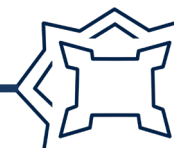


1759 SIEGE OF CARILLON RHODE ISLAND PROVINCIAL GUIDELINES



Though the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations provided only one battalion to the Army of General Jeffery Amherst in 1759, they were useful troops within this 11,000-man army. General Orders frequently employed the Rhode Island battalion of Colonel Henry Babcock alongside Connecticut provincials, whom they followed in Amherst's Order of Battle. Back in 1758, Colonel Babcock implored Governor Stephen Hopkins to provide uniform clothing to Rhode Island provincial troops. From Albany on June 15, 1758, Colonel Babcock wrote,

"I can't but hope that the General Assembly will fall upon some method of expeditiously raising the remainder of the troops, and that Your Honor would recommend the clothing of the men, not to say any thing of the credit it would be to the government; but their appearance will be vastly more formidable and much better, and they would look upon themselves as if they were better troops than those that are dressed in a loose shabby manner; and I dare say, if they are called to action, they will behave more gallantly."

Yet on February 26, 1759, when the Rhode Island General Assembly voted to raise their battalion for the 1759 campaign, they did not provision for uniforms. Instead, the Rhode Island provincial assembly pursued "supplying the regiment in the cheapest manner, with clothing and other necessaries, not furnished by the crown..." Although it did not provide uniforms, this order included a great deal of clothing. In addition to establishing a combined commissary and sutler for the regiment in Albany, the colony ordered clothing to be procured and shipped ahead, to wit:

"...the committee of war send to Albany, for the use of the troops, in addition to what are there already, two hundred and eighty-three shirts, forty-one caps, four hundred and one pair of stockings, two hundred and ninety-eight flannel jackets and seventy-two pair of breeches; and no other clothing, except such as the commissary shall expressly send for, by and with the allowance and direction of the colonel."

The Rhode Island even procured great coats for the campaign, explaining their use for guards.



"It is voted and resolved, that the committee of war be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed to get thirty-six great coats made for the use of the regiment, by this colony ordered for the ensuing campaign; which coats shall be worn only by the guards of the regiment."

Inexplicably, the "Distribution of Troops for the Campaign 1759," within the papers of General Jeffery Amherst, indicated a brown coat with white facings for Babcock's Rhode Island battalion. No other source corroborates this odd indication. The only uniform clothing described on a Rhode Island provincial deserter was a, "a light grey Broad Cloth Coat with a red Lappell, and plain yellow Metal Buttons," in the April 1, 1760 Newport Mercury. The origin of this coat is also unknown; other descriptions of deserters include the assortment of civilian clothing that Colonel Babcock complained about in 1758. In the May 5, 1760 edition of the New York Mercury, "Hugh Cochrane," of the Rhode Island provincials deserted wearing "...a brown coloured Coat, a green corded Everlasting Jacket, blue Plush Breeches, a dark brown cut Wig, sometimes wears a cockade in his hat, large open work Silver Buckles in his shoes, and a Silver Watch in his pocket..."

Regardless of what hats Rhode Island provincial soldiers brought with their suitable clothing, they cut these down into round hats along with the rest of the army. 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..."

With Rhode Island provincial soldiers receiving and wearing breeches in 1759, many likely brought 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..."

General Orders for British troops at Albany on May 5, 1759 were likely in effect for Rhode Island provincial soldiers too. An Orderly Book from Captain James Tew Junior's company of the Rhode Island Provincial Regiment recorded the same order on May 29, 1760.

"...Baggage then is absolutely necessary for the officers is an incumbrance to officers and men and must be an obstruction to the motions of an army in this country each officer must take a small tent blanket bear skin and portmanteau they will take no Sashes into the Field the Regt that have gorgetts will wear them on Duty and each officer will take Care that the men do not Load them selves with anything more than what is absolutely necessary."

In terms of equipment, the Rhode Island General Assembly resolved "that each soldier shall have a knapsack and blanket from the government, gratis..." The General Assembly's frequent references to "clothing and other necessaries, not furnished by the crown..." hint that other

campaign necessities like haversacks and canteens may have been drawn from stores at Albany. This was certainly the case for arms. On February 26, 1759, the Rhode Island General Assembly ordered “that the committee of war collect all the King’s arms that were issued to the colony’s troops last year, which can be found in the government; and having got them put into proper repair, send them to Albany, according to General Amherst’s request...” Rhode Island’s allotment of the King’s Arms delivered to Ordnance Comptroller James Furnis in 1756, included “Land Service Muskets of the King’s Pattern with Brass Furniture, Double Bridle Locks Wood Rammers with Bayonets & Scabbards and Tann’d Leather Sling’s... Cartouch Boxes with Straps of 12 Holes...” Stocks of King’s Arms in the Colony of Rhode Island had to be supplemented by additional arms for the 1759 campaign. On May 24, 1759, General Amherst ordered Ordnance Comptroller James Furnis to issue “One Hundred Eighty Seven Muskets,” to the Rhode Island Regiment, then at Albany.

Hats

Best: Round blocked wool-felt round hat with 2.5” brim.

Unacceptable: Anything else.

Shirts

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

Acceptable: Machine-stitched checked 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.

Trousers and Breeches

Best: Hand-finished leather, wool cloth, or linen breeches, with buckled knee bands.

Acceptable: Well-fit cloth, linen or leather breeches, with buckled, buttoned or tied knee bands with visible machine stitching. Oznaburg or checked linen trousers with minor visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: Fringed trousers, baggy breeches.



Jackets and Waistcoats

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit red, green, blue, grey or brown wool flannel 1750s waistcoat with or without sleeves, lined or unlined.

Acceptable: Well-fit red, green, blue, grey or brown waistcoat with or without sleeves, lined or unlined, with minor visible machine stitching.

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

Coats

Best: Hand-finished, well-fit 1750s civilian coat in brown or other common colored cloth.

Acceptable: Well-fit 1750s civilian coats of the same with little visible machine stitching.

Unacceptable: Hunting shirts, blanket shirts, fur skins.



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 moccasins.

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



Shot Bag & Cartridge Boxes

Best: 12-Round Government accoutrement sets accompanying British Arms.

Acceptable: 9 or 18-Round Government accoutrement sets accompanying British Arms.

Unacceptable: Possibles bags.

Powder Horns

Best: None.

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

Unacceptable: Anything else.

Arms

Best: British Long Land pattern muskets.

Acceptable: Wilson commercially made muskets, Dutch muskets or captured French muskets.

Unacceptable: Canoe gun, blunderbuss, long rifles.

Sidearms

Best: Bayonets accompanying British arms.

Acceptable: Privately purchased cutlasses or hangars in civilian waist belts. No Sidearm.

Discouraged: Shoulder belts.

Unacceptable: Uncovered axes. Pistols, daggers, dirks.

Canteens

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

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

Unacceptable: Anything else.

Haversacks

Best: British Stamped GR osnaburg haversack.

Acceptable: Plain osnaburg haversack.

Unacceptable: Anything else.

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.



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.