



The BATTALION JOURNAL

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



Nº 88

Fall 2018

Fort Brewerton



Introduction:

"The fort was built in 1759, the location being chosen by General Abercrombie, the English Commander, as a point of defense along the all important water route (located at a strategic point on the north bank of the Oneida River where it meets Lake Oneida) and was the trail between the Great Lakes and Albany. From its location all travel up and down the Oneida River was always under observation. The site is a sloping plain on the northerly bank some 300 feet from the River's edge, about 300 feet across the embankment.

Formerly a moat surrounded it and the earthworks inside were surmounted by loophole palisades 14 feet high. About 100 feet east of the fort, an underground powder magazine was connected with the fort by a tunnel.

The fort was named in honor of Major George Brewerton, Jr. an estimable officer of the English Army, who is believed by many to have had charge of the construction of the fort; however as the records are silent on this point it is a matter of

conjecture." (Excerpt from the Fort Brewerton Historical Society Web site)

Current Condition of the Fort:

Reconstructed on site in 1977. Earthworks from the original fort also still remain. Located at



The photo below is an aerial view of the present ruins, block house and cemetery.

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Renewal Information

By Jerry Knitis, Editor



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For Information and Pricing

A New View

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



For several years, the Publisher (Thomas Pray, Ensign) and I have wanted to add a fresh view to the Journal from the woman's point of view. At Fort Brewerton, we asked Karen Millard if she would join our staff and write articles for us from the female point of view.



Remembering....

8 August 2018

Rangers!

Today marks an important anniversary in the history of Jaeger's Battalion. Ten years ago today, January 11, 2008, our cofounder and commander for over 50 years, Major John



C. Jaeger, passed away. Relatively few of you who are active today ever had the pleasure of meeting him, and even fewer knew him well. Yet without him, I doubt that the Battalion would exist today.

His intense dedication, coupled with his innate kindness and steadiness, guided the Battalion through times both good and bad, especially in the turbulent days during and just following the Bicentennial, when units were coming and going with amaz-

ing regularity. Our path has not always been easy, but it has always been steady and true to our principles. For that, we all owe Major John C. Jaeger a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Maj. Tim Todish (ret.)



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

Pease- continued on next page

Pease- continued from previous page

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.

Rogers Rules Number Five

"If you have the good fortune to take any prisoners, keep them separate, till they are examined, and in your return take a different route from that in which you went out, that you may better discover any party in your rear, and have an opportunity, if their strength be superior to yours, to alter your course, or disperse, as circumstances may require." (Rogers 56)

One of the best ways to gain the vital military information that was needed for the British war effort was by the taking of enemy prisoners. Robert Rogers and his Rangers were particularly good at taking prisoners, sometimes from right under the noses of the French garrisons. Rogers' journals are filled with orders from the various British officers and Commanders in Chief to go and try to take a prisoner from near Ticonderoga or St Frederic. The amount of information gained from these prisoners is astounding. Numbers of troops, ammunition, and weapons levels, the amount of cannon mounted in a fort, even the amount of food and supplies that were available to the French forces were all there for the telling from the right type of prisoner. Rogers advises the Rangers to keep any prisoners separated until they can be examined, or questioned, so that they could not come up with a story that would undermine the British war effort. Many of the soldiers taken prisoner would use this chance to try and give incorrect information to their captors, possibly causing them to make mistakes in

their campaign plans.

After the Rangers were successful in taking any prisoners, they would have to transport them back safely to their own forts and outposts. We can assume with some certainty that the Rangers would probably be pursued by French forces hell-bent on trying to get their captives back. To help combat this Rogers advises his Rangers to take a different route home than the path that they marched out upon. This would prevent the French from being able to try and ambush the Ranger party as they returned on the trail towards home. By taking a different route home the enemy would be forced to try and overtake the Rangers by following them on this new trail. With the chances of being pursued very great, the Rangers would have to be very vigilant in watching their back trail in order to watch for anyone following them. If the pursuing party was superior in number to the Ranger force, the party could disperse or alter their course to try and out run their pursuers. It would take all of the Rangers' skill to return home safely with their all important prisoners, especially if they were being pursued. Rogers himself once led his party back home on the same trail they marched out on, and his party was devastated by a French ambush in what would become known as the "First Battle on Snowshoes." There were some extenuating circumstances that led Rogers to make that decision, but we can see how that could lead to an ambush opportunity for the enemy.

Battalion application:

The taking of enemy prisoners could provide vital information for Robert Rogers and his Rangers during the course of the French and Indian

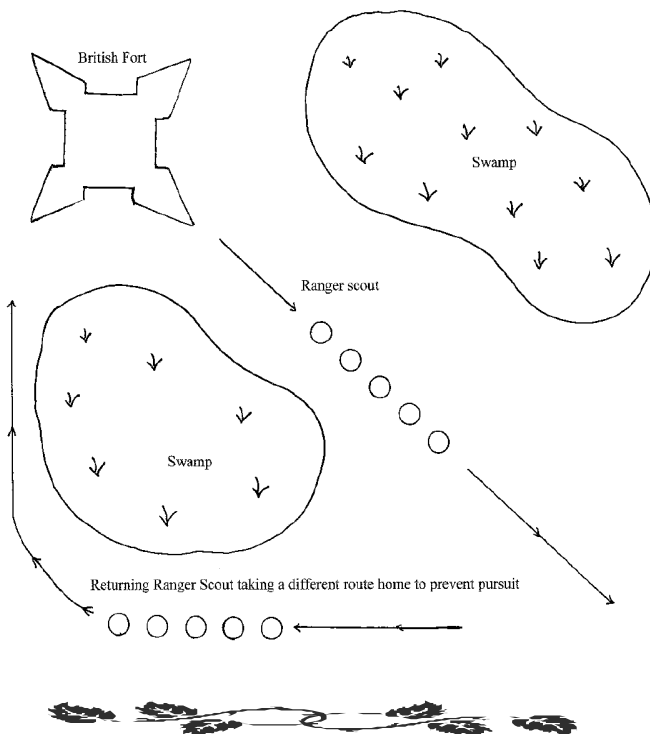
Pease- continued next page

Pease... continued from previous page

War, and it could prove to be just as important to us as we carry out tactical training sessions when operating in conjunction with another group portraying your enemy. If you are fortunate enough to overwhelm an enemy force and take prisoners, you might be able to get vital information such as the number of troops your party is facing, or the deployment and whereabouts of the enemy. In order to ensure that any information you glean from your prisoners is accurate, separate them as quickly as possible so that they cannot come up with a common story with which to undermine your planned strategies and tactics. In doing this you will be able to compare the information given, if any, from your prisoners to determine if they are lying to you or not.

Rogers Rules # 5

Taking a different route back toward your forts or outposts than the one you marched out upon to prevent the enemy from pursuing your party from the rear in case your tracks have been discovered.



Brewerton... continued from page 1.



A ranger on duty at the block house.

State and Lansing Streets, operated by the Fort Brewerton Historical Society.

Some of the earthworks remain, a replica blockhouse from a later period serves as a historical society museum in Brewerton, New York. The Oliver Stevens Blockhouse Museum contains a model of the fort.

Rangers at the Fort:

Fort Brewerton was occupied by members of Rogers' Rangers. Captain Waite's company was garrisoned here.

"Now that the conquest of Canada was swinging into its final act, all Ranger officers who had served in 1759 wanted berths in the revered Companies, but there were not enough vacancies to go around. There were four Companies in service through the winter (Major Rogers' Own and Johnson's at Crown Point; Waite's at Fort Brewerton; and Hazen's at Quebec.)"

(*The History of Rogers' rangers, Volume 1* by Burt Garfield Loescher, San Mateo California; 1969; page 85)

Brewerton... continued on next page

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Captain Joseph Waite's meager Company of thirty Rogers Rangers stoutly braved the winter at the little post of Fort Brewerton at the west end of Lake Oneida. Their post, though being exposed (being the link of communication between Forts Stanwix and Ontario) was spared from any attacks and the winter and spring were uneventful enough.

(The History of Rogers' rangers, Volume 1 by Burt Garfield Loescher, San Mateo California; 1969; page 123)

Fall 2018:

The rangers from the New York company garrisoned the fort (6-8 October 2018).

The following entry was contributed by Jerry Knitis, Capt. Lt.

The rangers from the New York Company garrisoned the fort (6-8 October 2018). The New York Company under the command of Captain Dan Schroth, took control of the ground and commenced to do training and garrison life.

The members of the unit started arriving on Fri-

day and setting up camp. The New York Company was joined by two members of the Maryland Company (Lieutenant Pete Bosch and Private Kate Scibilia). The combined companies fielded about twenty of its members, both Rangers and distaff, for this weekend.

The weather was typical of fall in New York State. We have sunshine, rain, and cool weather to contend with. As Rangers, we were prepared for it.

The company had a large dining area covered with a fly to keep us dry while cooking and eating.



Brewerton- continued on next page



New York Company members attending the event at Fort Brewerton

Brewerton... continued from previous page

The commanding officer shared his dining fly with the rangers attending which prevented overcrowding under one fly.

The cooking chores were under the direction of Lt. Mike Hubschmitt and the distaff who managed



to keep us fed very well. Our meals were simple one pot meals with plenty of food and desserts to keep any Ranger happy while in garrison. The photo shows a pot full of sausage vegetable soup. I left my bowl behind, so I used my pewter 16 ounce drinking mug. I manage to finish the soup before it got cold. A lesson to be learned for cold weather events is, stay away from metal eating and drinking ware. The food cools off faster than you can eat it.



Also a good wooden bowl will get you by both summer and winter.

On Saturday, the Rangers assumed normal garrison life with talking with each other and doing various chores.

Some of the Rangers and distaff put on demonstrations for the public. One of the demonstrations given to the public was that of making and carving a powder horn.



We were fortunate to have Paul Meier, a horner, available to do this. Paul demonstrated and let people try the craft of engraving on horn material. This was a great demonstration to go along the one that En-

Brewerton- continued on next page



Brewerton... continued from previous page

sign Thomas Pray gave on ancient artifacts and the Native American demo given by Karen Jones. Some stood guard on the block house. While others practiced their musket drill under the watchful eyes of the drill master.

The evening meal on Saturday was prepared and served after a company meeting. The commanding officer wanted to meet with his troops and charges for the upcoming campaigns.

The evening meal was a feast with many deserts to go along with the hot coffee. The day ended on a good note with all looking forward to the next day.

Sunday proved to be a chilly overcast fall day. Everyone was in great spirits. We had our breakfast and prepare to do a dedication ceremony for the historical society that sponsors the fort. The Rangers fell out and marched to the site to do the ceremony.

The unit remained on site until 1:00 PM and the packed up and left for home. The event was small but it probably came close to depicting the garrison life that Waite's company faced at Brewerton.



Register now To be Trained to the Woods-Service!

By Louis Tramelli, Private

The 2019 **School of the Ranger** is essentially a two part development workshop intended to assist participants improve their individual Ranger impressions. The first part is a detailed online examination and discussion of primary source materials relevant to mid century ranging. This examination and collaborative discussion occurs in a private Facebook group beginning November 1st. The examination is tailored to the participant portrayals but also encompasses the broader F&I context. Subjects included the latest material culture research and best practices, documented tactics & field crafts skills usage, military organization, courtesy and normative practices, etc. The second part is the immersive Event weekend itself. During the Event participants will put to practice the mid century Partisan Methods of Marching, Retreating, Ambushing & Fighting they learned during the online portion. Participants will also be billeted in the barracks & issued ration, perform aspects of Bland's manual exercise, fatigue duties, and actually conduct reconnoitering patrols navigating across terrain and tracking enemy forces to contact. Participants will also receive a 2019 Friends of Fort Frederick membership.

New for 2019: A dedicated opposition force, reconnoitering parties & skirmishes incorporating specific tactical & fieldcraft objectives, and a limited number of "Half-Pay" slots for interested individuals unable to attend. Half-Pay participant supporters will receive 2019 FOFF membership, full access to the online Participant Forum, and a Prize Raffle ticket. For more information see the website www.SchooloftheRanger.com

Ranger Leggings

By Lou Tramelli, Pvt

Leggings, often called “**indian stockings**” in period documents, are a basic piece of Ranger clothing and equipment that can be easily made by each member. A examination of primary sources will quickly familiarize you with the appropriate materials and construction techniques, while a closer scrutiny of location & date will suggest the most appropriate color and finish details. There isn’t enough time and space for every description collected but following are some highlights. A good legging construction tutorial can be found here: <https://thebuffalotrace1765.blogspot.com/2017/10/leggingsthe-basics.html?m=1>

Ranger legging descriptions relevant to the Lake George Campaign (supplied out of Albany):



“Have you any low priced green Rateens fit for making Leggings of, this you’ll please advise me immediately by post.” -John MacComb

(Rogers’ uniform supplier) to New York Merchant, Philip DeVismie, September 8, 1758. **Note** the close up of the Capt. Thomas Davies’ image above, “A View of the Lines at Lake George”.

“Taken up, and now in the Goal at Goshen, in Orange County, a Negro Man named (as he says) Jacob...has...blue Indian Stockings...he says he was in Rogers’s Rangers three Years, and was at the Battle of Ticonderoga....” -

New-York Mercury, July 30, 1759.

“To save them from the tearing of bushes, the stings of insects, &c. he (Lord Howe) set them the example of wearing leggans, a kind of buskin made of strong woollen cloth....” - Memoirs of an American Lady. .

Legging descriptions for units that served with Rangers / Lake George Campaign:

1st Battn. 60th RAR:

“Our People have Leggings. I intended always that the[y] should have been Blue, but wee could not have blue at Albany, so that wee have Green, tied with a red Garter.” - Major John Tulleken to Col. Bouquet, March 5, 1759. Bouquet Papers, Vol. III.

Gage’s Light Infantry:

*“Deserter Daniel McManus...blue Cloth leggings....
Deserter Edward Norman...blue Leggings....”* - The New-York Mercury, April 16, 1759.

Legging descriptions relevant to Service in Canada:

“Leggers, Leggings, or Indian spatter-dashes, are usually made of frize, or other coarse woollen cloth ; they should be at least three quarters of a yard in length ; each Leggin about three quarters wide (which is three by three) then double it, and sew it together from end to end, within four, five, or six inches of the outside selvages, fitting this long, narrow bag to the

Leggins - continued on next page

Leggins – continued from previous page

shape of the leg; the flaps to be on the outside, which serve to wrap over the skin, or fore-part of the leg, tied round under the knee, and above the ankle, with garters of the same colour ; by which the legs are preserved from many fatal accident, that may happen by briars, stumps of trees, or under-wood, & c. in marching through a close, woody country. The army have made an ingenious additon to them, by putting a tongue, or slope piece before, as there is in the lower part of a spatterdash; and a strap fixed to it under the heart of the foot, with fastens under the outside angle with a button. By these improvements they cover part of the instep below the shoe buckle, and the quarters all round...” - John Knox. An historical journal of the campaigns in North America for the years 1757, 1758, 1759 and 1760, Vol. I

Rangers, Quebec 1759:

“a pair of leggins of the same colour [black] with their coat, which reach up to the middle of their thighs (without flaps) and, from the calf of the leg downwards, they button like spatterdashes...” - Fort Cumberland, May 5, 1759. Knox, Vol. I. (We’ll examine the different colored coats at another time)

More References from publications referring to the use of leggins

“Ran away from me the Subscriber at Londonderry, in the Province of New Hampshire, on the 18th of September, a Negro Man Servant named Prince about 40 Years of Age...had on when he went away a green Coat...He is the property of Major Rogers and has been sev-

eral Years / the Service to the Westward...” - Boston Post-Boy, November 22, 1762.

Deserted from the 27th Regiment at Crown Point, May 16, 1761; “Joseph Fish...in a Blanket Coat, red Breeches, and green Waistcoat, has served in the Rangers.” - The New-York Mercury, June 8, 1761.

“Taken up, and now in the Goal at Goshen, in Orange County, a Negro Man named (as he says) Jacob...has a green Jacket lined with red, Buckskin Breeches, blue Indian Stockings...he says he was in Rogers’s Rangers three Years, and was at the Battle of Ticonderoga...” - New-York Mercury, July 30, 1759.

The above descriptions relate directly to Rogers’ Rangers or units that served with them and shared supply locales. Countless civilian and unaffiliated military descriptions are similar. You may have noticed the leggins described are all made of wool. Most accounts just say “leggins” with no further description. What is important to understand is that virtually every F&I era legging reference with any additional details suggest a textile, and are likely wool. Most of the descriptions, trade ledgers entries, and images regarding Natives with regular trade good access at this time also indicate wool. Societally, F&I era leather legging descriptions are virtually nonexistent. Sustained inclement weather usage suggests the reason why.

The second distinction to note is the Canadian theatre legging descriptions mention of lower buttons and sometimes a tongue piece. These are the “army additions” Knox discussed. It would seem a representative set of legging should include such modifications for these ranger portrayals.



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.

The following researched by Thomas Pray, Ensign

Note on Fort Brewerton

In 1761 John Lee from Quebec travels the Oneida Carry route from Albany to Oswego. He describes the Carry and near the end of his journey he mentions the fate of Fort Brewerton.

"It is judged the Lands round this Lake, especially on the Sout Side, are very fine, and would make a very good settlement-

In the North Side of the Lake, where it empties itself into the Onandago River, formerly stood Fort Bruington—lately abandoned, and since burned by Savages; about 30 miles down River, are the falls of Oswego,"

Notes from Journals on Ranger Clothing

[Albany, May 14th 1756]

Terms on which the three Ranging Companies are to be raised for His Majesty's Service under the Command of Capts Humphrey Hobbs and Tho-

mas Speaksman;

" A good hunting Coat, Vest, Breeches, a shirt, a pair of Indian Stockings, Shoes and a Hatchet to be delivered [to] each man gratis at Albany—A firelock and Blanket to be Delivered Each Man at Boston, the firelock to be returned at the End of Service."

New York 11 January 1757,

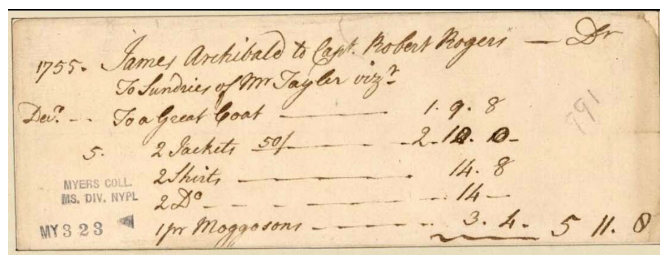
John Earl Loudon to Capt. Robert Rogers;

"... Augment the Rangers with five additional Companies ... each company consist of One Captain, two Lts, One Ensign, four Sergeants and one hundred privates.... They are likewise to provide themselves with good warm clothing which must be uniform in every company, ... And the Company of Indians to be dressed in all respects in true Indian fashion... "

This describing the 1758 clothing;

" The close (sic) that Rogers had made for his people are chiefly of Green Bath Rug & low priced green cloths with white mettles (sic) buttons & and white silver lace Hats, some of the silver lace cord or looping on their jackets, all lined with green serge."

A copy of and order to Capt. Rogers 1755'





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