

1759 SIEGE OF CARILLON MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL GUIDELINES



Three battalions of Massachusetts Provincial soldiers served under General Jeffrey Amherst in the 1759 campaign, consisting of Colonel Abijah Willard's one-battalion regiment and Colonel Timothy Ruggles' two-battalions. These Massachusetts Provincial soldiers were supposed to have uniform coats and hats, based on a continuing resolution from 1757. The House of Representatives for the Province of Massachusetts-Bay voted on February 23, 1757:

"That all Non-Commissioned Officers and private Soldiers that shall proceed in his Majesty's Service, under the Command of the Right Hon. The Earl of Loudoun, as the Part of this Province, shall be intitled to a Coat and a Soldier's Hat each, over and above the Wages and Bounty already voted for their Encouragement; and that the Committee of War be directed to provide the same accordingly."

Two years later, this law was still in effect for Massachusetts Provincial service and the House of Representatives ordered additional clothing to equip their provincials in the 1759 campaign. On March 28, 1759 the House of Representative for the Province of Massachusetts-Bay voted:

"That the Commissary-General be directed to provide a suitable Number of Shirts, Hoses and Shoes, for the more comfortable Subsistence of the Soldiers in the ensuing Campaign."

The Boston merchant Samuel Blodget advertised clothing left over from the 1758 campaign to officers and soldiers preparing for the upcoming campaign in the April 9, 1759 issue of the *Boston Evening Post*.

"Ready made CLOATHS,

Suitable for either Officers or Soldiers, who are engaged in the present Expedition against Canada,

To be sold by Samuel Blodget...

BLUE Broad Cloth lapell'd Coats in various sizes, Kersey and Frize ditto; emboss'd Serge and swan-skin Jackets, double breasted; blue and red half-thick Breeches, german - serge, drugget, and leather ditto; check and oznabrigs Trowser,, check Shirts; mill'd and worsted Caps, Shoes, &c. &c.

N.B. I am determined to retail them out at the same Price, or under what they cost me by Wholesale; they being Part of the Goods design'd for last Year's Campaign; and are not the same sort that are commonly known by the Name of Sale-Work; but I will warrant that



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they are good, well cut, and faithfully made, and will recommend themselves to the Buyer."



In the south end of Boston, Daniel Jones, advertised, "A Fresh Assortment of Goods suited to the Season; more especially for the Officers and Soldiers..." in the May 14, 1759 edition of the *Boston Evening Post*. In addition to an assortment of imported English textiles, buckles, and trimmings, Jones added a postscript about soldiers' clothing and credit.

"N.B. If any Soldiers want their Cloathing made up, they may have it done with Care and Dispatch.—And those Persons who are desirous of being credited till the Expedition is over, may have any of the above Articles, provided they give good Security for the Sum they take up."

With thousands of provincial soldiers recruited in Massachusetts each campaign season and cash in the form of enlistment bounties to private soldiers or their captains, merchants eagerly supplied suitable clothing with uniform coats and hats. Despite the effort the colony of Massachusetts Bay went

to procure proper military hats, they were cut down along with the rest of General Amherst's Army in 1759. The orderly book of Massachusetts provincial Major John Hawks, recorded General Orders at Fort Edward on June 21, 1759, "In all partys it is further ordered that all Great Hats are cut so that the Brims be 2 inches and a half wide..."

Though Massachusetts Provincial soldiers often served in breeches or trousers in 1759, many likely had leggings or acquired them by the end of the campaign. General Amherst's orders related to leggings directly affected British Regular soldiers, by timing prior to the mustering of provincials. General orders in camp at Fort Edward on June 14, 1759 reminded flank company soldiers to wear their leggings.

"The Grenadiers and Light Infantry to be in their waistcoats, Leggets with Arms and Accouterments to be out at 4 this Afternoon..."

Yet leggings did appear on Massachusetts Provincial soldiers. The July 24, 1758 inventory of men in Captain Thomas Lawrence's Massachusetts Provincial company, killed in the skirmish at Halfway Brook, included three soldiers among the ten, with Indian leggings, noted as, "Indin Stockins." Serjeant Oliver Wright had, "Indin Stocking and Socks..." Among, "the things th[at] Belonged to Simon Wheeler," were, "one pair of Indin Stockins," and, "one pair of trousers and Hankercheif..." Even by 1759 the clothing of Massachusetts provincial soldiers could lag behind the campaign season itself. Captain John Knox of the 43rd Regiment of Foot wrote in his journal on May 5, 1759 of the arrival of Colonel Joseph Fry's Massachusetts provincial regiment at Nova Scotia.

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"...their officers are sober modest men and such as have been upon service express themselves very distinctly and sensibly. They make a decent appearance, being clothed in blue faced with scarlet, gilt buttons, laced waistcoats and hats but the ordinary soldiers have no uniforms nor do they affect any regularity."

Building on resolutions for equipment from previous campaigns, on March 14, 1759 the House of Representatives for the Province of Massachusetts-Bay voted to procure accoutrements and camp equipage sufficient to supply all six provincial battalions for that campaign season.

"That as an Encouragement to the Soldiers who shall proceed in this Year's Campaign, that to each Mess of six Men, there be given two Tin Kettles each containing ten Quarts; one Flesh-Fork to each Mess: One wooden Bottle, made with one Hoop, if to be procured, for each Man, or a Canteen; and one Hatchet for each Mess; and thirty Watch Coats for each Regiment."

The January 8, 1761 report on Military Accounts for 1759 reported pay and travel expenditures as well as expenses for equipping the Massachusetts provincials

"The Commissary Gen'l has paid the following sums as appears by his Accounts. vizt. for

6348 Blankets	4655.4.-	[14/8 each]
6348 Canteens	529.-.-	[1/8 each]
6348 Powder Horns and Flasks	317.16.-	[1/ each]
6000 Haversacks and Pouches	750.-.-	[2/6 each]
2116 Tin Kettles	387.18.8	[3/8 each]
1058 Hatchets and Helves	176.6.8	[3/4 each]
150 Great Coats	225.-.-	[1/10/0 each]
Transporting Stores	1185.5.4	
Stores for the Hospital	692.5.-	
Medicines	609.4.8	
Billeting Men upon their return		
Home	87.-.2¾	
Nurses, etc. for sick and wounded	318.10.-"	

As with other colonies Massachusetts was allotted their portion of the 10,000 stands of arms from stores in Boston. According to an April 24, 1756 letter by then Massachusetts Governor William Shirley to Governor Horatio Sharpe of Maryland, these were "Land Service muskets of the King's Pattern with Brass Furniture, Double Bridle Locks Wood Rammers with Bayonets & Scabbards sand Tann'd Leather Slings...Cartouch Boxes with Straps of 12 Holes..." Equipping provincial soldiers for subsequent campaign seasons the colony of Massachusetts drew additional stands of arms from Royal Stores. Thanks to the number of troops raised in 1758 and the small portion of arms returned at the end of that campaign season, the colony of Massachusetts increasingly relied on the provincial soldiers themselves to supply their arms. Reporting to the Massachusetts House of Representatives on January 6, 1759, Governor Thomas Pownall explained the challenge.

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"I Had caused about three Thousand Stand of Arms to be delivered to the Men, raised last Year for His Majesty's Service under General Abercromby: I have an Account of one Hundred and fifteen only, as yet returned."



General Jeffrey Amherst ordered only 125 stands of arms for Massachusetts Troops on May 28, 1759 from Ordnance Comptroller James Furnis. In the March 26, 1759 issue of the *Boston Gazette*, Governor Pownall published a proclamation from General Amherst with compensation for Massachusetts provincials bringing their own arms.

"...as most People in North America have Arms of their own, which from their being accustomed to and being so much lighter than the Tower-Arms, must be more agreeable and proper for them, General Amherst, as an Encouragement for their coming provided with good Muskets, engages to pay for every one they shall so bring that may be spoiled or lost in actual Service at the Rate of Twenty-Five-Shillings Sterling."

The light arms implied recommended by General Amherst referred to the fowling pieces so common among citizens of Massachusetts. The enforcement of militia laws within the colony incrementally increased during the war years and a 1758 addendum to the Massachusetts militia law required half of the firelocks in each militia company to mount bayonets. In the February 6, 1758 *Boston Gazette* advertisement, Andover, Massachusetts blacksmith Jacob Tyler, advertised his service of making and fitting bayonets to the members of his militia regiment. At least some fowling pieces brought from home were fitted with bayonets as were many British arms that provincial soldiers took home in previous campaigns, only to carry them again in 1759.



Shirts

Best: Hand-stitched checked, striped, or white linen shirt narrow band cuffs with thread Dorset buttons or made for sleeve buttons (cuff links).

Acceptable: Machine stitched checked, striped, or white linen shirts.

Unacceptable: Cotton calico or plaid shirts.

Neckwear

Best: Silk, linen, or cotton neckerchiefs; linen neck stocks, or linen rollers, well-tied around the neck

Acceptable: Machine hemmed neckerchiefs or linen rollers.

Unacceptable: Military horsehair or leather neck stocks.



Hats

Best: Black felt Round Hat with a 2.5" brim.

Unacceptable: Anything else.

Jackets and Waistcoats

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit, single or double breasted, with sleeves or sleeveless, waistcoats of, red, blue, drab, brown, or green broadcloth, kersey, or serge.

Acceptable: Well-fit, single or double breasted, skirted waistcoats of linen, linsey-woolsey, cotton, cotton velvet, wool plush or silk, in solid colors or simple patterns with minor visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: Regimental waistcoats, cotton canvas, upholstery fabric waistcoats, extremely long or baggy waistcoats.



Breeches and Trousers

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit, breeches with buckled knee bands in red, blue, black, brown, drab, or green kersey, linsey-woolsey, serge, cotton velvet, wool plush, broadcloth, leather breeches, trousers of linen or hemp canvas or checked linen.

Acceptable: Well-fit breeches or trousers with minor visible machine stitching.

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Unacceptable: Regimental breeches, fringed trousers, overall trousers, baggy breeches.

Coats

Best: Well-fit, hand-finished blue-faced red Massachusetts provincial coat with red lining.

Acceptable: Well-fit, blue-faced red provincial coat of similar pattern to the Massachusetts style with minor visible machine stitching. Well-fit 1750's coat or short coat of stout wool cloth with minor visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: hunting shirts, smocks, over-shirts, baggy coats, coats and jackets made of cotton canvas or damask upholstery fabric.

Legwear

Best: Grey or white wool yarn or worsted stockings or socks seamed with back seams. Well-fit British army Native American styled leggings of green, blue, red woolen cloth, tied up with garters of red woolen cloth or the same colored cloth

Acceptable: White, grey, or blue stockings of wool yarn, worsted, linen or cotton.

Unacceptable: Anything else.

Footwear

Best: Common soldiers' shoes of black waxed leather, closed with brass shoe buckles.

Acceptable: Pucker toe or vamped mocassins.

Unacceptable: Officer's boots on non-officers; Dyer, Arrow, Minnetonka mocassins, Shoepacks

Shot Bag & Cartridge Boxes

Best: Small leather shot bag of similar size to Lemuel Lyon shot bag.

Acceptable: 9 or 12-Round Government accoutrement sets accompanying British Arms.

Unacceptable: Possibles bags.





Powder Horns

Best: Plain, empty, powder horns with narrow leather straps or hemp cords.

Unacceptable: Anything else.

Arms

Best: Civilian Fowling Pieces, British Long land pattern muskets, Wilson commercially-made muskets.

Acceptable: Dutch muskets or captured French muskets.

Unacceptable: Canoe gun, blunderbuss, long rifles.

Sidearms

Best: No Sidearm.

Acceptable: Bayonets accompanying British arms. British ordinance cutlass & belt for NCO's.

Unacceptable: Pistols, daggers, dirks.

Canteens

Best: Cheesebox-style wooden canteen on a narrow leather strap or hemp cord.

Acceptable: Kidney or similar shaped tinned-iron British army canteen on a hemp cord.

Unacceptable: Anything Else

Haversack

Best: Plain osnaburg haversack.

Acceptable: British Stamped GR osnaburg haversack.

Unacceptable: Anything Else



Knapsacks and Tumplines

Best: Single envelope two strap knapsacks and a leather or hemp tumpline to carry a blanket.

Acceptable: Hair-on calfskin or drawstring canvas knapsacks.

Unacceptable: British painted or goatskin knapsacks, Benjamin Warner Knapsacks.

Blankets

Best: 2-Point or 3-Point, Checked, Dutch or Rose blankets.

Acceptable: British Army, plain white or Hudson Bay blankets.

Unacceptable: Civil War grey blankets.

