

The only other staff assistant seems to have been Lieutenant Stewart, "Adjutant."

"By His Excellency James Abercromby, Esq., Colonel of His Majesty's 44th Regiment of Foot, Colonel-in-Chief of the 60th, or Royal American Regiment, Major-General and Commander-in-Chief of all His Majesty's Forces raised, or to be raised, in North America, etc.

"Whereas, it may be of great use to His Majesty's service in the operations now carrying on for recovering his rights in America, to have a number of men employed in obtaining intelligence of the strength, situation and motions of the enemy, as well as other services for which Rangers, or men acquainted with the woods only are fit, having the greatest confidence in your loyalty, courage and skill in this kind of service, I do, by virtue of the power and authority to me given by His Majesty, hereby constitute and appoint you to be *Major of the Rangers* in His Majesty's service, and likewise Captain of a Company of said Rangers. You are, therefore, to take the said Rangers as Major, and the said Company as Captain, into your care and charge, and duly exercise and instruct, as well the officers as the soldiers thereof, in arms, and to use your best endeavour to keep them in good order and discipline. I do hereby command them to obey you as their Major and Captain respectively. And you are to follow and observe such orders and directions from time to time as you shall receive from His Majesty, myself, or any other superior officer, according to the rules and discipline of war.

"Given at New York this 6th day of April.

JAMES ABERCROMBY."

The several Companies of Rangers did not have a relative regimental number, but each one of them was called by a distinctive name, the Major's own company being the Queen's Company, while his brother James' corps was known as the King's Rangers.

General Abercromby assumed the command under Lord Loudoun, in June, 1756, and about the same time General Montcalm commenced his vigorous campaign at the head of a strong French army.

The autumn of that year passed without any very important or decisive action on either side.

In January, 1757, a skirmish which proved hot work for the Rangers occurred in the vicinity of the French forts, which they were reconnoitering with a party of seventy-five men.

"In this manner we advanced half a mile over broken ground, when passing a valley of 15 rods' breadth, the front having reached the summit of a hill on the west side of it, the enemy, who had been drawn up in the form of a half moon, with a design, as we supposed, to surround us, saluted us with a volley of about 200 shots, at the distance of about five yards from the nearest or front, and thirty from the rear of their party. This fire was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and proved fatal to Lieut. Kennedy and Mr. Gardiner, a volunteer regular officer in my company, and wounded me and several others, myself, however, but slightly in the head. We immediately returned the fire. I then ordered my men to the opposite hill, where I supposed Lieut. Stark and Ensign Brewer had made a stand with 40 men to cover us in case we were obliged to retreat. We were closely pursued, and Captain Spikeman, with several of the party, were killed and others made prisoners. My people, however, beat them back with a brisk fire from the hill and gave us an opportunity to ascend and post ourselves to advantage, after which I ordered Lieut. Stark and Mr. Baker (another volunteer) in the centre with Ensign James Rogers; Sgts. Walters and Phillips, with a party, being in reserve to prevent our being flanked and watch the motions of the