



The BATTALION JOURNAL

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





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School of the Ranger

Defending the Backcountry!

Fort Frederick, Rangers & the Seven Years War

The 2021 SOTR Event, Defending the Backcountry; Fort Frederick, Rangers & the Seven Years War, will be conducted as a 48-hour immersive interpretive event & tactical. Participants will be assigned to a 30 man Ranging Company tasked with unique patrol objectives. Each patrol will have a main objective, as well as several tactical and fieldcraft skill taskings to complete, while under constant threat of a dedicated Opposition Force. In addition, the 2021 event will feature significant civilian interaction with Fort Frederick's kitchen, hospital and laundry staffed and interpreted.

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. Predominantly 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.

When? January 29th - 31st 2021. **Alternate March weekend TBD if Covid restrictions continue.**

Where? Fort Frederick State Park. 11100 Fort Frederick Rd, Big Pool, MD. The entire weekend will be held solely in the historic fort & surrounding countryside, under 18th C conditions.

Who's invited? Registration is limited to 30 ranger participants portraying those that "ranged" in and around Fort Frederick during the Seven Years War. Participants must meet the minimum equipment guidelines. Opposition Force & Fort Frederick civilians roles are extremely limited.

What to expect?

Participants should expect to spend the entire Event in the elements & in primitive barracks conditions field testing their kit and conducting immersive patrols, duties and recreational activities regardless of weather

conditions.

Cost /Fees?

The registration fee is a \$50.00 tax deductible donation that covers attendance as well as the pre event online curriculum & discussion. Because of Covid Uncertainties, we are accepting a non refundable \$20 donation to hold a slot with the remainder due prior to January. IF Covid Restrictions continue through March, the event will be cancelled for 2021.

More information about the event can be found on the School of the Ranger web page:

<http://www.schooloftheranger.com/>



Subscription Information

To Subscribe:

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

Method One:

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

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Method Two:

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAJOR

To: All Members and Friends of Jaeger's Battalion, Rogers' Rangers

From: Major Bill Blair

Greetings one and all. It's newsletter time once again, so I will try to bring you up to date. First, as I am sitting here safe in my home drafting this letter I can't help but to reflect that throughout history men and woman have sacrificed their welfare, fortunes and sometimes their very lives for the safety and freedom of their loved ones and country. We reenact the French and Indian War as members of Jaegers' Battalion, Roger's Rangers but, do we really reflect on the true feelings of the individuals we personify. Often as I awake in the morning on a historic battlefield, as the fog starts to lift and the morning camp fires raise their columns of smoke skyward, I get that feeling like I have been there before. I hope you two have had this strange and somewhat wonderful feeling. For I think it is our ancestors trying to tell us what it was like to be there some two hundred and sixty years ago. May we do justice and honor to them every time we are before the public telling their story.

I believe that God gave America the greatest gift he could bestow to man while he lived on this earth - freedom. I also believe he gave us another gift nearly as precious-our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Marines - to safeguard that gift and guarantee no force on this earth can ever steal it away. It has been my distinct honor to have served this great country as have many of you. Rest assured our America, this experiment in democracy started over two centuries ago, will forever remain the "land of the free and home of the brave" so long as we never run out of tough young Americans who are willing to look beyond their own self-interest and comfortable lives, and go into the darkest and most dangerous places on earth to hunt down, and neutralize, those who would do us harm. As this New Year begins and no matter what time periods you may reenact, please, do it to the best of your ability and with the respect and honor they deserve. God Bless America!

This past year has been very trying on all of us. The virus cancelling almost all of the events and reenactments has made it difficult to stay current and enjoy our dear friends. Hopefully you have had some time to work on your kit. It seems that has been one of the

major opportunities that have allowed me to bring back memories of seeing and working with all of you. I ask that you keep up with the news on this year's events and follow the State's safety rules. I dream of the time when we can once again be together and smell that black powder over the battle fields. Take care and be safe and healthy.



DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted by George Bray, Major
Bray's Company

Did you know?

While working on research on the internet, I made a discovery that I did not know before. Did you know that there is a bridge that connects Lancaster, NH and Guildhall, VT over the Connecticut River on US Route 2? The original was built in 1950, and being in bad condition, it is being replaced by another that will bear the same name next to it. It is called the **Rogers Rangers Bridge**.



A view of the red-listed Rogers Rangers Bridge from Lancaster looking west to Guildhall, Vt. The State of New Hampshire took by eminent domain nearly an acre of land along Route 2 for a new, replacement bridge; the owners of the land then took the state to court. John Koziol/Union Leader Correspondent

NORTH HAVERHILL - A judge on Wednesday heard competing arguments for and against the State of New Hampshire's taking of almost an acre of private land by eminent domain to facilitate the replacement of the red-listed Rogers Rangers Bridge in Lan-

caster.

The bridge, which carries U.S. Route 2 over the Connecticut River between Lancaster and Guildhall, Vt., is slated for replacement, with its \$10.1 million successor being built about 30 feet upstream.

Work on the new bridge began in May and will include new approaches and a reconstructed intersection in Vermont, according to the NH Department of Transportation. As the new span goes up, traffic will continue to go over the Rogers' Rangers Bridge, which was built in 1950.

To read click on the following links;

https://www.unionleader.com/news/local/judge-hears-eminant-domain-arguments-in-lancaster/article_e5a1309b-2ce0-5809-a1eb-2b5a136fe47a.html

<https://www.wcax.com/content/news/New-Hampshire-Vermont-bridge-for-sale-485705111.html>



New Hampshire-Vermont bridge for sale!



Do you know about Roger's Island?

Submitted by Thomas Pray, Ensign
New York Company

Yes, another Major Rogers Island. The island is located in the Township of Pantton, Vermont. It has also been called: Fear Island, Slate Island, Rock Island and Mud Island or one of the Prospect Islands. Fear Point is nearby. I have discovered why it has been called Mud, Rock, or Slate, Fear, and Possibly even Prospect, but that Major Rogers Island label, is illusive. Of course, it probably is Major Robert Rogers, but why?

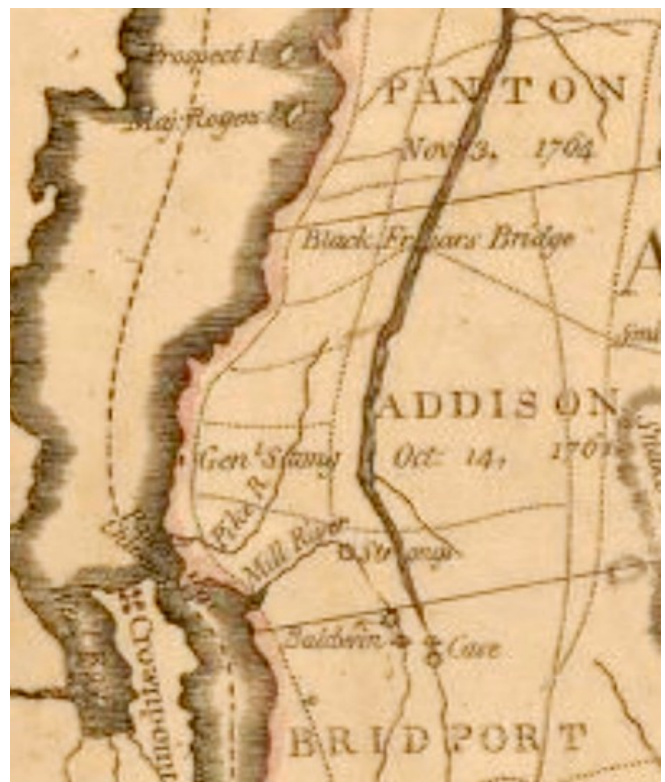
In recognition of, I certainly understand but not on a 1792 map which continued into use with revisions

and up dates until 1840's. After the Revolutionary War he was not so well respected having sided with the British.

Roger's Island is called Mud Island on today's maps and charts. It is located in Lake Champlain on the Vermont side between White Bay and Spaulding Bay.



As you look at the map below, what do you know about this map? You should know the information that the map contains. Just think about it.





Christmas in the 18th Century



By Lou Tramelli, Pvt
Michigan Company

“Within about two Miles of our Battoe we Came upon a Flock of Deer and kill'd two of them. With the utmost Expedition dress'd them and made to our Battoe and Launched it ready to set homewards. /We/ dugg up our Bottle which we had hid with about one Quart of Rum in it which revived our Spirits greatly. Then set home with good Courage and about 2 of the Clock in the Morning Arrived at Fort William Henry in a good time to hold Christmas.”

-Dec 19, 1755, Rogers Journal; [Loescher]

How exactly did Roger's Rangers “hold Christmas”?

Without primary sources to inform us, it becomes a very complicated question. As you may already know, 18th century Anglicans generally noted the occasion with both religious services and festivities, not unlike their Catholic foes. Conversely, Puritans believed such actions were contrary to Scripture. While this generalization holds true, and these two denominations enjoyed the benefit of being the “established” observance alternatively in many of the colonies, the religious spectrum of the colonists was much more varied than this dichotomy suggests.

The variety of religious observance and corresponding traditions by individual communities may be evident in the numbers of known churches at the time. In 1740, there appears to have been 423 Congregationalist, 246 Anglican, 160 Presbyterian, 96 Baptist, 95 Lutheran, 78 Dutch Reformed, and 51 German Reformed churches in the colonies overall. [Gaustad] British subjects of the Catholic, Quaker, and smaller sect minorities are unaccounted for in this tally. Regardless, the numbers inherent in such a plurality of community churches, a decade prior to the formation the Rangers, suggests the complexity of the issue. In addition, the validity in assuming that individual congregations of the same sect, separated by time, geographic distance, and ethnic composition, observed the holidays in monolithic lockstep is questionable.

While a significant number of the Rangers were Scotch Irish Presbyterians [Zaboly] from communities that officially frowned on celebrations, the fact that Rogers noted the occasion may indicate an ethnic or regional variance. Of course, not all of the Rangers

came from similar communities, and they undoubtedly found themselves serving alongside Anglican troops. In addition, the Rangers were likely exposed to other traditions outside the Anglican / Puritan norms while serving in the New York (or Nova Scotia) theatre.

Like the Rogers quote above, Sir William Johnson's correspondence indicates that Johnson and his circle held the holiday significant, at least secularly.

In a letter dated December 16, 1761, William Corry invited Johnson to enjoy Christmas festivities and turkey.

Similarly, in December of 1764, William Darlington sent Johnson “holiday greetings”.

In 1766, Johnson appears to have hosted a holiday Feast of St. John the Evangelist for his fellow Masons as per Masonic tradition.

Lastly, in a correspondence dated December 25, 1769, James Rivington states: “I beg you accept my Wishes of a good Christmas and many Happy years...” Though not from the same communities as the New Hampshire Rangers, Johnson's correspondence offers us a glimpse of some of the observance practices in the Mohawk Valley / Albany area.

At the time Rogers was “holding Christmas” with his men, the nearby population centers of the Mohawk Valley and Albany, were predominantly Dutch. Dutch Christmas traditions of the mid 18th century were quite distinct from those of the British. Samuel Kirkland, a missionary to the Mohawks, recorded in 1769; The manner in which people in these parts keep Christmas day in commemorating the Birth of the Savior is very affecting and striking. They generally assemble for reading prayers, or Divine service - but after, they eat drink and make merry. They allow no work or servile labour on that day and the following - their servants are free - but drinking swearing and fighting and frolicking are not only allowed but seem to be essential to the joy of the day. [Burch]

Warren Johnson noted something similar nine years earlier when he recorded the following in 1760; The Dutch keep the New year always for six days as holy days. And ride their slays to one another's houses, they dance and lie all together. Let there be ever soe many men and women before the fire; the Men must have on their Breeches and the women their Petty coats. (Johnson Papers, vol 13)

Another distinctly Dutch manifestation of the Christmas tradition included a St. Nicholas' Day Feast. Typically held on December 6th, the Dutch tradition involved a visit from Sinter Klaas, (St. Nicholas) who leaves toys and treats in the wooden shoes of good children, and nothing for the naughty. In addition to the feasting, a religious service was held. This tradition predates the Dutch arrival in New Netherland / New York, though I haven't discovered a direct reference to it in North America. The accompanying painting is entitled *The Feast of Saint Nicholas* by Jan Steen, dated 1665/1668. The painting shows a girl with her new doll and some treats that were left in her shoe by St Nicholas while an unhappy sibling seems to have received nothing. The family is gathered and the cakes and breads of the feast are evident.

How did the Rangers hold Christmas?

It's impossible to know without further primary documentation coming to light. Whether they strictly adhered to familiar Anglican or Puritan norms, or were influenced by the military cadre or civilian population nearby is unknown. Maybe a few of them carried a bit of the Sinter Klaas tradition back home.



Photo submitted by Lou Tramelli

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DULY NOTED

BACKGROUND

The Rangers of Major Rogers Companies performed various duties for the British army. Scouting was foremost as was information gathering, obtaining prisoners, and keeping the French occupied with their movements. They also were escorts and many times guards for both Provincial and Regular soldiers. They protected Work crews that gathered Spruce logs, built Bateaux, cut firewood, or made roads. It was the Ranger presence and safety provided by them that allowed this work to progress. These Duly Noted writings attest to their value.

The front page of a 18th century newspaper is show on the next page. This newspaper, dated 2 April 1759, carries a story about Robert Rogers and his rangers. The article is converted to readable text on the page following the newspaper.

[MONDAY] April 2, 1759.

P A R K E R'S

NUMB. 8.

NEW-YORK OR, WEEKLY

With the best Advice,



GAZETTE: THE POST-BOY.

Foreign and Domestic.

Particulars of Major Robert Rogers's last Scout against the Enemy.

ON the 3d of March past, he marched from Fort-Edward for Ticonderoga, with Capt. Lotteridge, and 52 Indians, composed of Mohawks, Conojeherys, Schoharrys, Diljeways, Oneidas, and Senecas; and the following Detachments, viz. Of the Royal Regiment, Lieuts. West and Cook, 4 Sergeants, 1 Corporal, and 40 Privates. Royal Americans, Light Infantry, Capt: Wylliamos, Lieut. M'Key, Ensigns Brown and Moony, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, and 110 Privates. Volunteers of ditto. Lieut. Trumbal, 3 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, and 41 Privates; and Lieut. Brimé, Engineer: And of the Rangers, Lieut. Tute Holmes, Brewer, and Stark; 7 Sergeants; and 79 Privates; the Whole, Officers included, being 358:--They encamped the first Night at Half Way Brook, on the Road to Fort William-Henry: One Indian having hurt himself on the Road, returned back, with another to take Care of him: On the 4th, at ten o'Clock they began their March towards Lake George, and within a Mile of the same, halted till the Close of the Evening, that they might the better pass undiscovered from any Party of the Enemy, that might be watching on the Hills; when they continued their March till 2 o'Clock in the Morning, at which Time they halted at the first Narrows. In the Morning several of the Detachments being Frost bitten, sent back 23 of them with a careful Sergeant of the Rangers, with Orders to return with them to Fort Edward. On the Evening of the 5th they began their March, and reached Sabbath-Day Point about 1 o'Clock; when they encamped till the Morning of the 7th; at which Time they marched again, and arrived at the Landing Place about 8 o'Clock in the Morning, and halted on a Point of Land on the East Side, near Mutton-Island, where they intended to form an Ambuscade, and endeavour to draw out a Party from the Fort, by a few skulking Persons, who were to return again to the Main Body. At 9 o'Clock they sent out 2 Rangers and 2 Indians to reconnoitre, that the Major might the better effect his Designs:--They returned about 11 o'Clock, and reported, That there was no Party out on the west Side, but on the east Side there were two Parties cutting of Wood:--It then appearing a good Time for the Engineer to make his Observations, &c. Captain Wylliamos was ordered to remain with the Regulars, and 30 Rangers, whilst the Major, with the Engineer, and 49 Rangers; and Capt. Lotteridge, with 45 Indians, should go to the Hill on the Isthmus that over-looks the Fort; where Maj. Rogers left Lieut. Tate, and ten Rangers as a Guard, with an Intent to cross the Lake with the Remainder to the east Side, and cut off the working Party that Night:--When he came near the Lake, he found he could not get over undiscovered, in the Day-time, therefore returned to the Engineer, who was left to make Observation of the Fort. &c. and with him, and the whole Party, marched back to the Point where Captain Wylliamos was, first leaving 5 Indians and one Ranger to observe what Numbers crossed the Lake in the Evening, from the east Side, to the Fort. That about dark, the Indians and Rangers returned with an Account of their Numbers, at which Time the Engineer set out again with Lieut. Tate, and ten Rangers, and went to the Entrenchment; from whence he returned about Midnight, without any Molestation, and said, he had accomplished his Business to his Satisfaction. Upon this the Major ordered Capt. Wylliamos, with the Regulars, back to Sabbath-Day Point; as the Weather was excessive cold, and the Party much fatigued, it did not appear prudent to march them any further, therefore sent with them Lieut. Tute, and 30 Rangers, as occasional Pilots, or Flanking Parties. At 3 of the Clock the Major marched with Capt. Lotteridge, and his Indians, with Lieutenants Holmes,

Stark, and Brewer, and 40 of his Rangers, and one Regular, in order to attack the working Party, on the Eastside early in the Morning, and crossed South Bay, eight Miles South of the Fort, from thence bore down the same, till they were opposite the Fort on the east Side; where they halted, within Half a Mile of the Lake; from whence sent out 2 Indians to reconnoitre; who returned in a few Minutes, and bro't Intelligence, that the working Party was close to the Bank of the Lake; opposite to the Fort: Upon which they stripped off their Blankets, and ran down upon them, took 7 Prisoners, 4 Scapls, and killed several others as they were retreating to the Fort; Whereupon 80 Indians and Canadians rushed out of the Fort, and pursued our Men closely; being backed by about 150 French Regulars, about one Mile's March the Indians and Canadians overtook them, and began to play upon their Rear:--As they marched in a Line abreast, their Front was easily made, so they halted on a rising Ground, and engaged the Enemy, who behaved with great Bravery for a little Time, but soon found that they could not stand before our Marksmen till their Reinforcement could come up, so scatter'd and ran for it: After this the Major began his March again in a Line a-breast; and when he had proceeded about Half a Mile further, the Enemy appeared in Sight again, but he did not chuse to engage them there, so went a little further, and halted on a long Ridge on that Side, opposite to the Enemy, when the Canadians and Indians came up very close, but their Pursuit was soon stop'd by a Volley from the Mohawks and Rangers, which broke them immediately, when Part of Rogers's Detachment pursued them till they were in Sight of the French Regulars, where the French made a Stand:--Afterwards the Major marched off without any Opposition, the Enemy not daring to pursue them any farther. In these several Skirmishes 2 Rangers and 1 Regular killed, and one Indian badly wounded; and the Major judges there were killed of the Enemy about thirty.

We can further assure the Publick, That Major Rogers's Party in general, both Officers and Men, behaved extremely well; especially Captain Lotteridge and Lieutenant Holmes, who strove to exceed each other, both of whom behaved with great Bravery and Coolness during the whole Affair:-- That he continued his Retreat till 12 o'Clock at Night; and at the End of 50 Miles March from where he set out in the Morning, joined Captain Wylliamos, at Sabbath-Day Point, who had kindled Fires for his Reception, which were, no Doubt, very acceptable to the Party. And that next Morning he marched as far as Long-Island, on the Lake, with the whole Detachment, where he encamped; from which Place he sent an Express to Col. Haldiman, at Fort Edward, and was met the next Morning at Lake-George, by Capt. M'Bein, with a Detachment, who brought some Sleights to carry the disabled Men to Fort Edward, where they all arrived the Evening of the Tenth past.

We hear the Mohawks carried 4 of the French Prisoners home with them.

Charles-Town, (South-Carolina) March 17. OUR Letters from Providence, by Captain Bill, who arrived here the 10th Instant, contain the following Advice, viz. That on the 7th ult. arrived there a Brig. (formerly belonging to Rb. Island) re-taken by Capt. Beake, in the Recovery Privateer: And at the same Time, the King George Privateer, of New-York, Capt. Leacraft, with a Sloop called the Pearl Castellan, pretended to be Spanish, which she had taken: That the Spaniards had already owned one Half of the Cargo to be French; and 'twas not doubted but that the other would be found so too. And that Captain Leacraft said, two French Privateers were suspected to be gone to cruise upon our Coast. If the above Suspicion has any Juy. Foundation, we might be

Doubt that His Majesty's Ships the Scarborough &c. Zephyr, who are going on a Cruise soon, will give a good Account of the Mansteurs.

On the 12th arrived from a fruitless Cruise, His Majesty's Ship the Hunter, commanded by Ca. z. Admiss.

The same Day arrived Capt. Durham, from St. Martin's, where it was affirmed when he sailed, that the Redoubt called Le Dos de Afuse, (being the only Post of Consequence on Guadalupe that held out, according to our former Advice) had surrendered; as had also, afterwards, above 300 French Inhabitants, who had fled for Shelter into other Parts of the Mountains: That only 5 Ships of Commodore Moore's Squadron remained at Guadalupe: And that the rest were cruising about, so as to block up Martinique, waiting for expected Reinforcements.

Letters from Providence, of the 23d ultimo, by Capt. Viall, who arrived here last Wednesday, advise us, That they had received the News there of the entire Reduction of Guadalupe, by Way of Mont-Christo; and that the French on Hispaniola, were of Opinion, Martinique would also fall before long; they having had Advice, that the English General had sent most of the Inhabitants from the former to the latter Island, in order to increase the Number of People, and render it difficult of supporting them the greater; while Co. Moore's Squadron prevents any Supplies being conveyed to them.

PERTH-AMBOY, March 16, 1759.

S C H E M E OF A LOTTERY,

FOR raising 1500 DOLLARS, pursuant to a Law of the Province of New-Jersey, to be applied towards paying the Interest of their Claims to all Land in the said Province.

Table with 4 columns: Prizes, Value of each, Total Value, and 500 Prizes. Includes details like 'To consist of 1500 Tickets, at Four Dollars each, of which 500 are to be Prizes, without any Deduction, Fifteen per Cent. being to be first deducted out of the Sale of the Tickets, &c.'

The Managers are Josiah Hellingwood, in Burlington; Alexander Forman, Esq; at Trenton; Hendrick Fibber, Esq; in Jersey; and Mr. Lewis J. Parker, at Amby; who are to be under Oath, and to give Security for the true Performance of the Trust reposed in them.

The Drawing of the Lottery by Law, must be before the End of October next, but will be sooner, if the Tickets are all disposed of, and shall be at the Court-House in Perth-Amboy, in the Presence of the Managers, and under the Inspection of some of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs of the Province of New-Jersey. The Prizes will be printed in the New-York and Philadelphia Newspapers, immediately after the Drawing is finished, and will be paid by the respective Managers on Demand.

High Water at New-York, this Week. MONDAY 32 min. after 12. FRIDAY 30 min. after 3. TUESDAY 40 min. after 1. SATURDAY 47 min. after 4. WEDNESDAY 25 min. after 1. SUNDAY 45 min. after 5. THURSDAY 2 min. after 3. MONDAY 22 min. after 11.

PRICE CURRENT BY Wholesale in NEW-YORK. Wheat 55. 9d. per Bushel, New-England Rum 4s. 3d. Flour 15s. 6d., Beef per Barrel, 42s. Brown Bread 27s., Pork per 60 lbs, 30s. West-India Rum 6s., Salt, 3s. 6d. French Brandy 40s. 6d., Spirits Tea, 7s. 3d. per lb. Molasses 5s., Chocolate per doz, 25s. Single refined Sugar 12d., Best Wax, 6s.

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New York Gazette
2 April 1759

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Wood :-- It then appearing a good Time for the Engineer to make his Observations, Captain Wylliamos was ordered to remain with the Regulars, and 30 Rangers, whilst the Major, with the Engineer, and 49 Rangers ; and Capt. Lotteridge, with 45 Indians, should go to the Hill on the isthmus that overlooks the Fort ; where Maj. Rogers left Lieut. Tate, and ten Rangers as a Guard, with an Intent to cross the Lake with the Remainder to the east Side, and cut off the working Party that Night. ---When he came near the Lake, he found he could not get over undiscovered, in the Day-time, therefore returned to the Engineer, who was left to make Observation of the Fort. --and with him, and the whole Party. marched back to the Point where Captain Wylliamos was, first leaving 5 Indians and one Ranger to observe what Numbers crossed the Lake in the Evening, from the east Side, to the Fort. That about dark, the Indians and Rangers returned with an Account of their Numbers, At which, Time the Engineer, set out again with Lieut. Tute, and ten Rangers, and went to the Entrenchment ; from whence he returned at about Midnight, without any Molestation, and said, he had accomplished his Business to his Satisfaction. --Upon this the Major ordered Capt. Wylliamos, with the Regulars, back to Sabbath-Day Point ; as the Weather was excessive cold, and the Party much fatigued, it did not appear prudent to march them any further, therefore sent with them Lieut. Tute, and 30 Rangers, as occasional Pilots, or Flanking Parties. --At 3 of the clock the Major marched with Capt. Lotteridge, some of his Indians, with Lieutenant Homes, Stark, and Brewer, and 40 of his Rangers, and one Regular, in order to attack the working Party, on the Eastside early in the Morning, and crossed South Bay, eight Miles South of the Fort, from thence bore down the same, till they were opposite the Fort on the east Side; where they halted, within Half a Mile of the Lake; from whence sent out 2 Indians to reconnoitre; who returned in a few Minutes, and bro't intelligence, that the working Party was close to the Bank of the Lake; opposite to the Fort: Upon which

they stripped off their Blankets, and ran down upon them, took 7 prisoners, 4 scalps, and killed several others as they were retreating to the Fort ; Whereupon So Indians and Canadians rushed out of the Fort, and pursued our Men closely ; being backed by about 150 French Regulars. -- In about one Mile's March the Indians and Canadians overtook them, and began to play upon their Rear :-- As they marched in a Line abreast, their Front was easily made, so they halted on a rising Ground, and engaged the Enemy, who behaved with great Bravery for a little Time, but soon found that they could not stand before our Marksmen till their Reinforcement could come up, so scattered and ran for it After this the Major began his March again in a Line a-breast ; and when he had proceeded about Half a Mile further, the Enemy appeared in Sight again, but he did not chuse to engage them there, so went a little further, and halted on a long Ridge on that Side; opposite to the Enemy, when the Canadians and Indians came up very close, but their Pursuit was soon stopt by a Volley from the Mohawks and Rangers, which broke them immediately, when Part of Rogers's detachment pursued them till they were in Sight of the French Regulars, where the French made a Stand :-- Afterwards the Major marched off without any Opposition, the Enemy not daring to pursue them any farther. -- In these several Skirmishes 2 Rangers and z Regular killed, and one Indian badly wounded ; and the Major judges there were killed of the Enemy about thirty."

We can further assure the Publick, That Major Rogers's Party in general, both Officers and men, behaved extremely well ; especially Captain Lotteridge and Lieutenant Holmes, who strove to exceed each other, both of whom behaved with great Bravery and Coolness during the whole Affair :-- That he continued his Retreat till 12 o'Clock at Night; and at the End of 50 miles March from where he set out in the Morning, joined Captain Wylliamos, at Sabbath Day Point, who had kindled Fires for his Reception, which were, no Doubt, very acceptable to the Party. And that next Morning he marched as far as Long-Island, on the Lake, with the whole Detachment, where he encamped ; from which Place he sent an Express to Col. Haldiman, at Fort Edward, and was met the next Morning at Lake George, by Capt. McBein, with a De-

tachment, who brought foam Sleighs to carry the disabled Men to Fort Edward, where they all arrived the Evening of the Tenth past.

We hear the Mohawks carried 4 of the French Prisoners home with them.



MORE DULY NOTED

Here are some references to how Christmas was celebrated from various Journals.

ADAM STEPHEN on Christmas

In this context, Christmas of 1755 was still observed with merriment. Adam Stephen, the creator of Martinsburg WV, writes to Washington in Winchester VA, five months before the construction of Fort Loudoun Winchester VA

December 24 1755

Being Christmas, we were invited to spend the evening with Colonel Stephen, where we spent the time in drinking loyal healths and dancing 'till 11 o'clock, and then parted in the most amicable manner.

I had the honour to dine at the head of 24 fine Gentlemen yesterday -- We had an extremely good dinner, and after drinking the loyal Healths, in a Ruff and Huzza at every Health we pass'd an hour in Singing and taking a Cheerful glass.

December 25th 1755

Were invited to dine with Colonel Stephens, where we had the most sumptuous entertainment. After dinner drank the Royal Healths and sung some entertaining songs with Huzzas and rolls of Drums to every health and song. Then took partners and spent the evening in dancing, about 12 o'clock broke up well pleased with our generous entertainment.

We then amus'd ourselves with acting part of a Play, and spending the Night in mirth, Jollity and Dancing, we parted very affectionatly at 12 O'Clock, remembering all Absent Friends

December 26th 1755

Sociably spent.

Footnote - A ruff, or ruffle, was a term used among drummers of

British regiments to signify a sort of vibrating sound made upon a drum, less loud than the roll.



From Colonel James Murray's Journal

Colonial Administrator and Governor -Province of Quebec

Dec 24th, 1759

From the 17th to the 24th Dec. 153 (men) have been frost-bit: this happens always on the sleying, Parties, nor is there any possibility to avoid them, as, notwithstanding every measure taken and the diligence of the officers, whose particular province it is, the Canadian horses do not bring in a sufficient quantity (of Provisions or wood) to provide for the present or against the spring.

Dec 25th, 1759

This day Captain Leslie returned from his expedition down the south shore. Every Officer and Soldier of the party has been frost bit more or less, but none dangerously, except two. He has not been able to proceed quite so far as I had intended, by reason that the lower parishes were entirely burned, and there was no lodging for the troops.

Dec 26th, 1759

...Ordered Likewise, the inhabitants of the Island of Orleans, to make the roads and mark them with beacons, in order to begin bringing in our wood from thence the beginning of next month.... This day Lieut. Butler, of the Rangers, with four more set out across the country for New England, with dispatches for General Amherst.



SUSTENANCE & LIBATION

Holiday Supper

Submitted by Ensign Thomas Pray
New York Company of Rangers

A Holiday supper during the French and Indian War.

- Take (4) Coneys (Rabbits)

- Boil and take off scum until no more.
- Take peelt Pippins (Apples)
- Rasher Meat (Bacon)
- Onions
- Clean cavities of Coney's.
- Stuff with Pippins, Onions and Rasher Meat
- skewer and roast until tender at fire.

So Roast Rabbit stuffed with Bacon, Onion, and Apple. Serve with Hard bread, Jams, Jellies, Fryed Parsnips, or Stewed Pompion

A menu for Christmas day in 1757 at the home of John Devon (Stillwater, New York)

- 2 Rabbits
- 1 Minced Pie
- Beef Marrow Bones
- Hanch of Venison
- 1 Goose stufet with Ramps (Onions)
- 1 Boilt Patridge with Parsnips
- 1 bowl of fry'd Pippins (Apples)
- Jellies
- Stew'd Pompion (Pumpkin)

Christmas Recipes for the years of the French and Indian War.

1757 Venison Pasty (Virginia)

- *Take a Roast of Venison.*
- *Boil till tender*
- *Chop fine.*
- *1 pound of Rasher meat (Bacon)*
- *Meat of two boilt Poults (young chickens)*
- *Mix with 1 pound sugar, ramps, cinnamon,*
- *And bake in a pie.*



The Venison Pasty sounds like a nice mincemeat pie. Other common foods used for consumption on Christmas day: "Roasted pieces of Beef, Roast Venison, Turkeys, Woodcocks, Mutton, Breasts of Pork, Pork Pie, Roasted Oysters, and Rabbit. Vegetables were Ramps (wild Onions) Parsnips, Squash, Pom-pion, Corn, and Peas plus Green Beans. Jellies, fruits, and Jams if available but Christmas menus were built on what one could afford. Many a meal was just Stewed Pompion (Pumpkin), Bread, Butter, and Corn Meal mush.

1760 Roast Coneys (London)

- Take 4 Coneys (rabbits) Skin
- Boil. Skim off scumm. Cool,
- Clean and stuff with Peelt and cored Pippins
- & ½ pound sugar and finely chopped nuts
- Tie and roast till done

1761 Fry'd Parsnips Boston

- Take large parsnips and peel
- Slice and mix with 1/2 pound butter,
- some salt & Sugar and frye . When
- Slices Are soft and brown'd
- Serve On hard bread



1754 Pompion Pie (New York)

- Take 2 pounds of Rype Pompion and slice
- Take some Cinnamon, nutmeg, and some sweet marjarum.
- 12 eggs and mix all in a bowl and beat them. Add ½ pound
- sugar and boil. Mix together when soft. Let it stand till cold
- Put in pie crust.
- Bake 1 hour.
- Sprinkle with brown'd sugar.



Dutch Ginger-bread (1727)

Take four pounds of flour, and mix with it two ounces and a half of beaten ginger; then rub in a quarter of a pound of butter, and add to it two ounces of carraway-seeds, two ounces of orange-peel dry'd and rubb'd to Powder, a few coriander-seeds bruised, two eggs, then mix all up in a stiff paste, with two pound and a quarter of treacle ; beat it very well with a rolling-pin, and make it up into thirty cakes ; put in candied citron; prick them with a fork ; butter papers three double, one white, and two brown ; wash them over with the white of an egg ; put them in an oven not too hot, for three quarters of an hour.

Smith, Eliza. The Compleat Housewife: or accomplish'd gentlewoman's companion, being a collection of upwards of six hundred of the most approved receipts etc.... The 9th edition, with very large additions. London : Printed for J. and J. Pemberton, 1739 [1727].

To Make Everlasting Syllabubs"

Take five half pints of thick cream, half a pint of Rhenish, half a pint of sack, and the juice of two large Seville Oranges; grate in just the yellow rind of three lemons and a pound of double-refined sugar well beat, and sifted. Mix all together with a spoonful of orange flower water, beat it well together with a whisk half an hour, then with a spoon fill your glasses. These will keep above a week, and is better made the day before.



*The Art of Cookery made Plain and Easy
By Hannah Glasse, London 1758*

PEASE PORRIDGE

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

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

Editor's Note: "Rogers' Rules for Ranging," reprinted with permission by the article author, Matt Wulff.

Rogers Rules Number Thirteen

"In general, when pushed upon by the enemy, reserve your fire till they approach very near, which will put them into the greatest surprize and consternation, and give you the opportunity of rushing upon them with your hatchets and cutlasses to the better advantage." (Rogers 59, 60)

Even with the marksmanship that the Rangers were known for, the effect of a devastating volley of musket fire at close range cannot be dismissed. You can almost get the feel of what Rogers was trying to accomplish by his orders for his Rangers to reserve their fire until the enemy came very close to your position. At first this would seem to be a mistake, letting the enemy to get so very close. If you are not able to drive them off, or at least break their formation with this first volley from close range, the enemy may be able to rally and overwhelm your position, but when you remember that the 18th century soldier was using a single shot muzzle loading weapon, you can begin to understand the reasoning behind this rule. The Rangers were known for firing a lead ball, or bullet out of their firelocks, in combination with a load of buckshot, or a group of smaller lead balls. This type of load would not have been as accurate at longer ranges, but

at close range this combination is very deadly. It would have been extremely hard for the Rangers not to inflict some really serious damage into an attacking party of the enemy. This type of load would have inflicted a great many serious wounds to a large number of the attacking force, causing mass confusion, and possibly breaking their formations. Instead of reloading and giving the enemy another volley, Rogers advises his men to rush upon them in their confusion with their hatchets and cutlasses to finish the enemy off. A cutlass is a short sword with a heavy slightly curved blade that was normally used aboard ships by naval forces. These short heavy blades would have worked well in the woods and brushy areas as well. Some of the Rangers would be using issued military firelocks with bayonets, but for those Rangers who were using a colonial fowler, or other firelocks that did not accept a bayonet, the cutlass, or hatchet took its place. The tactics used with these weapons would have been vastly different than those used by the Regulars, such as the bayonet charge in a massed infantry formation, which did not work as well in the forests of North America.

Another factor in this rule is the psychological effect this charge would have upon a force of the enemy already reeling from the close range volley. The sight of a group of screaming Rangers, armed with hatchets and cutlasses would cause all but the most stalwart of troops to panic and run for their lives. This would have had the same effect that the Native Americans used in their attacks with their war whoops and the "scalp hallo." This is another example of the Rangers using tactics gleaned from that of the Natives.

Battalion application:

For safety reasons we are not allowed to draw our edged weapons while engaged in any tactical field demonstrations. The distance at which you and the forces opposing you are allowed to discharge your firelocks at each other is also strictly enforced. In fact, we are required to elevate our firelocks to at least a 20% angle so that we are shooting over the heads of our enemies. This may not look the best for demonstration purposes, but safety is of the utmost concern in these matters. This leaves little for us as reenactors by which to make use of Rogers Rule #13. This is a good time however to remind your troops that every edged weapon carried must have a sturdy sheath or some sort of cover for it, and to reemphasize that under no circumstances are edged weapons to be drawn while on the field. Field commanders should also watch for the proper elevation of our firelocks and immediately stop anyone who does not do this properly.

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*Mistletoe*

Jaeger's Battalion Senior Ranger Program

For those who wish to enter the Senior Ranger Program, send \$5.00 NYC and a letter with your intention to join the program to Major William J. Blair's quarters at:

Major William J. Blair
4356 Teal Circle
Gloucester Virginia 23061
Email: varanger@cox.net

Note: For those members who are already candidates in the program: please don't forget to send your completed requirement slips to Major at the above address.

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DISCLAIMER: There will be articles that will have spelling and grammar that was used during the 18th century. When an individual submits an article, it is checked for proper grammar and spelling. We have many excerpts that are from 18th century sources and those said items are not changed. Articles in the Journal pertain to the time period of Rogers life/French and Indian War.