

A Dangerous Service...

Memoirs of a Black Watch Officer in the French and Indian War –
John Grant, 1741–1828

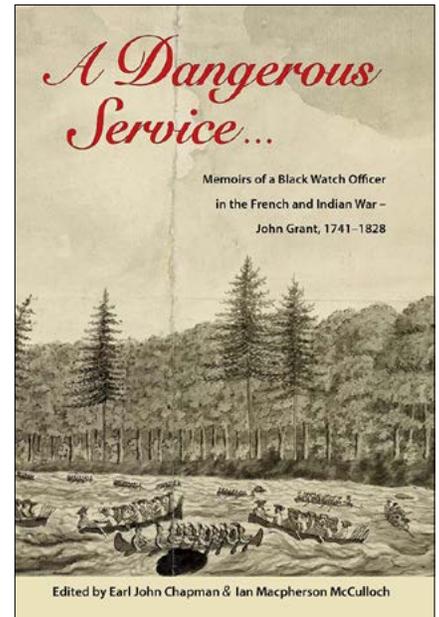
Edited by Earl John Chapman & Ian Macpherson McCulloch
Foreword by Stephen Brumwell, author of *Redcoats*

John Grant's eyewitness accounts of military life during the French and Indian War provide fascinating and invaluable insights into the period. We follow the young Scottish officer to the Caribbean, where he soldiered in the disease-ridden cane fields and swamps of Martinique and Guadeloupe, and later at the siege of Havana, and to North America, where he served at Staten Island, New York and on the Hudson River route to Ticonderoga and points north. He worked on building forts at Oswego and Crown Point and was part of John Bradstreet's famous "Battoe Service" making the movement of armies and supplies through the wilderness possible. With General Jeffery Amherst's force, he survived shooting the treacherous rapids of the St. Lawrence River to capture Montreal in 1760, completing the British conquest of New France.

Not only does Grant describe the physical conditions of the fighting and the strange environments encountered, but we learn first-hand of the Highland soldier's emotions before and after combat, his will to fight, and, most of all, his persever-

ance in adversity. The Black Watch's exploits in the Americas during Britain's "Great War for Empire" were a critical factor in changing the image of Highlanders in British society from Jacobite rebels to Imperial heroes. Here in Grant's memoirs we find a veteran of Britain's first "American Army" whose career straddled that remarkable transformation. Proud of his family, countrymen and regiment, John Grant pursued a shining career while on "a dangerous service" as a young Black Watch officer that marked him for the rest of his life.

***A Dangerous Service...* is published in collaboration with the Lake Saint Louis Historical Society and the 78th Fraser Highlanders**



"Here is something fresh and original – a rare, authentic 'voice' of a soldier from the mid-eighteenth century. It offers unique personal insights reflecting the reality of campaign life and combat, both often recalled with a certain self-deprecating humour. Starting with his earliest, fragmented memories of a childhood disrupted by the Jacobite rebellion of the '45, Grant recounts his service as a subaltern in the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd Foot, the famous Royal Highland Regiment or 'Black Watch,' from his first taste of action at Guadeloupe in 1759 to the siege of Havana in 1762." **Dr. Stephen Brumwell, award-winning historian and author of *George Washington: Gentleman Warrior and Redcoats*.**

"Students of the French and Indian War will find much of interest in Lieutenant Grant's previously unpublished account of his service with the Black Watch in the West Indian and North American theatres; and, by turns, will be fascinated, enlightened and finally charmed by Chapman and McCulloch's thoroughly researched biography of the officer-memoirist." **Dr. John A. Houlding, author of *Fit for Service: The Training of the British Army 1715-1795*.**

"What a remarkable and complicated book! Fully attentive to multi-generational Scottish clan connections, the editors unravel John Grant's service in two wars in North America ... and his fraught service in the Caribbean." **Nicholas Westbrook, Director Emeritus, Fort Ticonderoga.**

Earl John Chapman, a native of Montreal, is a specialist in the Seven Years' War in North America and the early years of Canada's volunteer militia force. He is a regular contributor to *Canada's Red Hackle*, the publication of Canada's Black Watch. In 2012 he authored *Canada's Black Watch 1862-2012: Legacies of Gallantry & Service*. He is also historian of the 78th Fraser Highlanders, a ceremonial regiment raised in 1965 by Montreal's David M. Stewart Museum to perpetuate the history of the old 78th Regiment of Foot which played an important role in the early years of Canada's history. He has written numerous articles and several books, the most recent being *A Bard of Wolfe's Army: James Thompson, Gentleman Volunteer, 1733-1830*, co-edited with Ian M. McCulloch. In 2008 he received the Gordon Atkinson Memorial Prize in Highland Military History, awarded annually by the Quebec Thistle Council.

Ian Macpherson McCulloch, a native of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is the former commanding officer of Canada's Black Watch (1993-96) and retired from the Canadian Forces in 2014, his last posting in uniform being as Director of the National Security Studies Centre at Toronto. As a military historian specializing in the Seven Years' War in North America, he has authored numerous articles and written several books, including *Sons of the Mountains: A History of the Highland Regiments in North America, 1756-1767* (two volumes); *Highlander in the French-Indian War, 1756-1767* for Osprey; and his most recent book for Robin Brass Studio, *A Bard of Wolfe's Army: James Thompson, Gentleman Volunteer, 1733-1830*. He won the Gordon Atkinson Memorial Prize in Highland Military History in 2009.

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