

1759 SIEGE OF CARILLON FRENCH ARMY REGULARS GUIDELINES



General Francois-Charles de Bourlémont took up the defense of Carillon in the spring of 1759 as French Canada faced British attacks from three sides. By his November 1, 1759 report to Marshall Belle Isle, his force at the outset of the campaign of 2,300 included French Army Regular soldiers, "of the battalion of the regiment of La Reine, of the two battalions of Berry, of one hundred and fifty soldiers detached from the other five battalions..." On July 22nd, Bourlémont retreated down Lake Champlain to Crown Point, leaving Captain de Hebecourt of the La Reine Regiment, commanding Fort Carillon with a 400-man rear guard drawn from this larger force. This guard held 11,000 British & American provincial soldiers at bay for four days with, "the most active fire from the artillery..."

For French Regular soldiers, their last complete issue of clothing arrived in September 1757. Aide Major, Chevalier de la Pause of the Guyenne Regiment recorded this issuance to his battalion in his journal:

"The first of September the clothing was sent consisting of 483 habits, 485 vests, breeches and drawers, stockings, hats, gilets, gaiters, stocks, in pieces, 970 shirts half-complete, 485 stocks and ribbon for queuing hair."

The good luck of September 1757, when French supply ships slipped past the British blockade of Canada, getting French soldiers additional clothing was not repeated in 1758. On October 12, 1758 Aide de Camp, Antoine de Bougainville, noted the arrival of a courier from Quebec. The courier reported that the 50-gun ship *l'Aigle* ran aground on August 8 and "this ship carried recruits, provisions, munitions, and the clothing for our battalions". After another vessel sent to salvage lost arms, equipment, and clothing from *l'Aigle* also ran aground and sank, the Marquis de Montcalm confided in his journal on November 27, 1758, "the equipment of the vessel Aigle seems destined for all the misfortunes possible".

As new uniforms from France did not reach French *Troupe de Terre* at the end of 1758, they soldiered on with their clothing from previous years and stocks of the Native American trade goods in Canada had not yet been depleted within the country. Unfortunately, any scarcity of supplies was compounded by the speculation of merchants, who continually raised prices



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in response to shortages. Nevertheless, the French force on the Lake Champlain frontier succeeded in forestalling British invasion down the lake until the summer of 1760.

Shirts

Best: Hand-stitched white linen or hemp sheeting shirt with narrow band cuffs made for sleeve buttons (cuff links).

Acceptable: White or blue and white striped linen or correct period cotton shirt with narrow band cuffs with thread buttons or made for sleeve buttons (cuff links) with minor visible machine-stitching.

Discouraged: Checked, striped linen, or wool shirts.

Unacceptable: Cotton calico or plaid shirts.



Neckwear

Best: Black-wool crepe or bunting neck-stocks with brass buckles.

Acceptable: Black wool crepe or silk cravats. Linen or cotton neckerchief.

Unacceptable: Leather neck-stocks, wool scarves.



Hats and Caps

Best: Soldiers' chapeau bound in faux gold or silver lace.

Acceptable: Bonnet de police, knit red yarn bonnet or tuque worn on fatigue or off-duty.

Unacceptable: Fur cap, voyageur cap.

Vestes

Best: Hand-finished and well-fit, regimental sleeved *veste* made of blue or red tricot, lined in serge, with brass or white metal domed rimmed buttons.

Acceptable: Well fitted sleeved *veste* made of blue or red woolen cloth with minor visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: Extremely long or baggy *vestes* or modern upholstery materials.



Gilets

Best: Hand-finished well-fit, square-cut *gilet* made of red, blue, or white wool cloth, made without sleeves, with cloth covered buttons.

Acceptable: No *gilet*, or well-fit square-cut *gilet* made of red, blue, or white wool cloth, with minor visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: Extremely long or baggy *gilet* or modern upholstery materials.



Breeches or Culotte

Best: Hand-finished and well-fit, white tricot or serge breeches with cloth covered buttons. Underneath, hand-finished unbleached linen under breeches.

Acceptable: Well-fit, white woolen breeches with minor visible machine stitching.

Discouraged: Red, blue, or white wool breechcloths are also acceptable.

Unacceptable: trousers.

Habit

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit, *Habit* of white wool cloth, with blue or red cloth regimental collars and cuffs, regimental shaped pocket flaps, white serge lining, and domed-rimmed brass or white metal buttons.

Acceptable: Well-fit, *Habit* of white wool cloth, with blue or red regimental collars

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and cuffs, white or serge lining, with minor visible machine stitching, or no *Habit*.

Unacceptable: Anything else.

Legwear

Best: Well-fit white linen gaiters small black leather buttons and leather garters.

Acceptable: Well-fit, unadorned white, blue, purple, or red wool *mitasse* with plain wool or Native garters.

Unacceptable: Buckskin leggings, gaiters, or baggy wool leggings.

Footwear

Best: French soldier's black leather shoes closed with small, iron shoe buckles. Pucker-toe styled

Acceptable: Machine-stitched 18th century reproduction shoes. *Soulier du beouf*, *Soulier Savage* or mocassins.

Unacceptable: Modern shoes, boots, or Dyer, Arrow, Minnetonka moccasins, Shoepacks, half-boots or high-lows.



Arms

Best: French Military Muskets of 1728 or similar pattern, fitted for a bayonet, with a red Russia leather sling.

Discouraged: British arms, Anglo-American fowlers.

Unacceptable: Canoe guns, Blunderbusses, rifles.



Side Arms

Best: French Army *Epee d'Soldat* carried addition to a bayonet in the waist belt.

Acceptable: Older pattern *Epee d' Soldat* or Bayonet only carried in a white buff soldiers' waistbelt.

Unacceptable: Casse tete or tomahawk.



Cartridge Pouch

Best: Red or Russia leather *demi-giberne* with a buff leather strap, with leather *pulverin* or powder *corne*.

Acceptable: Similar style demi-gibernes, no pulverin or corne.

Unacceptable: Anything Else.

Canteen:

Best: Gourd *bidon* slung over the shoulder on a hemp cord or leather thong.

Acceptable: Ceramic, glass canteen, slung over the shoulder on a hemp cord or leather thong.

Unacceptable: Wooden cheese-box canteens, British tin canteens.

Knapsacks and Tumplines

Best: *Gran havresac* of linen canvas with *petite sac* inside, slung on a buff leather strap.

Acceptable: Finger woven, leather, or webbing tumplines.

Unacceptable: Two-strap knapsacks, Anglo-American haversacks.

Blanket

Best: 3-Point blankets. Bear skins hides may also be used.

Acceptable: Check, Dutch, or rose plain white or Hudson Bay blankets.

Unacceptable: Civil War grey blankets modern olive drab blankets.

