onto the Brig Duke of Cumberland, the Sloop Boscawen, and the former French Xebecs captured in late 1759, and proceed northward.

The force consisted of 239 Rangers, and Light infantry. Captain Solomon with the Natives was to follow as soon as possible.

Rogers had received further orders. It was imperative that Amherst get a message through to Murray at Quebec in order to coordinate their advances on Montreal. Rogers was to send volunteers across the enemy held territory in between. Sergeant Thomas Beverly, and privates, Luxford Goodwin (Gooding), John Shute, and Joseph Eastman stepped forward to fulfill that mission, being offered 50 pounds sterling for the hazardous duty. Major Rogers and his armada sailed north to Missisquoi Bay, and on the morning of June 3rd 1760, discharged Sergeant Beverly and the three Ranger privates for Quebec. Lieutenants John Holmes, Samuel Stark, Ensign Bill Phillips, and 48 Rangers were sent forward to destroy the village at Wigwam Martinique on the Yamaska River.

Captain Grant sailed around the south end of Isle LaMotte and proceeded north. He anchored off the Northern tip of the island. Major Rogers sent the smaller sloops northward towards Windmill Point after offloading the bateaux and men. Two hundred and thirteen Rangers and Officers rowed into the bay and woods near Point au Fer and Chazy Bay (King's Bay) on the night of June 4th 1760.

On June 5th it rained all day. The Rangers hid their bateaux, waited, and watched the activity on the lake. The continuing rain would spoil their bread supply. It would dampen their powder. Major Rogers sent scouting patrols north along the western shoreline to observe the French. The lake was alive with small French boats observing the Large British Brig and sloops in the waters before Windmill Point. Major Rogers feared that the smaller sloops might be attacked and boarded in the night. After dark, Major Rogers rowed out to them and ordered them south under the care and guardianship of the larger Brig. French scouts observed this and reported back to Colonel Bourlamaque at Isle Au Noix.

The local Milice, Partisans, and Natives were organized to lead a surprise attack against Rogers men. Some French regulars also volunteered. The Natives were most eager to join. Some remembered well Odanak and the destruction there. The anger and shame of the loss of loved ones to a surprise attack still filled their chests with remorse and a need for revenge. The word passed that this force in the woods were Rangers and Rogers might be with them. Many displaced Abenaki hoped this was true. Many had filtered into the region after the Mission had been destroyed joining family members near Isle au Noix and the refugee Native camps there. They truly wished to eradicate the "White Devil" from the earth and were hoping to get the chance.

The French Force of 350 men was led by Partisan leader Michel Pepin LaForce. A former storekeeper at Fort St. Frederic, Laforce had also been forced from his home and loved ones as the British encroachment continued up Lake Champlain. Ensign Langy, the most famous Partisan leader, had drowned in the Richelieu River over the winter. His loss was devastating to the Milice. He had been Rogers

greatest nemesis and his hit and run attacks on Rogers had been most effective. Many Milice were so disheartened by his death that they failed to appear when called to volunteer but there were still many to oppose Rogers. Much reward and fame would go to the man who could claim to have caused Rogers his death. The French party headed out.

Robert Rogers was prepared as he sent out scouting patrols to cover any approach to his position. Rogers scouts counted the enemy as they crossed From Isla Au Noix to the western shore; the Rangers were deployed expertly within the woods and bog near Point au Fer. The French force was not aware of the whereabouts of Rogers men until the advance party stumbled into an ambush at 11:30 in the morning. Major Rogers men, in their green short jackets, were almost invisible in the cedar forest and swamps at Point au Fer. The French main force quickly came up in support but the continual firing, reloading, and moving of the Rangers kept the Partisans, Milice, and Natives off

balance and disorganized. Ensign Wood, his Light Infantrymen and Captain Noah Johnson would hold the left, Major Rogers would hold the Middle of the Line, and Captain Brewer held the Right. The swamps and forest were thick with undergrowth but smoke from firing revealed positions until it became so thick that it hung throughout the air. The Rangers were outnumbered and though well trained and veterans, sheer numbers would soon overwhelm them. The force of 350 French were engaged by only 145 Rangers as Major Rogers gambled on the outcome of the battle by a daring maneuver. He would later write to General Amherst of the engagement and that gamble:

“Half after eleven they attacked me very briskly on my left, having on my right a bog, which they did not venture over, thro which however by the edge of the Lake, I sent seventy of my party to get round and attack them in the rear. This party (of men) was commanded by Lieutenant Farrington. As soon as he began his attack, I pushed them in front, which broke them immediately. I pursued them with the greatest part of my people about a mile, where they retired to a thick cedar swamp and divided into small parties. By this time it rained again very hard. I called my party immediately together at the boats, where I found that Ensign Wood of the 17th regiment was killed. Captain Johnson wounded through the body, a second shot thro his arm, and a third in his head. I had two men of the Light Infantry, and eight Rangers wounded, and sixteen Rangers killed. WE killed Forty of the enemy, and recovered about fifty firelocks. Their commanding officer, Monsieur La Force, was mortally hurt, and several of the party likewise wounded.”

Major Rogers kept scouts out looking in case the French reorganized and planned a counter attack. His Rangers under Lieutenant Farrington had destroyed the Native contingent in their flanking attack from the bog. Two sachems had been killed and the Native force was demoralized. The Natives fled the field of battle and upon their return to Isle Au Noix went home to bury their dead. The “White Devil” seemed to be protected. His men had fought ferociously and though greatly outnumbered had emerged

victorious. This was demoralizing to the Natives but the loss of more warriors they couldn’t readily replace was something they couldn’t afford. Many lodges would be emptier and more death songs would be sung. More land would be taken and the Natives saw the futility of continued resistance. The French also retreated north stunned at their losses. The alarm went out to surrounding villages that invaders were amongst them. Rogers had his wounded carried and loaded into the bateaux and rowed unhampered back to the Brig anchored at the north end of Isle La Motte. He would reorganize his command. He continued his description of the engagement and losses:

“I dispatched one of the vessels (sloops) to Crown Point, on board which was put the corpse of Mr. (Ensign) Wood, but Captain Johnson died on his passage thither, this vessel I ordered to bring more provisions. (as they had been destroyed in the rain). I buried the rest of the dead on an island, (Cloak Island at the south of Isle LaMotte), and then began to prepare for a second landing; being joined by the (missing) Stockbridge company. I was determined at all advantages to pursue my orders, (and) settled the plan of landing.”

The French had seen Rogers, the prisoners, and his men board the Brig and Sloops and sail southward. They would continue watching for a couple of days but felt the expedition had suffered much and that Rogers was headed to Crown Point. They were wrong. They had underestimated the dedication of Major Rogers. He would pursue his mission. Major Rogers left instructions for Captain Grant to look for him on both sides of the shore. He would land with his party on the west shore opposite to Isle La Motte (Chazy Bay-King’s Bay) and from there march north to continue in his pursuit of following General Amherst’s orders to destroy St. Johns, Chamblee, and any posts between (St. Therese). He left instructions that he would fire three guns at a minute’s interval to alert Captain Grant to the position from which he wished to be picked up. On the 9th of May Lieutenant McCormick joined Rogers with 25 of the belated Stockbridge Company. An Ensign, Sergeant, and 30 more Light Infantry of the 17th also arrived from Crown Point to increase his force; which now consisted of 220 officers and men. He landed on the Western shore. He marched as far as St. John’s and arrived about two miles from the fort on the evening of the 15th. It had continued to rain making progress slow in the forests, swamps, and bogs. Major Rogers described his plan for continuing his orders against the French Forts.

“At eleven o’clock this night I had marched with intent to surprise the fort, to within four hundred the yards of it, where I halted to reconnoiter, which I did, and found they had more men than I expected. The number of the (S)entries within the fort were seventeen, and so well fixed, that I thought it impossible for me to take the place by surprise, especially as they had seen me and fired several guns accordingly. I left at two o’clock, and marched down the river to St.d, Etrese (St. Therese), at break of day I reconnoitered this place and found that the enemy had in it a stockaded

Fort, defensible against small arms."

At ten a.m. the Ranger force was arranged in the woods surrounding the Fort of St. Therese. Hay wagons had been proceeding from fields into and out of the gate all morning. The gate would open and the wagons would slowly proceed in to unload their hay. Major Rogers sent 100 men under the commands of Captain Brewer and Lieutenant McCormick who met by the banks of the riverside shielded from observation. They fixed bayonets and waited for the gate to open again as more wagons came up to unload. The Rangers quickly sprang up and rushed the gate as the wagons blocked any attempts to close them. The Fort was captured with no shots fired. At the same time these Rangers were rushing the Fort gate, others were doing the same with the surrounding houses. Only a few young men in the hayfields took to their heels and escaped into the woods. In his journal Rogers relates the event:

"I observed two large store-houses in the inside and that the enemy were carting hay into the fort. I waited for an opportunity when the cart had just entered the gate-way, run forward, and got into the fort before they could clear the way for shutting the gate. I had at this time sent different parties to the several houses, about fifteen in number which were near the Fort, and all were surprised at the same instant of time, and without firing a single gun. We took in the Fort twenty four soldiers, and in the houses seventy eight prisoners, women and children included; some men made their escape to Chamblee. I examined the prisoners and found I could not proceed to Chamblee with any prospect of success-therefore concluded my best way was to burn the fort and village, which I did, together with a considerable magazine of Hay, and some provisions, with every battoe and canoe except eight battoes which I kept to cross the river (Richelieu), and these we afterwards cut to pieces. We also killed their cattle, horses, &etc, destroyed their wagons, and every other thing which we thought could ever be of service to the enemy."

Major Rogers set the women and children at liberty. He, in another of the jokes which he liked to rankle the French with, wrote them a pass for safe travel to Montreal, subject to the approval of his various commands in the region, referring to Lt. Holmes, Lt. Phillips, and others. He also allowed the women to remove their bedding from the houses and some effects before he burned the buildings. He would follow his orders from General Amherst and so would his men. He kept the captured 35 men under guard and crossed to the East side of the Richelieu River. He would be pursued by 800 Milice from Isle Au Noix but his rear guard would keep them at bay.

The larger French force was too slow to catch the fleeing Rangers. On the 20th of June he would arrive near Windmill Point and have his men fire the approved signal for Captain Grant. The bateau was rowed to his men on shore and upon their arrival onboard the Brig, they observed the French pursuing force arrive upon the shore. They had narrowly escaped, the French had arrived too late to stop them.

In contrast to the daring success of Rogers, Lt. Holmes

and the force charged with destroying the village of Wigwam Martinique, on the Yamaska River, had become lost and returned without fulfilling their objective. The truth of this account of the "lost force" who sustained no losses would be questioned by many. But General Amherst defended Lt. Holmes saying he believed he did all he could to fulfill his mission. One wonders though. Here were veterans of the 1759 campaign being sent into the very same region of Hostile Natives, eager for revenge, with only fifty men. Fifty men to oppose whatever Native force they may have run into. The St. Francis campaign had cost both sides immensely and perhaps Lt. Holmes and his men remembered it all too well. Perhaps they did get lost, but rumors must have swelled around the camps that perhaps they didn't. It was obvious to most participants that the war was becoming a matter of attrition. Why risk annihilation when time would help your cause. It remains a matter of conjecture. He did report that the region was up in arms and he saw groups of Natives throughout the forest. The loss of his force would have served no military purpose.

Sergeant Beverly and his three Rangers would make it through the enemy held territory to Colonel Murray in Quebec and deliver the messages from General Amherst. The final campaign and linking up of the three British commands would move forward. The results of the raid increased Major Rogers fame. The Natives defeated at the Battle of Point au Fer would leave the service of the French, bury their dead, foresee the French defeat, and sue for peace with the British. Many of the Partisans and Milice would also drift away to their farms and homes to be with their families and also no longer fight. Two companies of French regulars would be shifted from Montreal to Isle Au Noix thus weakening the defenses of the last Canadian stronghold.

Major Rogers Raid, though not as successful as had been wished for, still destroyed a vital link (Fort St. Therese) in the defense and supplying of the Richelieu River Valley. It left St. Johns and Isle au Noix further away from assistance. The beginning of the end would start in August as the British would advance from three sides. General Amherst would come west from Oswego along the St. Lawrence, Colonel Murray would come east from Quebec, and newly promoted Brigadier General Haviland would advance north from Crown Point up Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River. Rangers would lead all three groups.



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.

Submitted by Thomas Pray, Ensign;
Battalion Journal Publisher

Saturday, August 9.

AMERICA *New York, June 16.*

By the Albany Post that arrived last night we have advice, that the brave Major Rogers has had another brush with the French.

He, with 200 rangers, being out on a scout, landed about three miles from Nutten Island, the 4th instant, but were soon attacked by 300 of the enemy, when a smart engagement immediately commenced, and ended greatly to the disadvantage of the French, they being soon obliged to fly, having between forty and fifty men killed and wounded. The Major brought off three Indian scalps, but had ten men killed and nine wounded. Among the former were Capt. Johnson of the rangers and Ensign Wood of Gen. Monkten's.

Additional Accounts of Battle of Point au Fer

Journal Accounts of Major Rogers' Richelieu River Scout and Battle of Point au Fer by Provincial Soldiers. These soldiers observed and recorded information that flowed through the Camps about Major Rogers, his Rangers, and their exploits.

Crown Point ... 16th June 1760

"Sat Sail & Came to Crown Point Fort where we landed & pitched our tents. Had intelligence of Major Roggers's Fight within about 50 miles of St. Johns Where they had a very warm engagement a party of about 5 or 600 of the enemy fell upon 300 of our Rangers & Proventials fought them for Considerable Time and Killed Nine of our men on the spott & wounded 13 more, 10 of which died soon after. Capt. Noah Johnson was killed at the same time. Tis thought they killed a large number of the Enemy but never could find out how many for they being so Numerous they carried off their dead."

Sgt. David Holden

Crown Point ... 18th June, 1760

"A Small Light was discovered on the other side of the lake Just before sun set whereupon Majr. Skeene, Capt. Brewer, & Capt James Roggers of the Rangers with about 30 men went out in Two Battoes & one Whale-boat on the Discovery & and was gone all night. Capt. Hutchins of the Proventials also went out"

Sgt. David Holden

Crown Point ... 18th June, 1760

At the evening we espyd a fire made on the West side of the Lake 6 miles down. Inmediately a party & sum of our pequit guard was sent in 2 battoes & a whale boat to discover who they be. As Rogers is out with a large party it is supposed it is sum of his returning.

Captain Samuel Jenks

Crown Point ... 19th June 1760

"This morning the party came in. Brought in two English prisoners that was Taken Last Winter who ran away from the Indians and built a light that they may be discovered by

the garrison. This day Capt. Foot came in with about 116 other Prisoners in the Brigg with a Flag of Truce from the French who give account the French are so short of provisions they could keep them no longer."

Sgt. David Holden

Crown Point ... 20th June 1760

This afternoon a Whaleboat was sent off with dispatches to Major Rogers, &c.

Captain Samuel Jenks

Ticonderoga ... June 20th, 1760

Went on fatigue this day; also received news that the French had sent In about 150 of our English Prisoners, who were received by Major Rogers at his post near Nut Island and the French sent back.

Ensign Rufus Putnam

Crown Point ... 23rd June, 1760

This was a wet day. Major Roggers arrived here from his scout At Saint Johns, Brought in 25 Prisoners.

Sgt. David Holden

Crown Point ... 23rd June, 1760

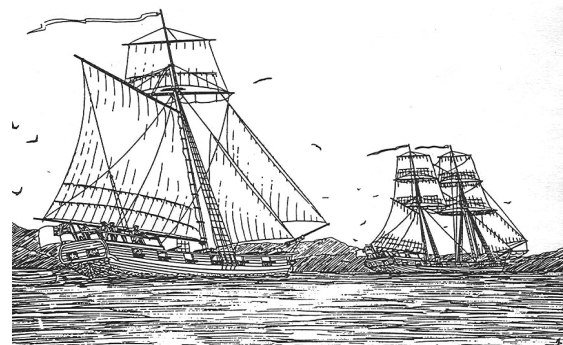
...Sum of Major Rogers party arrived from a scout. At nine oclock in ye evening the Major Came in himself, & 26 French Prisoners with him taken about 3 miles from St. Johns Fort. He has destroyd a small pequited fort and several houses, & a great quantity of Provisions. This was effected without any blood shed or firing a gun.

Captain Samuel Jenks

Some time ago there was a discussion as to whether Fifes and Drums were played during battle." *I take no sides, not being that well informed on the subject*", but did find this nice little tidbit of note to share from Sergeant David Holden's journal for July 23rd, 1760 while attacking the Fort at Isle au Noix in the Richelieu River. (advancing towards Montreal).

"Open'd Three of our Batteries at 3 o'Clock this afternoon upon a Sygnal of a gun from the artillery & which Time the Drums and liles Beating a Pint of war away very smartly from our Battries."

Either they played away smartly during the bombardment or they signaled it's start. Either way-they were playing as noted by Sergeant Holdin.



The sloop *Boscawen* and brig *Duke of Cumberland* under sail.
Drawing by Kevin J. Crisman. (Lake Champlain Maritime Museum)

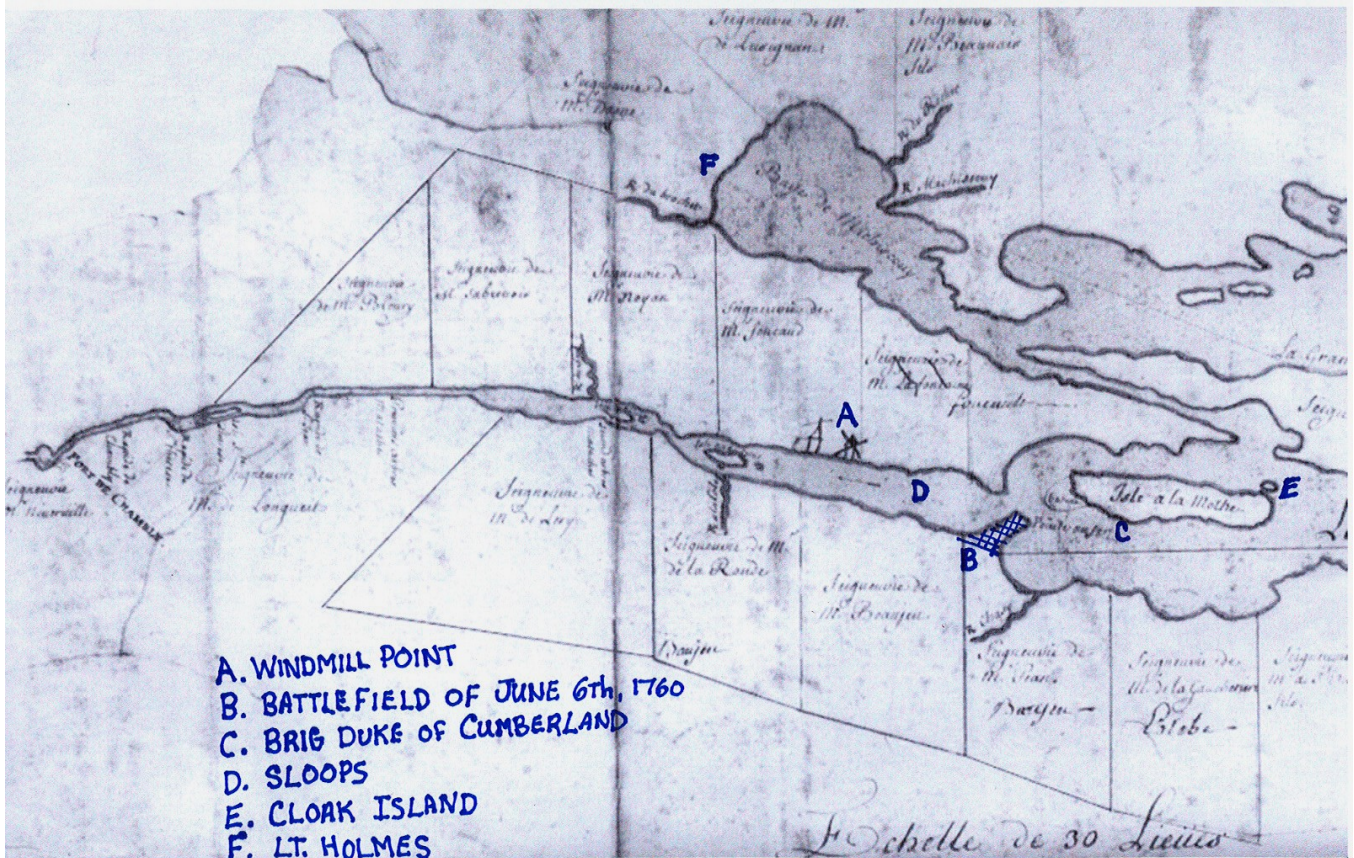
Images of the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Point au Fer

4 - 6 June 2010



Map of Point au Fer

By Thomas Pray, Ensign
New York Company



1740 "Map of Lake Champlain from the Fort of Chambly to the 'pointe à la Chevelure'" drawn by Chaussergros de Lery. His northern section of the map is seen here. "Lacolle Map" This version from after 1746 as Foucault's Windmill and Church not built until that year

Legend for Map :

- A.** Windmill Point and location of old French village and Dock. It is where the French small boats that observed Major Rogers were massed.
- B.** Point au Fer Battlefield. B marks the center which Major Rogers held. To the North of the Hash marked section, along the shore, 2nd Lt. Jacob Farrington led 70 men in a flanking movement.
- C.** Where the Brig, the Duke of Cumberland was anchored. It is the deepest part of the channel and from this location one can view the landing place of Major Rogers and his forces plus northwards towards the Richelieu River. Just off Point au Fer to the South is a shallow, dangerous reef.
- D.** The British sloops were ordered here by Major Rogers to command the attention of the French small boats which were at the mouth of the Richelieu River. The River exits Lake Champlain near A.
- E.** Just Southeast of Isle LaMotte is Cloak Island. This is where the Dead Ranger Privates of Rogers force are

buried. Captain Noah Johnson and Ensign Wood were returned to Crown Point on one of the Sloops.

- F.** The Bay Misissquoi where Lt. Holmes and 50 men were disembarked on the 3rd of June to locate and destroy Wigwam Martinique on the Yamaska River. Wigwam Martinique being only 10 miles from the 1759 destroyed St. Francis Mission and Village. F. is also where Sgt. Beverly and his 3 men were set off towards Quebec to deliver dispatches.



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 Twelve

"If you determine to rally after a retreat, in order to make a fresh stand against the enemy, by all means endeavour to do it on the most rising ground you come at, which will give you greatly the advantage in point of situation, and enable you to repulse superior numbers." (Rogers 59)

Most soldiers when confronted by a superior force of the enemy, and forced to retreat after engaging them, would only have the thought of getting away safely, but most normal soldiers were not the men of the caliber of "Rogers Rangers." Few units of the French and Indian War period would think of going back on the offensive when being pursued by a superior force, but that is exactly what Rogers advises his men to do in rule number twelve. Nothing better could convince a stubborn enemy from breaking off their pursuit of your party than having your force turn around, rally, and throw a fierce fire back at them. By making such a stand, and perhaps surprising your pursuers with a strong constant fire on their formation, you might be able to confuse and break their formation, forcing them to retreat in turn. If this fresh stand was devastating enough, your party may even force them to give up their pursuit, allowing your men to reach the safety of their home bases.

Rogers also goes back to a reoccurring fact in his rules that of using an elevated position, or "rising piece of ground on which to make this fresh stand." The use of this type of ground to gain a tactical advantage over your enemy had been in use for years, and is found in use since the beginning of written military tactics. By taking a stand on an elevated position, you force your enemy to have to make their way uphill against your position, causing them fatigue which will make it more difficult to engage your forces once they reach your position. Your movements and the disposition of your men will be hidden from the sight of you enemy, unless they can observe your position from another elevated piece of ground, which will give your forces more time to prepare for any attack. Most marksmen will tell you that it is easier to shoot at a target downhill from your position, most likely from a protected position of rest, than it would be to shoot uphill when out of breath from ascending the rising piece of ground. The use of the regular practice of always

keeping one half of your party reloaded while the other half of the party discharges their firelocks at the advancing enemy would also make them advance under the fury of a constant fire. This advantage gained from something as simple as the type of ground you choose to make your stand upon could be the turning point of the action, and become the factor that makes the enemy break of the pursuit of your party.

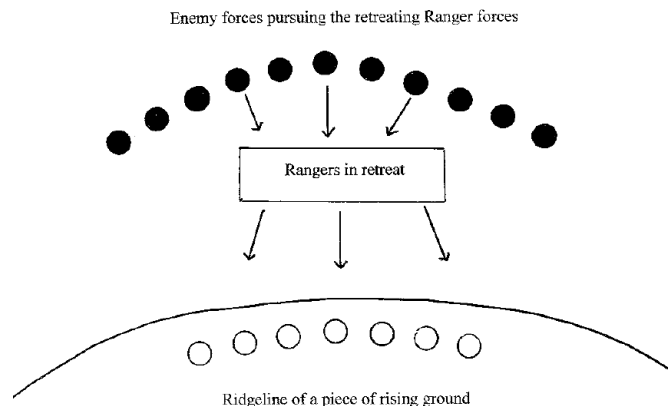
Battalion application:

If an attack from the enemy forces you to withdraw and retreat from the field of battle, it is highly likely that the enemy may pursue you and try to take advantage of their being able to break your formation. You may be able to use such a pursuit to your advantage and turn the tables on the enemy as they try to chase you down.

- 1. You should already have established a rallying point to retreat to before setting out on your mission. Watch for good places to rally, such as a suitable rising piece of ground, and as you travel indentify these rally points to the troops as you pass them by. Remembering to do this is critical to the success of your mission.*
- 2. Rally your party at that point, forming a front to meet the enemy in pursuit with strong flanking parties on both sides.*
- 3. If your numbers will allow it, keep a reserve held to the rear for deployment against an attack on your front or flanks.*
- 4. Remember to use your fire teams to maintain a constant fire against the enemy.*
- 5. By using a rising piece of ground to your advantage you may be able to break off the enemy's pursuit of your party, or even be able to counter attack them.*

Rogers Rules # 12

When you are forced to retreat by a superior force of the enemy, and they pursue your party, but you determine to rally and oppose their pursuit, look for a rising piece of ground to rally upon and make your stand, which will give you an advantage.



The Rangers reform here, forcing the enemy to engage them from the advantage of an elevated position, helping to repulse superior numbers.



Battalion Staff

Commanding Officer	Major Bill Blair	varanger@cox.net
Adjutant	Captain Timothy Green	capadj@gmail.com
Webmaster	Shannon Green-Fay	sinan09@gmail.com

Battalion Web Sites:

Battalion Web Site	http://www.rogersrangers.com/
Battalion Staff Web page:	http://www.rogersrangers.com/staffandco.html
School of the Ranger	http://www.schooloftheranger.com/

Battalion Companies' Web Pages

Anglum's Illinois Company	http://illinoisrangersblogspot.com/
Schroth's New York Company	http://www.schrothscompany.com
Pfau's Maryland Company	http://rogersrangers.com/MDCCompany/

Battalion Journal Staff

Publisher;	Thomas Pray	atlatl@charter.net
Editor;	Jerry Knitis	fknitis@aol.com
Associate Editor;	Lou Tramelli	ljtramelli@gmail.com
Associate Editor;	Karen E. Schasel-Millard	kesm1964@gmail.com
Proof Reader;	Kathryn Keel	No email address
Proof Reader;	Dave Fagerberg	dfagerberg@kc.rr.com

Send all correspondence to:

Thomas Pray, Publisher
Battalion Journal
637 Telegraph Road
Peru, New York 12972



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. Matheney's quarters at:

Captain Lt. Chris Matheney
1310 Ridgewood Way, N.E.
Lancaster, Ohio 43130
Email: 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.

An Outstanding Line of Battalion Bonnets Offered by Judy DeJonge

A Lighter Blue Bonnet, Heavily Felted Thick and Heavy for Extended Wear.

A navy blue with red trim (in addition to her "classic" Battalion Bonnet). as well as a plain blue and Navy Blue bonnets. (with no red trim).

You can contact her at

Judy DeJonge
1260 Beckwidth N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
or
mdejonge4@att.net

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.