

**1775 British  
Garrison  
Event**

**February 17<sup>th</sup>,  
2018**

### **Captain William Delaplace's Guard at Fort Ticonderoga**

In his memoirs, Ethan Allen portrayed himself as a brave patriotic leader, who had plenty of time for rousing speeches as he and the Green Mountain Boys rushed through the gates of Fort Ticonderoga before dawn on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1775. The British foe he caught unaware, Captain William Delaplace, emerged from his quarters with a cry of, "Come out you old rat!" only to stand patently in his night clothes for, "In the name of the Great Jehovah and the . . . ." This vivid picture of Captain Delaplace's surprise was painted, and subsequently printed, into the iconic image of the capture of Fort Ticonderoga that fills the imagination and Google searches alike. Yet, like so many tall tales of Ethan Allen's account, the British Garrison was far more complicated than Allen led readers to believe.

Delaplace and nearly all of his command were men of the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, which was sent by the British Army to serve in North America in 1767, as part of a regular rotation of regiments into colonial service. The regiment's Colonel, Major General John Scott, was a member of parliament who visited his regiment and the American colonies in 1769. He was a critique of British tax and economic policies in America, considering them bad for both parties. Rather than English soldiers, as is often assumed in popular memory, the 26<sup>th</sup> Foot was a proud Scottish regiment, known the Cameronians or Covenanters for their armed defense of their religious liberty prior to the Glorious Revolution in 1688. While in English dress in 1775, the regiment adopted highland kilts and bonnets in 1881, the same time Ethan Allen reached his greatest popularity as an American patriotic figure. Lieutenant Jockeyln Feltham, second-in-command of Fort Ticonderoga on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1775 wrote a long deposition about the capture of the Fort, attempting to implicate Captain Delaplace. When Allen French published Feltham's account in 1929 he prefaced the discovery and printing of this document with an apology that it ran counter to Ethan Allen's narrative. Lieutenant Feltham commanded a party of twenty-three soldiers, reinforcements for Ticonderoga. He arrived twelve days prior to the Fort's capture with orders to leave as soon as more soldiers arrived with Lieutenant Wadman, who was to relieve him. Unfortunately for Feltham, the Green Mountain Boys arrived before Lieutenant Wadman. Writing from paroled captivity in Hartford Connecticut, Lieutenant Feltham ended his account with, "A list of names of Officer's non commiss<sup>d</sup> Officers & soldiers & the places they were taken."

At Ticonderoga.

Officers &c of the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Capt Delaplace.

L' Feltham

Non commiss<sup>d</sup> officers & Privates

Henry Anderson Serjt S

John M'cullogh drummer

John M<sup>c</sup> Donald baker  
John Mcintosh, deserter S

Board of Ordnance at Ticonderoga

-Gentle conductor

Robert Rondick Corp<sup>l</sup>

Matrosses

John Miller

Robert Sherrie

John Hall

Provision store at Ticonderoga

Commissary Godlieb Sweitzer left behind sick.

Annotated with an, 'O,' to indicate worn out soldiers and an, 'S' to indicate fresh soldiers brought by Feltham, this list combined with a proper return adding twenty-four women and children provides a detailed picture. Captain Delaplace commanded a small garrison of long-serving soldiers from the 26<sup>th</sup> Foot, as well as a handful of soldiers from the Royal Artillery (officially part of the Board of Ordnance) needed to maintain cannons and artillery stores. These soldiers were augmented with fresh soldiers by Lieutenant Feltham, less than a fortnight before the Fort's capture. It would be easy to assume that Captain Delaplace's command was principally his company as a Captain, by definition, was a company commander. Without specific regimental orders this assumption largely made sense, albeit with nagging questions about the origins of reinforcements brought by Feltham.

Housed in the New York State Archives, is a surprisingly rich source of information about Captain Delaplace's command. The 26<sup>th</sup> Foot, as with any regiment in the British Army was responsible for carefully accounting for all purchases and spending, including rations. For the 26<sup>th</sup> Foot in Canada, accounting reports on rations include the names of all companies listed by their captains, including the Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, and Major who also held commissions as captains of their respective companies. Three reports from the 26<sup>th</sup> survive, covering sixty to sixty-one day period from August 25<sup>th</sup> to December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1774 and from February 25<sup>th</sup> to April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1775. These reports record the number of rations for the soldiers of each company and their location for the two-month periods. These locations include the cities of Montreal and Three Rivers and Forts Chambly, Crown Point, and of course, Ticonderoga. If these rations totals are divided by the number of days (60 or 61) this leaves the number of soldiers at each post.

Only three soldiers from Captain Delaplace's company were at Ticonderoga during the entire period covered by these rations lists. Two soldiers were at Crown Point, and most of the company was quartered in Montreal. The majority of the 26<sup>th</sup> Foot, about 229 soldiers (including Delaplace's company) was quartered in Montreal. One company, Captain Strong's was quartered in Three Rivers and Captain Livingston's Company guarded Fort Chambly. At Ticonderoga, Captain Delaplace drew rations for twenty-three soldiers of the 26<sup>th</sup> Foot, two or three drawn from most companies, with as many as four or six drawn from individual companies during different periods. The soldiers were drafted from every company of the 26<sup>th</sup> Foot except Captain Stewart's, or the Light Infantry company. Captain Delaplace did not command his company at Ticonderoga, he commanded a guard.

This may sound like a meaningless distinction, but it was a common practice at the time and says something about Fort Ticonderoga itself in 1774 and early 1775. The company was not so much a tactical unit so much as an administrative unit. Under a colonel, a regiment existed as an administrative unit, recruiting and equipping soldiers for one or more battalions that fielded as the tactical unit. Within that regiment, each company existed as an administrative unit commanded by a captain. When a battalion formed up it was subdivided into wings, grand divisions, divisions, and platoons or section. The division, roughly corresponded in size with a company, but did not equate the same thing. Similarly, guards in their various types were formed from officers, non-commissioned officers, fifiers, drummers, and soldiers pulled from many companies in a regiment. Whether British or American, orderly books are filled with the size and composition of guards to be created from the companies of a regiment or brigade. While this sounds abhorrent to modern military personnel, breaking down unit cohesion and leadership, this was standard practice. When a guard was formed, each of the companies that contributed officers and men remained. If an entire guard was wiped out or captured, the companies of the regiment remained as viable units. In the case of Ticonderoga, Captain Delaplace and his entire guard were captured on May 10th, but Captain Delaplace's company remained intact in Montreal.

Subsistence Report February 24, 1775 to April 24, 1775

Companies	Three Rivers Rations	Montreal Rations	Chambly Rations	Crown Point Rations	Ticonderoga Rations	Total Rations	£	s	d
Major General Scott's		1799		236	118	2153			
Lieut Colonel Templer's		2102			118	2220			
Major Preston's		1153		59	177	1389			
Captain Anstruther's		1694		177	177	2048			
Captain De La Place's		1403		118	177	1698			

In itself Captain Delaplace's guard was not exceptional. While the massive barracks recreated today create the impression that whole regiments resided in the Fort, guards formed from various companies, like Delaplace's guard, were common. The French Army formed *compagnie du piquet* with soldiers from various regiments' companies for winter guards at Fort Carillon. General orders for the Continental Army camp of Ticonderoga in 1776 and 1777, include a Lieutenant's or Captain's guard for Fort Ticonderoga, 'the Old French Fort.' Combining the Lieutenant Feltham's account of the capture with the report on rations, a few odd details do appear. Throughout the winter of 1774 into the spring of 1775 Captain Delaplace's guard included three men from Captain Andrew Gordon's company or the grenadier company of the regiment. These large elite soldiers had uniform distinctions such as bearskin caps, befitting their status. These soldiers were often kept as a reserve and in wartime operations the grenadier companies of many regiments were pulled together into grenadier battalions. The same was true for light infantry companies, like Captain Stewart's, fielding in light battalions. The three grenadiers drafted into Delaplace's guard may reflect the difficulty of the regiment finding suitable men to compose the guard at Ticonderoga or the lack of distinction between companies in peacetime. Captain Stewart's light infantry company grew from eight soldiers in August to October 1774 to thirty-eight by February to April 1775. The growth and training of this company may have precluded it from service in guard's like Captain Delaplace's. Perhaps or more concern, Lieutenant Feltham noted an 'S' next to the name of Sergeant Henry Anderson, indicating this sergeant arrived with Feltham's reinforcements. The number of soldiers indicated by the rations report of February through April of 1775 does not entirely line up with Feltham's report on those captured on May 10<sup>th</sup>. However, if Feltham's account is accurate, until he arrived Captain Delaplace's guard of twenty-three men had a captain, a drummer and possibly a corporal or two. A proper captain's guard usually included a compliment of junior officers, sergeants, and corporals to post guards and fight as unit if necessary. Without Feltham's reinforcements, Captain Delaplace's guard may have been a tactical unit, but it was not tactically ready to guard. While the capture of Fort Ticonderoga was a stunning victory for the Green Mountain Boys, it reflects the challenges of a long rotation on colonial service for the 26<sup>th</sup> Foot. The story of America's First Victory is far richer than Ethan Allen's account and as new evidence is discovered on both sides, it only becomes richer.

Add MSS 21695

A Report respecting the present State of the Forts at Crown Point and Ticonderoga accompanying a Project and Estimate for Crown Point May 13<sup>th</sup> 1774—By order of his Excellency Frederick Haldimand Esqr Major General Commanding in Chief of his Majesty's Forces in North America +c.

Conformable to your Excellency's Commands of May 2d which you were pleased to honour me with, I proceed with all possible Dispatch to Lake Champlain and minutely examined the State of the Forts at Crown Point and Ticonderoga as far as your Excellency's Instructions directed me, and agreeable thereto have hereunto annexed the Project for a Fortress at Crown Point consisting of the Plan and section together with an estimate of the Expenses, the whole proposed to be entirely of Masonry.

With respect to the Post at Ticonderoga its ruinous situation is such, that it would require more to repair it than the constructing of a new Fort (as your Excellency has justly observed to me) it being at, and above the Cordon Composed of decayed Wood and Earth; all the Revetments, Scarps and Counterscarps both of the body of the Place and Outworks are leaning to the Horizon and in many places there are very capital Breeches; the Barracks are repairable being of Stone, those in the Redoubt of Wood are irreparable: Upon the whole after summing up the Expenses I found them at least equal to the constructing of a New Work with the Additional one of taking the greatest part down of the old Work, and removing the same; and after all, not answering the purpose intended of protecting the Navigation, Vessels, Storehouse, Wharves, Landings +c. both with respect to its Distance and situation, being screen'd from the Fort by the neighboring Bank: These obstacles presenting themselves, together with the unhealthiness of the place, the Garrison being then ill with Fevers and Agues; the badness of the Water, and the difficulty of procuring it, and your Excellency's Observations in my Instructions, that, "Crown Point in that case being a much more eligible place for the different purposes for which a Post is required in that part of the Country" I made no longer delay there, but devoted the time your Excellency was pleased to limit me, towards the Projections for a Fortress at Crown Point: Immediately on my arrival, I made both a General and Particular Survey topographically, with the Levels + Sections through the Ground, and after thoroughly examining the whole; I traced out the proposed Work on that Angular Point of Land Projecting into the Lake, on which the Grenadier Redoubt now stands, as per Plan, which as it appears to me will have the desired Effect and answer the purposes of Government should it be thought necessary to Re-establish a Post on that Communication.

Your Excellency will be pleased to observe that the heavy articles of Stone which would have comprehended one fourth more of the Estimate is omitted; fortunately, that valuable Materials can be procured without any Expence to the Crown from the Glacis, Revetements and Foundation of the Old Work.

The Configuration of the late Fort has rendered it an amazing useless mass of Earth only; its Frame Work which was of Pine Wood, caulked with Oakum, and paid with Spanish

Boards	--	--	1000	"	"
Shingles	--	--	200	"	"
Tools of Sorts	--	--	200	"	"
Nails of Sorts					
Spikes					
Bolts					
Hinges					
Lock Iron mongery			2500	"	"
Latches & Hitches					
Barr Iron					
Steel					
Oil, Paint & Brushes	--	--	200	"	"
Class, Chalk & c	--	--	100	"	"
Cordage & c	--	--	50	"	"
Hair	--	--	6	"	"
			13,878	10	"
Is in Sterling at 4/8 the Dollar			8,905	15	10

John Montessor  
Comandg. Engr. at N. York

## Extracts from Treatises and Standing Orders related to a peace-time British Army Garrison

**A Military Course For the Government and Conduct of a Battalion Designed For their Regulations in Quarter, Camp, and Garrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition- Thomas Simes**

*Method of going and receiving the Rounds in a Garrison.*

When the Town-major goes his rounds, he comes to the main-guard and demands a Serjeant and four men to escort him to the next guard; one of the men carrying a lanthorn. He may go to which gate he pleases first; ubt all toher rounds, except Governor's or Commandant's, are to go according to the method prescribe them. As soon as the sentry athe the guard-room door perceives the round coming, he should give notice to the guard, that they may be ready to turn out; when the round comes within twenty paces of the guard, he is to challenge; and when he is answered by the Serjeant who attends the Town-major's round, he is to say, Stand round; after which he is to call out immediatly, Serjeant, turn out your guard; Town-majors round; no round is to advance after the sentry has challenged and ordered them to stand. Upon the sentry's calling, the serjeant is to tirn out the guard immediatly, with shouldered arms, and the officer is to post himself at the head of it; after this, he is to order the Serjeant, and four men, to advance towards the round and challenge; When the Serjeant of the guard comes within six paces of the serjeant who escorted the round, he is to halt and challenge briskly; the Serjeant of the escort answering Towns majors round; he replies, Advance, Serjeant, with the parole; and then orders his men to rest their firelocks; the Serjeant of the escort advancing alone, gives the Serjeant of the guard the parole in his ear; he then returns to his escort; and, leaving the men he brought with him to keep the round from advancing, goes to his officer, and gives him the parole he received from the Serjeant. The officer, finding the parole to be right, orders his Serjeant to return to his men, and says, Advance, Town majors round- rest your firelocks; upon which the Serjeant of the guard orders his men to wheel back from the center and make a lane, through which the round is to pass; the escort remaining where they were, he goes up to the officer, and, laying his mouth to his ear, gives him the parole. The Town-major then examines if the gates are locked and well-secured; whether they have taken possession of their night-posts, and placed the additional night-sentries; counts the men who are under arms, to see if they are all on guard; and, if any are missing, enquires into the reason of their adsense; he may likewise examine the night-orders, as also all toher relating to the guard, and rectify any mistakes. After these things are done, he should send back the Serjeant, and men who attended him, to the main-guard, and take the same number from this guard to sescort him to the next, and so from one to another till he has finished his round....

All toher rounds must be received in the same manner as is directed for the Town-major's, only with this difference, that the officers on guard are to give the parole to the grand round; but all other rounds are to give it to them; and though the Governor shall go his round, after the grand round is made by the Captain of the main guard, he is to give the parole to the officers on guard; but, in this case, the Governor may carry and officer to give the parole for him.



Method is allowed to be useful and necessary in all sciences; but in my opinion, no where so much as in the government and conduct of messing, therefore it cannot be too soon put in practice, left by neglecting this main constituent principle of all regularity, the battalion at first forming may fall into sickness; get careless, idle habits, the reforming of which might afterwards prove matter of difficulty.

After subordination, nothing is more essentially necessary than a regular well-chosen food, and obliging the men to boil their pots at one particular hour; the companies, whether paid daily, or otherwise (which depends upon circumstances) the pay-master serjeants of each company, after making the proper stoppages, are to give the remaining substance for each man, with a written account, to the non-commissioned officers, commanding squads, in trust reposed in them, one man from each mess attends to see the money properly laid out.

Encouragement ought to be given to all country people to bring provisions to the market. And the non-commissioned officer who go to the market with the men, are to prevent them quarrelling with the country people, or others, upon any occasion whatever. If the price of provisions is exorbitant, application must be made to the chief Magistrate, who will regulate it. If a soldiers is guilty of any insolence, or uses any harsh words, to any person whatever, he shall upon proof thereof be punished, according to the nature of the offence, by court martial.

#### *Of the Drill, &c.*

To beat the general, is an order for the whole to make ready to march; the assembles to repair to their colours; and the march commands them to move; the reveille, at day-break, warns the soldiers to rise, and the sentries to cease challenging; the troop assembles them together, to call over the roll and inspect the men for duty; the retreat is beat at sun-set for calling over the roll again, to warn the men for duty and read the orders of the day; the tat-too beats at ten every night in summer, and ine in winter; the soldiers must then repair to their quarters or barracks, when the Non-commissioned officers of each squad call over their rolls, and every man must remain there till reveille-beating next morning; a beat to arms is to advertise them to stand to their arms, or to repair to their alarm-posts; and a parley, or chamade, is to desire a conference with the enemy.

#### SIGNALS

Turn or face to the right	One single stroke and flam.
Turn or face to the left	Two single strokes and flam
To the right about	Three single strokes and flam
To the left about	Four single strokes and flam
To wheel to the right	Roll, one single stroke and flam
To wheel to the left	Roll, two single strokes and flam
To wheel to the right abt.	Roll, three single strokes and flam
To wheel to the left abt	Roll, four single strokes and flam
To front	Strong double flam
To make ready	Preparative
To cease firing	General
To march	March
Quick pace	Quick march

*Of the Conduct and Duty of a Serjeant.*

When he goes for order, he is to have his arms, duty , and size roll, with pens, ink, and orderly book; beside the usual small article, he must carry a mould to cast bullets, and a ladle to melt lead in, a former to make cartridges, and a ream of brown paper.

*Standing Orders for a Battalion*

No Serjeant, Corporal, Drummer, Fifer, Musician, or soldier to appear in the barrack yard, or quarters, without their hair well plated and tucked up, shoes well blacked, stocking clean, black gaiters, buckles bright, and cloaths in good order.

No soldier is to make use of his bayonet to turn the cock screw of his lock, or otherways abuse that weapon.

As each soldier's firelock is properly numbered, so that every man may know his own; therefore, no man is upon any account whatever, to put any private mark upon it.

**A System for the Complete Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition- Bennett Cuthbertson**

*Messing, and the Advantages attending it; the Officer's Mess considered.*

Experience proves, that nothing contributes more to the health of Soldiers, than a regular and well chosen diet, and their being every day obliged to boil the pot; it corrects drunkenness, and in a great measure prevents gaming, and thereby Desertion, nothing being more common, than for a Soldier (after having spent his Pay in spirituous liquors, or perhaps gamed it away, and having no means left of subsisting, but by selling his linen, or committing a scandalous theft) to desert, in order to avoid the certain punishment of his crime; Officer cannot therefore be too exact, in establishing every method, to enforce the strict observance of regular and constant messing

*The Necessity of Regularity in quarting Soldier on a Town, or in Barracks; and of distributing them properly to Tents, during a Campaign, with other useful Rules*

XI. In every room occupied by Soldiers, pegs or nails should be drove into the driest and most convenient part of the wall, for the Arms, Accoutrements, and Knapsacks, which must at all times be hung up in so regular and exact a manner, that every Man may in an instant, and without the least confusion, find his own even in the dark: Nails should likewise be fixed for the \*Hats, that they may be constantly hun up, when not in use; by which care, and placing them with the hind flaps downwards, their Cock and Shape will be much preserved.

\*In Tents, the Hatts can be fastened to the Ridge-Pole.

XVIII. It will contribute much to the cleanliness of the Soldiers, if the Commanding-officers of Companies will order towels to be fixed on rollers, behind the door of every

(during a Campaign) to the effects of the Sun, as the cracks, which they often get by that means are never to be remedied; beside the wood in general becomes so dry and brittle by it, that the smallest violence frequently breaks the Butts off.

## Bed Rugs, Blankets, Bolsters, and Berths

As a crowd walks into the barracks at Ticonderoga one person shouts out "I would never want to sleep here, that bed looks so uncomfortable!" For visitors and re-enactors alike, this is often the first thought upon seeing beds, which at a glance look very different than the modern mattress and box springs. But, just how comfortable or uncomfortable were these beds for soldiers trying to sleep over 200 years ago?

In July of 1759, French Fort Carillon, was blown up and burnt as French troops retreated north. Following the destruction of Fort Carillon, British and American provincial soldiers rebuilt this French fort as Fort Ticonderoga, including the barracks inside. After just a year of British reconstruction, French forces in Canada surrendered in Montreal. Still, the British Army continued to build and maintain the fort's barracks to house British soldiers in this region of North America. Even in the peace that followed the 1763 Treaty of Paris, ending the global French & Indian War, Fort Ticonderoga's barracks continued to house detachments of British soldiers, like Captain William Delaplace's guard of the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, who were awoken from their beds by Ethan Allen, Benedict Arnold, and the Green Mountain Boys. Between 1759 and 1762, carpenters labored away to create proper beds for the barracks space. The, "Return of Bedding, Utencels, &c In my Charge Belonging to the Crown at Ticonderoga 1<sup>st</sup> May 1762," listed 101 beds. While no records survive to describe the size or construction of the beds at Ticonderoga, those built at British Fort Number Four were described with their dimensions in 1759. The return of the, "Necessaries to be provided for soldiers... at [Fort]No. 4," defined them as, "...berths four feet wide & six feet two inches long within the boards."

"Berth" was the designated word to describe the place where one slept in, or the bed itself. A profile view of the barracks at Half Moon, NY in 1757 depicts beds that are double, akin to modern bunk beds. The only way to fit 101 beds inside the barracks of Fort Ticonderoga was exactly that, doubled like bunk beds. These beds would have been constructed just like other contemporary military pieces of furniture would have been. Four end posts of oak or other hardwood would house a series of mortise holes to accept boards from all four sides. In-between, smaller oak boards were joined into those posts with tenons, and held secure with wooden pins. Between these boards, lying level with the ground, were more hardwood boards that created the berth. This simply made up the physical space for the soldier to sleep.

Bedding, provided by the British army, made these wooden boards into comfortable berths for soldiers. A letter dated March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1766, from the Barrack Master General in North America; General James Robertson derived a, "Proposal for furnishing the Kings Barracks...in America with Beddings and Furniture." Robertson proposed a system of bedding and furnishings for his Majesty's barracks rooms.

*A room for non Commissioned officer and soldiers is to contain at least twelve men and is to be furnished in the following manner—six bed cases and six bolster cases to be filled with straw, twelve blankets, six coverlets, two iron potts, two trammels, a pair of tongs, a fire shovel, a pair of dogs, two cross bars, a hatchet, a candlestick, a table, two benches, and a bucket.... as bedding can be had in England for one half of what it could cost here, this should be got from England immediately, that what is wanted may be sent to the post before winter....All the different articles should be mark'd with GR and a Crown in undelible colors, or some stripes of thread to distinguish them should be wove in by the maker.*

An August 1783 return of "Barack Bedding wanted," for barracks in the Province of Quebec described the bed cases and bolsters in further detail.

The bed cases were of strong osnaburg linen six and one half feet in length by four and one half feet in width... bolsters four and one half feet long by one and one half feet broad. While the dimensions of the bed case appear larger than the dimension of the bed itself, when filled with straw the bed case would expand in thickness, and reduce in width and length. These dimensions ensured the filled bed case fit firmly inside the boards of the bed. Bed cases were made open at one end so that they could be filled with straw.

Welbore Ellis, Secretary at War, shared General Gage's skepticism about the utility of sheets in barracks room. In a letter to General Gage received September 6, 1765, Secretary Ellis pointedly stated his thoughts on bed sheets.

*The Article of Sheets I thought might very well be saved to the Crown; The Soldier will not find the want of them unless He is used to them, He will be much fitter for service without them, and it is better He shou'd not be used to them.*

Given that no sheets appear on any return at Ticonderoga between 1759 and 1765, and no new sheets were provided to barracks without, it is likely that the beds never had any sheets.

Imagine a double wooden berth inside the barracks at Ticonderoga. Inside each berth lay an oznaburg bed case filled with straw. At the head of each bed lay a round bolster also filled with straw. To cover those was one of the large white blankets, tucked in neatly on all sides. Next, the two soldiers assigned to the bunk would find their cozy place inside. On top of the soldiers lay another large wool blanket and a green bed rug to cover everything. Does this sound comfortable yet?

By the time of the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment's arrival at Ticonderoga in the 1770s, layers of boards, oznaburg, straw, and wool helped to outfit the 101 berths with a pleasant means of bedding. According to records and regulations, the barracks at Ticonderoga could feasibly house just over 200 soldiers. Yet, the reality is that only 18 soldiers and an equal number of wives and children were stationed at Ticonderoga in the winter of 1775. Given those ratios, each person would have their own bed. Even when more reinforcements of the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment arrived in April, there was still plenty of bedding to accommodate all the soldiers, wives, and children within

Sir

Capt Delaplace of the 26<sup>th</sup> reg<sup>t</sup> has given me directions to lay before you in as plain a narrative as I can the manner of the surprizal of the fort of Ticonderoga on May 10<sup>th</sup> with all the circumstances after it that I thought might be of any service in giving your Ex<sup>y</sup> any light into the affair.

Capt Delaplace having in the course of the winter applied to Gen: Carleton for a reinforcement, as he had reason to suspect some attack from some circumstances that happen'd in his neighbourhood, Gen Carleton was pleased to order a detachment of a subaltern and 20 men to be sent in two or three separate parties the first party of which was sent as a crew along with Major Dunbar who left Canada about the 12<sup>th</sup> April, I being the first subaltern on command was ordered down with 10 men in a few days more to give up to Capt Delaplace with who L<sup>t</sup> Wadman was to remain, having reciev'd orders from the reg<sup>t</sup> some time before to join there. As he was not arrived when I came I had orders to wait until he did I was 12 days there before he came which was about an hour after the fort was surprized. I had not lain in the fort on my arrival having left the only tolerable rooms there were for M<sup>r</sup> Wadman if arrived with his family, but being unwell, had lain in the fort for two or three nights preceding the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, on which morning about half an hour after three in my sleep I was awaken by numbers of shrieks, & the words no quarter from a number of arm'd rabble I jump'd up about which time I heard the noise continue in the area of the fort I ran undress'd to knock at Capt Delaplaces door & to receive his orders or wake him, the door was fast the room in being close to Capt Delaplaces I stept back, put on my coat & waist coat & return'd to his room, there being no possibility of getting to the men as there were numbers of rioters on the bastions of the wing of the fort on which door of my room and back door of Capt. Delaplaces room led with great difficulty, I got into his room being pursued from which there was a door down by the stairs in to the area of the fort, I asked Capt Delaplace who was now just up what I should do, & offer'd to force my way if possible to our men, on opening this door the bottom of the stairs was fill'd with rioters & many were forcing their way up, knowing the Comm<sup>o</sup> Officer lived there as they had broken open the lower rooms where the officers live in winter, and could not find them there, from the top of the stairs I endeavour'd to make them hear me, but it was impossible, on making a signal not to come up the stairs, they stop'd & proclaim'd silence among themselves, I then address'd them, but in a stile not agreeable to them, I ask'd them a number of questions, expecting to amuse them till our people fired which I must certainly own I thought would have been the case, after asking them the most material questions I could thing viz by what authority they entered his majesties fort who were the leaders what their intent &c&c I was inform'd by one Ethan Allen and one Benedict Arnold that they had a joint command, Arnold informing me he came from instructions rec<sup>d</sup> from the congress at Cambridge which he afterwards shew'd me. Mr. Allen told me his orders were from the province of Connecticut & that he must have immediate possession of the fort and all effects of George the third (those were his words) Mr. Allen insisting on this with a drawn sword over my head & numbers of his followers firelocks presented at me alledging I was commanding officer & to give up the fort, and if it was not comply'd with, or that there was a single gun fired in the fort neither man woman or child should be left alive in the fort Mr. Arnold begg'd it in a genteel manner but without success, it was owing to him they were prevented getting into Cap<sup>t</sup> Delaplaces room, after they found I did not command. Cap<sup>t</sup> Delaplace being now dress'd came out, when after talking to him some time they put

Archibald M<sup>c</sup> Nabb S  
Robert Anderson  
James Hartley  
Peter Campbell O  
John Blake S  
Edmund Grigson S  
Henry Grant S  
Will<sup>m</sup> Swann S  
John M<sup>c</sup> Cormick S  
Daniel Cammeron S  
Richard Sharpless S  
George Scott S  
Robert Miller S  
Peter M<sup>c</sup> Farlane S  
Alexander Ramsay S  
John M<sup>c</sup> Cloud S  
Hugh O Hara S  
Daniel Stapleton S  
William Stafford S  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Pollard S  
John Mason S  
Henry Pearce S  
John M<sup>c</sup> Donald baker  
John Mcintosh, deserter S  
Board of Ordnance at Ticonderoga