

FEEDING THE CONTINENTAL ARMY



GRADES 5-7

Continental Army soldiers at Fort Ticonderoga made their meals from flour, beef, pork, or fish, and dried beans or vegetables. Soldiers were divided into “messes,” with each mess consisting of 5 or 6 soldiers. Each soldier received a “ration” of food—a ration being a certain amount of food for a given period of time, usually a day or week. In November 1775, the Continental Congress voted to provide the following quantities of rations to the soldiers:

Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789
Saturday November 4, 1775

Resolved, That a ration consist of the following kind and quantity of provisions, viz:

- * 1 lb. of beef, or $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. pork, or 1 lb. salt fish, per day.
- * 1 lb. of bread or flour per day.
- * 3 pints of pease, or beans per week, or vegetables equivalent, at one dollar per bushel for pease or beans.
- * 1 pint of milk per man per day, or at the rate of $\frac{1}{72}$ of a dollar.
- * 1 half pint of Rice, or 1 pint of indian[*corn*] meal per man per week.
- * 1 quart of spruce beer or cyder per man per day, or nine gallons of Molasses per company of 100 men per week.
- * 3 lb. candles to 100 Men per week for guards.
- * 24 lb. of soft or 8 lb. of hard soap for 100 men per week.

On some occasions, the Commissary (the soldier or officer who distributed the rations) was unable to provide beef to the soldiers. The General Orders for the Continental Army at Ticonderoga provided an alternative when beef was unavailable.

*Head Quarters Sepr 1st 1776 Ticonderoga
Parole Pensacola*

Counter Sign Georgia

... When there is no beef, the commissary is to issue, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of pork, and one pound and $\frac{1}{2}$ of flower, pr. day to each man, until further orders.



Directions: Answer the following questions based on the information found in the excerpts above.

1. If there are five soldiers in a mess and they pool their rations:
 - a. How much beef does the mess have per day?
 - b. How many pounds of bread or flour does the mess have per week?
 - c. How many gallons of spruce beer or cider does the mess have per month (4 weeks)?

2. On some occasions, the Commissary had no beef to issue to soldiers. Based on the General Orders for the Continental Army at Ticonderoga:
 - a. What do soldiers receive if there isn't enough beef?
 - b. How much more flour does a soldier receive per week when there is no beef compared to the amount received when they are issued beef?
 - c. How much less pork do soldiers receive than beef per week?

3. Imagine you are in command of a battalion of 300 men at Ticonderoga in the fall of 1776. General Horatio Gates has ordered you to take your battalion to help build a road connecting Ticonderoga and Mount Independence to Rutland, Vermont. Your battalion will be working on the road-building crew for 14 days. You have to go to the Commissary and order enough rations for all of your men for this assignment.
 - a. How much beef is required for each man?
 - b. How much beef will you need from the Commissary to feed the entire battalion for two weeks?
 - c. A cart can carry one ton or 2000 pounds of cargo. How many carts are needed to transport 14 days-worth of beef for the battalion?
 - d. The 'Indian' or corn meal was delivered to the Commissary in 30-gallon wooden kegs. How many kegs of corn meal do you need for the battalion over this two-week journey?
 - e. The peas came in 10-gallon bags. How many bags of peas do you need for the battalion over 14 days?