

ROGERS' RANGERS

This text is from a book about New Hampshire:

The British had been ineffective as fighters in North America during the French and Indian War because they did not understand the ways of frontier fighting, nor would they change their tactics. Seeing the need for soldiers who could fight in the American wilderness, Robert Rogers of New Hampshire offered to raise a company of Rangers, who would fight in the frontier style.

Rogers was an imposing man, standing six feet tall. He wore a black hat with a flat front and a very strange plume (or feather). Noticeable, too, was his huge nose.

By 1758 he had organized five companies of Rangers. The men wore long brown leggings over buckskin breeches. They carried leather pouches, sixty pounds of shot, powder horns, had tomahawks at their hips, and carried muskets.

Rules for the Rangers were fairly simple. When scouting the forest, they went in single file. If they met a larger force of the enemy, the whole body of Rangers was to disperse, and everyone would take a different route to a place of rendezvous.

Rogers taught the soldiers to move through the woods and fight like Native Americans.

Source: This text was edited from Cecilia Zerwick, *The Story of New Hampshire*, New Hampshire Historical Society, n.p.

Notice & Wonder

1. Look up in a dictionary any words you do not recognize.
2. Using clues from the text, how would you describe fighting "frontier style" as Rogers' Rangers did?
3. Draw a picture of what you think a Rogers' Ranger would have looked like with all of his gear?



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