

1759 SIEGE OF CARILLON FRENCH COLONIAL REGULARS GUIDELINES



General Francois-Charles de Bourlemaque took up the defense of Carillon in the spring 1759 as French Canada faced British attacks from three sides. By his November 1, 1759 report to Marshall Belle Isle, Bourlemaque's force, at the outset of the campaign, was 2,300 including, "one hundred and fifty soldiers detached from the other five [army] battalions...a like number of soldiers of the Marine..." On July 22nd, Bourlemaque 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..." As of August 6, 1759 Bourlemaque reported having, "32 *cannoniers*," under the command of Royal Artillerie Captain Paul de Louvicour. Though some of these *cannoniers* may have come from the 14 Royal Artillerie *cannoniers* that arrived at Carillon in 1757, the majority were from the Colony of Canada's *Cannoniers-Bombardiers*.



The Canadian colonial *Troupe de la Marine* in the detachment had their regulation uniforms issued to them by the colony through the French naval ministry. The uniform coat or *habit* was to be issued every three years. Annually, each man was to receive a *veste*, breeches, a pair of stockings, a hat, two pairs of shoes, two shirts, two cravats, as well as all, "the ordinary items that compose the small clothing furnished for this Colony." During 1758 the British ships in the mouth of the St. Lawrence and the Atlantic Ocean captured clothing intended for French *Troupe de la Marine* and *Troupe de Terre* alike. A British May 31, 1758 sale of captured French goods, "taken by his Majesty's Ships of War," included clothing intended for the *Troupe de la Marine* in Canada. "1772 Pair Soldiers blue Stockings," matching the regulation for the *Troupe de la Marine*, were listed among, "1126 Soldiers Waistcoats, 1775 Pair Soldiers Breeches, 1772 Pair Soldiers blue Stockings, 4041 Pair Soldiers Shoes, 2707 Soldiers Dowlas Shirts, 3128 Soldiers Canvas Shirts...6430 Soldiers Linen Stocks, 1651 Solders Hats with broad Tinsel Lace, 365 Soldiers Hats plain, 44 Pair Linen Spatterdashers."

Yet despite the loss of clothing and equipment on the high-seas, some stock of Native American trade goods remained in Canada. These trade goods were the basis of "the ordinary

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items that compose the small clothing furnished for this Colony." An anonymous list of supplies from French Army Archives in 1756 records the nature of these additional clothing items so necessary for service in Canada.

"Equipment for a soldier for the campaign during the summer months

- 1 Blanket
- 1 Capote
- 1 Bonnet (tuque)
- 2 Cotton Shirts
- 1 Pair of Mitasses (leggings)
- 2 Skeins of Thread
- 6 Needles
- 1 Awl
- 1 Steel Striker
- 6 Gun Flints
- 1 Comb
- 1 Gun Worm
- 2 pots of Brandy for the Campaign
- 1 Pair of Souliers Tannes (Souliers de beouf)
- 1 Pound of Tobacco per Month"



Stores at Fort Carillon by October 1757 show a good supply of clothing stores going into the winter of 1757-58. How much of these goods were on hand by the end of 1758 is unknown, but *Troupe de la Marine* had access to this stock along with their French Army compatriots.

It is worth noting the number of German-speaking soldiers among the *Troupe de la Marine* at Carillon. Back on July 25, 1757 Aide de Camp, Antoine de Bougainville noted in his journal, "Today there arrived three officers and 150 men, recruits drawn from the regiment of *Volontaires Etrangers*, and intended to fill up companies of La Marine." Captain Maures de Malartic of the Bearn Regiment, noted the same day the "*Volontaires Etrangers* who will form new colony companies." Whether drafted from the *Volontaires Etrangers*, or recruited by the Naval Ministry in Alsace or Lorraine, German and German-speaking recruits within the *Troupe de la Marine* appeared

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frequently thereafter. "Petrus Claudius Beleu a Serjeant of the marine Company... [en]listed in Fisher's Corps," was captured by Rogers' Ranger at Carillon on December 23, 1758. Johann Christian Fisher was famous as the commander of France's first *chasseur corps*, and also the commander of the *Volontaires Etrangers*. "six Deserters of the Marine came in all Germans..." were reported by Brigadier General Frederic Haldimand at the Siege of Oswego in 1759. "Hennery Young a German born near the Rine..." was another *Volontaires Etrangers* recruit, captured from the colony's *Troupe de la Marine* at Fort La Presentation in August 1759. Beyond the German language spoken by many of these soldiers, those from the *Volontaires Etrangers* had their distinctive uniform with green *veste* and facings in 1757. With supply challenges and *habit* issued on the 3-year cycle, some of these uniform garments may have been tucked away in their *gran havresacs* by the 1759 campaign.



Shirts

Best: Hand-stitched white or blue-and-white striped linen or correct period cotton 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 silk cravats.

Acceptable: Linen or cotton neckerchief.

Unacceptable: Leather neck-stocks, wool scarves.

Hats and Caps

Best: Soldiers' *chapeau* bound in faux gold lace..

Acceptable: Knit red yarn *bonnet* or *tuque* worn on fatigue and off-duty.

Unacceptable: Fur cap, voyageur cap.

Vestes

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

Acceptable: Well-fit sleeved veste made of blue 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, blue tricot or serge breeches with cloth covered buttons.

Acceptable: Well-fit, blue 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 regimental facings, regimental shaped pocket flaps, blue serge lining, and domed-rimmed brass buttons. *Habit* of blue wool cloth, with red regimental facings, regimental shaped pocket flaps, red serge lining, and domed-rimmed white-metal buttons for *Cannoniers-Bombardiers*.

Acceptable: Well-fit, *Habit* of white wool cloth, with blue regimental facings, blue serge lining, with minor visible machine stitching.

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: Older Pattern *Epee d'Soldat* carried in addition to a bayonet in the waist belt.

Acceptable: Bayonet only carried in a white buff soldiers' waistbelt.

Discouraged: *Petite Hache* or tomahawk.

Cartridge Pouch

Best: Red Russia leather *gargousier* carried on buff waistbelt. Leather *pulverin* or powder *corne* carried on a narrow buff leather shoulder strap.

Acceptable: Similar style *gargousie*, no *pulverin* or *corne*. Red or Russia leather demi-giberne with a buff leather strap for *Cannoniers-Bombardiers* or former *Volontaires-Etrangers*.

Unacceptable: Anything Else.



Canteen

Best: Tin *bidon*, or gourd 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 tinned-iron canteens.

Knapsacks and Tumplines

Best: *Gran haversacs* 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.