

BUTLER'S RANGE

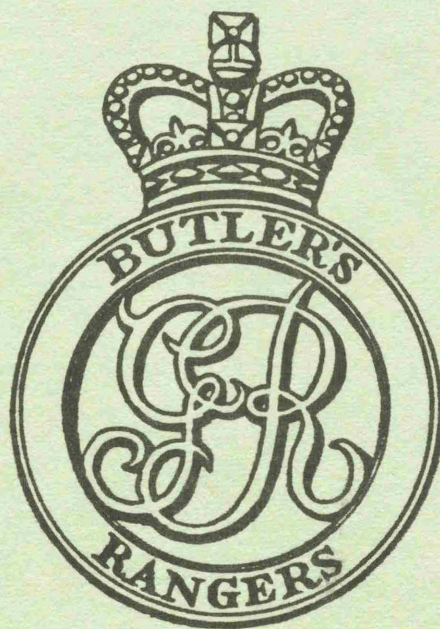
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READING ROOM

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# BUTLER'S RANGERS

1777



1784

*Capt<sup>n</sup> Barent Frey's Co<sup>y</sup>.*

Brigade of the American Revolution

from Tex Joyner

FOR

EDMUND F. ARRUFAT

JULY 13, 1916  
OCTOBER 15, 1986

Our good friend, mentor and fellow Ranger  
without whose guidance, help and patience  
we would have been "just another unit."

---

CAPT <sup>W</sup> Barent Frey's Co. 1777-1784

Sgt. DONALD W. HURTEAU.

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Special thanks to Pvt.  
David Hasler, Butler's  
Rangers, for the art-  
work for this manual.

CONTENTS

REVISIONS	1
JOHN BUTLER AND HIS RANGERS	2 - 3
LETTERS FROM GUY CARLTON	4 - 6
UNIFORM	7 - 10
FOOTNOTES & BIBLIOGRAPHY	11 - 19
NOTES ON INDIAN CLOTHING	20
APPENDIX "A" By William Van Ness	FROM RECRUIT TO VETERAN
APPENDIX "B" By Thomas McEnteer	MALE INDIAN DRESS AND APPEARANCE

PLATES:

- I. Butler's Rangers Belt Plate
- II. Butler's Rangers Cartridge Box Plate
- III. Private of Rangers - Garrison Uniform
- IV. Private of Rangers - Campaign Uniform

DRAWINGS:

Moccasin Construction

BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BUTLER'S RANGERS

Original Research Merrill Stickler

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## JOHN BUTLER AND HIS RANGERS

### Historical Sketch

John Butler was born in New London, Connecticut in 1728. He moved with his family to Tryon County in the Mohawk Valley of New York in 1742. During the French and Indian War, he was a Captain under Col. William Johnson, who owned extensive property and had established great rapport with the Six Nations of the Iroquois.

With the outbreak of the French and Indian War, Johnson was called upon by the British to enlist the Iroquois in the fight against the French, and John Butler became an assistant in Johnson's Indian Dept., a career that would span a half-century and give Butler superb training as both a military and Indian leader.

Butler served as a Captain when Johnson led a major attack against the French at Lake George in September 1755. Johnson was knighted for his victory there. Butler's service continued under Abercromby in July of 1758, in his ill-fated campaign against Ticonderoga, and under Bradstreet in his assault on Fort Frontenac in August of 1758.

Sir William Johnson's finest hour took place when he found himself in command of the British siege against Fort Niagara in July of 1759; Butler was by his side and assumed command of Johnson's massive regiment of Indians as the French capitulated, assuring British domination of North America for another decade.

After the war Johnson's Dept. of Indian Affairs was largely dispersed, with Indians, and the British rangers who served with them, being sent back to their homes; but Butler and a very few others were kept on because of their extensive knowledge and ability in the field of Indian affairs.

John Butler returned to his home and family estate, Butlersbury, (near modern-day Fonda, N.Y.) where he served in the Indian Dept. and as a local magistrate. He continued in this capacity even when Sir William died and was succeeded by his nephew, Sir Guy Johnson in 1774.

In May of 1775, John and Walter Butler (his son) with many of their loyalist friends and followers fled to Canada as a result of the Political unrest which followed the battle of Lexington and Concord.

During the next two years, these men fought against the patriots' cause at St. Johns, Quebec, and the Battle of the Cedars (Montgomery and Arnold's attacks on Canada) as well as other minor skirmishes.

Meanwhile, John Butler, members of the Johnson Family and other British authorities were organizing the Indians and promoting loyalty to the Crown.

By 1777, John Butler, as assistant Superintendent in the Indian Dept., had loosely organized a group of 100 rangers.

When Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne planned his offensive campaign into New York, John Butler, his rangers and a substantial group of Indians were assigned to Colonel St. Leger to participate in his attack thru the Mohawk Valley. This attack led

to the battle of Oriskany, perhaps the bloodiest action of the entire war, in which Butler and his men served valiantly.

When Col. St. Leger retreated to Canada, John Butler asked for and received permission to formally organize a Corps of Rangers.

One of the first areas Col. Butler moved against was the Wyoming Valley in northeastern Pennsylvania. He arrived there June 30, 1778. On July 3, Colonel Zebulon Butler (no relation to John Butler) came out to meet the loyalist and Indians at Wintermoot, near Wilkesbarre. The patriot forces were outflanked and as a result Wilkesbarre and the surrounding areas were completely devastated/

Next the Rangers, accompanied by loyalist volunteers and Indians, turned their attention against German Flats in the Mohawk Valley of New York. They burned the town and drove out all of the livestock but were unable to dislodge the people barricaded in General Herkimer's stone house.

In retaliation, Colonel William Butler's (no relation to the above mentioned Butlers) 4th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Line destroyed the Indian Village at Unadilla, New York. In November, 1778, Captain Walter Butler, Son of Colonel John Butler, marched against Cherry Valley, New York. He burned the town and took men, women and children captives; hoping to exchange them for his mother who was detained by the patriots in Albany.

On Washington's orders, Generals Sullivan and Clinton commanded a retaliatory force designed to destroy the Indian Nations from the Pennsylvania - New York Border to Fort Niagara. At Newtown, New York, the Sullivan Expedition defeated Colonel John Butler, Captain Walter Butler and two companies of Rangers, a detachment of the King's 8th, and Indians under Captain Joseph Brant (total approx. 600 effectives).

As a reprisal for the Sullivan Expedition, Butler's Rangers in 1780 again moved against the Mohawk Valley; some proceeded as far east as the Hudson River and down into the foothills of the Catskill Mountains, while other Ranger Companies left the Ft. Niagara headquarters, traveled southwest and waged successful campaigns at Sandusky, Boonesboro, Blue Licks, Wheeling and other places throughout the Western Territory, throughout 1781 and 1782.

In October, 1781, Butler's Rangers, Johnson's Greens (KRRNY) and several hundred Indians under the command of Major Ross went eastward towards Johnstown, New York. There Colonel M. Willet gathered 400 patriot Militiamen and state troops and fought the loyalists to a standstill. Major Ross retreated and Willet followed and caught up with him at Jerseyfield on Canada Creek. While covering the retreat, Captain Walter Butler, commanding the Rangers, was killed. After this skirmish the loyalist troops never reassembled in New York and the existence of Butler's Rangers for all practical purposes came to an end.

Butler's Rangers were given land in Canada and pensions by the King. John Butler and his followers settled on the Canadian side of the Niagara River with the main village at what is now Niagara-On-The-Lake. John Butler died in 1796 and is buried at Niagara-On-The-Lake. Many of his Rangers lived to bear arms in the War of 1812 and served in the Lincoln Brigade.

Quebec

The 15th September 1777

Sir

Colonel Butler, one of the assistant superintendents of the Indian department, having represented to me the expediency of raising a corps of Rangers, upon the place of those which were on foot in the last war, for the purpose of serving with the Indians, and being anxious to render the service of the Indians, as effectual to His Majesty as the disposition of that people will admit of, I have thought it might tend to this end, and at the same time be a means of affording you further assistance, to form such a corps near one hundred of which has been already raised by John Butler, who for his zeal, capacity and service I have thought merited to be put at the head of the whole, and I have accordingly appointed him Commandant with the rank of Major. His beating order and instructions I send you copies of.

I am

Guy Carleton

Lieut<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Burgoyne

Beating Order

To John Butler Esquire appointed Major Commandant of a Corps of Rangers to serve with the Indians.

By virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the King, I do hereby authorize and empower you, or such officers as you shall direct, by the beat of the drum, or otherwise, forthwith to raise, on the frontiers of this Province, as many able bodied men, of His Majesty's loyal subjects, as will form one company of Rangers, to serve with the Indians, as occasion shall require: which Company shall consist of a Captain, a first Lieutenant, second Lieutenant, three Sergeants, three Corporals and fifty private men; and when you shall have compleated one Company as aforesaid, you are further empowered to raise and form another in like manner, and of like numbers as the first, and so on, until you shall have completed a number of Companies of Rangers as aforesaid, not exceeding in the whole eight Companies; observing that the first be compleated, armed and fit for service, and have passed muster, before such person as shall be appointed for that purpose, by some one of the Commanding Officers of His Majesty's Troops, nearest to where the said Companies so raised, shall be at the time, before another be begun to be raised. And of which eight Companies, or such part thereof as you shall be able to raise, you shall be Major Commandant, two of the Companies aforesaid (to be composed of people speaking the Indian language and acquainted with their Customs and Manner of making War) for their encouragement shall be paid at the rate of four shillings New York Currency by the day, Non Commissioned Officers in proportion from the day of their enlisting, and the other said Companies (to be composed of people well acquainted with the Woods) in consideration of the fateaque they are liable to undergo, shall be paid at the rate of two shillings New York Currency by the day; Non Commissioned Officers in proportion, the whole to cloath and arm themselves at their own expense. 1

You and the Officers so raised, to be paid as is customary to the Officers of like rank, in His Majesty's Service, and you are carefully to obey and follow such orders and directions; as you shall from time to time receive from me, or the Commander in Chief for the time being, or any other of your Superior Officers, according to the rules and discipline of War, in pursuance of the trust hereby reposed in you.

Given under my hand and Seal at Quebec this 15th day of September one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven and in the Seventeenth year of the Reign,

(Signed) Guy Carleton



Guy Carleton

Instructions to Major John Butler Commandant of a Corps of Rangers to serve with the Indians.

Having appointed you to command a body of rangers, which it is expedient, at this time, to raise, in order to serve with the Indians, you shall, as soon as possible, march, with such part of the said Rangers, as are already raised, or you shall immediately raise, and as large a body of the Six Nations, or other Indians, as you can collect without too much exposing their country to the incursions of the Rebels, to join and put yourself under the command, of Lieutenant General Burgoyne, giving him notice, as expeditiously as possible, of your approach toward him, and of the force you bring along with you; and all orders which you shall receive from the said Lieutenant General Burgoyne and are to observe and obey, - Given under My hand at Quebec this 15th day of September 1777.

Butler rapidly assembled his corps of rangers after receiving Gen. Carleton's "Beating Orders." Although instructed to join Gen. Burgoyne's campaign in the Hudson Valley; the battle at Saratoga, and Burgoyne's subsequent capture took place before Butler and his men could march. Instead, Butler moved to Fort Niagara in western New York, where he established his base of operations, and planned his activities for the upcoming 1778 campaign.

BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
BUTLER'S RANGERS  
UNIFORM<sup>(1)</sup> (Revised 1/1/85)

HEADGEAR<sup>(2)</sup>

A cut down felt hat bound with white wool tape and decorated by a band of wool trimmed with bead work. Fur may be also used to trim the cap. An alternate form of headwear known as a forage cap<sup>(4)</sup> should be owned by all men. The pattern for both the forage and cut cap are available.

SHIRT<sup>(5)</sup>

There are two shirts, one white for dress with ruffles at the sleeves and neck opening and one of coarse material without ruffles for fatigue. The shirts are made of either linen or 100% cotton and made to the B.A.R. pattern.

STOCK<sup>(6)</sup>

Black stock of horsehair, velvet or linen with a stock clasp or leather with thongs.

WAISTCOAT<sup>(7)</sup>

The waistcoat is made of white wool (18 oz.) according to the B.A.R. pattern and and the Royal Warrant i.e. with slash pockets for privates. Pocket flaps are to be worn by sergeants and officers only. The waistcoat is fastened with 12 pewter buttons (11/16 in.).<sup>(3)</sup> The buttons contain the raised words Butler's Rangers. The inside is lined down the front with a facing strip of white wool (18 oz.) and the remainder of the garment and back with white linen.

FROCK<sup>(8)</sup>

A linen pullover shirt dyed green made to the B.A.R. pattern. A 1¼" black belt is worn around the waist to carry a belt knife or waist cartridge box.

COAT<sup>(9)</sup>

The regimental coat is made of green wool according to the B.A.R. pattern and the 1768 Royal Warrant. The facing (lapels, collars and cuffs) are of red wool. The bottom of the coat measures nine inches from the floor from a kneeling position. The lapels are a uniform 3 in. width from top to bottom and extend to the waist only. The inside of the coat is lined down the front of both sides with a facing strip of red wool. This red wool lining is the facing length only. The lower portions or skirt of the coat is lined with white wool. The remainder is lined with white linen.

PANTS<sup>(10)</sup>

Breeches of white wool (18 oz.) with stockings are to be worn for garrison wear. Buckskin or linen overalls (thread count of 65/sq. in.) made according to B.A.R. pattern may be worn for field duties.

#### GARTERS

One inch wide black leather strips fastened with brass buckles.

#### SHOES(11)

Strong men's buckled shoes or Eastern Woodland moccasins(12) are both acceptable forms of footwear, however buckled shoes are to be worn with a full Regimental uniform.

#### BLANKET COAT(13)

A coat made of an off white blanket trimmed and bound with colored stripes and colored tapes should be worn for winter duties.

#### BLANKET

100% wool, cream to tan in colour stamped in one corner with a broad arrow and the royal cypher.

#### MUSICIAN'S UNIFORM

This coat pattern has been submitted to and has been accepted by the B.A.R. Inspector General.

A sleeved waist coat of green wool with red cuffs and shoulder wings laced with white wool tape ½" in width.

The headgear is to be a bearskin drummer's cap with the top made of green wool and with white braiding and tassels on the crown, an enlisted man's hat with white wool lacing and tassels or the "cut cap." In any case, the hat or cap shall be set off with colored ostrich plumes.

The musician's shoulder belt is to be of blackened leather as the men's and the drum sling should also be of blackened leather. The only weapon to be carried by the musician is the hanger, or short curved sword of approved pattern.

#### LEGGINGS

Indian style leggings woolen or leather may be worn with the field uniform. (Iroquois decoration optional).

#### NECKERCHIEF

A black silk neckerchief may be worn with the field uniform.

#### STOCKINGS

Stockings of either white or off-white cotton or wool should be worn with all uniforms.

#### CANTEEN(14)

A kidney shaped tin canteen is used. It is slung over the shoulder by a twisted white cotton cord 5/16 in. in diameter, knotted and tassled on the ends. Unbleached hempen cord, hard twisted and smooth, may also be used. The canteen should be wool covered. (Old green Regimental coat wool).

#### CARTRIDGE BOX AND CARTRIDGE BOX BADGE(15)

The cartridge box is made of 1/8 in. thick leather dyed black on the outside according to the British Infantry Cartridge Box circa 1775. It is slung over the left shoulder by a 2 3/4 in. blackened leather belt. There are two brass buckles which attach the belt to the blackened leather straps of the box. The box holds 60 cartridges and flints. The box is decorated with a "Butler's Rangers" cartridge box badge. The badge is cast open work brass backed with red cloth which shows through the open spaces. The words "Butler's Rangers" are engraved on the badge.(16)

#### HAVERSACK(17)

The haversack is made of heavy natural coloured linen and worn on the left side behind the shoulder belt. The flap is fastened with three 1 1/8 in. diameter pewter buttons. The haversack contains a tin cup, tin plate or wooden trencher, round nose knife, metal or wooden spoon and rations.

#### SWORD OR SHOULDER BELT(21)

Sword belt for sergeants to be an over the shoulder belt of blackened leather 2 in. in width and single frog for hanger scabbard. The belt is fastened at the center of the breast with an oval breast plate which is engraved with the royal cypher, crown and the words "BUTLER'S RANGERS". (Fig. IV) Shoulder belt for corporals and men to be an over the shoulder belt of blackened leather 2 in. wide and a double frog, one for a bayonette and the other for a tomahawk (hatchet) or hanger. Shoulder belt to be fastened at the center with an oval breast plate.(18)

#### FIRELOCK

The firelock is the British Army issue, Model 1762 .75 caliber(19) with a 1½ in. wide leather sling,(20) and with a bayonet that will be carried in the scabbard attached to the shoulder belt frog.

The purpose of this revision is to reflect documentation on Provincials, specifically Butler's Rangers uniforms found in public store records. Specifically felt hats, blackened belting, white wool small clothes, white linings on the coat tails and the general conforming of our uniform to known Provincial uniform issues.

Some guidelines for all Butler's Rangers (and most other troops too.)

1. Your clothes should fit properly. Butler's Rangers had a regimental tailor whose main duty was making uniforms for officers and tailoring uniforms for the men. Breeches, overalls, waistcoats and coats were custom altered to fit well. Only shirts which doubled as nightshirts were baggy.
2. In general, your clothes should be clean. On campaign, clothes became worn and soiled, but as soon as the troops returned to the garrison at Fort Niagara (or their headquarters elsewhere) their clothes were washed, repaired and patched up if they couldn't be replaced. Yes, patches and repairs are acceptable, but be neat, and use appropriate materials. Stay away from bright or contrasting colors.
3. Don't be too inconsistent with your unit. While it's true that after a campaign there were probably no two soldiers who looked exactly alike, they should at least look like they started out that way, because they did. Remember, when anything was issued, it was exactly the same for everyone and the only difference should be within the framework of:
  - a. Total available issued items.
  - b. Made from available natural resources (i.e. deerhide moccasins, powder horns, bone powder measures etc.)
  - c. Brought from home, but very little in this area. Remember most loyalists escaped with very little.
  - d. Borrowed or traded from the Indians, but within limits - remember, no white person wanted to look like an Indian in the 18th Century unless he had to.
  - e. Appropriated from the enemy.
4. Keep your equipment in perfect order. All equipment must be clean, rust free and properly oiled. Flints should be sharp and extra ones should be carried. You need a musket tool and a complete cleaning kit. Preferably one of 18th Century character so it can be used in view of the public.
5. Follow orders quickly and precisely. Discipline is important above all else. Rangers were woodsmen and perhaps did not know their drill as perfectly as they should, but they always knew where they were supposed to be and what they were supposed to be doing.
6. Remember, priorities. SAFETY FIRST. AUTHENTICITY. Help the public to know and appreciate their historical heritage.

#### FOOTNOTES

##### Butler's Rangers' Uniforms, Clothing and Equipment

1. Because in the "Beating Orders" (see Historical Sketch), all of Butler's Rangers were ordered to "cloth and arm themselves at their own expense", it can be logically assumed that most of the early Rangers, who were refugees driven from their homes, wore simple civilian clothing, leftover uniforms from their old militia companies, or borrowed Indian clothing from the tribes they were living with, and fighting alongside.
2. Butler's Ranger headgear is not described in any contemporary source. Secondary references include:

E. Cruikshank, Butler's Rangers, Niagara Falls, Ontario: Lundy's Lane Historical Society, 1975, (Reprint) pp 58-59.

C.M. Lefferts, Uniforms of the American, British, French, and German Armies in the War of the American Revolution, 1775-1783, New York: New York Historical Society, (Reprint), p 212.

Both sources describe a light infantry type of hat or helmet with some type of brass front plate, however, in a letter from R. J. Koke, Curator of the N.Y. Historical Society, dated June 5, 1974, it is stated, "...have never encountered a Butler's Rangers helmet plate..." Lefferts figured that Butler's Rangers would be clothed in a fashion similar to a light infantry unit.
3. W. L. Calver, & R. P. Bolton, History Written with a Pick and Shovel, New York: New York Historical Society, 1950, p 129.

Additional original Butler's Rangers buttons are in the collections of the Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts, and the Historical Society of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada.
4. B. Cuthbertson Esq., A System for the Compleat Interior Management and Economy of a Battalion of Infantry, Dublin, 1768, p 76.

Lawson, op. cit. p 46  
Lefferts, op. cit. p 203
5. B.A.R. Men's Pattern #3 -- Shirt.
6. Cuthbertson, op. cit. p 81  
Lawson, op. cit. p 47  
B.A.R. Men's Patterns #9 - Stocks & #33 - Stock Clasps
7. Cuthbertson, op. cit. pp 72-75  
Lefferts, op. cit. pp 202-3, 212  
B.A.R. Men's Pattern #7 Waistcoat
8. B.A.R. Men's Pattern #4 - Hunting Shirt

9. Cruikshank, loc. cit  
Cuthbertson, op. cit. pp 68-71  
Lefferts, op. cit. pp 202 & 212  
B.A.R. Men's Pattern #8 - Regimental Coat
10. Letter to Gen. Haldimand, Sept. 9, 1779 (Canadian Archives, The Haldimand Collection, B - 100:264) as reprinted in:  
  
The University of the State of New York, The Sullivan - Clinton Campaign in 1779, Albany; 1929, p 146-147.  
  
Cuthbertson, op. cit. pp 71-72  
Lefferts, op. cit. p 212  
B.A.R. Men's Pattern #6 - Breeches, Overalls, Trousers
11. Haldimand Collection, (Sullivan - Clinton Campaign) loc. cit.
12. G.M. White, Craft Manual of North American Indian Footwear, Ronan, Montana, 1969, p 30.
13. Haldimand Collection, (Sullivan - Clinton Campaign) loc. cit.
14. Ibid.  
R.L. Klinger and R.A. Wilder, Sketch Book '76, Arlington, VA 1970, p 47.
15. B.A.R. Men's Pattern #27 - British Cartridge Box c 1775.
16. Calver, op. cit. p 168.  
Additional original Butler's Rangers Cartridge Box Badges are in the collections of the Old Stone Fort Museum, Schoharie, N.Y.; the Canadian National War Museum, Ottawa, Ontario; and the New York Historical Society.
17. Cuthbertson, pp. cit. p 85.  
B.A.R. Men's Pattern #16 Haversack
18. Calver, op. cit. p 160.  
Lefferts, op. cit. p 212.  
In a letter from R.J. Koke, Curator, New York Historical Society, dated January 36, 1965, it is stated "...as four plates found it is probable that they were worn also by the rank and file of the regiment."  
  
Additional original Butler's Rangers cross-belt plates are in the collections of the Canadian National War Museum, Ottawa, Ontario; the Lundy's Lane Historical Society of Niagara-on-the Lake, Ontario.
19. Cruikshank, loc. cit.
20. B.A.R. Men's Pattern #31 Musket Sling.
21. Sgt. Vrooman painting.

STORES FOR THE WILDERNESS  
Niagara 9th Sept. 1779

A List of Sundry Articles wanted for the use of Major Butler Corps. of Rangers -

- 2 pieces fine Green Cloth for officers
- 4 Do - - white do
- 3 Do middling Green do. for Serjeants  
Buttons & trimmings suitable for the above
- 360 Suits of Cloathing for men
- 360 Blankets Coats, or Blankets in proportion
- 50 Pieces of Binding for ditto
- 1500 Pairs mens strong shoes
- 1500 Shirts
- 1440 Pairs (of) stockings
- 60 Dozen Handcfs.
- 30 Do Hatts
- 40 Pieces of Russia sheeting for Trowsers
- 30 Dozen shoe buckles
- 30 Do knee do
- 30 Do sleeve do
- 40 lbs. Thread different colours
- 2 Needles assorted
- 30 Boxes (of) soap
- 20 Do Candles
- 4 Do Chocolate
- 300 Lbs. coffee
- 700 Lbs. Bohea tea
- 200 Lbs. Green do
- 30 Barrels (of) brown sugar
- 3000 Lbs. loaf sugar
- 8 Dozen buckle breeches
- 10 Shoes ditto
- 20 Do blacking balls
- 20 Do ivory combs
- 30 Dozen horn combs
- 30 Dozen pomatum
- 50 Lbs. hair powder
- 60 Lbs. pepper
- 30 Dozen clasp knives
- 60 Camp kettles
- 60 Frying pans
- 15 Dozen scissors

10 Pieces Russian Drilling for knapsacks  
 3 Cwt. Whitning  
 3 Cwt. Starch  
 1 Cwt.. Blue  
 3000 Lbs. cheese  
 3000 Lbs. tobacco  
 10 Doz. tobacco boxes  
 30 Lbs. shoemakers thread  
 10 Doz. shoemakers auls  
 360 Tin canteens  
 90 Lbs. mustard  
 1 Doz. orderly books  
 6 Reams writing paper  
 400 Quil(1)s  
 100 Gallons (of) vinegar  
 12 Barrels (of) molasses  
 10 Boxes essence (of) spruce

There will also be Rum wanted, if a greater quantity shou'd not be sent up, than has already been done.

(Can. Arch., Hald. Coll., B100-264)

BUTLER'S RANGERS

an annotated bibliography

Code: P = Primary source material  
 S = Secondary source material  
 D = A source of Documentation  
 C = An aid in Construction and Replication  
 B = Background information  
 Ill. = Illustration

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An account of the relationship between the American Indians and the British government between 1755 and 1830. (S-D-B-ill.)
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## INDIAN CLOTHING AND DECORATION

The Iroquois Confederacy of the six Nations and those of bordering tribes were closely associated with the Dept. of Indian Affairs under Sir Wm. Johnson, the early ranger period, and finally, Butler's Rangers.

Knowledge of their clothing and decorations were extremely important to identify their declared territory and homeland, as these tribes extended from eastern Canada to the north, Kentucky to the south, and Detroit and Vincennes to the West.

Proper use of their clothing and decoration influence in ranger dress, for those companies closely associated with the Indians, was necessary in keeping good relationship and alliance to the Crown.

## APPENDIX "A"

From Recruit to Veteran  
By William Van Ness

### I. THE RECRUIT:

A newly recruited ranger will be expected to equip himself for immediate duty in scouts, raids and battles. Clothing as worn in the field along with the necessary weapons and accoutrements for battle would have priority over obtaining the formal regimental uniform that rangers wore in garrison.

The new recruit should equip himself with a field uniform consisting of a black felt "cut cap", enlisted man's shirt of linen or cotton, and white wool or linen breeches. In addition, the uniform would consist of leather shoes or moccasins worn with white stockings, and wool or leather indian leggings tightly gartered. Over all would be worn the heavy linen pull-over frock of green, belted at the waist and a black silk neckerchief.

For battle, a ranger is armed with a Brown Bess musket with bayonet and a belt axe carried in the sword or shoulder belt. A second crossbelt holds his box of cartridges on his right hip.

The rest of the ranger's field equipment consists of a red painted linen canvas knapsack on his back which contains his wool blanket and personal possessions. From his right shoulder hangs a linen haversack to hold his eating utensils and rations and a tin canteen.

Thus clothed and equipped and trained in the use of his weapons as well as the tactics of ranger warfare, the recruit is ready to take the field.

Note: All clothing and equipment is described in greater detail in the uniform section of this manual.

All recruits are required to obtain the following, made to approved B.A.R. specifications. When fully clothed and equipped for duty, they should present themselves for inspection.

#### b. FIELD UNIFORM:

- "Cut cap" (cut down felt hat)
- Neckerchief of black silk or stock
- Enlisted men's shirt
- Green frock type shirt
- White wool or linen breeches
- White stockings
- Black leather garters
- Woolen or leather indian style leggings
- 18th century shoes or Eastern woodland style moccasins
- Waist belt with 18th century style buckle



c. WEAPONS AND ACCOUTREMENTS:

Brown Bess musket with flash guard and frizzen cover  
Bayonet and scabbard  
British style cartridge box with black leather belt and Butler's Rangers badge  
Belt axe  
Black leather double frogged shoulder belt with Butler's Rangers cross belt plate to hold bayonet and belt axe  
Musket pick and brush (attached to end of cartridge box belt)  
Worm and musket tool (kept inside cartridge box)  
Wooden practice flint, extra flints and lead flint pads  
Haversack  
Tin canteen  
British pattern knapsack

d. CONTENTS OF A RANGER'S KNAPSACK:

White or off-white wool blanket marked with GR cypher and broad arrow  
Folding knife  
Extra clothing and shoes  
Tinder box with flint, steel, tinder and char-cloth  
"Housewife" sewing kit  
Additional items of an 18th century nature as desired

e. RANGER FIELD TACTICS

(Based on Robert Rodgers' "Rules of Ranger Discipline" and to be used as a guideline only. This information is not in documentation to B.A.R.) When marching, be in single file and open order. Have a scout 20 yards ahead and to the sides of the main body. Be prepared to deploy into a line to the right or left as required.

When engaged with the enemy, advance or retreat in two ranks, each passing through the other to a distance of 10 or 12 yards so as to allow a constant fire.

When about to receive enemy fire, squat or fall down so as to take little damage, and then rise and give a volley.

If in danger of being surrounded by superior numbers, scatter and re-group at a pre-set location. If already surrounded, form a square (or in the woods, a circle) and hold out until nightfall allows escape by scattering.

Utilize all available cover, advancing from tree to tree. If other cover is lacking, stay low while advancing and load and fire from a kneeling position to offer a smaller target.

III. THE PRIVATE SOLDIER:

All rangers are required to obtain the full dress uniform as worn in garrison. consists of: \*

The "cut cap"  
Regimental coat  
White wool waistcoat and breeches (small clothes)  
Enlisted man's shirt with neck stock  
White stockings with leather garters  
Black half gaiters and shoes with buckles  
Fatigue cap

\* All items are described in the uniform section of this manual.

Over the long winter in garrison, the ranger would be perfected in the drill and close order marching evolutions required of the 18th century British soldier as specified in the Drill Regulations of 1764. He would also obtain, replace, repair and clean the items needed to complete his uniform and personal equipment and receive any additional training required to make him a well rounded soldier and self sufficient ranger.

For the recruit to advance to the status of Private soldier, he must demonstrate mastery of the Drill of 1764, and such essential 18th century military and camp skills as being able to start a fire with his flint and steel etc. He should be prepared to present himself fully uniformed for garrison duty with complete arms and equipment.

When under arms, the private soldier in garrison would wear his cut cap, cartridge box, shoulder belt with bayonet and belt axe and carry his musket. The pack, haversack and canteen would not be worn unless posted to duty away from the garrison.

IV. THE VETERAN

While a ranger might march out of Fort Niagara in the Spring fully dressed in his uniform clothing as issued, and carrying his issued weapons and accoutrements, the appearance of the same ranger when he returned in the Fall and in the campaign season to follow might be markedly different.

The rangers operated for long periods far from their base or other source of issue supplies. As clothing and equipment wore out or was lost, it would have to be replaced by whatever was available. Another factor that was particular to Butler's Rangers was due to their intimate association with the Iroquois and other indian nations. Items of clothing, equipment and especially decorations of indian influence or manufacture were bound to turn up among rangers. A third source of non uniform appearance would be those items of obsolete or nonmilitary equipment or "make do" clothing as might have shown up on any British military post, especially one as isolated as Fort Niagara.

The following is a list of allowable options in clothing and equipment that may be used (or at least tolerated by their officers) by those veteran rangers who have already passed test and inspection with their proper uniforms and equipment. These will be allowed on a case-by-case basis and all items must conform to approved styles and patterns. Indian items must be appropriate to the tribes and cultures of the Northeast and Great Lakes regions with which the Rangers were in frequent contact, especially that of the Iroquois.

a. OPTIONAL UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT:

Green wool waistcoat (as cut down from an old regimental coat)  
Green sleeved waist coat (a form of jacket also made from an old regimental coat)  
White linen waistcoat  
Blanket coat (made from old issue blankets and bound with red or blue tape.)  
Buckskin breeches  
Military overalls or trousers of buckskin, linen or canvas  
Wool or buckskin leggings worn to protect breeches and stockings  
Powder horn  
Wood canteen painted red to match the knapsack  
Light Infantry "belly box" for additional cartridges  
Use of rifles in selected cases.

b. ALLOWABLE INDIAN EQUIPMENT AND DECORATION

Decoration of "cut cap" with beadwork, feathers, animal furs, etc.  
Do of leggings with beadwork, quillwork embroidery, etc.  
Indian style garters of finger woven wool yarn, beaded straps etc.  
"Flat bags" in place of haversacks or cartridge boxes  
Belt pouches  
Belt or riflemen's knives with belt sheaths  
Trade tomahawks in place of issue belt axes  
Assorted trade goods trinkets for decoration  
Some use of war paint before battle

V. THE RANGER IN CAMP

Upon arriving at a camp site, the rangers would first establish a guard and then detail parties to set up shelters, gather wood and build cooking fires. The shelters would vary depending on circumstances, from the standard British issue tents to lean-tos made from old sail cloth to rude bark and brush shelters. In a safe and secure area, the fires would be of the usual kind. In most cases however, the ranger's fire would be built at the bottom of a small pit dug to at least a foot below ground level so as not to betray their presence with it's light. Often, conditions would allow no fire at all and rations would be eaten cold.

The daily rations allowed by the 18th century British forces followed a pattern of each man being issued 1 lb. of bread, 1 lb. of meat, ½ pt. of vegetables, ½pt. of rice, coffee, tea or spruce beer to drink. Rum was issued for special occasions. Normally the meat would have been salted beef, pork or fish. The vegetables would be dried peas or beans and the bread would be issued as flour for the men to bake themselves or as a kind of hardtack or ship's bread.

Given the isolation of their post and the detached nature of the Ranging Service, the rations of the rangers would be much more varied due to their contact with the indian nations who were basically an agricultural people. Fresh meat from livestock captured in their raids would also have a place in their diet. Sausage, and to a lesser extent, jerked or dried meat, would have formed a large part of the meat ration while in the field. Such foods had the advantage of keeping well on the march and could be eaten on the run and without needing to be cooked. The ranger would prefer cooked food whenever possible, of course.

The typical camp activities of the rangers while off duty would consist of cooking and eating their rations, the mending of clothes and equipment, cleaning their weapons and perhaps some friendly competition in the throwing of their belt axes and knives at targets. On duty they would stand guard and receive training and drill from their officers.

In the evenings, if safety allowed relaxation, they would enjoy their rum rations, smoke their pipes around the fire, perhaps spin yarns and reminisce about the times at home and sing the songs of the period.\*

\*See "18th Century Songs" by Ray Hauley.

APPENDIX "B"

BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Male Indian Dress and Appearance

By Thomas McEnteer

This guide is not an attempt to re-create the complete, precise appearance of specific Indian dress; subtle differences in the "finished" appearance among the dozens of tribes that were involved in the American Revolution require highly specialized study to reproduce. This guide is, rather, a general approach to a "typical" dress, that represents the "common denominators" among most of the tribes, especially those of the Algonquin and Iroquois families. The coming of the European explorers and settlers during the 17th century created great changes and influences upon the Eastern tribes; by the final third of the 18th century, these Indians were largely dependent upon the white man for the basic materials of their dress, having forsaken many of the more difficult crafts needed to make clothing from the hides and pelts of animals. As there were a few Indians who, because of firm habit, or because of poverty, continued using the old methods, descriptions of both types of clothing are included.

Basic Tribe Families  
(based on linguistic similarities)

Iroquois

Mohawk  
Oneida  
Onondaga  
Cayuga  
Seneca  
Tuscarora  
Wyandot  
Huron

Algonquin

Ojibwa (Chippewa)  
Ottawa  
Shawnee  
Delaware  
Potawatomi  
Sauk and Fox

-Personal Appearance It was common through all Indian nations that facial hair was never seen; all such hair was plucked out by the roots as soon as it appeared at puberty. -1

The hair at the top of the head, which was usually coarse, straight, and very dark, was worn as long as it would grow, and divided into braids. Warriors, however, shaved or singed the hair from their scalp, except for a circular area about an inch and a half in diameter at the top of the head. This knot of hair was partially braided, and braced with a wrapping of bark, or bright wool to make it upright and obvious, as a symbolic challenge to an enemy to grab it in the act of scalping.

The addition of eagle or wild turkey feathers, often decorated with red dye to the scalplock was a mark of proven courage, each feather symbolizing an enemy killed and scalped.

Supplementing the scalplock and its feathers, the warriors often wore a roach headdress, of a long narrow shape that passed from the top center of the forehead, over the head, with a hole for inserting a scalplock, to which it was fastened. The roach was usually constructed of animal hair such as moose hair, long porcupine quills, and deer hair; all brightly dyed, usually red. -2.

Another custom relating to personal appearance that seemed to be common among both Iroquois and Algonquin Indian nations was the mutilation of the ear. The outer rim of the ear was slit, but not entirely separated from the remaining part at the top and bottom; around this spongy tissue, they would twist and wrap silver or copper or brass wire, the weight of which, would gradually stretch the ear rim, giving the effect of a ring about the ear. -3

In addition, both ear lobes would be pierced to admit the wearing of loops of wire and pendants. The cartilage between the nostrils of the nose was also often pierced and loops of wire and pendants were placed there. -4


Insert--tattoos  
silver

### Headgear


Although the average warrior had no headgear in addition to what was described under "personal appearance", occasionally for ceremonial purposes a cap or turban (gus-to-weh by the Iroquois) was worn.


The "gustoweh" was made on a frame constructed of bands of basketry splints, one band fitted around the head just above the ears, and two others crossing at 90° angles over the top of the head. The whole was covered with red or blue broadcloth or a fancy piece of silk and bound around the rim with a beaded, quill-worked, or metal (silver, tin, copper, or brass) band. At the top, it was crowned by a cluster of soft feathers or plumes. A distinctive feature of most of the Iroquois tribes versions of the cap was a single, long eagle feather, mounted in a tube-like contrivance which enabled it to wobble and twist. -5


The Mohawk differed by using a row of three feathers attached in a similar manner.

Mohawk 

Oneida 

Onondaga 

Cayuga 

Seneca 

Tuscarora no high feather - long slim shorts

Additional decoration included the attachment of quantities of silver brooches to the cloth parts of the caps.

### Undergarments - (Breech-cloth)

The principle undergarment of all Indian tribes was the breechcloth, originally made of animal hide, but mainly made from wool after colonists arrived. The breechcloth was usually about a foot or so in width and about 5 or 6 feet long. It was passed between the legs and drawn up through a belt, with the ends hanging down in front and behind. -6

The ends were often decorated with bead-work edging or quill-work, or on occasion, silk ribbon. -7.

The wool used in Indian clothing construction was of 3 weights: blanket (heavy), broadcloth (fine) and stroud (a medium weight), a wool which usually had a white selvage, regardless of the main color. -8.

The most common colors for breechcloth wool were red and blue.

The belt was usually made from deer-skin and as wrapped twice around the waist and tied in front. -9

### Kilt

Among the Iroquois men, for ceremonial purposes, the breechcloth was replaced, or supplemented by a very primitive form of kilt, originally made from softly tanned skin, and decorated with quill-work; later it was made from wool and decorated with beads or ribbon. It was fastened around the waist by a belt and hung to the knees. -10

### Leggins (skin)

Like most Indian garments, the leggins were originally made of deer skin, which was fitted tightly around the leg, with a seam along the outer side, and extra flaps of the material left extending out. They were tied to the waistbelt with a leather thong. -11 Among the Algonquin they extended from the ankle almost to the hips, -12 while the Iroquois leggins came to mid-thigh and went down to the moccasins, where they had a small split (a few inches) at the front. -13 The Iroquois decorated theirs with porcupine quill embroidery at the front around the split while the Algonquins put their quill-work on the flaps.

(cloth)

During the 18th century woolen leggins became the most common, usually of red or blue, and commonly decorated with silk ribbon around the edges or white beadwork. The legging construction remained basically the same. -14

The leggins were usually held in place just below the knee by a garter, usually finger-woven of a hard-texture yarn and often decorated with quill-work or woven-in white beads. -15

### Upper Garments (shirts)

In pre-colonial days, during the summer the Indians wore nothing above the waist, and in winter wore animal skin robes. -16 Early in the days of colonial trading, Indians began to wear shirts, basically of the same white linen material and pattern as the colonists. -17 There is some evidence that printed cotton trade-cloth was also made into shirts. -18

(Coat)

Early in the period of colonial trade, a few Iroquois began to replace their animal skin robes with leather "hunting coats" made to the pattern and imitating the styles of the colonists. -19

(Blanket)

The most common cool-weather garment adopted by the Indians was the blanket which was sometimes worn gracefully draped over one or both shoulders and sometimes fashioned into a loose coat, with a hood portion for the head; the whole being held in place by a belt or waist-sash. Blankets were usually white, red, green, sky-blue, or indigo blue, and almost always had a stripe of contrasting color at each end. -20

### Footwear (Moccasins)

The moccasins of Eastern Indians was similar for most tribes; construction from a single piece of tanned hide with the folds and seams on top of the foot. There were sometimes slight variations between tribes in the arrangement of the seams or the shape of the flaps.

Moccasins of the Algonquin and their tribes were often referred to as "pucker-toes" because of the wrinkled appearance of the front seam. The side flaps of the Iroquois tribes were usually more rectangular in shape than those of the Algonquin tribes which were pointed at their front ends. Men's moccasins had two separate flaps, while in women's moccasins, the back seam was sewed all the way up, joining the two flaps.

Moccasins were often extensively decorated with embroidery of moose hair, porcupine quill-work, white bead-work, silk ribbon, or various combinations. The decorations almost always covered the seams and flaps. -21

Occasionally, for winter wear, moccasins were made from skin with the hair left on. -22

### The Sash

The garment, of which the typical Indian was perhaps most proud, was his woven sash. Probably introduced by the French traders during the 17th C. the sash was worn by almost every male of the Eastern Indians. Although a few of the late ones were loom, or needle woven, the vast majority, whether of Indian's or white men's construction were completely hand made by a process called finger-weaving.

The basic material of the sash was a hard-textured, tightly spun woolen yarn. When this yarn was unobtainable, the Indians often unraveled blankets, twisting the threads together to produce their own yarn. The most popular colors were deep red, dark blue, sage green, gold, brown and some white.

By simple adjustments in the process of weaving, the weavers were able to mingle the various colors to produce patterns, the most common patterns being arrows, V's, W's, chevrons, and diamonds. Tightly interwoven with the wool, white pony beads were often used to outline and accent the patterns. -23

### The Pouches

None of the Indian costume had any pockets or provision for carrying anything, so from the very earliest times, it was necessary for the Indians to have some sort of pouch to carry his small essentials. The earliest known pouches were constructed of animal hides, such as deerskin, and hung at the Indians right side, suspended by a netted woven strap of vegetal fiber, such as soft inner tree bark, worn over the left shoulder. The fibers usually were decorated with moose hair or porcupine quills. Other early specimens had straps made from a double strap of deerskin, that was embroidered with quill-work. The pouches themselves were utilitarian, usually square, with a protective flap at the top. They averaged about 8 to 10 inches in width.

These early pouches were constructed of soft deerskin that was either dyed, or heavily smoked to a very dark brown, or black color, which offered fine contrast to the porcupine quill-work embroidery which was almost always done. Porcupine quills dyed well and were commonly used in colors such as bright red, blue, yellow, green, black and white. -25

During the second half of the 18th Century, another type of pouch became popular, the woven bag, in which various fibers, but mainly woolen yarn, were woven into a bag shape. By using various colors of yarn, and by varying the pattern of the weave, interesting designs could be woven right into the sides of the pouch. In

addition, white pony beads were often woven into the pattern, offering a bright contrast to the deep reds, greens, blues and gold of the yarns. These too, assumed a basically square or rectangular shape, 8 to 10 inches in width, sometimes topped with a flap; sometimes closed with a form of drawstring. When a flap was used, it was often decorated with a bright silk ribbon and/or quill-work embroidery. Woven pouches, in general, were more commonly found among the Algonquin tribes, than among the Iroquois. -26

Another type of bag was made for ceremonial purposes and is sometimes referred to as the "medicine bag." It usually consisted of an entire animal skin, with all fur left on, usually a beaver, mink, otter, or weasel. These pouches were usually highly decorated with quill-work or bead work. -27

Some pouches for carrying tobacco, or shot, were also common, but were not suspended from a strap; they were usually constructed in a long shape so that they could be folded and draped over the waist belt. Their materials of construction and decoration were similar to the other types of pouches discussed above. -28

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Male Indian Dress and Appearance

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Marius Barbeau, Assomption Sash, Ottawa National Museum of Canada, 1972, pp 34-37.
16. Wissler, op. cit. p 16-17.
17. Carver, op. cit. p. 144.
18. "Bo'jou Neejee!", op. cit. p 123.  
Wissler, op. cit. p 31.
19. Lyford, Iroquois Crafts, op. cit. pp 25-26  
Wissler, loc. cit.
20. Carver, loc. cit.  
Lyford, Ojibwa Crafts, op. cit. pp 111-112.
21. Art of the Great Lakes Indians, op. cit. pp 9 & 15.  
"Bo'jou Neejee!", op. cit. pp 107 & 163.  
Lyford, Iroquois Crafts, op. cit. pp 28-29.  
Lyford, Ojibwa Crafts, op. cit. pp 104-105.  
Wissler, op. cit. p 25.  
George M. White, Craft Manual of North American Indian Footwear, Ronan, Montana, 1969.  
Mohawk pattern pp 20-21  
Gen. Iroquois pattern p 30  
Algonquin pattern pp 24-25
22. Carver, op. cit. p 146.
23. Barbeau, op. cit. pp 1-51.  
"Bo'jou Neejee!", op. cit. pp 72,122,130,142,151,157 & 168.  
Lyford, Iroquois Crafts, op. cit. pp 31-32.  
Lyford, Ojibwa Crafts, op. cit. pp 65-76.  
Frank Gouldsmith, The Iroquois, Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1945, p 52.
24. Art of the Great Lakes Indians, op. cit. p xxiv.
25. Ibid. pp 1,2,3, & 8.  
"Bo'jou Neejee!", op. cit. pp 96,97,101,108 & 110.  
Lyford, Iroquois Crafts, op. cit. p 30.  
Wm. C. Orchard, Porcupine Quill Decoration Among the Indians Of North America, New York: Museum of the American Indian, 1916, (reprint 1971) p 60.
26. Art of the Great Lakes Indian op. cit. pp XXIV-XXV.  
"Bo'jou Neejee!", op. cit. pp 150 & 167.  
Lyford, Ojibwa Crafts, op. cit. pp 77-87.

27. "Bo'jou Neejee!", op. cit. pp 61 & 97.  
Lyford, Iroquois Crafts, op. cit. p 30.  
Lyford, Ojibwa Crafts, op. cit. p 30.
28. "Bo'jou Neejee!", op. cit. pp 62,71 & 93.  
Lyford, Ojibwa Crafts, op. cit. p 102 & 104.



PLATE I

Butler's Rangers belt plate, brass, ca. 1778-1784.  
(Parcs Canada)

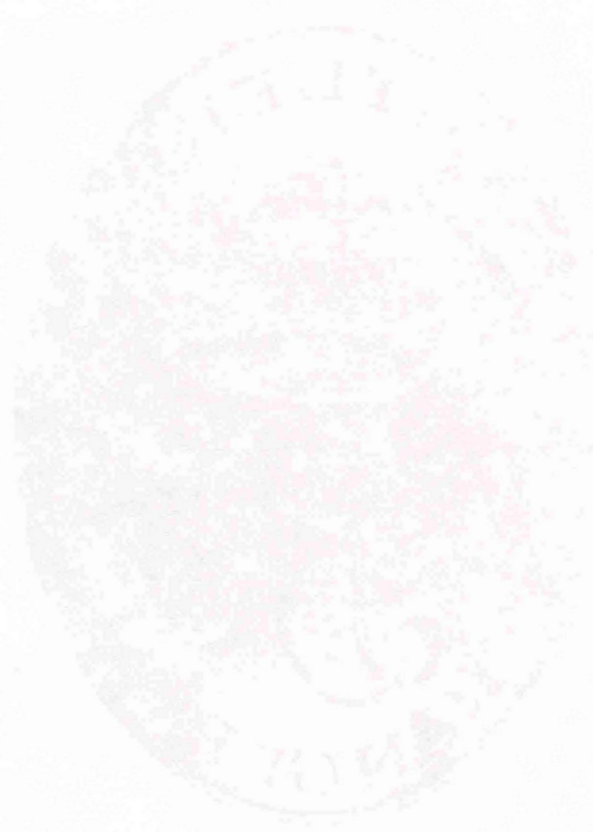


PLATE II

Brass cartridge box plate of Butler's Rangers ca. 1778-1784.  
(Chateau de Ramezay Museum)





PLATE II

Private in garrison uniform. 1778-1783  
Christen de Bismarck (1778-1783)



PLATE III  
Private in garrison uniform.

David R. Hooper  
1981 ©



Private in campaign uniform.

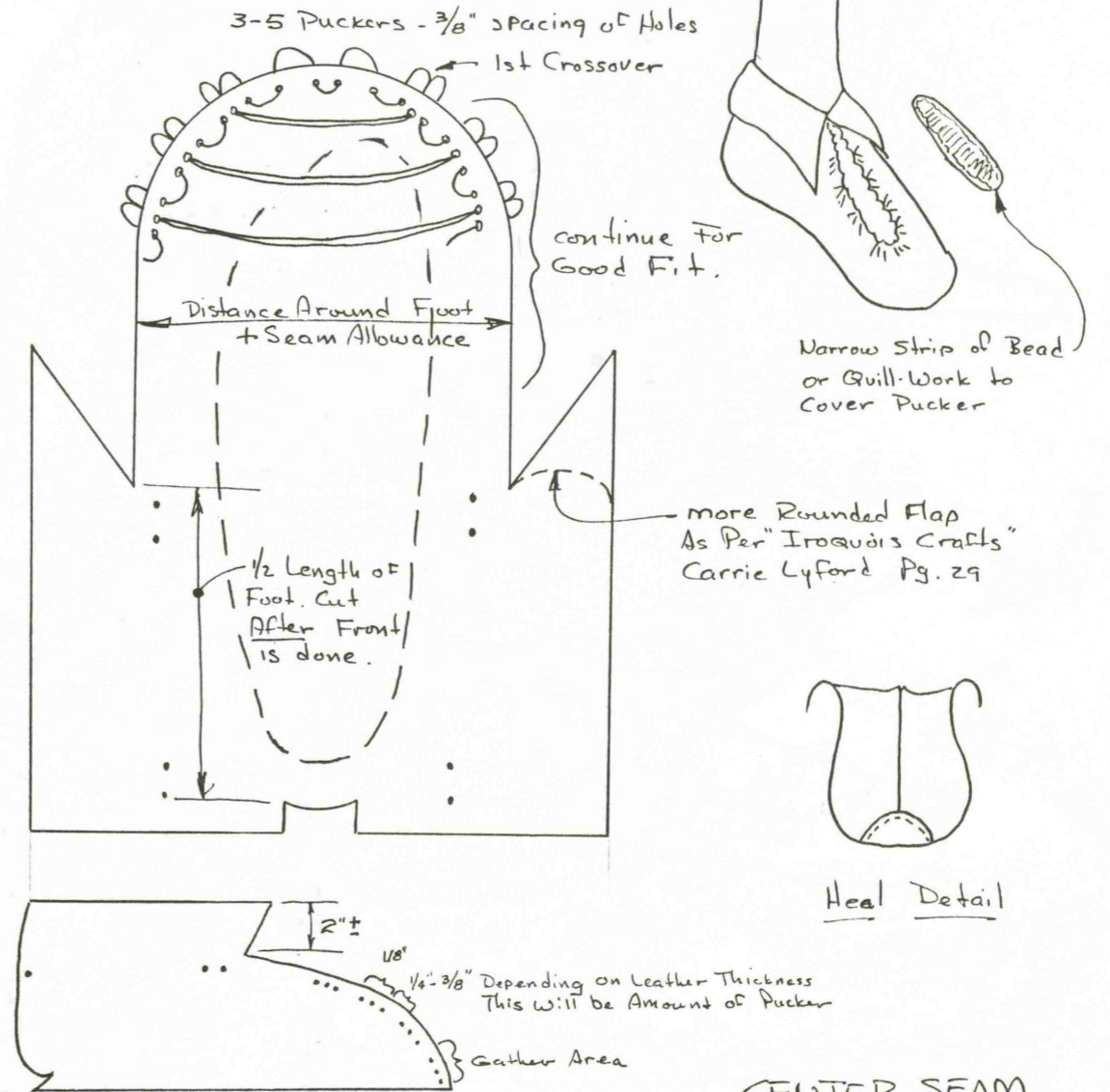


PLATE IV  
Private in campaign uniform.

1987 ©  
David R. Harlan

MoccasIN CONSTRUCTION

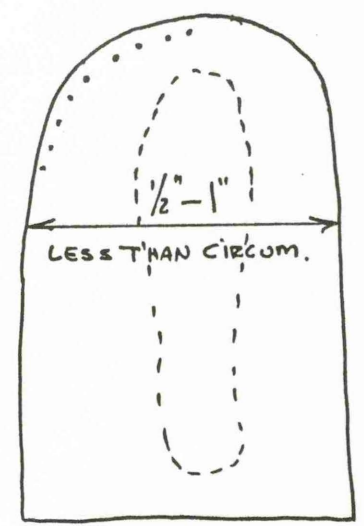
Note: Puckering of Center Seam:  
Both Sides The Same For Sewing.  
Both Threads Cross in Center Hole  
of Each 3 hole Group.  
(Like Saddle Stitch)



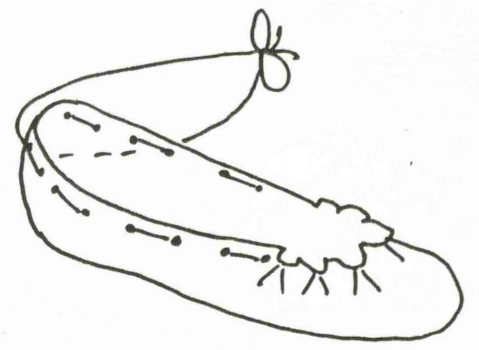
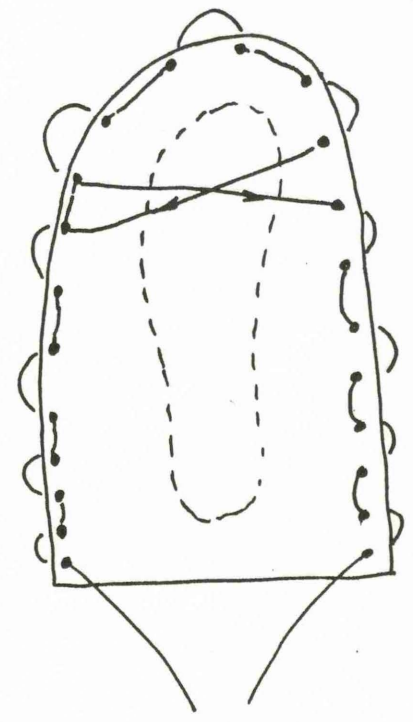
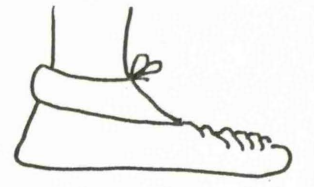
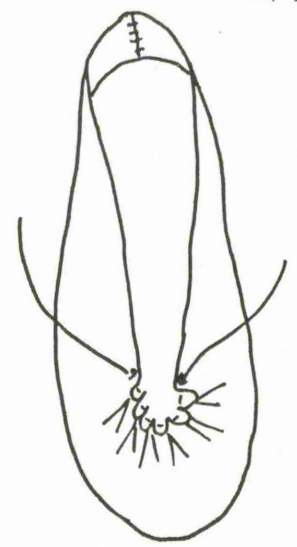
- ①. Sew Inside out
- ②. Miter Corner of Each Pucker Fold
- ③. Turn Inside out - Wet pound Seam Lightly to Flatten.

CENTER SEAM  
PUCKER TOE

Moccasin Construction  
(CONT.)



Simple Pucker-Toe  
Variations



Military Uniforms In America  
The Era of the American Revolution  
The Company of Military Historians  
P. 53; P. 73

ERV TSCHANZ  
Aug. 79