



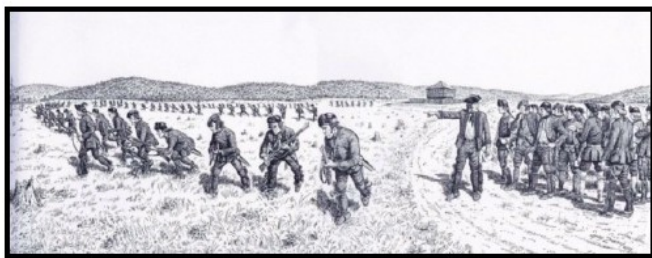
# The BATTALION JOURNAL

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



N<sup>o</sup> 84

Early Fall 2017



"Roger's Rangers Cadet School" image used with permission of Artist/Historian Gary Zaboly.

## School of the Ranger

Submitted by Pvt. Lou Tramelli  
Michigan Company

Over the years numerous School of the Ranger articles have appeared in the Battalion Journal. Because of this I was hesitant to offer another, but I would beg your indulgence for the following reasons: It's an opportunity for new members in the Battalion to find out about and benefit from the program, and many aspects of the SOR have significantly changed.

For those new to the Ranging Service, the School of the Ranger is a semi immersive event designed to teach participants the documented field craft skill necessary for 18th c Ranging. The subject matter focuses on reconnoitering party skills including patrol formations, ambush & immediate actions, land navigation, tracking / counter tracking, winter survival skills, etc. The School of the Ranger has always been, and continues to be an All Volunteer effort with all monies raised benefiting the historic host site. The event has traditionally been held the last weekend in January at Fort Frederick MD. The 2018 School of the Ranger will continue at this wonderful site, Jan 26th through the 28th. Please note that future dates may vary slightly to deconflict the

## *Messages from the Retired Major*

Rangers:

As you probably know, on July 1, at Fort Niagara, I passed command of the Battalion on to my long-serving and loyal adjutant, Bill Blair, of the Virginia Company.

Major Blair has selected Tim Green, the Battalion Sergeant-Major, of the New York Company, to be the new Captain and Adjutant.

Tom Flynn, of the Maryland Company, has been promoted to Captain-Lieutenant and Battalion Ordnance Officer.

I am also retiring from command of the Michigan Company. Lt. Chris Hanley, who has been the nominal commander of the company while I served as Battalion Commander, has been promoted to Captain and now commands the company in his own right. Sgt. Mike De-Jonge, Michigan company sergeant, has been promoted to ensign to assist him.

Personally, I would like to thank all of you for your long and dedicated service to the Battalion under myself and also our late founder, Major John C. Jaeger. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with you.

Please support Major Blair and Captain Green the same way that you have supported me over the years.

Attached are a few photos of the change of command ceremony, which was very impressive and moving. My thanks go to Bill Blair who planned it, Sgt. Paul Peterson of the Kentucky Company who acted as the commander of troops, and Tim Green who commanded the Battalion color guard.

I remain your most humble servant,

Tim Todish, Major (ret.)

Past Commander, Jaeger's Battalion, Rogers' Rangers

*SOTR - continued on page 7*



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By Jerry Knitis, Editor

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**For Information and Pricing**

**Tyconderoga Scout**  
21-23 July 2017

Submitted by Captain Timothy Green, Adjutant Jaeger's Battalion.

The following Rangers participated in the subject action:

- Captain Timothy Green, Adjutant Jaeger's Batt.
- Serjeant Stephen Mathe, NY Compy
- Ranger Private Jeremy Skellen, NY Compy
- Ranger Recruit Rennie Love, NY Compy

For the first time since the 250th Anniversary in 2008, members of Jaeger's Battalion scouted the grounds of the French fortifications of Carillon... Tyconderoga!

The British camp was located along the main road of the old entrance just beyond the Lord Howe monument. There was no particular set up but, most tents (no more than 20) were set in a single line with a few flys scattered about. Many slept campaign style with blanket rolls in piles of straw supplied by the fort. We built a shelter with a small fly, along with pieces of canvas and oil cloth. Friday, I slept under a tree with just my blanket and my knapsack for a pillow. While mosquitoes were a minor nuisance but, the weather was very mild.

Cooking was accomplished using a small brass kettle, our corn boilers and a small iron fry pan. Because of the sensitive archeological nature of the ground, we were asked not to dig fire pits but simply clear an area and place the fire directly on the ground. Some camps did use braziers.

For Friday evening I had a pre-cooked meal of ham and beans which only needed to be warmed up. For Saturday's meal we prepared boiled beef and potatoes. Other foods included loaves of bread, dried meats & fruits, boiled eggs and cheese, all of which we shared in a mess fashion.

While Friday evening was a typical set-up and get settled affair, Saturday was very social and we did allow ourselves generous rations of rum and Irish whiskey which we shared among the other camps. I believe a good time was had by all.

We were organized into three marching column:

- Right Column- Connecticut and New York Provincials
- Center Column- 80th Foot, and Rogers Rangers
- Left Column- Massachusetts Provincials

**Friday morning:**

a section of 3 batteau rowed from Rogers' Rock with members of the 80th Foot, Massachusetts Provincials and a few rangers. Once landed, this force marched the remaining three miles to our position.

**Saturday afternoon:** 1 pm: Bernetz Brook and the Death of Lord Howe.

This scenario lasted about 20 minutes, and was a very nice engagement in the woods on uneven ground which offered us a great opportunity in woodland fighting. The main road way ran along one side of the area giving visitors a unique view, looking down into the woods.

Our line of march took us over the low ground just beyond of the old French works. We were able to view remains of other works built by the French and British as well as some built by the Americans during the RevWar. Separating into three columns, we set up near a clearing in the woods just inside the original French defensive line. A crowd line for visitors had been set on the adjacent road way, giving them a excellent view of the area. Soon a column of French, Trepezec's scouting party, came into view. They passed below our line as we remained out of sight. Shortly fire erupted as the Connecticut and New York Provincials gave fire. Upon this, we rushed to the scene and engaged the rear of the French. Within minutes Lord Howe fell. We began pushing the line, squeezing the French between us and the Provincials. As the French began to slip away they were met by the Massachusetts regiment, trapping the French in a three sided box. A sudden rush by the Massachusetts's line forced the French to surrender.

We spent the remainder of afternoon cooling down and cleaning weapons. We took some time and ventured up to the visitor's center and then into the fort. I had not visited Fort Ti since the 250th in 2008, and enjoyed

## 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."*

### Robert Rogers' Rules For the Ranging Service

Robert Rogers was a frontier born man in his early twenties when he became Captain of one of the Ranger companies in the New Hampshire Regiment, raised under the Command of Joseph Blanchard, to fight the growing encroachment of the French in what would become the last of the series of "French and Indian Wars."

These companies of "Rangers," or men who were experts in the woods, many of them hunters and trappers, would soon become invaluable to the British Army in this struggle for the control of North America.

#### Introduction:

In 1757 the British Commander in Chief of his Majesty's forces in America, John Campbell, the 4th Earl of Loudoun, instructed Robert Rogers to take a group of volunteers from some of the regular British regiments, and teach them the methods and tactics he felt were best suited for use in the vast woodlands of North America. Lord Loudoun wanted Rogers to write these "Ranging Rules" down for the volunteers, who were then to take the lessons they learned under Rogers's tutelage, and integrate them into the regular army. The Brit-

ish army was beginning to realize that standard European military tactics would not work against the guerilla style of fighting employed by the French Canadian soldiers and their Native American allies. The hit and run tactics of these lightly equipped troops were not lost on the officers of the British army. The British did not enjoy the numbers of Native American allies early in the war that their French counterparts did. The only way to combat these problems was through the use of scouts and spies in the Ranger companies. The British army was badly in need of accurate intelligence gatherers, men that could be trusted to infiltrate the French lines, gather the needed information, and return home safely with the what intelligence they had gained. Provincial General William Johnson and Massachusetts Governor William Shirley, temporary Commander in Chief of his Majesty's forces after the defeat of General Braddock during the 1755 campaign against French Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio River, soon realized that without Native Americans to spy on the enemy, companies of Rangers would have to be utilized to fill this gap. Problems with discipline in the Ranger companies, as well as some misguided jealousy among some of the high ranking British officers, led to an attempt to replace the Rangers with regular troops, trained in the methods and tactics of the Rangers, but led by regular officers, were formed into "Light Infantry" companies. These volunteers, who were trained by Rogers and instructed in his Ranging Rules, might then be commissioned as officers in a British regiment if they did not already hold an officer's commission. This would be the beginning of the development of "special forces" in the British Army. The 28 rules laid down by Rogers were the things he felt best suited for warfare in the vast forests and swamps of North America. They are a vital list of tactics and formations that we, as Ranger reenactors, should study and emulate in order to lend authenticity to our portrayal.

#### Rogers Rules Number One

*"All Rangers are subject to the rules and articles of war; to appear at roll-call each evening on their own parade, equipped, each with a firelock, sixty rounds of powder and ball, and a hatchet, at the same time an officer from each company is to inspect the same, to see they are in order, so as to be ready on any emergency to march at a minute's warning; and before they are dismissed, the necessary guards are to be draughted, and scouts for the next day appointed." (Rogers 55)*

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In rule number one Rogers establishes what he expects of a prospective new Ranger recruit. He lays the groundwork as to the level of discipline that he expects the Rangers to live up to, and orders that the men are inspected by their company officers daily. Rogers also sets down a reoccurring theme throughout all of his rules, that of always being prepared at the slightest notice for any warning or trouble that may occur. By always having their weapons and gear in order they would be able to march at a minute's notice, something that Regular troops were not generally able to do. This sets the stage for the fast moving and lightly equipped troops that would become today's Special Forces. Rogers also gives us a look at some of the weapons and gear that he felt was essential for warfare on the frontier. A firelock with sixty rounds of powder and ball is over double that of which a Regular soldier would carry. This gives us some insight into what kind of trouble Rogers expected his Rangers to run into from time to time. This also tells us that Rogers expected his Rangers to be able to function for longer periods of time on scouting missions without resupply from the army. A hatchet was specifically mentioned, probably because of its usefulness as a tool as well as a weapon. Many of the Rangers would have been carrying personal hunting weapons as opposed to issued military arms, so the hatchet would have taken the place of the bayonet of the Regulars. Jaeger's Battalion manual which is given out to all new recruits lists specifically the items that are required for someone to take the field with us. This list gives a good example of what an 18th century Ranger would have carried with him in order to be prepared for any eventuality. Besides proper 18th century reproduction clothing, (early in the war the Rangers had no uniforms, but simply wore their own clothing), the following weapons and gear are as follows.

An appropriate colonial style hunting, or shooting pouch and powderhorn for carrying your shooting supplies and blank rounds. The Rangers were known to have carried their ammunition in powderhorns and pouches, as opposed to the cartridge box of the Regular troops. This may have been partly because of the amount of ammunition that Rogers wanted his men to carry.

A colonial style firelock that is appropriate for the French and Indian War time period. Although they are actually a Revolutionary War time period musket, 2nd model Brown Bess muskets are allowed because of their lower cost, and availability. A socket bayonet and scab-

bard are required when carrying an issued military musket, or a plug bayonet if carrying a colonial style smoothbore musket that can be fitted with one. All muskets must also be fitted with a flash guard, and frizzen cover, or hammer cap for safety reasons.

As the Rangers were known to scalp their enemies, a proper style scalping knife and sheath should be worn, as well as a tomahawk or hatchet of 18th century style. As with the bayonet, all edged weapons must be covered by a sturdy sheath. No spike tomahawks, or pipe hawks are allowed.

A French and Indian War style belly box or a sturdy leather pouch with a wooden block insert for safely carrying paper cartridges is also required. Due to the possibility of having a stray spark from your firelock ignite your blank cartridges, some historical sites now require a wooden block with holes drilled in it to separate your cartridges. This wooden block fits inside your cartridge box, or inside your leather shot bags or hunting pouches. Safety tests have shown that if a stray spark from firing your musket enters your pouch or cartridge box, the wooden block separating the cartridges prevents multiple cartridges from igniting, which could cause severe burns or other injury. A canteen and haversack for carrying your food rations and water supply. The Rangers were issued a daily rum ration, and many of them would mix this in their canteens of water to make what was known as "grog."

A blanket made of wool. The Rangers carried out their scouting missions against the enemy even in the dead of winter. A good warm blanket was essential for the Rangers' survival. Many of the Rangers would wrap their blankets around them in the same way the Indians did, to form a makeshift cloak, allowing more than one use out of a single piece of gear. Any extra clothing or other personal gear could be rolled up in the blanket when not wearing it and carried with a tumpline, or strap across their shoulders, or carried in some sort of 18th century pack.

The Ranger officers were also ordered to set scouting missions for the next day in the evening beforehand. The Rangers were known for being on the trail very early in the morning, or even starting out as soon as it became dark out. This allowed them the cover of darkness to help hide their movements. By setting up their scouts the night before, the rangers were able to march at a moments notice, and prevent any delays that could occur if they tried to assign scouting missions in the dark of night or early morning, wasting valuable time that could be spent out on the trail.

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Guards for the camp were also established before dismissing the men for the night. Just as the Rangers were employed in scouting and spying on the enemy in their encampments, so too were the French and their allies constantly spying on the movements and encampments of the British army. By setting the proper guards for their encampments the Rangers would be better able to prevent the enemy from doing any mischief. The Rangers were often assigned the duty of guarding the entire Encampments of the British army, a testament to their ability to do this duty. The directions handed down in Rogers' Rule number one serve to set the standard that Rogers wanted his Rangers to uphold during the French and Indian War, of always being prepared for anything, and of also having your weapons and gear ready at all times. The lightning quick reaction ability of the Ranger companies would serve them well as they began their hit and run campaigns against the French forces.

#### **Battalion application:**

*This rule also gives us as reenactors a definite guide for helping us to assemble our clothing and equipment in a historically accurate manner. As a Battalion, when we appear at morning formations, we should assemble with our full scouting kit on, and in good order. Rangers should have on their cartridge boxes, or leathern shot bags and powder horns for storing their ammunition. No powder is to be carried in your horn for safety reasons. A small priming horn can be used if you do not prime your firelock from a paper cartridge. It is important to know the safety requirements that are in place at different historical sites to be sure you conform to their rules and regulations. You should have your canteen and haversack on, or your haversack can be rolled up in your blanket. Your canteen must be full when you appear on parade. This is for your safety as well as for the safety of your fellow Rangers. Your blanket should be worn when falling in. It can fold up and be carried with a tumpline or by a knapsack with the blanket attached. This shows that you are prepared to leave at a minutes*

*warning with all of your gear, weapons, and food ready for the march. Your firelock should be at half cock with the hammer stall in place. This simulates that your weapon is loaded and ready for any action. For safety purposes you must not actually load a blank charge into your weapon unless your officer or NCO tells you to do so. When you are ordered*

*to load and have completed the process, keep your firelock at the recover position with the barrel pointed straight up in the air and await further orders. This, when combined with your hammer stall being in place and your finger away from the trigger, should prevent any accidental discharges.*

*It is important that we all fall in this way, every time, at every event, unless directed to do otherwise. If you have a Ranger uniform coat you should wear it at morning formations. The Battalion command may decide the weather is too hot to safely wear your uniform coats, and will at times instruct you not to wear them. 18th Century troops were often allowed to wear just their small clothes because of the weather being excessively hot. When appropriate, you will be instructed by your officers to drop any excess gear and clothing after morning formation. Rogers was known to have his men drop their packs and prepare for battle, so it is also historically correct for us to do this. We are a well respected unit, and the way we appear at morning formations, and how we conduct ourselves on the field all contributes to how we are perceived by the public, and by our peers.*



*SOTR...continued from page 1*

event with Fort Ticonderoga's semiannual Battle on Snowshoes.

You may be surprised to learn that preparations for the 2018 session are well under way. The program continues to evolve in response to participant and host site feedback, new research, and changes in both technology and reenactment trends. The School of the Ranger concept going forward is to deliver 18th C Ranger field craft content in a way that maximizes the unique opportunities afforded by the historic site without compromising quality or comprehensiveness. Our goal is to ensure every aspect of the curriculum is well documented, accurately depicted, and technically proficient so that the students have an opportunity to gain new skills, improve their impressions, and leave with the ability to assist others with the material.

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The primary change for 2018 is that the event will maximize the 18th C immersion experience. All programming will occur in the historic fort or the surrounding countryside. The participants will be lodged in the historic barracks as before, with only wood heat and candlelight available. Meals will consist of issued rations the students must prepare in period fashion. Every training exercise segment will consist of hands-on practice under primitive conditions, in the fort or surrounding woods. The entire weekend will be presented in the context of 18th C garrison life simulating as much of "Rogers Cadet School" as the site will allow. This will include work party details and sentry duty integral to the curriculum. Obviously this isn't for everyone, but given the site and time limitations, the School of the Ranger will prioritize the practical application of small unit field work in an immersive setting.

The second significant and corresponding change is that the modern classroom portions have been eliminated from the weekend, but not the event. All of the supporting material and documentation will be delivered to the students in pdf and PowerPoint format as they register in October. These "home study" lectures will be fully supported by an 2018 SOR Online Discussion Group, providing the opportunity to delve into the academic and military science portions of the curriculum more efficiently and in greater detail than a traditional presentation. In addition, the Online Discussion Group will be able to assist with issues related to the required kit, and facilitate coordination, dialogue and general support pre event. The concept here is to ensure every participant arrives on the same page, with the same expectations, and is ready to dive into the 18th C exercises and experience.

There is no requisite background to participate. Many of the changes were instituted to benefit new participants as well as veterans that desire a challenge. All that is required is a minimum of personal gear and the willingness & ability to exert oneself in garrison and field exercises under 18th c conditions. Generally, coolers, modern footwear and most modern "crutches" will be prohibited inside the fort. The idea is for the participants to develop their skills and "field test" or practice with appropriate kit. Details regarding the Event Schedule, Fees,, Recommended Items, Site Rules, and Restriction

tions will be posted prior to any registration information.

For more information periodically check the School of the Ranger tab on the Jaegers Battalion website or like and follow the School of the Ranger page on Facebook.

*Tyconderoga— continued from page 3*

looking over the museum's collection.

Returning to camp we began preparing the evening's meal. We were suddenly enveloped in rain showers which lasted about 1 hour. Our little shelter did good service and kept us dry. Returning to our fire we continued cooking. The evening was spent the visiting with friends.

**Sunday morning** up and about, got up the fire and made coffee. Light trail food and bits for breakfast.

Following morning muster, I walked with the principle officers to go over the battle site for the afternoon's engagement. The sloped area roughly where the 250th

*Tyconderoga ... continued on next page*

*Tyconderoga... continued from previous page*

event was held would be the site for this battle. The fort staff had built a earthen redoubt on the ridge with a line of logs and fallen trees serving as a defensive abatis.

The main British assault would begin on the lower road and proceed up the broken ground of the slope for a distance of about 150 yards.

### Sunday: Main Assault

At 1 PM the British forces stepped off with the Rangers and light infantry in front acting as skirmishers. The lower portion of ground was somewhat muddy and I sank into the muck well over my ankles. Wearing moccasins was a good choice as some soldiers wearing shoes found. As we proceeded up the slope the ground became somewhat rocky and broken. We paused briefly at a rock line then began to give fire. The rangers and lights rushed the abatis looking for ways to pass. Receiving heavy fire from the native and milice, we began to fall back. At this time the Connecticut and New York Provincials followed by the Massachusetts Provincials, passed our line and plunged in to the assault. After regrouping, the Rangers and Lights rejoined the attack, working our way into the maze of fallen trees. Many, including myself, became casualties trapped in this forest. Those who found their way thru were met with a devastating fire from the French line. As quickly as it started the battle was over.

Fort Ticonderoga currently has no plans for an event next year. The management has established a 2-year rotating schedule of events which does not provide for a 2018 event. I questioned the site's director for interpretation on this, why not a 260th? Since then he has apparently spoken with some of the key reenactors in the area and there is now consideration for a possible event. Since I know many of these people I will of course keep myself involved.

Those of us present all agreed that this event is worth the effort. Anyone attending needs to approach it as a 2-day trek carrying only the essential gear with units being broken into small squad messes. I will forward new information as it becomes available if there is to be a 2018 event.



## Sustenance and Libation

### Grog

Submitted by Ranger Darrylee Foertsch, Ohio Company

To take the foul taste from the water within the rum ration, citrus juice of lime or lemon was added. An interesting result was that the sailors were healthier. Now we know that it was due to the dose of vitamin C that prevented scurvy and other diseases.

### Pusser's recipe:

<http://www.pussers.com/t-rum.aspx>

- 2 parts water
- 1 part Pusser's Rum
- Lime juice to taste
- Dark cane sugar to taste

### Rum Ration

2 Gill or 1/2 pint was issued daily to sailors since 1655. Official regulations of the Royal Navy change this in 1765 where they mixed a 1/2 pint (one cup) of rum with one quart of water. This was then issued in two servings a day. One before noon and one after the end of the working day.



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

### March 20, 1760—Sable River

*This day we did tarry the morn repacking. Long narrow valley of sand and flat land surround'd by steep hills for 6 more miles. River shallow. No batto could travel lest dragged up. No sign of French or Sauvage. A few tracks of deer but naught else. Privates Millard and Skellen along with Sgt Coirin on advance ahead of main*

*FAUX JOURNAL - continued on next page*



*FAUX JOURNAL ... continued from previous page*

party. Good men to have. A Sergeant position for both or more should Space occur I am sure. Their merit must be seen and the same with Sgt Coirin to advance. Many are the good who elect to other regiments. bend after bend in this torturous river. Capt Knitis and his on other side advance slow. Mid day we stop in a valley with steep sand banks on the North and mountains close on East side. The river filled more with boulders. Capt. Zaboly draws the valley as we have a repast of cheese. I had sav'd my chocolate and it did refresh me more. This would be good land if not skulked by French and Sauvages though no sign other then the abandent camp. The river shallow. captain Knitis and Sgt Green with party join and remark of hardness of travelled on East side. It is decid'd to stay together. We pass to where river now Forks.

We build shelters for night. Capt Knitis and Capt. Zaboly tell us West branch is Capt. Tutes last year route . They plan to send a party East though to explore a few miles. Capt. Zaboly draws more and shows me the wonders he has produced by charcoal and quill. One can turn the pages and travel our journey and still sit by a fire with food and drink suffering no aches. He tells me someday people will revisit here and follow these maps but we must win this War to throw out the meddlesome French for the Sauvages wouldst be manageable if not for them. Bread, beefe and rice ouer meal. I put some powder' ginger in my Rum to ease my ache. A button lost from a pocket and a missing flint . Thus ends this nothing special day.

Ensign Thomas Pray

March 21st 1760

The Sable River Forks

Whilst the rest of the party rests and taries on the West Branch of the Sable River I, with Sgt Green, and the Privates Millard and Evans are sent up the East channel ordered to explore for no more then five Myles. Capt. Zaboly gives me quill, ink, and parchment paper of three pieces. I am ordere'd to record what I see and draw any points of interest. We proceded. The river shallow and narrow filled with boulders. Ice breaking up so we travel high sand bank then rock ledges and along river edge. At midday we have travelled 3 miles and see nothing changed. Sand banks in valley, more boulders and river still shallow. A meadow on west side. River must flood and wash away any growth. I send private Millard to West Bank beyond meadow to view ahead. He reports the river goes straight into a wide valley. We continue. What to draw and report but trees, boulders, and sand

Rest at five miles in valley surounded by mountains. A meal of parch' corn and some tuff dried beef. Pvt Evans remarked maybe Capt Zaboly was rite about eaten bark off a tree-this beef is hard und dry. Still we eat it for there is naught else. We return wet and tired for the day is warm and the snow melts. All have wet socks, leggings, and moccasins to dry. Having fallen some of us have wet breeches also. We return near dark to find the others boiling a deer soop. We had herd no musket shot but were told Sgt Coirin and Private Skellen had found it fresh dron'd and frozen by the river edge. They had Britt the haunches back. Some meat bein broiled on sticks some in soop. Capt. Knitis reminded us that soops were better for our health but Capt. Zaboly says this meat on a stick taste healthy even more.. We laff heartily for as rankin officer that is approved and we'd set to eatin and drying clothes. Half naked but in a blanket and long shirt with meat in ouer hands and grease on ouer faces. There is plenty of soop and more chocolate with Rum.. A good day for all.

Ensign Thomas Pray



### 1760 Battle of Point au Fer site

Submitted by Ensign Thomas Pray  
New York Company

These were found along what is believed to be the French and Native retreat route from the flank attack by Farrington and his men.



Top, left to right. Musketball, two French Buttons

Bottom, left to right. British Spall Gunflint, Plain button, Domed

## Two Arguments in Favor of Ranging in Moccasins Part 1

Submitted by Ranger Louis Tramelli, Michigan Company

The purpose of this article is examine the use of moccasins by 18th c rangers. Before we get any deeper, let me clarify that I am not claiming all rangers wore moccasins, or that all ranger reenactors should be wearing them. There is abundant evidence that many rangers had shoes at certain times.

What we are going to touch on is the documentation for moccasins and a few of the reasons they are superior to shoes for reconnoitering. The two reason are there superiority for cold weather operations, and the minimized sign or evidence left for enemy trackers to discover.

Of the two concepts,, the demands of cold weather operations are more familiar so we can begin there. Numerous sources document the effects of extreme weather on 18th C military forces. The fact that conventional offensive operation traditionally ceased is well known. A significant part of the Rangers' innovative effectiveness was due to their willingness and ability operate while the regulars remained in winter garrison. One prominent example of the need for winter footwear was detailed in a dispatch to Ft. Edward from a make-shift camp at Sabbath Day Point and carried by Lt. Tute.

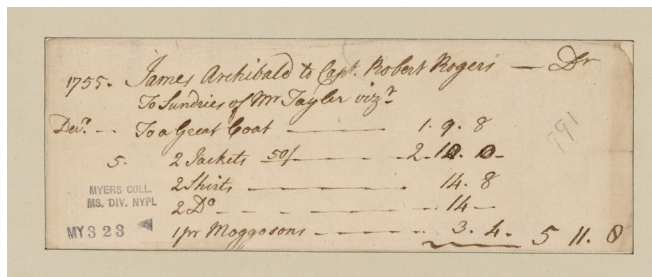
Sir - I would inform you that sixty Indians, in two parties, have gone toward Fort Edward and Saratoga, and I fear they will strike a blow before this reaches you. Mr Brheme the engineer has completed his business agreeably to his orders, since which I have taken and destroyed several of the enemy near Ticonderoga, as the bearer will inform. The Mohawks behaved well and ventured within pistol shot of the fort. The weather is extremely severe and we are compelled to carry some of our men whose feet are frozen.

Yours, &c,

R. Rogers

N.B. Two thirds of my detachment have frozen their feet.

-Memoir & Official Correspondence of General Stark pg 442.



Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library. "[Rogers, Robert]. To Captain Robert Rogers" The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1755. <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/bb3b2120-387c-0133-e571-00505686d14e>

While this dispatch identifies the need for improved winter footwear, it doesn't tell us what the men with frozen feet were wearing or preferred. Given that it was a mixed group of regulars, rangers and Mohawks, it may be safe to assume that shoes and varied moccasins were present. Other documents however, clearly indicate moccasins as the preferred winter footwear for ranging. One of Robert Rogers clothing receipts from 1755 documents his purchase of Moccasins along with other Winter items.

Similarly the Gage Papers contain a significant amount of correspondence indicating that moccasins and socks were being requested and delivered specifically for winter Ranging. A January 1759 order (penned by Monneypenny) instructs "Commanders at Several posts along the Hudson River" that "A third of your garrison is to be trained to go into the Woods when necessary, on which account snowshoes, leggins, moccasins, socks, waistcoats, woolen gloves and caps will be sent them." Please note that this list of items is mentioned repeatedly as the kit required for winter woods service.

(Thomas Gage Papers Letter Books & Accounts box 1 volume 1. Letter #2)

For those of us accustomed to modern winter boots, its not difficult to understand why 18th C shoes were a

MOCS - continued on next page

*MOCCS - continued from previous page*

poor choice for winter operations. Similar to a modern dress shoe in construction, they are unlined and preclude the use of additional foot insulation, and take significant time to dry. In addition, they are very slick on slippery surfaces, and are bulky to pack. Contrast this with perhaps the most detailed quote regarding 18th C winter moccasins:

.....these slippers are generally made of the skin of beaver, elf, calf, sheep, or other pliant leather, half dressed: each Moggosan is of one intire piece, joined or sewed up the middle of the vamp, and closed behind like the quarters of a shoe; they have no additional sole or heel-piece, and must be used with three or four frize socks, or folds of thick flannel wrapt around the foot; they are tied on the instep with thongs of the save leather, which are fastened to the joining behind, and run through the upper part of the quarters; they are exceedingly warm, and much fitter for the winters of this country than our European shoe..."

-John Knox, An historical journal of the campaigns in North America .... Vol 1 pg 81

Regardless of whether Knox is describing an oversized center-seam or something slightly different, he indicates they are pliant, half-dressed, without an added sole, and sized to wear over multiple pair of socks. This type of construction is superior for cold weather operations because it allows the feet to be sufficiently insulated with wool. This "footwear system" of moccasin and multiple socks also has the benefit of being able to be removed and swapped out when wet without removing ones leggings, is easily separable for rapid drying, and is less cumbersome than multiple pairs of shoes and knit stockings. From a logistical standpoint, they seem to have been pre made in standard sizes prior to purchase and shipping.



## 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.

"Camp at Rays Town September 26<sup>th</sup> 1758

"John Doyle, a Soldier in Captain Patterson's Company in the Pennsylvania Reg<sup>t</sup>, is to be shot to Death for Desertion."

I walk'd with him to the Place of Execution, surrounded by a strong Guard. He behav'd with uncommon Resolution; exhorted his Brother-Soldiers to take Example by his Misfortunes; To live sober Lives; to beware of bad Company; to shun pretended Friends, & loose wicked Companions, "who, says, he, will treat you with Civility & great Kindness over a Bottle; but will deceive & ruin you behind your Backs," But above all he charg'd them never to deser<sup>t</sup>. When he saw the Six Men that were to shoot him, he enquir'd if they were good Marks-Men; and immediately strip'd off his Coat, open'd his Breast, kneel'd down, & said "Come Fellow-Soldiers, advance near me, do your Office well, point at my Heart, for God's Sake do not miss me, & take Care not to disfigure me." He would suffer no Handkerchief to be ty'd over his Face, but look'd at his Executioners to the last, who advanc'd so near him that the Muzzles of their Guns were within a Foot of his Body. Upon a Signal from the Serjeant Major they fir'd, but shot so low that his Bowels fell out, his Shirt & Breeches were all on Fire, & he tumbled upon his Side; rais'd one Arm 2 or 3 Times, & soon expir'd. A shocking Spectacle to all around him; & a striking Example to his Fellow Soldiers<sup>28</sup>

### EPILOGUE

(Forbes orderly book, September 28, 1758, Toner Manuscript Collection, Library of Congress.)

As the late example of Doyle who was shot to Death for Desertion by Sentence of a Gen<sup>l</sup> Court Martial & the Clemency shown the others will it is hoped have a good effect upon the rest of the Army in preventing that Scandalous & infamous crime of Desertion

### Boston News Letter October 4, 1759

There is evidence that Rogers' Rangers in all theaters of action wore this same uniform during the remaining three years of the war. The continual use of the Indian leggings, leather moccasins and breeches is established by the following notes of the Boston News Letter for October 4, 1759:

*"Last week the body of a man was found in the River near Dunstable; it is that it had been drowned sometime; the Body was naked, excepting a pair of Indian Stockings on his legs and moccasens on his feet; by which it is probable he was one of the men lately deserted from Rogers' Rangers."*



Memories



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*The Battalion Journal*  
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Mailing Label