

# 1759 SIEGE OF CARILLON NEW JERSEY PROVINCIAL GUIDELINES



"Ye Jersey Blues," as Massachusetts Provincial Lemuel Wood described them in a July 3, 1759 journal entry, enjoyed a place of honor among American provincial soldiers. General Orders on June 6, 1759 placed New Jersey provincials as the senior regiment at the right of the provincial line in encampment and in order of battle. The "Distribution of Troops for the Campaign 1759..." in the papers of General Jeffrey Amherst illustrated the New Jersey battalion of Colonel Peter Schuyler in the same post of honor, in their distinctive blue uniform with red facings. On March 15, 1759 the General Assembly of the Province of New Jersey discussed, "*An Act for raising One Thousand effective Volunteers (Officers included) for his Majesty's Service the ensuing Campaign, and making Provision for the same ; and for other Purposes therein mentioned.*" Royal Governor of New Jersey, Francis Bernard, applauded the provincial troops of the colony as the best organized and equipped.

*"The Manner in which you cloath and furnish them, and the Punctuality with which you compleat your Numbers, (in both which you exceed almost all other Colonies) make your Men both more expensive, and more serviceable..."*

An April 30, 1759 *New York Mercury* notice, published the enlistment bounty, clothing, wages and officer appointments authorized by the General Assembly of the Province of New Jersey on March 28, 1759.

*"There is to be a Regiment of 1000 Men, Officers included, raised in this Province: Twelve Pounds Bounty Money to be given to each Volunteer; and they are to be compleatly and uniformly cloathed from Head to Foot..."*

The definition of, "uniformly cloathed from Heat to Foot..." carried over from clothing authorizations by the General Assembly in 1758 and earlier years. The General Assembly act for raising the New Jersey Provincial Regiment in 1758 included detailed orders for clothing and equipment.

## 1759 Siege of Carillon New Jersey Provincial Guidelines

*"...blue Coat, after the Highland Manner, Lapell'd and cuffed with red, one pair of Ticken Breeches, one Blue ditto of the same cloath of their Coat, one Check Shirt, and one white ditto, two pair yarn Stockings, two pair of Shoes, one Hat to each Man, bound with yellow Binding, one Blanket, one Knapsack, one Hatchet, one Canteen, one Camp Kettle to five Men, a pair of White Patterdashes and also one hundred Grenadiers Caps for one hundred of the said soldiers and two felling axes for the whole Regiment."*



In addition to the linen and blue cloth breeches, leather breeches could be procured by officers for their men. "Orders to Commissioners of the Colony of New Jersey from the General Assembly" on April 23, 1755 authorized, "Commissioners to provide for each Soldier to be raised in the present Expedition, a Pair of good Deer Skin Breeches, in Lieu of two Pair of Trousers appointed by the Act for raising and supporting said Forces." The continuation of this act may explain a June 5, 1758 *New York Gazette* account of New Jersey Provincial Regiment's arrival at camp in Albany.

*"A few Days ago the New-Jersey Forces, of between 11 and 1200, of the likeliest well set Men for the Purpose as has perhaps been turned out on any Campaign, pass'd by this Place for Albany. They were under Col. Johnston, and all in high Spirits; their uniform blue, faced with red, grey stockings and Buckskin Breeches."*

Runaways and deserters described in newspaper advertisement corroborate many details of New Jersey provincial uniforms. The July 9, 1759 edition of *Weyman's New-York Gazette* listed Joseph Wilcox, who had run from his bail, "Supposed to have on when he went away, an Ensign's coat belonging to the Jersey blues, faced with red..." As in the portrait of Colonel Peter Schuyler, red waistcoats may have accompanied New Jersey provincial uniform coats. The *Pennsylvania Journal*, listed John Greenwood deserted from the New Jersey Regiment on April 15, 1758, with civilian coats, save, "a scarlet Vest..." Though New Jersey troops were supposed to receive, "one Hat to each Man, bound with yellow Binding..." these hats were cut down into round hats along with the rest of the army at the Lake George camp. 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..."

After a bad experience with 500 of the King's Arms delivered from stores in Virginia in 1755, the colony of New Jersey began providing its own stands of arms, including muskets from gunsmiths like the firm Wilson in London. The General Assembly voted on August 19, 1755 to purchase, "Five Hundred good Stands of Arms for the use of this Colony..." During the General Assembly meetings between October 12 and November 20, 1757, "the Two Thousand

Stand of Arms sent for the Use of the Province," were authorized for purchase. The General Assembly's law regarding the marking of equipment from April 7-26, 1755, remained in effect throughout the war. With such a large investment of arms by the colony:

*"...the property of all the colours, Drums, Halberts and Stands of Arms, Tents, Stores, and other Necessaries thereunto appertaining, as shall be purchased by, or given to this Colony, is hereby declared to be vested in the Colony of New-Jersey: And that they shall before they are delivered to the Soldiers to be raised for the Expedition, be branded or mark'd with the Words New-Jersey, and Number'd; which said Brand or Mark, shall at all Times be Evidence of their being the property of the said Colony."*

Muskets produced by the London firm Wilson, survive with "New Jersey" engraved on the tang of the buttplate. A "New Jersey" marked buttplate has been recovered from Sabbath Day Point on Lake George. A June 6, 1765 advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* described runaway servant Jacob Holler, who carried off, "a Gun, Bayonet and Cartridge Box, the Gun and Cartridge Box...marked NEW JERSEY on them." In addition to the Colony of New Jersey's own arms, the General Assembly offered an allowance of "Seven Shillings and Six-pence" for those who brought their own "good sufficient Firelock" but destroyed or lost it while in the service of the colony, during their April 7-26, 1755 session. General Jeffrey Amherst also authorized 108 King's Arms to New Jersey troops by a May 28, 1759 warrant to Ordnance Comptroller James Furnis. These personal arms or King's arms only served to fill in gaps of what were the best clothed and equipped provincial soldiers at the Siege of Carillon in 1759.



## Shirts

**Best:** Hand-stitched checked, 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 breasted, sleeveless, waistcoats of red woolen cloth.

**Acceptable:** Well-fit, single or double breasted waistcoats of red or other colored woolens visible machine stitching.

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



## Breeches

**Best:** Hand-finished, well-fit, breeches with buckled knee bands natural linen ticking or blue woolen cloth, or leather breeches.

**Acceptable:** Well-fit linen or blue cloth breeches or trousers.

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

## Coats

**Best:** Well-fit, hand-finished blue-faced red New Jersey provincial short coat with red lining.

**Acceptable:** Well-fit, blue-faced red New Jersey provincial short or long coat style with minor visible machine stitching.

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



## Legwear

**Best:** Grey wool yarn stockings with back seams.

**Acceptable:** White, grey, or blue stockings of wool yarn, worsted, linen or cotton. Well-fit knee-high linen spatterdashers. 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

**Unacceptable:** Anything else.

## Footwear

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

**Acceptable:** Pucker toe or vamped moccasins.

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

## Cartridge Boxes

**Best:** Nine or twelve-round accoutrement set, stamped, "NEW JERSEY"

**Acceptable:** Nine or twelve-round British Government accoutrement sets.

**Unacceptable:** Possibles bags.

## Powder Horns

**Best:** None

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

**Unacceptable:** Anything else.

## Arms

**Best:** Wilson commercially-made musket, stamped NEW JERSEY on the butt plate.

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

**Unacceptable:** Canoe gun, blunderbuss, long rifles.



## Sidearms

**Best:** Bayonets accompanying New Jersey or British arms

**Acceptable:** None.

**Unacceptable:** Pistols, daggers, dirks.

## Canteens

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

**Unacceptable:** Anything Else

## Knapsacks and Tumplines

**Best:** Hair-on calfskin knapsacks.

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

**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.

