

enemy. Soon after we had thus formed ourselves for battle, the enemy attempted to outflank us on the right, but the above reserve bravely attacked them, and, giving them the first fire very briskly, it stopped several from returning to the main body. The enemy then pushed us closely in front, but having the advantage of the ground, and being sheltered by large trees, we maintained a continual fire upon them, which killed several and obliged the remainder to retire to their main body. They then attempted to flank us again, but were repulsed by our reserve. Mr. Baker about this time was killed. We maintained a pretty constant fire on both sides till the darkness prevented our seeing each other, and about sunset I received a ball through my hand and wrist which prevented me from loading my gun. I, however, found means to keep my people from being intimidated by this accident. They gallantly kept their advantageous situation till the fire ceased on both sides. The enemy during the action used many arts and stratagems to induce us to submit, but we told them our numbers were sufficient and that we were determined to keep our ground as long as there were two left to stand by each other.

"After the action in which we had a great number so severely wounded that they could not travel without assistance, and our ammunition being nearly expended, and considering we were so near Ticonderoga, from whence the enemy could easily make a descent and overpower us by numbers, I thought it expedient to take advantage of the night to retreat and gave orders accordingly.

"The nearest computation we could make of the number which attacked us was that it consisted of about 250 French and Indians, and we afterwards had an account from the enemy that their loss in this action of killed and those who afterwards died of their wounds amounted to 116 men.

"Both the officers and soldiers I had the honour to command, who survived the first onset, behaved with the most undaunted bravery and resolution and seemed to vie with each other in their respective stations who should excel."

The return of casualties to the Rangers in the above action shows 14 killed, 6 wounded and 6 missing.

It was after this engagement that Lieutenant Stark made a remarkably expeditious run on snow-shoes; being sent back to Fort William Henry for sleighs to bring in the wounded, he covered the distance of 35 miles in 5 hours and enabled the relief party to meet the retreating column early the next day on the ice of Lake George.

In June '57, the Rangers were ordered to New York and then embarked for Halifax with the expedition against Louisbourg, which was conveyed by a fleet of nearly one hundred vessels. Like nearly all of Lord Loudoun's expeditions this one also proved a failure—they did not go any further than Halifax, and after remaining there for a time orders were given to return, the Rangers returned to New York, from there to Albany and the fields of their former action. During the absence of the troops mentioned, Montcalm had succeeded in taking Oswego, and also compelled Fort William Henry to capitulate after a siege of considerable duration. It was on this occasion that the articles of capitulation were shockingly violated and a dreadful massacre of several hundred of the British garrison, including the women and children, was perpetrated by the Indians.

From October till the end of the year '57, the Rangers were employed most of the time in patrolling the woods between Fort Edward and Ticonderoga. On one of these expeditions it is stated by the author: "My Lord Howe did us the honour to accompany us, being fond as he expressed it to