

Royal



Yorkers

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domeftick

SIEGE OF YORKTOWN – OCTOBER 20, 21 & 22

The much anticipated reenactment of the Siege of Yorktown is now only days away. By all accounts, it will be as massive as everyone predicted. After 5 years of attending 225th anniversary events, we are now about to enjoy the Grand Daddy of them all.

Scenarios

- The 225th Anniversary of the Siege of Yorktown will take place at two different venues: the Colonial National Historical Park (NPS) and nearby Endview Plantation.
- Interpretive reenactments of the "Battle of the Hook" (Friday afternoon), the "Defense of the Fusiliers' Redoubt" (Saturday morning) and the "Storming of Redoubts 9 & 10" (Saturday afternoon) will take place at Endview Plantation. Recreations of Redoubts 9 and 10 have been constructed at Endview, with the finishing work being done the week prior to the event.
- The scenarios for these reenactments have been planned so that all units will be able to participate in at least one or two of the engagements at Endview. Unit assignments for the tacticals will be posted on the event website (www.siegeofyorktown.org).
- Field demonstrations will be conducted at the Colonial National Historical Park on Saturday morning and afternoon by those not involved in a particular engagement at Endview.
- On Saturday evening at dusk a re-

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Right – Augustine Moore House where terms of surrender were negotiated in 1781.

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 20

- 8:00 am to Midnight – Registration open at French Trench Overlook
- 9:00 am - Optional "March In" from Endview Plantation to Colonial NHP
- 4:00 pm - "Battle of the Hook" – Endview Plantation
- 6:00 pm - Artillery Program – Colonial NHP

Saturday, October 21

- 10:30 am - "French Attack on Fusilier's Redoubt" – Endview Plantation
- 11:00 am - Infantry and Cavalry Demonstration – Colonial NHP
- 12:00 pm - Artillery through the Ages – Colonial NHP
- 1:00 pm - Massed Fife & Drum Performance – Colonial NHP
- 1:30 pm - "Attacks on Redoubts 9 & 10" – Endview Plantation
- 2:30 pm - Infantry and Cavalry Demonstration – Colonial NHP
- 4:00 pm - Massed Artillery Demonstration – Colonial NHP
- 5:15 pm - Massed Fife & Drum Performance – Colonial NHP
- 6:00 pm - Interpretive Reenactment of "Abercrombie's Foray" to spike the Allied Guns followed by a mass firing from the lines at dusk – Colonial NHP

Sunday, October 22

- 9:00 am - Church Service at Victory Monument
- 10:30 am - Cannonade and Mass Musket Firings, "The Parley" – Colonial NHP
- 12 Noon - March to Surrender Field
- 1:30 pm - Surrender Ceremony
- 3:00 pm - Troops return to Camp



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enactment of "Abercrombie's Sordie to Spike the Allied Guns" will take place on the actual ground of the original action. Following this there will be a massive fusillade from the Crown and Allied works.

- On Sunday morning, following divine services to be held at the Victory Monument, another fusillade will take place at the works, followed by a reenactment of the British request for parlay.
- Bus transportation is being arranged to ferry troops back and forth between Endview and Colonial National Historical Park. (approximately 4 1/2 miles)
- On Sunday afternoon both armies will march to Surrender Field for a reenactment of the British capitulation.

Crown & Allied Camps

- All troops will be encamped at Colonial National Historical Park with the Crown forces located in and around the village of Yorktown and the Allied troops south east of

Redoubts 9 and 10.

- Crown parking will be approximately 1/2 mile from their camp. Colonial National Historical Park will provide a shuttle service from that parking area to the Crown camp. Allied parking will be in fields within walking distance of their camp.
- Water, firewood, straw, necessities and hand wash stations have been arranged for each camp.

Registration

Registration will be located at Endview Plantation and will open at 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 19. However, because of the traditional Yorktown Day celebration activities in and about the village, and because of security considerations for possible visiting dignitaries, access to the 18th century camp areas may be restricted until Friday morning. However, early arrivals (starting Tuesday, October 17) can encamp temporarily at Endview Plantation. This might be especially desirable for those interested in helping complete the recreations of Re-

doubts 9 and 10.

Cartridges & Firelock Inspections

- Because of NPS regulations, all ammunition used for the event will need to be consolidated. Each unit must prepare the cartridges needed for its men. Specific instructions for cartridge preparation, packaging and number required are posted on the event website. **Under no circumstances is any individual to bring his own cartridges onto NPS property!**
- Colonial National Historical Park will be providing powder for the artillery and assist in preparing the rounds used for demonstration at Colonial National Historical Park. However, rounds used at Endview should be pre-made in the normal fashion. Packaging and numbers needed will be posted on the event website.
- Because of NPS Regulations, all firelocks brought on to NPS property will need to be inspected and logged by NPS personnel. To speed up this process, unit commanders should print and fill out the Inspection Log Sheet and bring it with them to the event. The schedule for unit firearms inspections will be posted on the site. It is important that all participants be on site and ready at the designated time of their inspection.

Directions:

The Yorktown unit of Colonial National Historical Park is situated on the east end of the scenic Colonial Parkway. The historic site of Yorktown Battlefield includes a Visitor Center with a 16 minute film, museum, sales shop and restrooms; the battlefield tour roads, including the historic Moore House and Surrender Field; and parts of the Town of York, including the historic Nelson House. *To reach the Yorktown Visitor Center from the west:* Take Interstate 64 East to the exit for Route 199 East, exit 242B. Follow Route 199 East to the Colonial Parkway, then follow the signs to the Yorktown Visitor Center.



A romanticized French version of the surrender shows a British general delivering his sword and the troops stacking their arms at a field outside Yorktown.

The Queen's Rangers were there in 1781...



...and will be again in 2006

Those attending the Yorktown event in October will serve, not as Royal Yorkers, but as Queen's Rangers. This makes sense given that the Royal Yorkers in October, 1781 were in the north harassing the rebels in the Mohawk Valley, while the Queen's Rangers actually served under Lord Cornwallis during the Yorktown siege. Therefore, all green coated troops in the Northern Brigade who attend the 225th Anniversary Yorktown event will operate as Queen's Rangers under the command of LtCol Jim Mallard.

Interestingly enough, during the siege the Queen's Rangers were not posted within the British lines at Yorktown. On the 12th of August, 1781 they were ordered across the York River where they took post in the vicinity of Gloucester. Their role was to fortify the point of land opposite Yorktown and provide protection for foraging parties operating on the north side of the river. They were accompanied by the 80th Regiment and a Regiment of the Hereditary Prince of Hesse.

The Queen's Rangers had suffered greatly in the months leading up to the siege. Fatigue from constant and active service, illness and lack of equipment had taken its toll. When it was known that Sir Henry Clinton had asked Lord Cornwallis to send troops to New York, LtCol Simcoe requested that his regiment be included, in the belief that the sea voyage might

benefit the health of his men and that in New York he would be able to recruit the regiment up to strength. A Queen's Ranger muster roll of August 24 showed only 379 infantry and 192 cavalry in Gloucester. Ultimately, no troops were sent and the Rangers remained in Virginia.

As the French and American forces converged on Williamsburg and the French fleet entered Chesapeake Bay, the course of the campaign became clear. LtCol Simcoe had for some time considered a plan to mount his whole regiment and escape through enemy lines to New York. He had mapped out a route and provided special training to his rangers. When Cornwallis asked whether, "he thought he could escape with the cavalry", Simcoe answered, "Without the smallest doubt". Unfortunately, no further instructions came, and soon it was too late.

As General Washington advanced on Yorktown, he also sent French troops to reinforce his militia on the Gloucester Peninsula. On September 28 six hundred cavalry and infantry of the Duke de Lauzun's Legion were posted at Gloucester, and a few days later they were joined by 800 marines from the French fleet.

The Queen's Rangers were posted in front of Gloucester with their left flank on the York River. At night an advanced post was maintained by Captain Shaw's Coy on a high bank close to the river. On one occasion during the siege the enemy advanced on the post. When Shaw heard their approach he withdrew, allowing them to settle into the position with a false sense of security. The Rangers then delivered a deadly volley into them, and then charged with the bayonet. The rebels fled in disorder, leaving firearms and equipment scattered on the ground. The post was reoccupied and no further attempts were made to take the position.

On October 2 LtCol Tarleton and his Legion crossed over from Yorktown to Gloucester. Simcoe was given overall command, although poor health made it necessary for Tarleton to act in his place. The Gloucester garrison consisted of the Queen's Rangers, Tarleton's Legion, Ewald's Jaegers, two British companies of Light Infantry and the North Carolina Volunteers.

The events of the siege of Yorktown are well known and need not be described here. On October 17 Cornwallis made the decision to request terms of surrender.

When rumours reached Simcoe that capitulation was being discussed, he sent Lt Spencer to Lord Cornwallis to request that he be permitted to attempt an escape with his corps. He was concerned in particular for the safety of his Loyalist troops, many of whom had deserted from the rebel army. His plan was to cross Chesapeake Bay in boats, land in Maryland and then make his way to New York. Cornwallis refused the request saying, "the whole army must share one fate".

Although the capitulation did not provide any special protection to the Loyalists, Cornwallis was given the right to have one sloop-of-war receive "such soldiers as he may think proper to send to New York, to be permitted to sail without examination, when his dispatches are ready..."

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On her sailed LtCol Simcoe and as many Loyalists who had deserted from the enemy as the ship could possibly hold. Those Queen's Rangers who did not board this ship were marched to prison camps at Winchester, Virginia.

Not all of the Queen's Rangers were forced to surrender at Yorktown. Three troops of cavalry who had been in South Carolina at the time returned to New York in tact. They formed a nucleus to which their comrades could gather. A surprising number of those in prison camps escaped and made their way to New York to rejoin their regiment. In December, 1781 a Queen's Rangers muster roll showed 551 other ranks in the city. Until the peace was signed the regiment remained in the Huntington, Long Island and Staten Island areas.

DWP



Rose House Event Was a *GREAT SUCCESS!*

The Rose House Event on August 26 & 27 was a great success. Nothing but good things have been heard from all in attendance. Here is some of the feedback after the event.

Hello Gavin: Just a quick note to say thank you all for a wonderful weekend!!!! Rick [Rose] is busy reading your books and has commented how he is thinking about becoming involved!!! Imagine a Rose doing something like that!! He also said his Father would have really enjoyed seeing the camp this weekend, down at the farm. Please pass on a great big THANKS from all of us at the Museum!

Susan Rose
Curator

Note: Rick Rose is a descendant of the original Loyalist for whom the Museum is named. Rick was a volunteer during the weekend, working at the museum in the food shed. His father George was a good friend of the Robinson's decades ago and I can remember him back in the '50's - gasp. Rick was just a kid, but one that Gill and I used to see often when we were courting - gasp again.

Gavin

And from Cpl Keith Lindsey in an e-mail to the Colonel:

I would like to express my thanks for all your organizing and generosity to help make the weekend a success.

Thank you to the CSM for the provision of delicious corn that was enjoyed by everyone.

A thank you to Gavin for the two kegs of beer that tasted so great, and for all the agonizing time spent trying to connect with the right kind of beer, to be available that weekend, at that location.

Thank you to the person who provided the whitefish and the fellow [Gord Semple- Queen's Rangers] who cooked it so expertly. I think everyone had a sampling of it or a good portion as a meal.

Thanks to those who negotiated the use of the property and those who allowed us to use the property.

Thank you to the people who walked the ground in advance to lay out the scenario possibilities. I think the ground was really good and has great potential for future years.

The scenarios were good to get us progressively involved. The ground

was not a strenuous challenge for people and will be an incentive for more to attend next time. And the scenarios and division of units made for a decent balance for fairness and a challenge for each side. Having friendly, known entities as 'foes' helps us hone our skills against a proper force, and this will make us much better when we get to other events where actual rebel units go against us in games.

And a thank you to the Rose House Museum for being very gracious hosts and for providing food and beverage on Sunday. It was a pleasure to help them promote their site, building, and artifacts to locals and visitors.

Best of all, whoever booked the rain to fall overnight and stop in good time Sunday morning, did a good job to help keep our interest and keep us there for the afternoon demonstration.

That's a long list of thank you's, but they are in order and well deserved. I believe everyone there enjoyed themselves a great deal. I look forward to the next time there and a larger turnout of re-enactors and visitors.

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And by the way, a new "Duck On A Rock" national champion was crowned at the Rose House Museum. Despite stiff competition from reenactors (including the reigning champion, Cpl Dave Smith) and the public alike, Brandt Zatterberg hit more ducks than any other. In recognition of his victory he downed a bottle of Waupus Hard Cider supplied by Robert Stewart. Congratulations to the new champ!



... So you're tellin' me that you throw a little rock and knock over a big rock, and you call this a sport? ...Must be a "Guy Thing"!!

Site of Sir John's Family Vault Changes Hands

The following article appeared recently in the *Quebec Heritage News* and was passed on by Shaun Wallace:

Missisquoi County United Empire Loyalists have had both good news and bad recently, with the death of a strong supporter and some new owners for the burial vault of famed loyalist leader Sir John Johnson.

President Jean-Paul Lasnier of La Societe de Restauration du Patrimoine Johnson has died after a long illness. Mr. Lasnier was mayor of Sainte Brigide d'Iberville for more than 30 years, being acclaimed on ten consecutive occasions. Mayor Lasnier's relationship with the Johnson tomb went back to the 1940's when he was a heavy machinery operator. He got the job of leveling an area that included an old stone structure in an overgrown apple orchard on Mont Saint Gregoire, which is also called Mount Johnson.

During the American Revolution, 1776-1784, Sir John Johnson led several thousand colonists loyal to Great Britain from the colony of New York to refuge in Quebec. Baronet Johnson had been Superintendent of Indians of the now-separated colonies. He later became seigneur of Monnoir, settled at the foot of the mountain, and when he sold it, reserved a patch of land for a family cemetery.

The old stone structure that the

young Mr. Lasnier bulldozed turned out to be the Johnson mausoleum. Over the years Lasnier grew to regret the incident so much that in the 1990's he became a leader of efforts to have the graves officially identified and protected.

In 2002 the Quebec Department of Cultural Affairs engaged an archeologist who confirmed that the site contained the remains of a wealthy family in its burial vault which dated from the Johnson period.

The hillside property has always been privately owned by farm families only vaguely interested in the Johnson vault and definitely not interested in any form of recognition which might attract attention or visitors to the quiet spot. Now though, the Verger Monnoir has been bought by a local conservation group.

CIME - Mont Saint-Gregoire is a 25-year-old non-profit organization founded in 1981 and dedicated to the conservation and reclamation of natural heritage in the Haut-Richelieu area. Both CIME (Capital et Innovation de la Montestrie Economique), and the tenant farmer M. Boutin are interested in cooperating with the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the Loyalist Association and La Societe de Restauration du Patrimoine Johnson in preserving and commemorating the site.

Todd Braisted on Facing Colours

Four years ago, Nancy came across a posting by Todd Braisted (an expert on Loyalist corps) in a thread entitled "Provincial Fun" on the Rev War Chat Group. I just uncovered this again and felt it was very germane to our situation. Todd wrote the following, which is right on the money with regard to our debate.

Blue facings do not mean "Royal" with regard to Provincials. The New Jersey Volunteers, New York Volunteers, and DeLancey's Brigade all had blue facings at least for part of the war. There does not seem to be much rhyme or reason as to which regiments got which uniform. The RCNR [Royal North Carolina Regt] facing info basically came from the annotated 1783 NAAL, and the uniform coat of Captain John Leget in Nova Scotia. I am not sure anyone knows what the uniform of the corps was from 1779-1781. A case in point would be DeLancey's Brigade, which spent at last 1778, 1781 & 1782 in red faced green, yet ended the war in red faced blue. The red faced blue comes from the 1783 NAAL, which they presume is what they wore the whole war after switching from green coats in May of 1778. However, through court martial proceedings, deserter advertisements, and clothing receipts, we know DeLancey's was in red

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faced green for the three years I mentioned. In 1779, they were in green coats again, as were many of the Provincial regiments from the North. The year we don't know about for them is 1780. There is no collection of the Inspector General's Papers that would answer all these questions. This is what makes Provincial research so much fun, and at the same time explains why I visit a liquor store once a week...

I believe I've previously mentioned my growing suspicion that the first red uniforms issued to the KRR were simply a result of the home government's decision to clothe all Provincials in red. If that was the case, Sir John may not have had any say about what facing colour the regiment received and blue would have been entirely fortuitous, not planned. Judging from Todd's note above, this could very well have been the case. Hopefully, my researcher will uncover in Sir John's agent's papers more information this Fall, which will either prove or refute this possibility.

In any event, we've understandably clung to the Royal facings' theory, and the truth may be that it doesn't hold any water. And, if blue facings by choice were not the case in the second clothing period, how much less likely it would be in the first!

Himself

Announcements

Dave Gutteridge's wife Susan has given birth to a boy, 7 lb 14 oz, named Wesley Mitchell. All is going very well and Gutteridge is beside himself with joy. As I write, he is probably teaching the kid all the arts of a big-time scam artist, so he can inherit all his father's wiles. Gavin



More From Simcoe's Military Journal

In the April, 2005 issue of the Newsletter the Colonel quoted from Colonel John Graves Simcoe's Military Journal, particularly as it applied to our own drill and tactics. As promised, here are some more fascinating quotes from Simcoe's Journal.

An Alarm – After a quite severe round of action, the Queen's Rangers had taken up position in a set of redoubts and were "permitted to take off their coats, at night, until further orders: in case of sudden alarm, they were ordered to form on their company's parade, undressed, with silence and regularity; the bayonets were never to be unfix'd".

Integral Riflemen – "Serjeant M'Pherson, a corporal, and twelve men, were selected, and placed under the command of Lieutenant Shaw: they were armed with swords and rifles; and, being daily exercised in firing at objects, soon became most admirable and useful marksmen."

Hand Grenades – "LCol Simcoe found eighteen new flat-boats upon carriages full of water [to keep the boards from springing.] He was determined to destroy them. Combustibles had been applied for and he received a few port-fires [a composition put in a paper case to fire guns and mortars]; every Huzzar had a hand-grenade, and several hatchets were brought with the party. The timbers of the boats were cut through; they were filled with straw and railing, and some grenades being fastened in them, they were set on fire."

Weird use of piled stones – "... the infantry were employed to strengthen that post; there were three pieces of cannon in the redoubts (a nine and two six-pounders) mounted on platforms without embrasures; these were pointed at the eminences, where it was expected the enemy would first appear, and where the stones were collected in heaps, so that a round shot, if it struck among them, might have the effect of grape." [Presumably the artillery was lacking in canister rounds, which would be far more effective than this measure, unless the range was beyond the effective use of canister. Otherwise this exercise has all the appearance of a 'make-work' project to keep the infantry employed]



A large patrol marching behind enemy lines – "The snow prevented all possibility of marching except on the beaten road. On arrival at a cross roads, the troops were challenged, the whole body halted, and with such profound silence, added to their being in the middle of the road, and at night when the beaten path in it appeared among the snow like a dark streak, that the enemy were deceived and thought themselves mistaken, as was learnt from their conversation, which was plainly overheard: but another patrol on horseback, falling in on the flank of the patrol's march, discovered the party; the enemy's sentinels fired, and in succession the bugle-horns, drums and bagpipe of the Queen's Rangers sounded."

Hats of the Hanau Jager Corps

Many members are aware that the Hanau Jäger Corps served alongside the Royal Yorkers from the very beginning of the regiment's active service on the frontiers. A company of Jägers was with us at Oriskany and covered the retreat of St. Leger's forces from Fort Stanwix. At Oswego, another three companies joined and went to Ticonderoga with St. Leger. In subsequent years, the Jägers garrisoned Carleton Island alongside the KRR. In 1780, detachments of Hanau Jägers went on the May raid to Johnstown and the October raid to Schoharie and the Mohawk Valley. Justin Boggess was listening to the hat debate at Lansing Manor earlier this year and promised Al Joyner and I to send some primary documentation for the Jägers' change from bicorn cocked hats to the small, round hat which we see them wearing with their black suits. Justin wrote:

"As promised at Lansing Manor, I have dug up some primary source information regarding the headgear of the Hanau Jägers (post 77 campaign). I hope this may prove useful in your quest to find the most accurate headgear for the Yorker line companies. As soon as I saw the hat one of your men was sporting and heard the discussion, I thought I had seen all of this before in the Kreutzbourg letters. Well here it is:

In a letter to the Hereditary Prince of Hesse Kassel, Wilhelm of Hesse Hanau dated October 3rd 1777 in camp near Fort Ticonderoga:

"The many thickets and dense forest that make passage difficult have been the cause of the loss of many hats. The corps is shy of about 14 hats even though I had bought quite a number of them wherever possible. For this reason I propose that the present style be supplanted by a very small hat with the brim bent up in the back and the sides and front of the brim cut off close to the crown which would be better than the present shape. This style of hat would require neither cockade nor

cord, but solely a button with a white woolen string which would hold up the brim in the back; and instead of the green and white plume, it could carry colors to distinguish one company from another. Under the present system a Jäger or a Dragoon cannot be distinguished from one another, neither can their companies be distinguished by their plumes. I believe that either entirely white, entirely yellow, entirely red, and entirely green plumes should be given to a company of Jägers, and none to the dragoons for whose hats have all thus far have been lost or torn off, anyway."

(Pgs. 40-41 from The Narration of the Hesse Hanau Jäger Corps in America by Kreutzbourg, translated by John C. Zuleger, Lidgerwood Collection "O")

I am presuming that the Corps wore this headgear throughout the war, as Kreutzbourg mentions small round hats periodically in the Order Book for the Corps (he also mentions cocked hats on occasion mostly for parade). I'm in the process of obtaining the German version of this document to put things in context. I desperately want to know what on earth he is talking about when he mentions Dragoons, and also to look for that other document regarding provincial uniforms.

But if I may inject my own look on the hat issue, I can definitely see how the Yorkers could possibly wear a hat similar to either the Jägers, or the one which one of your men wore last weekend. I'm sure Johnson would have taken note of the headgear, especially seeing how the Jägers and the Yorkers often served together. This also means that both units traveled through the same kind of terrain, and if the Yorkers kept their cocked hats, I'm sure they were probably encountering the same difficulties as the Jägers originally were. Therefore why not adopt the headgear of a fellow unit, which seems to cut down on losing so many hats in the brush? I can tell you by my own practical experi-

ence, I've moved through some pretty hefty stuff myself and I have yet to have my hat knocked off or caught up, and I'm sure the Jägers found that out as well. For more information on our uniforms visit our website www.hanaujager.com and click on the uniforms section.

Justin Boggess
Hesse Hanau Jäger Corps

Everyone should recognize that Justin's reasoning that the KRR may have adopted the more practical round hat of the Jägers applies to after the 1777 campaign. Whatever the KRR wore on the St. Leger expedition would not have been affected by the Jägers, as the Jägers did not adopt the round hat till 1778. That is not to say that the Jäger hat did not influence the KRR after 1778, but we simply don't know. If we are to change hat type, we still must go back to the evidence that all British regiments were in cap-hats for the 1777 campaign and that cap-hats continued to be worn by line infantry in the late war.

LtCol Gavin Watt

Showing Respect to an NCO

"In order to enforce the consequence of Non-commission-officers, it will be requisite to insist on some little mark of respect being shewn them by the Soldiers, particularly when speaking to them, and which should consist in laying the back of the left hand to the hat on coming up, and going off, and standing steady during the conversation: the same compliment should be paid by the Serjeants and Corporals to the Serjeant-major, and by the Drummers and Fifers, to the Drum and Fife-majors: if a Soldier with a firelock in his hand has occasion to address a Non-commission-officer, he should lower it across his body; a Corporal the same to the Serjeant-major, and a Serjeant with a halbert should club it." (*Cuthbertson's System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry*, 1776)

Women With His Majesty's Army

The book, "Redcoats - The British Soldier and War in the Americas, 1755 - 1763" (Stephen Brumwell) tells a fascinating story of the soldiers life in America during the Seven Years War. Although the book deals with all aspects of the soldier's experience, it also provided a number of interesting anecdotes concerning women attached to the army. The following are some excerpts.

...Women were commonly found on active service, and not infrequently in the thick of the fighting, they certainly numbered among the casualties sustained at Braddock's defeat in 1755. A soldier who survived the frantic retreat across the Monongahela recalled how 'an Indien Shot one of our Wimen and began to Scalp her' before her husband killed the warrior. Women were similarly in the line of fire during the Caribbean campaign of 1762. Before the French sortie from Martinique on 27 January, the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Highland Regiment had pitched its tents on the banks of a rivulet. Lieutenant John Grant recalled: 'our Women had arrived and were coming to wash when three shells appeared quickly and burst'. That summer Grant also witnessed women in the front line at Havana. Shortly after clearing a house in the suburbs of its Spanish defenders, Grant's command returned to find the building ransacked of spoils that included brocaded dresses and velvet suits. The 'Soldiers wives and camp followers' were already cavorting in this plundered finery, being 'equipped most amuzingly in their borrowed plumes'. Many of the Army's women had plainly seen considerable active service as they followed the drum. One such woman, Martha May, described something of her experiences in an appeal to Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Bouquet. Mrs. May had been incarcerated at Carlisle, Pennsylvania for abusing Bouquet 'to a High degree' after her husband - 'an Old Soldier' - had been taken out of the ranks and confined. She explained that the

verbal broadside stemmed from love for her 'Poor Husband' rather than any ill-will towards 'so good a Colonel'. Her letter added: 'I have been a Wife 22 years and have Traveld with my Husband every Place or Country the Company Marcht to and have workt very hard ever since I was in the



Army.' Mrs. May hoped to be pardoned 'that I may go with my Poor Husband, one time more to carry him and my good Officers water in ye Hottest Battle as I have done before.'

Although obliged to act as nurses when required, the function that gained the army women their official recognition was their role in laundering the clothes of officers and men. The importance of this service to the Army was not lost on some women. At Fort Stanwix in the spring of 1759, Major James Clephane of Fraser's Highlanders took a stern line after he received complaints that the garrison's

women were overcharging the men for doing their washing by demanding twice the customary rate. In consequence, on 13 March, the Major ordered that 'no Woman Presume to take more than one Penny for a Shirt, and one Penny for Each Waistcoat'. Women daring to charge higher rates would be cut off the 'List of His Majesty's Provisions'.

...Wrangling amongst wives at Niagara led to Sergeant Cameron, a 'brave fellow' of the 44th Foot, spending three months in jail on an unproven accusation that he had disparaged the garrison's commander, Lieutenant-Colonel William Eyre. Cameron's confinement stemmed from homely circumstances. Upon his arrival at Niagara, Eyre announced that he had heard Mrs Cameron was a very good woman, and wanted her to wash for him. However, Eyre soon changed his mind, as Mrs Cameron was in fact the worst laundress he had ever engaged. In consequence, Lieutenant Daniel Disney was sent to inform Sergeant Cameron that he must part with his wife. Cameron considered this 'a very hard Message, having lived with her Sixteen years & having a little Boy in the Regiment to take care of'. Later that day Cameron was confined on a charge of insolence, and Disney delivered another message from the furious Eyre, 'that the Col was no Bishop or Pope, therefore could not take upon him to divorce the wife from the Husband, but he swore she never should come where he had anything of a command'... According to another soldier's wife, Nancy Anderson, when Sergeant Cameron discovered his spouse in tears at the prospect of being ejected from the fort he had merely offered the innocent assurance that four or five officers would recommend her to General Gage's service instead. Cameron was cleared of any fault or misdemeanor and acquitted.

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