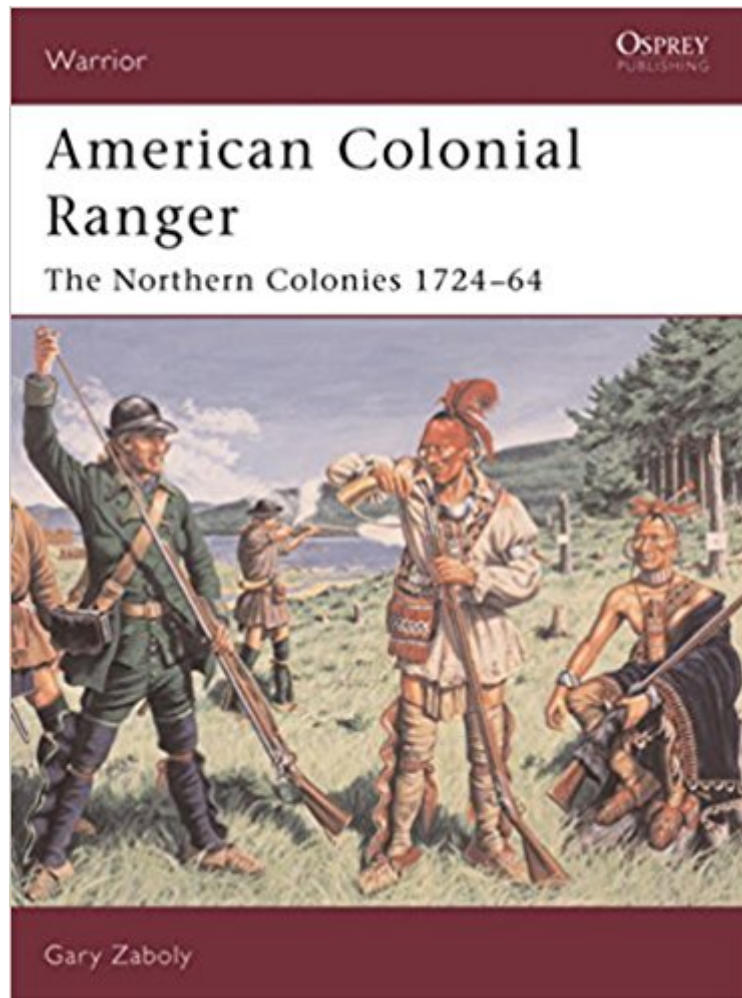




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American Colonial Ranger: The Northern Colonies, 1724-64 (Warrior)



Synopsis

This title examines the development of the Colonial Rangers in this period, and shows how they were taught to survive in the woods, to fight hand-to-hand, to scalp a fallen foe, and to fight across all types of terrain and in all weather conditions. Based on previously unpublished source material, it paints a vivid picture of the life, appearance and experiences of an American colonial ranger in the northern colonies. Covering the battle at Lovewell's Pond in 1725, a watershed event in New England's frontier history, through to King George's War (1740-1748), the rangers were prepared for the final imperial contest for control of North America, the French-Indian War (1754-1763).

Book Information

Series: Warrior (Book 85)

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Insights into the real lives of history's fighting men, packed with full colour illustrations, highly detailed cutaways, exploded artwork of weaponry and armour, and action-packed battle scenes.

Gary Stephen Zaboly is a highly regarded expert on the 18th-century Rangers. Gary has written many articles for military magazines, and has illustrated and co-written several books, including 'Blood of Noble Men' and 'Roger's St Francis Raid.' His artwork appears in permanent exhibitions at The Alamo, Texas, and at the Lake George Historical Association.

Once upon a time, the frontier in North America ran right through what is now upstate New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and the Massachusetts province of Maine. English settlers and regulars

battled the French and Indians in a series of conflicts, some local, some part of larger European wars. Out of dire necessity, the Northern Colonies created ranger units, tough and experienced woodsmen able to fight on equal terms in any weather. This is their story."American Colonial Ranger" is an outstanding Osprey Warrior Series book authored by Gary Zaboly. It focuses on ranger units generated in the period 1724-64, which takes in the Seven Years War/French and Indian War which decided the fate of the English Northern Colonies. In a concise but powerful narrative, the author portrays selected ranger units, including their training, tactics, and campaigns. There is much emphasis on the famed Rogers' Rangers, but other units are mentioned, many of whose survivors went on to play a role in the American Revolution. This is not a story for the faint of heart; the fighting in the wilderness was savage and often without quarter. The text is much enhanced by a nice collection of photographs, maps, and illustrations, including a terrific set of color plates describing uniforms (such as they were) and equipment. Highly recommended as a introduction to the topic. This volume is nicely complemented by another Osprey Warrior Series entry, "British Light Infantryman of the Seven Years War."

There has been occasional grumbling from Osprey series authors about the limits of the format in the various Osprey series (Men-at-Arms, Warrior, etc.). Within the 64 page limit for the Warrior series this is a fine reference work. However, it is not an exhaustive study of all Ranger units operating in the time period and geographic region indicated. Mr. Zaboly is clearly an expert in the Ranger units associated with Robert Rogers. But there is very little mention of other Ranger units that existed in the same place and time. The activities of Roger's units are illustrative of most aspects of Ranger operations though. Roger's Rangers exploits are generally acknowledged to represent the pinnacle of Ranger achievements at the time. There are stirring tales of struggle in accomplishing epic raids deep into enemy territory here. There is also no shying away from Ranger participation in the grislier aspects of frontier warfare. Overall, Mr. Zaboly's historical text is informative, substantive and fully informed by many first-hand source documents. What sets this study apart from other Osprey Warrior series titles though are the illustrations. Mr. Zaboly is an accomplished artist who has illustrated his own work. The numerous drawings by the author that populate this book are vivid illustrations of the way Rangers dressed, encamped, fought and survived in the Eastern wilderness. These outstanding drawings make the modest price of this publication a real bargain. As long as the reader is not dismayed by a tight focus on Roger's Ranger units, this title will not disappoint.

My 6th level grandfather fought with Roger's Rangers and lost his life returning from the scout at St Francois. After reading some detailed book from Roger's diaries, I have a good understanding of what primary life was like in those dense wooded mountain regions of NY, and NH. None of those books contained some of the detailed pictures that are found in this book. Since I am a visual person, perusing this book was like adding color to the words found in the associated writings.

At sixty four pages this is a book that would have been a lot better if it were three or four times longer. Osprey specializes in short, concise books about very specific subjects, I guess that I was hoping for more. What they do have is good, there just isn't enough of it. Buy it, you'll be satisfied...just not filled.

A special "breed" of warrior was needed to fight in the forested regions of North America and to utilize rather unconventional techniques of warfare. The Ranger troops were the answer to this need.

Well done, if it's written by Zaboly, it's gospel. He's forgotten more about the Rangers than most "historians" will ever learn. I go through it often as a companion with his "Annotated and Illustrated Journals of Major Robert Rogers."

I love old history, well written and good pictures, its great

Military history buffs interested in the British and French wars in eighteenth century North America will enjoy this book.

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