

BATTALION JOURNAL

The Newsletter of Jaeger's Battalion, Rogers' Rangers



N^O 93 Vol. 2019-04

BATTALIONNEWS

School of the Ranger—2020



A Reconnoitering Party

Hosted by School of the Ranger

Date: Jan 24, 2020 at 2 PM - Jan 26, 2020 at 2 PM

Place: Fort Frederick State Park

11100 Fort Frederick Rd, Big Pool, MD.

Cost / Fees: The registration fee is a \$50.00 tax deductible donation that covers attendance as well as the pre event online curriculum & discussion.

Details: The 2020 SOTR Event, A Reconnoitering Party, will be conducted as a 48-hour immersive tactical. Participants will be assigned to one of three 8-person Ranging Companies tasked with a minimum of four unique patrols. Each patrol will have a main objective, as well as several tactical and fieldcraft skill taskings to complete, while under constant threat of an opposing force.

Participants will experience a glimpse of barracks life "under military orders," including the joys of issued provisions & bunk assignments, as well as being ordered out on fatigue duties and reconnoitering parties. Predomi-

nantly the weekend will consist of ranging on foot across broken terrain in inclement weather utilizing only 18th C appropriate gear. Participants should expect to experience fatigue, hunger and the effects of weather...

For event details visit www.schooloftheranger.com and visit the *Event tab*.



WINDS OF CHANGE

Submitted by Jerry Knitis, Capt/Lt Battalion Journal Editor

Over the past years and 94 issues of the Battalion Journal, the paper has been carefully edited and printed then sent to subscribers. In the past few years, the subscriptions have dwindled and the costs have risen in printing and mailing. A few years ago, a decision was made to post the Journal on the Battalion web site and access would be only to members of the Battalion.

With the present trend, we are faced with a change. That change was discussed at the Battalion Officers meeting at Fort Niagara this past summer (Siege of Niagara). The companies present represent the Battalion in these decisions.

Companies represented: Virginia Company, Michigan Company, New York Company, Maryland Company, Kentucky Company and Ohio Company. Along with Major Blair [Battalion Commanding Officer] and Captain Green [Battalion Adjutant].

The problems were presented and discussed amongst the officers representing the companies. The problems presented were given by Capt/Lt Knitis [Battalion Journal Editor]. They are described as follows;

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School of the Ranger http://www.schooloftheranger.com/

Battalion Companies' Web Pages

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Schroth's New York Company http://www.schrothscompany.com

Maryland Company http://www.rogersrangers.com/MDCompany/

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Subscription Information

By Jerry Knitis, Editor

To Subscribe:

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 that is not getting the Journal, encourage him/her to

do 50.

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An Outstanding Line of Battalion Bonnets Offered by Judy DeJonge

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For Information and Pricing

COMPANIES NEWS

Schroth's New York Company

Fort Brewerton

October 11 - 13, 2019

A Post was sent out for Rangers to assemble at the outlet of Oneida Lake and to maintain and guard the Grounds to be erected as Fort Brewerton. The Rangers were to maintain vigilance of the Lake and River against any skulking French or Indians allied to them. Per missive of Captain Schroth, the following members of Waite's Company arrived.

In Command
Captain Daniel S. Schroth

On Command

Captain/Lieutenant Jerald Knitis

Lieutenant Mike Hubschmitt

Ensign Thomas Pray

Private Karen Jones

Recruit Alex Gunkel

Recruit John Murphy

Goodwife Nancy Hubschmitt

Volunteer Donny Abend

Volunteer Jay Searock

Volunteer Sharon Bumann

Volunteer | orraine Mork

The above information was submitted by Thomas Pray, Ensign, New York Company.

Captain's report follows:

The members of the New York Company of Rangers set up their camp during the day on Friday. The camp was set up behind the block house and directly south of the Fort. The member caught up with each other over the past campaign and shared personal

information. Some members began to explore and find artifacts of earlier engagements. Dinner was served by Lt. Hubschmitt and his wife. Our Ensign went to conduct business at a local inn with the proprietor. While he was there, he could also collect information for the captain on enemy activities, as the Ensign was an excellent spy. Members set by the Captain dining area and talked and traded goods. On Sat., The members engaged with visitors and folks in the fort. Sat. was full of wind and rain. Cool weather tested our gear as well. We missed some of our Rangers' because of unique situations. All in all we had a good time. Playing King's Chess, Captain was slaughtered by The Ensign. One game was complicated by the cap being interrogated by a flag spy. Thus he fell to total defeat. I was killed, killed by them all. On the Sabbath we stayed till the hour of three, then went back to our homes until next year.

> By the Captain Daniel S. Schroth

Artifacts from Fort Brewerton



Here's a start if Photos of artifacts that are affiliated with the Fort during the period the Rangers were there from late 1758 to August 1759

Artifacts ... continued on next page

Artifacts ... continued from previous page



Bayonets found at Fort Brewerton



Fascines or Billhooks found within the grounds of Fort Brewerton.



Axes found within the confines of the Fort Walls

All the artifact photos with annotation was submitted by Thomas Pray, Ensign, New York Company

SCOUTREPORT

A Brewerton Patrol 12 October 2019

As it is advantageous for Captain Schroth's men and Waite's Company to be aware of any Enemy incursions near the Oneida river and Fort Brewerton, And to keep our presence noted by those French and Savages that may skulk about | discussed a patrol amongst those who frequent here. Volunteer Donnie Abend, A Former Sailor now a Fort Civilian Volunteer, with good wife Lorraine Mork, Didst appraise me of the little settlement nearby and near the Village of some Oneidas across the river & to the South. Here, a Sutler hath set up a small establishment selling wares to all that may pass by entering or leaving the Lake. I traveled there with 4 volunteers led by a Good Woman of the name Miss Sharon Bumann who was very familiar with the places of Indian habitats of which she showed me. Her Father had been aquainted with older Natives and such honor of familiarity passed to her. She is revered by all. We discussed our Company making more frequent appearance and more patrols from the Fort. We were treat'd to a fyne meal at the Sutler house, a simple frame building, & return'd to give report. Our presence is appreciated and wish'd to be continued. I saw no evidence of French or Enemy Savages about.

> | submit this report. Ensign Thomas Pray

New Historical Sign at Fort Brewerton





Wlinds of Change ... continued from page 1

Problems with Present Journal

- · Low readership and declining subscriptions
- · Rising cost due to postage and print fees
- Only a few dedicated individuals supporting the articles being written
- Lack of Battalion support; only a few are contributing to its content.
- Two versions are being produce; one in color and the other in B/W for printing. This keeps cost down.

So how do we solve these issues? The main focus of the Battalion Journal is to keep our members informed of Battalion events forth coming, ie: Siege of Niagara, Market Fare and SOTR [School of the Ranger]. Also to make available useful and historical information so that our members will put forth the best interpretation of the Ranger corps at events. '

The discussion of those present centered on what can we do? The following suggestions were made and discussed.

What to do:

- Discontinue the Journal?
- Go totally electronic or stay like present
- Can we increase subscription cost to meet rising prices? Increase subscriptions. How?

The following results were from notes that the Adjutant and I [Battalion Journal Editor] collected. They may be missing content but are fairly complete as we were heavily involved in the discussion.

Decisions:

1. Discontinue the Journal

Discontinuing the Journal was ruled out as it does serve the Battalion as one of our means of communication from the Battalion Staff to our members.

2. Go totally electronic as of 1 January 2020

A. Does away with collecting money, paying rising print and mailing cost. As well as someone's time to chase the product down for printing and mailing which we are not being billed for.

- B. The electronic format can be handled in one of three ways:
 - Member can go to Battalion Web site and download it.
 - The Journal can be sent to Company commander and he disperses it to his unit as he sees fit
 - 3) The Company Commander submits a list of membership to the Battalion Journal [Editor] so he/she can set up a email list for that unit to disperse the Journal to its members

3. Produce the color version only.

Does away with have to create two versions of the Journal. At the present time, a color version is created for the Battalion web site version [electronic] and it has to be decolorized for printing into the mailed Battalion Journal.

4. Maintain the web site library and email Journals to members of the Battalion who desire one.

- A. Each unit commander will supply the Publisher/ Editor with a roster of those wishing to receive a copy of the Journal by email.
- B. The editor will create the mailing list from this information. He/she will also work with the Battalion web master to insure a copy is maintained in the Battalion website library. [New web master: Shannon Green]
- C. Editor Note: mail list would be designed to go out by unit. Easier to maintain.

Unit commanders would encourage their members to submit articles.

- A. This would give more ownership to the Battalion. Right now, we have a few doing all the research and writing. Those people are mainly all in one unit which reflects the unit.
- B. The present staff is comprised of three men and two ladies. It is the hope that the ladies will give us a more in-depth of Ranger life from the

Winds of Change - continued on next page

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woman's view. What was it like to be a wife/girlfriend of a Ranger?

So as of 1 January 202, what is going to happen? The Journal will be published as normal for the staff. We will honor all subscriptions we have until they run out. Those who have the Journal subscriptions will be notified and asked for their email address. For new subscriptions, we will be asking for your contact information including email address [most important]. Then you will be emailed a Journal every time one is published.

With these changes, the Battalion Journal will no longer be constrained to a maximum length of 12 pages. Also, if the Journal is lesser in size, it will be easier to put together with costing the money for unused space. We will also be able to send complementary issues to potential members.

The Battalion web site contains a reservoir of past Journals that were printed by rthe present staff. It has always been our goal to save every scrap of information and make it available to our members for their research and interest in the hobby.



PEASE PORRIDGE

INTRODUCTION

Something that is both good and filling can be as nourishing from the first serving until many days later. Pease Porridge, a thick Pea soup of 18th century fare, was tasty the first day it was made until it was totally consumed. The rhyme certainly says it was still good in the pot nine days old. Good information about Rangers, gleaned from past sources is much like the Pease Porridge.

In the back pages of the Battalion Journal are some tasty bits of knowledge that are still worth being used and shared. As the Battalion grows and changes, with new members being added, it is only right that we go back into the pot and pull out a tid-bit or two no matter how

old.

Editor's Note: I have asked Lt. Wulff permission to rerun his excellent articles on "Rogers' Rules for Ranging."

Rogers Rules Number Ten

If they enemy is so superior that you are in danger of being surrounded by them, let the whole party disperse, and every one take a different road to the place of rendezvous appointed for that evening, which must every morning be altered or fixed for the evening ensuing, in order to bring the whole party, or as many as possible, together, after any separation that may happen in the day; but if you should happen to be actually surrounded, form yourselves into a square, or if in the woods, a circle is best, and if possible, make a stand till the darkness of the night favors your escape." (Rogers 58, 59)

In this rule Rogers advises his Rangers as to what course of action they should take if they are in danger of being surrounded by a superior force of the enemy. Rogers lays forth the tactic of having the entire body disperse and make their own individual way to safety. Rogers and his Rangers used this tactic many times, with probably the best example being at the "Second Battle on Snowshoes," when the Rangers were almost being overrun and in great danger of being surrounded and totally defeated. As darkness began to fall Rogers ordered the remnants of his party to disperse under the cover of darkness, each man making his own way back to Lake George where they had hidden their sleys and packs before continuing on towards Fort St. Frederic. This rendezvous spot had been agreed upon the previous night in case the Rangers were broken in any action that happened the next day, or were separated for any other reasons. This preplanning was critical, especially with the Rangers operating so deep into enemy territory on their scouting missions. The Rangers could almost

Ranger Rules ... continued from previous page

count upon with some certainty that they would come into contact with the enemy, and possibly be facing superior numbers. In the case of the Second Battle on Snowshoes, the Rangers were caught between Fort St. Frederic at Crown Point, and Fort Ticonderoga. The French could sally forth men and supplies and trap the Rangers between two bodies of men. By having the force disperse, it would be much easier for the men to make their escape as opposed to trying to retreat in a large group. By setting a return, or rallying point the night before, the retreating Rangers would have a place at which to gather the remaining troops and make a stand, or continue their retreat as circumstances warranted. If your party was surrounded, and there was no chance to make a immediate retreat, Rogers advises his men to form themselves to the best advantage to withstand the enemy attack, that of a square, or if in a wooded area, a circle formation. These formations would give the Rangers the best chance of holding out until nightfall when the cover of darkness would help to hide their movements as they tried to disperse and escape. Colonel Henry Bouquet used a square formation during Pontiac's Rebellion at the "Battle of Bushy Run," to withstand repeated attacks from a large force of Native Americans. This formation thwarted the Indians' attempts to break the army's formation even though they were totally surrounded by the Native forces. The army held out until the next day when they were able to go on the offensive and break the Indians' siege of their position.

Battalion application:

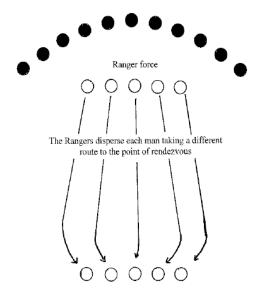
This is something that would most likely not apply to us at any of the larger historical sites that we visit as most stop any combat or tactical demonstrations before it gets dark. The method of every man taking a different route to a rally point could be very useful when attending a private tactical event where the public is not involved and the proper safety steps have been initiated for combat at night. Often you are allowed only to place powder in the flashpan of your firelock, but no main charge into the bar-

rel, because it is difficult to accurately see how close your target is after night has fallen. No one wants to take a full blank charge to the face or body while at close range The method discussed in this rule of forming a circle or square does bring to mind the importance of dividing your force into fire teams at the outset of any tactical demonstration or scenario. If you are surrounded, your only hope may be to hold off any advances against your formation, and to do this, a constant fire must be maintained against the enemy. Care must be taken to order the men to fire by fire teams, even when engaging the enemy by independent fire, to ensure that at least one of the fire team members is loaded at all times. This will allow a concentrated fire to be given to the enemy in case they try to rush a certain area of your square or circle.

Rogers Rules # 10

If your party is in danger of being surrounded by a superior force of the enemy, your force should disperse, each man taking a different route to a place of rendezvous appointed the evening before, and at that place, rally the remaining men and reform your party to meet any pursuit from the enemy.

Enemy forces trying to surround your party

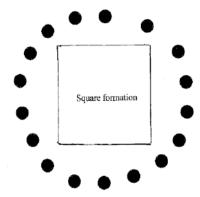


Rendezvous point where the Rangers rally and reform to meet any enemy attack

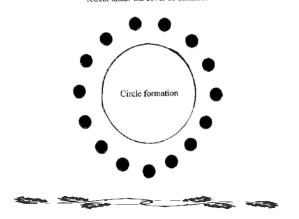
Ranger Rules - continued on next page

Ranger Rules ... continued from previous page

If your party is surrounded, form the men into a defensive square formation until night falls, then each man disperse taking a different route to a point of rendezvous. The darkness of the night will help to hide your retreat.



If you are in the woods and surrounded, a circle defensive formation is best if surrounded by the enemy. This formation will help you hold out until nighttime, when you may retreat under the cover of darkness.



The Once and Future Ranger Reenactor

By Louis Trameli, Capt/Lt Michigan Company

The School of the Ranger has evolved into a 48 hr immersive tactical event. The entire weekend is spent "ranging" and reenacting 18th barracks and field conditions with few "modern" conveniences present. The reasons for the format change from a classroom / field exercise workshop to an immersive weekend were to emphasize reenactment best practices in an experiential

learning, minimally public setting. The event isn't "juried", "hardcore" or "fully progressive" per se, but every aspect of it is designed to prepare participants for those type events.

As you may know the SOTR is open to any documentable F&I portrayal engaged in "ranging". When folks inquire about registering they are asked to provide the unit & year of their intended portrayal, as well as the reenactment group they are affiliated with. The SOTR begins the dialogue with prospective participants in order to further portrayal development. Too frequently the participant response to their intended portrayal has been "Roger's OH, PA, NY or MD Company. Several times folks have replied "Roger's Jaeger Company or Rogers Jaeger Battalion". These responses have come from both our members and non-members alike, and are more common than you might suspect.

To counter the prevalent misconception of a "generic ranger" the SOTR requires participants to focus on a specific ranging portrayal by documentable unit and date. This has led to some initial pushback by Jaegers Battalion members initially dissatisfied with the concept that "Battalion approved kit" is insufficient. The focus isn't on stitches or construction quality but context. This context is important and easily understood if you imagine reenacting an NFL team member. It would be impossible to pick accurate clothing and equipment without identifying the team, position, and year. Choosing a helmet from one team and year and jersey, cleats, and pants each from others is incoherent and inaccurate. Same with Roger's Companies or any portrayal.

Once an impression is zeroed in on, the SOTR assists participants with documentation, patterns or pattern recommendations as necessary. In addition to period documentation the SOTR provides participants current material culture research to help them avoid common clothing and equipment mistakes still prevalent in the F&I reenactment community. Some of these inaccura-

Reenactor- continued from previous page

cies include 19th c inkle woven straps and sashes, 19th C style shot bags, modern grooming practices, AWI hunting shirts, and the ubiquitous leather leggings & green coat regardless of context. It is important to point out that no one os excluded for a few inaccurate items, but the event is duty bound to provide paying participants with the best information possible. It goes to great lengths in the lead up to provide volumes of collated supporting research that substantiate it. All of this occurs pre event. The tactics & fieldcraft skills presentations and documentation are pushed to participants in the same manner.

The event itself is immersive, meaning there are no classroom style presentations. Participants are assigned objectives and tasks in a representative manner and range and conduct themselves in the barracks in documentable 18th C fashion. In essence they are practicing and learning by doing, both ranging skill sets, and reenactment best practices. Patrol tactics and procedures are confined to what is documentable for the period. Canned and connivance modern foodstuffs and 19th C cookware aren't permitted. Participants utilize period mess practices to prepare raw, seasonal foodstuff for immediate and future field consumption. Modern cold weather clothing is forsaken and documentable 18th C weather mitigation strategies are used to combat the cold and wet. Modern Reenactment group rank, signage and ceremonies are not permitted, and every aspect of the immersion experience conforms to period documentation and the event scenario.

The importance of focusing our portrayals on historical documentation cannot be over emphasized. This is the professional interpretative standard being implemented at more and more historic sites, that many folks are interested in. The practice of one hobbyist portrayal sans context being welcome at every event or site is waning, and the SOTR is set up to assist with the transition. We must realize that every aspect of our portrayals is an act of Interpretation. Inaccurate items and practices communicate inaccurate "history" to the

public and even new reenactors. Even when inaccuracies are explained during live events, inadvertent miscommunication lives on eternally in online images absent context.

Do a quick search of our materials and images online viewable to the public. What percentage is focused on representing documentable history versus Reenactment Group information? Where do we suppose misconception regarding Roger's OH or PA Jaeger Companies stems from?

Private reenactment groups are free to structure and conduct themselves in any manner they chose, but they should be aware that everything they present to public view has the potential to be viewed as History by an unknowledgeable audience. This is why historic sites are becoming stricter. The School of the Ranger doesn't intend to interfere in internal Battalion policies or structure. The event and it's volunteer staff are available to assist folks interested in current research and reenactment trends, and start a dialogue regarding some of these reenacting issues.



DULYNOTED

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.

Duly Noted... continued on next page

Rangers Compliment of Boats

Camp att Lake Georg e, July 17th. 1759. Parole, Philiadelphia;

Collo. of the day tomorrow Collo. Ruggles; field officer for the piquit this night, Regular. Major Gorden: Provential Lt. Collo. Goff, Major Waterberry; tomorrow night, Regular, Major Graham; Provential Lt. Cap. Medly, Major Moore.

Collo. Ruggles Regt to receive 8 musquetts to complete their number & they will likewise change 14 returned deflective for which they will apply to the commanding officer of the Royal Armory: All the men the have joined the proventials they are to assemble tomorrow morning att 5 o'clock on the ground where the proventials fired before. They are to fire two rounds at marks. Bregade Major to attend them to see them fire their ammunition, must afterwards be compleated. The Whale boats to be marked by the Corps they are given to in the same for the battoes; the Grenadeers to receive theirs as soon as the whale boats are ready for which they will apply to Capt. Loring. The Rangers are to receive theirs after the Grenadeers. all the whale boats to be kept in the crick or they will otherwise be subject to be spoiled. The preportion of whale boats & battoes; for Rangers; 43 whale boats 1 battoe; Gage's Regt | flat bottom boat 41 whale boats 4 battoes; Light Infantry for the Regts. 43 whale boats 5 battoes; Grenadeers, 43 whale boats, 5 battoes. The settlars must provide men for their battoes allowed them as the General wilt not permit the men of the Regts to do it

Rogers to head To Niagara

Brigade Orderly Book Camp at Montreal September 12, 1760

Wait's and Hazen's Company of Rangers to march tomorrow under the Command of Major Rogers; they are to carry provisions with them to the 20th inclusive and are to receive 18 Whaleboats from Mr. Cuyler; they are to be completed in Officers and men from Rogers Corp-

William Hervey

King's Rations

Tuesday, September 39, Southampton.

General orders and regulations relative to the allowance of provisions. — When there are no small specie, the troops are to receive one thing in lieu of another in the following proportion. If pease are wanting, one half of the quantity of rice, or a pound of bread or flour, or of a pound of pork, may be received in lieu of one pint of pease. If pease and rice are wanting, one pound of pork, or 2 lb. 12 oz. of flour, in lieu of pease and rice. If pease, rice and butter are wanting, 1/2 lb. of pork, or 31/2 lb. of flour, in lieu of them. When soldiers receive of one species only, one ration may be considered to be equal to 3 lbs. of flour, or 3 pints of pease, or 1 1/2 lb. of rice, or 1 1/4 lb. of pork, or ¾ lb. of butter, or 2 lb. 3 oz. of beef. One man's allowance per week with salt meat and small specie is 7 lbs. of flour, 7 lbs. of beef (or in lieu of beer 4 lbs. of pork), 3 pints of pease, 6 oz. butter, 1/2 lb. of rice. One man's allowance for seven days when small species are not issued, viz. - 7 lb. of flour, 5 lb. 4 oz. of pork or 9 lb. 3 oz. of beef; that is to say an addition is made to the usual quantity of meat or flour, in lieu of small species, of 3 oz. of pork per man a day, or of 1 1/4 lb. of pork per week, or of 2 lb. 3 oz. of beef. 1f flour is delivered for the small specie, it is 1/2 day per num. In issueings with fresh meat 7 lbs. of beef and 7 lbs. of flour are to be given, but no small specie. One pint of oatmeal is equal to one pint of pease, and one pound of suet or raisins is equal to one pound of butter, and to be considered as such specie and issued accordingly. If it should so happen that the troops are obliged to receive one specie in lieu of another, the commissary must take cam to issue the extraordinaries from the specie of which he has the greatest quantity at the time



BATTALION ARCHIVE



The future Publisher (Ensign Thomas Pray) and Editor (Sgt. Jerry Knitis) at Crown Point in the 2005 / 2006 time frame. The two rangers enjoy cold water after a hard battle.



Rangers from the New York company at Fort Oswego preparing for battle.



Rangers Advancing at Fort Niagara Courtesy of Fay Photography



How about a 1910 photo of his Majesty's Fort at Crown Point as a visual for Battalion Journal. Early Post Cards are cool. And, as the Rangers were certainly here, Submitted by Thomas Pray, Ensign; New York Company







The Battalion Journal 637 Telegraph Road Peru, New York 12972