

While the main body of the troops were comparatively inactive a great part of the time, particularly in the winter, the Rangers were kept constantly on the move, watching the various passes and routes to prevent surprises and doing what they could to damage and harass the enemy.

In the event of a general advance in force, they always took the lead as the advance guard.

Although Major Rogers was actively engaged under Major-General Johnson in conducting the scouting service with his New Hampshire Company during the previous year, there is no record of the regular organization of the Queen's Rangers till March, 1756, when he was summoned to Boston to meet the Commander-in-Chief, General Shirley, who had taken that position on the death of General Braddock, who was killed in his disastrous expedition against the French, near Pittsburgh, on the 13th July, 1755.

Of this interview we read :

"On the 23rd I waited on the General and met with a very friendly reception. He soon intimated his design of giving me the command of an independent company of Rangers, and the next morning I received the commission with a set of instructions. According to the General's orders, my Company was to consist of sixty privates at 3 shillings, N. Y. currency, per day : 3 sergeants at 4s. : an ensign at 5s., and a lieutenant at 7s., and my own pay was fixed at 10s. per day. Ten Spanish dollars were allowed to each man towards providing clothes, arms, and blankets. My orders were to raise this Company as quick as possible, and to enlist none but such as were used to travelling and hunting, and in whose courage and fidelity I could confide. They were, moreover, to be subject to military discipline and the articles of war."

In the report of the Adjutant-General of New Hampshire, 1766, this company is referred to as the nucleus of the famous "Rogers' Rangers," the subalterns of which were : Richard Rogers (a brother of the Captain), 1st Lieut. ; John Stark, 2nd Lieut. ; Noah Johnston, Ensign.

A short time after this 3 more companies were added to the Rangers, and the strength increased to 100 men per company.

On the 20th May following, an example is given of their manner of gaining information.

"Agreeable to orders from the General, I set out with a party of eleven men to reconnoiter the French advanced guards. The next day from the top of a mountain we had a view of them, and judged their number to be about 300. They were busy in fortifying themselves with palisades. From the other side of the mountain, we had a prospect of Ticonderoga Fort, and from the ground their encampment took up I judged it to consist of about 1,000 men. This night we lodged on the mountain, and next morning marched to the Indian carrying path that leads from Lake George to Lake Champlain, and formed an ambuscade between the French guards and Ticonderoga Fort. About 6 o'clock, 118 Frenchmen passed by without discovering us. In a few minutes after 22 more came the same road, upon whom we fired, killed six and took one prisoner, but the large party returning obliged us to retire in haste, and we arrived safe with our prisoner at Fort William Henry on the 23rd.

"The prisoner we had taken reported that a party of 220 French and Indians were preparing to invest the out parties at Fort Edward, which occasioned my marching the next morning with a party of 78 men to join a detachment of Col. Bayley's regiment, and scour the woods as far as South Bay."

By the following commission, Rogers was promoted to the full army rank of Major, being charged with the command and supervision of all the Independent Companies of this service.