

**AN OUTSTANDING CHATEAUGUAY CLASPED MILITARY GENERAL SERVICE
1793 TO A FRENCH CANADIAN OFFICER WHO SAW A GREAT DEAL OF
ACTION DURING THE WAR OF 1812 AND LEFT A RARE ACCOUNT OF HIS
SERVICE**



**MILITARY GENERAL SERVICE 1793, CLASP CHATEAUGUAY 'P. ROTTOT, LIEUT.
CANADN. MILITIA'**

Pierre Rottot, Junior, was appointed Ensign in the Corps of Canadian Voyageurs on 24 October 1812, the day after his father; Captain Pierre Rottot, Canadian Voyageurs was killed in the action at Saint-Régis. This was one of the earliest actions of the war, indeed Captain Rottot, along with a sergeant were the first Lower Canada fatalities of the war. The Canadian Archives holds a copy of a memorial of service written by Rottot in 1847. This memorial goes into great detail regarding his service (copy included with research). Regarding his service with the Canadian Voyageurs, Rottott would state:

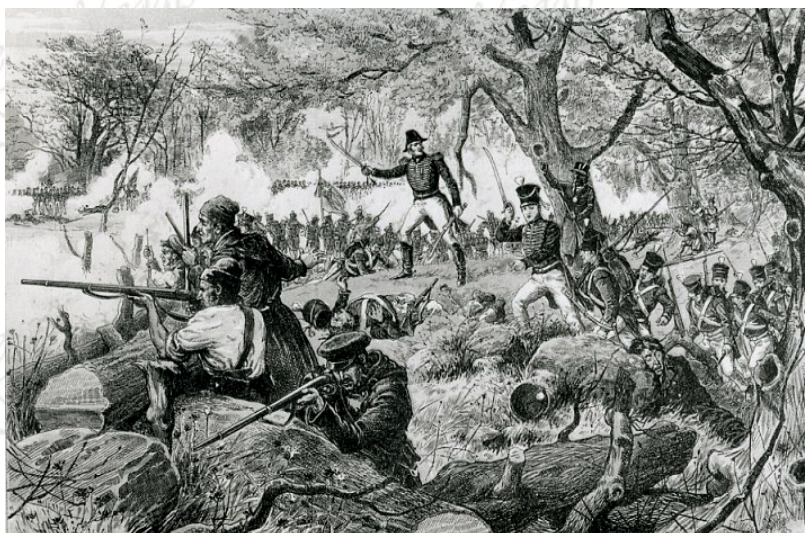
"..That memorialist did duty on the lakes, on board gunboats to protect boats loaded with provisions fort the supply of the army of Upper Canada. When stationed at Coteau du Lac, memorialist was ordered to accompany Lieutenant Panet with some men, to cross over to Prisoners Island to inspect a battery then erecting by some men of the militia. On returning the boat was driven into the rapids and lost – Lieutenant Panet and two men were drowned. Memorialist, from great exertion, with much difficulty, reached the shore and was the only saved."

**SERVICE WITH THE 5th 'DEVIL'S OWN' BATTALION, SELECT EMBODIED
MILITIA**

On 25 March 1813, Rottot transferred to the 5th Battalion, Select Embodied Militia, a unit known as 'Devil's Own battalion'. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 25 September 1813, took part in the battle of Chateauguay the following month. However this battle is not mentioned in his memorial. The company he belonged to was not involved in the fire fight itself; very few were but oddly he does mention the Battle of Chrystler's Farm;

"That memorialist, with the company to which he belonged, with a party of the 103rd Regiment commanded by Hon'ble Captain Gardiner, proceeded and engaged the enemy in the arduous contest famed in Canadian history – at Chryslers Farm in Upper Canada."

The 5th Militia aren't noted as being at Chrysler's or don't seem to have been, even a small detachment. However during the period 25th Oct – 24th Nov 1813, at included dates for both battles, Captain Guvillers company (Rottot's) is just noted as 'On Command at McDonalds Lake St Francis'. As far as I can see, McDonalds is pretty much where the battle of Chryslers was and a fair distance from Chateauguay but again from when to when were they there! With no mention of Captain Gardiner with a party (suggesting small number) of the 103rd at Chryslers either, this is another issue. The 103rd were at Lundy's Lane but I'm sure this can be discounted. This clearly needs further research but could of course be a memory error by Rottot; mixing up these two battles but his memory in everything else seems good, with dates tying in. He's also quite specific about Captain Gardiner, 103rd and the battle being in Upper Canada...



During the last two weeks of February 1814, Rottot's company formed part of a force under Colonel Scott of the 103rd Foot that took part in the Salmon River expedition, which was a series of British raids on American depots in the New York area. The raids, carried in winter conditions were a great success with over 100 sleigh loads of provisions captured.

A LIGHT INFANTRY OFFICER; SERVICE WITH THE CANADIAN CHASSEURS

On 11 April 1814, the 5th Battalion was reformed as a Light Infantry Corps and renamed the Canadian Chasseurs. Six companies strong, they were brigaded with the Canadian Voltigeurs, under the overall Command of the famed Lt-Coloney de Salaberry. As light Infantry, the companies of the Chasseurs were more often than not posted at different locations and frequently even the companies split. Indeed in his memoir, Rottot mentions being posted at:

"..at Chambly, L'Acadie, St Philippe, La Colle and Odeltown. At the latter named place, memorialist belonged to the advanced guard commanded by Captain Mailloux, who was shot at the commencement of the action when command of that honourable post consequently devolved on the memorialist – the result is known.."

The latter refers to Captain Mailloux of the Frontier Light Infantry, who was a well known commander of a small force of Indian's at Odeltown and had been a thorn in the side of the American's, making raids etc. On August 10th 1814, mailloux's force was attacked, mailloux was wounded and captured (DOW'S), so it must be this action Rottot is talking about. Certainly saying he belonged to the advanced guard suggests he had few men with him, perhaps part of a piquet or such.

As a whole battalion again, in September 1814 the Chasseurs took a prominent part at the battle of Plattsburg; acting as the vanguard of the army during the advance and the rearguard during the retreat:

"..The corps of Canadian Chasseurs was with Major General Brisbane's brigade which also included the Canadian Voltigeurs, the 13th and the 103rd regiments. All marched along Lake Champlain until they came to American abbatis three or four miles from the town, for the Canadians, many of whom had been loggers. The muskets were put aside in favour of axes and the obstacles soon removed. The Chasseurs were thus the first unit to come in sight of Plattsburgh. But the next six days were spent in frustration waiting for orders, while entrenching within American artillery range. One of the companies was involved in a sharp action with American "tirailleurs" on the banks of the Saranac river losing 13 killed and wounded but the Americans could not sustain the charge of the Canadians and fled into the woods. The British attempt turned into a fiasco, proving General Prevost an Officer with more administrative than battlefield talents. The Canadian Chasseurs formed part of the rear guard and was the last corps to leave the Plattsburg .."

At the time of the battle of Plattsburg, Rottot was senior Lieutenant in Captain Berezy's 6th Company and this was the Company that were in the action with the American "tirailleurs". Lieutenant Etienne Tache of the same company left an excellent account of his service (copy included with research) and tells the following:

"..The day of the assault, the signal of which was to be attack of our fleet, Captain Berezy's company was at the head of skirmishes on our side of the Saranac shore, and the American skirmishers we encountered, while manoeuvring in the opposite direction. This was followed by a sharp fire, during which our of an effective of 70, had thirteen men of put out of action in less than fifteen minutes. But then Captain Berezy, having directed me to inform the Colonel of what was happening, the latter ordering an "to the left - quickly" to the rest of the battalion, the Voltigeurs; station on our right, doing the same, This timely reinforcement was driven into the interior of the wood which was opposed to us. I will not undertake here to blame, justify or explain all that has happened in the course of the unfortunate the Plattsburg expedition. I want to limit myself in this letter to make the role of the Voltigeurs and the Canadian Chasseurs on this occasion. The Chasseurs, who first arrived in front of Plattsburg, were also the last to leave this place: they had formed the Vanguard in marching against the enemy..."

For his services during the 1812 War, Lieutenant Rottot received the Prince Regent's land grant. He would later serve as a Captain in the 10th Montreal battalion, a position he still held when writing his memorial of service in 1847.

**MEMORIAL OF SERVICES OF CAPTAIN PIERRE ROTTOT IN REGARDS TO
SEEKING HALF PAY AS LIEUTENANT OF THE CANADIAN CHASSEURS
DATED AUGUST 1847**

Note; Rottot's account of his service isn't all in chronological order.

"The memorial of Pierre Rottot of the city of Montreal in the province of Canada, a Captain in the tenth battalion of the regiment of Monreal militia.

Must humbly represents:

That during the last war with Great Britain and the United States of America in 1812, 1813 & 1814 memorialist with other members of his family in conformity with the act of the legislature of the then province of Lower Canada, helped in the 43rd year of the reign of

King George the 3rd. ***** in the capacity of officers responding to the call of the constituted authorities, obeyed the orders of their superiors, in march to the frontier of the Province when invaded, or threatened with invasion or to the assistance of the Province of Upper Canada, then more exposed than the former, and finally into the enemy's own territory - in different places, on every occasion when the services were called for.

The memorialist will here refer more particularly to his fathers and his own personal services, during the memorable times of the unequal and arduous struggle above referred to.

That memorialist's father, Pierre Rottot, received his Commission as Ensign in the Corps – Voyageurs. On receiving his sword from the North West Company's House in the city of Montreal – memo: then young and ardent for the independent struggle – heard his dearly beloved parent emphatically declared “ this sword shall never be surrendered by me except with my life”. How well the memorialist's venerated sire fulfilled this declaration is shewn in his having led on a small band to the contest at St Regis on the Province line, on 23rd October 1812, and on refusing to surrender, received fifteen shots in his body and thus nobly fell in the defence of King and Country.



CANADIAN VOYAGEURS CIRCA 1813

That memorialist, the day following the death of his father – namely 24th October 1812, received his commission as Ensign, in the Corps of Voyageurs, and was subsequently removed to the 5th battalion, Canadian Chasseurs, commanded by Colonel Murray.

That memorialist did duty on the lakes, on board gunboats to protect boats loaded with provisions for the supply of the army of Upper Canada. When stationed at Coteau du Lac, memorialist was ordered to accompany Lieutenant Panet with some men, to cross over to Prisoners Island to inspect a battery then erecting by some men of the militia. On returning the boat was driven into the rapids and lost – Lieutenant Panet and two men were drowned. Memorialist, from great exertion, with much difficulty, reached the shore and was the only saved.

That memorialist, with the company to which he belonged, with a party of the 103rd Regiment commanded by Hon'ble Captain Gardiner, proceeded and engaged the enemy in the arduous contest famed in Canadian history – at Chryslers Farm in Upper Canada. That memorialist with the said company, in compliance with the order from Colonel Scott, then in command of the 103rd Regiment, accompanied him on an expedition to Salmon River, Malone and Four Corners – all within enemy's own territory.

That memorialist was Commissioned as Lieutenant on 25th September 1813, the said 5th battalion Canadian Chasseurs, under the command of Hon Colonel De Corcey – served under that distinguished officer during the remainder of the war – at Chambly, L'Acadie, St Philippe, La Colle and Odeltown. At the latter named place, memorialist belonged to the

advanced guard commanded by Captain Mailloux, who was shot at the commencement of the action when command of that honourable post consequently devolved on the memorialist – the result is known.

That memorialist was stationed with his company at Champlain – Chasie and Plattsburg – in the enemy's Country, and was present at the battle designated and known by the latter named place under the command of Sir George Provost – the then Governor of Canada. At this place, the British were exposed more or less to fire of the enemy for a period of six days. That memorialist subsequently served on the borders of the lines until his battalion was disbanded – peace having been proclaimed between the two contending powers.

*That the services in which memorialist and his lamented father assisted, powerfully contributed in repelling the enemy in several attempts of invasion and which services were duly acknowledged in the General Orders of September 11th and 1st December 1814. That whereas several of the militia Officers who served in these memorable times in the Canadian Fencibles and Voltigeurs, received half pay for their services, three now in the City of Montreal, to wit Benjamin Delisle, Jaques Viger and ** Duzien, and without speaking despairingly, memorialist ventures to affirm that neither of these gentlemen had the opportunity afforded them of performing the same amounts of perilous services as himself, and who has yet, has received no mark of gracious consideration for such services.*

Therefore, and taking into consideration the circumstances of the death of memorialist father as above stated, humbly prays that the Right Hon, the Lord Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, will recommend memorialist's case to the favourable consideration of Her most Gracious Majesty, that memorialist may receive the same consideration for his services as the gentlemen just named – namely; half pay as Lieutenant and as the truth of all and every assertion made by memorialist can be borne out by records in the office of the Adjutant General of Militia of this Province.

Memorialist leaves the justice of his case in the hands of the Right Hon, the Lord Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in the humble hope that his memorialist's services and prayer may be favourably entertained and memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

*(signed) Pierre Rottot
Late Lieutenant 5th Batt Canadian Chasseurs,
at present Captain 10th Batt. Montreal*

Dated 11th August 1847"



A quite superb medal to a French Canadian Officer who saw a great deal of service with three well known unit. This made greatly enhanced by having a rare detailed memorial of service, something rarely to be found when researching Canadian Officers. However the as can be seen from the memorial, there is still a great deal of scope for further detailed research.

Condition GVF. Sold with a large amount of research on CD, including muster rolls for his three units, Officer lists, a copy of his memoir of service, both original and transcribed, Etienne Tache's memoir and other research.