



Detail of "Philadelphia and neighborhood" 1778, by William Faden. (The encampment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt is depicted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> red and blue blocks from the left.)

Picture Source: *William Faden's Catalogue of a curious and valuable collection of original maps and plans*, Library of Congress, Geography and Map. Div.

## British Occupation of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Jan. 1 – June 17, 1778

### American Account of British Order of Battle Dated Approximated Jan. 7, 1778

#### BRITISH MAIN ARMY

First Brigade. Major General [Charles] Grey.....

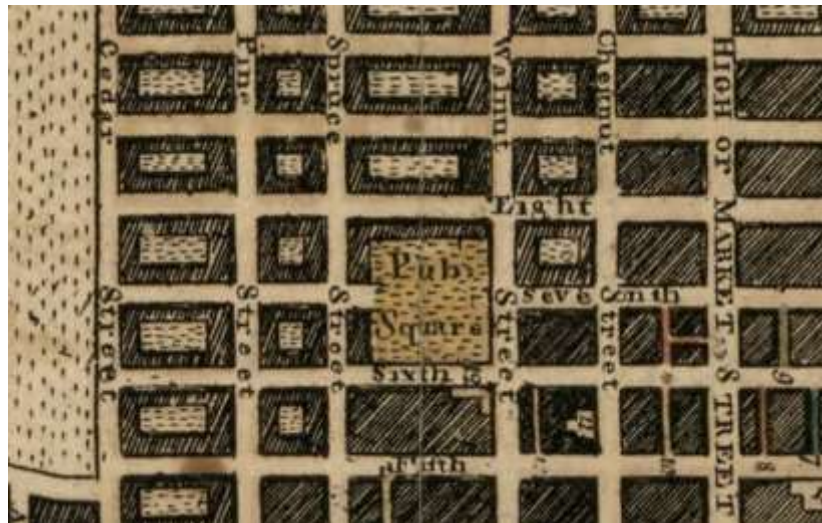
Second Brigade Honourable Major General [James] Grant...27<sup>th</sup> Regiment 280, Lt. Col. [John] Maxwell.

*Removed to the 15th, succeeded by Lt. Col. [William] Murray [former Maj., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.]...*

*N.B. The third and fourth brigades undividedly are composed of the following corps...*

42d { 1st Battalion, 2d Battalion } 700 Lt. Col. [Thomas] Stirling...

Source: *New-Jersey Gazette*, Jan. 7, 1778.



Detail showing corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Spruce from "A plan of the city of Philadelphia," 1777, by John Norman

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### Advertisement for Lost Property of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Officer, Philadelphia, 1778

A MAHOGANY TABLE was left by an officer of the British 42d, at the subscriber's house the corner of Fifth and Spruce streets. The owner, proving property, and paying charges, may have it again. ED. STROUD.

Source and Note: *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, July 16, 1778. This advertisement likely shows the location of the quarters for an officer of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. during the occupation of Philadelphia. The "corner of Fifth and Spruce streets" is four blocks south of Independence National Historical Park.

**Excerpts of a Letter from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Rebel Gen. George Washington, Regarding His Refusal for Additional Quartermasters (Including Ens. and Quartermaster James Stirling, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) to Attend to British Prisoners, Philadelphia, Jan. 17, 1778**

Philadelphia 19 January 1778

Sir...

It was some surprise to me yesterday to be informed that you would permit only one Quartermaster to pass with the clothing for the British prisoners. Although one person for a similar purpose on your part is undoubtedly sufficient (all prisoners I have in this province being within the town of Philadelphia) yet the necessity of my employing a greater number is obvious from the divided state of our unfortunate Men in your possession. And as it cannot be alleged that the Quartermasters I lately ordered on that service encroached upon the spirit of the agreement subsisting between us, I must hope you will not on any future occasions refuse a pass for an adequate number of my Officers, assuring you that no unworthy advantages shall be taken in consequence of your compliance.

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. XV, *Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 31-32 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO5/95, f. 145.

**Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald's Account of the Light Infantry's Skirmish with Rebel Party, Germantown, Pennsylvania, Jan. 26, 1778**

...partisan warfare activities were resumed on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January to protect country people going to market. [Lt.] Colonel [Robert] Abercromby was sent out toward Germantown with both battalions of English light infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.] and two companies of light dragoons in order to seek out and destroy an enemy party of fifteen hundred men which had taken a position behind Germantown. At the same time, Major [John Graves] Simcoe and the [Loyalist Queen's] Ranger Corps, with a corporal and twelve jägers, marched to Frankford to get transported the little forage left that the army had not consumed during the campaign, because we got wind the enemy wanted to use it.

During the night Colonel Abercromby took his route by way of Vanderen's Mill, crossed Wissahickon Creek, proceeded up the Schuylkill [River] to Levering's Tavern, and there turned to the right through the woods towards Beggarstown in order to approach the enemy in the rear... But since we were surrounded by spies, the enemy had received information and retired, and the colonel overtook only the rear guard, of which he cut down a part and captured eight men, along with the adjutant of General Sinclair [incorrect name]. In the meantime, the purpose of the foraging was attained, for on this occasion a herd of cattle which grazed behind Frankford was taken from the enemy, whereby the army obtained a day's fresh meat at [Rebel Gen. George] Washington's expense.

Source: *Diary of the American War, A Hessian Journal, Captain Johann Ewald, Field Jäger Corps*, Trans. and Ed. Justin P. Tustin, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1979, pp. 117-118.

**Capt. Lt. John Peebles' Account of Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling's Inspection of 1<sup>st</sup> (Provisional) Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Philadelphia, Jan. 30, 1778**

Philad<sup>a</sup>. Jan<sup>ry</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup>. 1778 – fine mild weather & sunshine today [Lt.] Col<sup>l</sup> [Thomas] Stirling inspected the 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. with respect to arms accoutrem<sup>ts</sup>. & necessities, – The arms in general not in good order & wanting some repairs, the accoutrements bad and some deficient. the necessities compleated to at least 4 good Shirts, two p<sup>r</sup>. Shoes & all the small articles – the new Coats have been on for some time but not alter'd – The Reg<sup>t</sup> to have white Breeches & blue long gaters, but they are not all made up. The new Bonnets are cock'd & on – The men wear Philibegs yet, made of their old Plaids – The Inspection began at one & continued till 4 less strict towards the end being dinner time

Necessary Rolls & Returns of arms given in by each Company accounting for deficiencies & the mens assignment for y<sup>r</sup>. [their] clearance to 24 Dec<sup>r</sup>

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry for Jan. 30, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 161.



Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton, by John Smart, 1777

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from National Institute of American History and Democracy

**Excerpt of Letter from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, to Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Appointing Him Commander-in-Chief, North America, Feb. 3, 1778**

Whitehall 3 Feby 1778

Sir Henry Clinton

Sir,

[Gen.] Sir William Howe having desired Leave to resign the Command of the Troops in North America, the King has been pleased to permit him to return to England, and I am to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure that you relieve him, and take upon Yourself the Command of the Army, with the Rank of General, by virtue of the Commission formerly granted to you...

I am &c<sup>a</sup>

Geo: Germain

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, pp. 733-734 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO5/95, f. 28.

**Excerpts of Letter No. 25 from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, to Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Announcing the King's Approval of His Request to Resign as Commander-in-Chief. Feb. 4, 1778**

(N<sup>o</sup> 25)  
Sir William Howe

Whitehall 4<sup>th</sup> Febry 1778

Sir,

...I had the Honor to lay before the King your separate Letter to me of the 22<sup>d</sup> of October, wherein you desire His Majesty's permission to quit your Command...

I have since received and laid before the King a Letter from Lieutenant General [John] Burgoyne, dated at Albany the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, inclosing, the Articles of Convention between him and [Rebel] Major General [Horatio] Gates, and also your Dispatches of the 13<sup>th</sup> of December by which His Majesty was fully informed of the final Closing of the Campaign and was therefore graciously pleased to order me to signify to you his Royal Acquiescence in your Request of Leave to resign your Command, provided Sir Henry Clinton shall be in America when this Letter reaches your Hands, to whom you are to deliver up the Command and put him in Possession of all the Orders and Instructions which you have received from me or any other of the King's Servants respecting the Troops or the Operations in which they have been or were to be employed...

I am &c<sup>a</sup>  
Geo: Germain

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, pp. 731-732 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO5/95, f. 26.

**Excerpt of Letter from Commander in Chief Gen. Sir William Howe to Rebel Gen. George Washington Demanding Release of Sgt. Donald Cameron, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Philadelphia and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Feb. 21, 1778**

Sir,

Philadelphia 21<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1778...

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of last Month, I sent out Clothing and Necessaries for the British and Hessian Prisoners, under the Conduct of Quarter Master [Thomas] Sandford [Brig. of Guards] and others [including Ens. and Brevet-Quartermaster James Stirling, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.], with the proper Passports, and a Letter to you upon the Occasion. After having travelled, not without some Difficulties, about sixty Miles, a Carpenter, a Conductor and a Serjeant of the Party, were unwarrantably seized and committed to Jail; the Two former under Pretence of their having uttered counterfeit Paper Money, and the latter for having some in his Possession. Upon the Interposition of [Rebel Brig] General [Anthony] Wayne, the Serjeant was soon released, but the Carpenter and Conductor are still detained. On the 24<sup>th</sup> the Party pursued their Journey, and, in the Evening, halted nine Miles beyond Lancaster. At Midnight the Quarter Master was called out of his Bed by Colonel Smith, who communicated to him an Order, he had received, (founded, it seems upon M<sup>r</sup> Boudinot's Report of Grievances suffered by the Prisoners in Philadelphia) for seizing their Persons, Waggons, Clothing, Horses and Baggage. This Order was accordingly carried into Execution; and the whole Party were kept Prisoners from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> when by an Order of your's, transmitted by Colonel Fitzgerald, they were set at Liberty, and informed that they might proceed. But upon examining the State of the Waggons and Horses, it appeared that they had been much used since the Seizure of them; that the former were damaged, and the latter, from hard Labor and Neglect, so disabled as to render it a Matter of great Uncertainty whether it would be possible for them to accomplish the Journey. It was likewise discovered that the Packages and Baggage had been plundered of some of the public Stores, and of no inconsiderable Quantity of wearing Apparel and Necessaries belonging to the Party. They intended nevertheless to attempt the Prosecution of their Business as soon as the Waggons

and Horses should be in a Condition to move. But in the mean Time, several Persons who seemed to be in Power, were very illiberal in their Reflections, and disputed not only the Propriety of our Officers thus traversing the Country, but even your Authority to grant them a Pass. At last, a General Conway appeared, who also declared his Opinion against permitting them to go forward, notwithstanding the explicit Orders which had been issued by [Lt.] Colonel [John] Fitzgerald in your name Other Officers contended for a due Obedience to your Authority, & it seemed finally to be understood that the Party should be allowed to proceed. Upon Consideration however of the Interruptions and Maltreatment they had already experienced, of the Fatigue their Horses had undergone, and of the equivocal Acquiescence shewn to your Passport, even by those who might be supposed to be under your Command, the Party very prudently determined to return to Philadelphia, rather than again expose themselves to Insult, Imprisonment and Plunder, by a vain Attempt to pursue the Object of their Journey. For your more particular Information of the Outrages committed on the abovementioned Occasion, I enclose an Extract of M<sup>r</sup> Quarter Master Sandford's Report. To call upon you for the due Punishment of the Offenders in this Instance, would I am sensible, be a fruitless Requisition. But I trust that I do not in vain demand from you Restitution of the Articles plundered, as specified in the Report, and that you will immediately send to our Barrier the Carpenter and Conductor who were imprisoned at Lancaster. I must also insist on your ordering Serjeants [Matthew] M<sup>c</sup>Mahon [16<sup>th</sup> Dragoons] and [Donald] Cameron [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] who were separated from the Party on the Road, to be delivered up, together with their Horses Arms and Accoutrements. These are merely Points of Right, which I will not doubt your Inclination or Power to accommodate; unless it be true that these last mentioned Serjeants, marching under the Sanction of your own Pass, were treacherously carried off from the Rear of the Party, imprisoned in Lancaster Jail, and cited to Trial for their Lives, upon the Suggestion of their being Spies...

I am with due Respect, Sir, your most obedient Servant  
[William Howe]

Source; "To George Washington from General William Howe, 21 February 1778," *Founders Online*, National Archives.

**Captain's Log of 26-gun *HM Armed Ship Delaware*, Commander James Watt, Describing the Landing of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. at Cooper's Ferry, New Jersey, Feb. 27, 1778**

Feb <sup>y</sup> 1778	Moor'd to a Wharf [at Philadelphia]
Frid <sup>y</sup> 27	Light Airs with Rain at times, Employ'd Manning Boats to Carry Troops to Coopers Ferry. – D <sup>o</sup> . Landed the 42 <sup>d</sup> Reg <sup>mt</sup> . & Queens Rangers

Source: TNA, *Admiralty, Captains' Logs, HMS Delaware (1777 Nov. 23 – 1781 Feb. 27)* at ADM 51/239, f. 10 in *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 11, p. 457.



Detail from "Seat of war in the environs of Philadelphia," 1777 by Thomas Kitchin and Robert Baldwin

Picture Source: Library of Congress, Geography and Map Div.

### **Account of Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling's Raid by Maj. John Graves Simcoe, Queen's Rangers, Haddonfield, New Jersey, Feb. 28, 1778**

At the end of February, [Maj.] General [Anthony] Wayne having been detached from [Rebel Gen. George] Washington's army to collect such cattle as were in the lower Jersies, [Gen.] Sir William Howe sent Lieutenant-Colonel [Robert] Abercrombie [1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Bn.] down the Delaware, to land and attack him, while [Lt.] Colonel [Thomas] Stirling with the 42<sup>d</sup> regiment and the [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers, crossed that river opposite to Philadelphia, and marched to Haddonfield, to intercept him... Colonel Stirling reached Haddonfield early in the morning; some stragglers of Wayne's corps had just left it as he arrived there. The ground in front of the village was immediately occupied: the Queen's Rangers on the left, with their left flank to a creek which nearly extended the whole length of their front...

Early the next morning Major Simcoe was detached to destroy such boats and stores as were upon Timber creek...

At night, a man arrived at the outpost, furnished with such credentials as made it proper to believe his information: his account was, that Wayne was on his march from Mount Holly, to attack the troops at Haddonfield, and that he intended to make a circuit to fall in upon the right; the man was immediately forwarded to Colonel Stirling...

Major Simcoe accordingly was sent for, but it was to receive directions for an immediate retreat: Colonel Stirling understanding that the force under Wayne had been so considerably augmented, that it would be imprudent to remain at Haddonfield; his business there being completed, and his intentions, otherwise, being to return the next morning; the rum was staved, and the whole detachment prepared to march immediately. In consideration of the fatigue of the Queen's Rangers, and that there was no probability of any action, Major Simcoe solicited to lead the march...

The night was uncommonly severe, and a cold sleet fell the whole way from Haddonfield to Cooper's ferry, where the troops arrived late, and the ground being occupied by barns and forage, they were necessitated to pass the coldest night that they ever felt, without fire. As dawn arrived, the weather cleared up; about three miles and a half from Cooper's ferry, and half a mile within the direct road to Haddonfield, there was some forage remaining; fifty of the 42<sup>d</sup> and Rangers, under the command of



Captain [James] Kerr [Queen's Rangers], were sent as an escort to the wagons that went for it. Lieutenant Wickham [Queen's Rangers], with ten Huzzars, was directed by Colonel Stirling to patrol in his front towards Haddonfield. A few miles off, Lieutenant [Alexander] Wickham met the enemy; he sent information to Captain Kerr, and to Colonel Stirling, and, with six Huzzars, attended their front. As the road led through thick woods, the enemy were apprehensive of ambuscades, and were intimidated by Lieutenant Wickham's frequently calling out, as to the infantry, "to halt, not to march so fast," &c. &c., so that the enemy's cavalry, though more than two hundred, did not rush on him. He gave time to Captain Kerr to retreat, then joined and returned to camp with him, ushering the enemy to the very outpost.

The line was formed; the 42<sup>d</sup> regiment on the right, [Lt.] Colonel [Enoch] Markham's detachment [46<sup>th</sup> Regt.] in the centre, and the Queen's Rangers on the left. The embarkation still proceeded; the horses were now sent off, and, as the enemy did not advance, Colonel Markham's detachment followed them. It was scarce half way over the Delaware, when the piquets were attacked. The enemy were probably induced to attack earlier than they intended, by a barn having been accidentally set on fire, and which it was reasonable for them to suppose might have been done by some lurking person, after the troops in general had embarked. Upon the appearance of the enemy, the 42<sup>d</sup> regiment marched forward in line, and orders were sent to the Queen's Rangers to advance, which it did, in column, by companies; Cooper's creek secured its left flank; the artillery horses of the three pounders being embarked, the seamen, with their accustomed alacrity, offered to draw on the cannon; the artillery followed the light infantry company, and preceded the battalion. Some of the enemy appearing on the opposite bank of the Cooper creek, Captain [Richard] Armstrong [Queen's Rangers], with the grenadiers, was directed to march and line a dyke on this side: an advantage the enemy had not; and to keep off any stragglers who might be posted there. A heavy fire was kept up on the right, by the 42<sup>d</sup>; there was nothing opposed to the Rangers but some cavalry, watching their motions, and as Major Simcoe advanced rapidly to gain an eminence in front, which he conceived to be a strong advantageous position, they fled into the wood, an officer excepted... A few straggling shot were fired in the front; the [Queen's Rangers] light infantry company was detached there, and supported by the Highlanders, who soon cleared the front; the battalion halted on the advantageous ground it had moved towards, and, at the entreaties of the sailors, a few cannon shot were fired at a party of the enemy, who were near the bridge over Cooper creek, till perceiving they were busy in destroying it, they were no longer interrupted: the firing totally ceased, and the enemy retreated...

The embarkation took place without any interruption; and on the 2<sup>d</sup> of March the Queen's Rangers returned to their old quarters, and former duties. Colonel Stirling made the most handsome and favorable report of the behaviour of the corps, to Sir William Howe.

Source and Note: *Simcoe's Military Journal*, Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe, Bartlett & Welford, New York, 1844, Google Books, pp. 38-46. With a Lt. Colonelcy date of 1775, Markham was junior to Lt. Col. Stirling whose commission was dated 1771.



Maj. Gen. Anthony Wayne, 1795 by James Sharples, Sr.

**Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne to Gen. George Washington, with Description of Skirmish with 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Haddonfield, Feb. 28, 1778**

Sir

Haddonfield 5<sup>th</sup> March 1778

Soon after I wrote your Excellency from Mount Holly – I rec<sup>d</sup>. Intelligence that the Enemy had Detached themselves into small parties and were Collecting forage Cattle &<sup>ca</sup> in the Vicinity of this place, Coopers and Timbers Creeks & this Induced me (altho my Numbers were few) to make a forced March and Endeavour to drive in or cut off some of these parties, at Nine oClock at Night we arrived at Cap<sup>t</sup>. [Joseph] Matlocks [Col. Newcomb's NJ Militia Regt.] – about four Miles to the South East of this place, where we were joined by [Brig.] Gen<sup>l</sup> [Casimir] Pulaski with about fifty Light Horse, Col. [Joseph] Ellis with two Hundred and fifty Militia being the whole of his Command – took post at Evesham Meeting – at the junction of the Roads leading to Egg Harbour & Mount Holly – at ten oClock Gen<sup>l</sup> Pulaski Attempted to Surprise the Enemies Advanced post at a Mill a half a Mile out of Haddonfield – but Miscarried.

[Lt.] Col. [Thomas] Stirling who Commanded the Enemy having in the fore part of the Evening Rec<sup>d</sup>. Intelligence of our March – and our Numbers being Exaggerated to thousands – moving in three Columns – for his Right, left and Center – the North Brittain [Scot] thought it prudent to Retreat – he accordingly Decamped at Eleven at Night and Arrived at Coopers ferry before day – destroying some Spirits & leaving Waggon Horses, Cattle &<sup>ca</sup> behind which he had Stolen from the Inhabitants, who have since Claimed and Rec<sup>d</sup> their property.

The [Rebel] Troops being much fatigued – I could not follow before late in the Morning – beside – I thought proper to send toward Salem to see whether I was safe in advancing not having heard anything of the Enemy who went that Rout. as soon as I found that we had nothing to Apprehend from that Quarter, I went with Gen<sup>l</sup> Pulaski to examine the position of the Enemy – who we found at Coopers ferry in full force – the wind being too high to admit the Boats to pass – however they were too well posted to do anything with them – being covered and flanked by their Shipping – about four oClock in the Afternoon the Wind lulled – when they crossed over about fifty Six head of poor Cattle the whole they had been able to save from the numbers they had Stole.

On Observing they were preparing to Retreat over the River – & Gen<sup>l</sup> Pulaski Impatient & Anxious to Charge – I ordered up Cap<sup>t</sup>. [John] Doyle [6<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regt.] with fifty infantry who lay three Miles advanced of the Rest – directing the Other part of the Detachment under Colonel [Richard] Butler [6<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regt.] to follow as fast as possible – about the same time I rec<sup>d</sup> Intelligence of a Reinforcement having crossed from Phil<sup>a</sup>. who were marching up Coopers Creek and were pushing for our Rear, Col. Ellis posted with his Militia on that Rout – I ordered him to Advance and Receive them – About this time Cap<sup>t</sup>. Doyle arrived near the Enemies Covering party – whose numbers were about three time as many as our's when joined to the Horse – but as they were Approachable on each flank and the Center being favourable for the Cavalry Gen<sup>l</sup> Pulaski and myself were Determined to Attack them – in Order to gain time for the main body to come up – as well as to amuse and prevent the Reinforcement of the Enemy from proceeding further up the Creek we soon Obligated the Covering party to Retreat – and pushing them hard Col. Stirling advanced in force to support them – this answer'd my wishes and hoping to lead them from under the Cover of their Shipping – Ordered the Infantry to keep up a Constant and galling fire – falling back by slow Degrees until they could be joined by Col. Butler's Detachment.

at this Instant Hessian Grenad<sup>rs</sup> attempted to force over Cooper's Bridge [one mile east of Cooper's Ferry] in face of about One Hundred Militia under Col. Ellis but they soon gave up the Attempt.

the firing from the Enemies Shipping field pieces, and Muskettry now became General, which was bravely Sustained by this Little Corps of Infantry – but we could not draw M<sup>r</sup> Sterling far – when night coming on and Col. Butler not being able to get up until too late to see – the Enemy Effected their Retreat



to Phil<sup>a</sup>. before nine at Night on Monday last, but not without some loss, attended with Circumstances of Disgrace that will not be easily Eradicated...

*Ant<sup>y</sup> Wayne*

Source: Library of Congress, *George Washington Papers*, Series 4, General Correspondence.



Detail of "Sketch of Haddonfield, March 1778. Sketch of the roads from Pennyhill to Black Horse through Mount Holly," by John Hills

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Account of Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling's Raid by Capt. Lt. John Peebles,  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Haddonfield, New Jersey, Feb. 25 – Mar. 2, 1778**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. the weather remarkably mild & soft – last night the two battalions of Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Company] cross'd over to the Jersey – the 42<sup>d</sup>. & [Maj. John Graves] Simcoes Corps [Loyalist Queen's Rangers] are to go tonight

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. the 42<sup>d</sup>. & the Queens Rangers cross'd the Delaware [River] last night about 12 oclock & landed at Coopers island above the ferry house we march'd immediately to the ferry Wharf where the Guns (4 three po<sup>rs</sup> [pounders]) were to land, but they held off some time on acco<sup>t</sup>. of a few shot fir'd at them by a guard of militia that were at the ferry house and who ran off on our coming up these things got ashore the Detachm<sup>t</sup>. proceeded with their Guns leaving a Field officers Guard [approx. 150 men] to come up with the Waggon, we march'd to the eastward thro' dirty road & arrived at Haddonfield about sunrise, where it was expected we should have fallen in with [Rebel Brig.] Gen<sup>ls</sup>. [Anthony] Wayne [Pennsylvania Line] and [Col. Joseph] Ellis [Haddonfield Militia] who had a Detachm<sup>t</sup> collecting Cattle for the Rebel Army, but they had got previous notice of our coming as they left Haddonfield last night about 11 o'clock & entirely evacuated the Village of troops which had been occupied by the Militia all the Winter, to keep the people from supplying the Philad<sup>a</sup> Market, which the states have made felony by their Laws, the Village contains about 40 families mostly Quakers who seem to be heartily tired of this Contest – On finding the rebels had gone so long before we came, 7 the day rainy Colo<sup>l</sup>. Stirling order'd the men into barns & placed Guards about the Village. the off<sup>rs</sup>. went into the inhabitants houses, who seem'd well pleased at our coming –

Saturday 28 sharp frost last night ...

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>. March fine clear weather with gentle frost in the night...a Detachm<sup>t</sup>. of ours went out to the NW to bring in forage...The Light Infantry still in the jersey down below Billingsport or Salem...

Monday 2<sup>d</sup>. March yesterday evening the Col<sup>l</sup>. got some intelligence of a great Body of the Enemy coming towards us & some shots being fired at the rangers Pocket across the Creek at Keys Mill the Comp<sup>ys</sup>. order'd under arms, & soon after desir'd to go into the Barns & be ready to turn out at a moments warn<sup>g</sup>. it then came on to snow; about an hour or two after we were turn'd out again & march'd off by the left to Coopers ferry where we arrived about two oclock in morn<sup>g</sup>. exceeding cold, most of the men got under cover the rest made fires – the morn<sup>g</sup>. was very storm & boats could not get over, about noon some of the Rebel light horse seen at the edge of the wood which occasion'd us to turn out – but they went off – however a few hours after a Body of Horse & foot came down and attack'd our Picquets in which we immediately stood to our arms & moved up to them, a short skirmish ensued and they ran off – 3 men of ours & 3 or 4 of the Rangers wound'd we pursued them a mile or two & returned to the ferry where we Embarked, cross'd & got to Quarters about 8 oclock – the Light Infantry return'd yesterday without seeing the enemy

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Feb. 25-Mar. 2, 1778 and published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, 1998, pp. 165-166.

### **Rebel News Account of Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling's Raid, Haddonfield, New Jersey, Feb. 25 – 26, 1778**

TRENTON; MARCH 4.

(The following was prefixed to the Address of [Rebel] General [George] Washington, to the Inhabitants of New-Jersey, &c. inserted in our last)...

On Wednesday last [Feb. 25] the enemy landed about 3000 men at Billingsfort [New Jersey], and marched down the road towards Salem. And on intelligence received that another body intended to land at Cooper's ferry, in order to surprise [Brig.] General [Anthony] Wayne (who had landed in New-Jersey with 500 of the Continental troops) and Col. [Joseph] Ellis who commanded a detachment of the Jersey militia at Haddonfield, [illeg.] not being sufficient to make a stand, it was thought adviseable to move towards Moores-Town, to prevent being surrounded, which was accordingly done a few hours before the enemy landed about 1500 men agreeable to the intelligence received, and marched to Haddonfield early in the morning of the 26th. Upon this our men marched to Mount-Holy to wait for reinforcements. ---- The Governor upon receiving the above intelligence, ordered out a proper number of the militia to join those under Col. Ellis, who are now collecting with great alacrity, and unless the enemy retire before they are attacked by the united vigour of General Wayne's troops and our militia, we doubt not they will repent their rash visit to this state.--- Last Friday Brigadier General [Casimir] Count Pulaski of the cavalry left this place with a body of horse, in excellent order, to join the continental troops under General Wayne, and who from the former exhibitions of his valour and alertness, will give a good account of the enemy's horse, if they do not deprive him of that pleasure by a precipitate flight.

Source: *Royal Pennsylvania Gazette* (Philadelphia), Mar. 13, 1778, pp. 1-2.

### **Maj. Gen. David Stewart of Garth's Account of an Incident during Lt. Col. Stirling's Raid on Haddonfield, New Jersey, Feb. 28 – Mar. 2, 1778**

Lieutenant-Colonel [Thomas] Stirling, with the [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers and 42d regiment, was ordered on a foraging party into the Jerseys. In an excursion through the woods, a Highland soldier came unexpectedly in sight of an American, when their pieces happened to be unloaded. Each flew behind a tree to cover himself while loading; but fearing that the first who ventured out of cover would be brought down by the other, both kept possession of their trees. Till at last the Highlander, losing patience,

pushed his bonnet beyond the tree on the point of his bayonet. The American shot his ball through its centre, when his opponent starting forward, made him surrender instantly.

Source: *Sketches of the Character, Manners, and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland; with Details of the Military Service of the Highland Regiments*, Vol. I, Second Edition, Col. David Stewart, Archibald Constable and Co., Edinburgh, 1822, Google Books, p. 386.

**Engineer Capt. John Montresor's Account of the Return of the Light Infantry and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. from Expeditions, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mar. 1-2**

1<sup>st</sup> March 1778. Returned from Salem (60 miles from hence) the 2 Battalions Light Infantry and the two Established Engineers in flat boats. Weather cold frosty and Boisterous at N. W. A Fall of snow this night.

2<sup>d</sup>. Returned from Haddonfield the 2 Battalions of 42<sup>d</sup> and [Maj. John Graves] Simcoe's [Loyalist Queen's] Rangers and 4 field pieces, 3 Pounders, by the way of Cooper's Ferry. A Fall of snow this night. Wind at N. N. W...

Source: "Journal of Captain John Montresor, July 1, 1777 to July 1, 1778," in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. VI, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1882, p. 196.

**Master's Log of 44-gun HMS Roebuck, Capt. Andrew S. Hamond, Describing the Return of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. from Cooper's Ferry, New Jersey, Mar. 2, 1778**

March 1778 Monday 2 <sup>d</sup>	[alongside Cuthberts Wharf, Philadelphia] Fresh gales and Snow at Noon cleared the Decks of Snow Fresh gales and squally with Frost and Snow [PM] sent the Gun Boats, Tenders &c to assist the [22-gun HM Armed Ship] Vigilant in covering the embarkation of the Troops at Coopers Ferry after which the Vigilant halld to the Wharf and the Gunboats & Tenders return'd
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Source and Note: *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 11, p. 478 from TNA, *Admiralty: Masters' Logs, (HMS) Roebuck (15 July 1777-14 July 1779)* at ADM 52/1964, f. 89 The troops were the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt and Queen's Rangers.

**Excerpts of Letter No. 87 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting on the Position of the Rebel Army at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, Mar. 5, 1778**

Philadelphia, 5 March 1778

My Lord...

The rebel Army continues in the same situation as when I had the honour of writing to your Lordship, hutted at Valley Forge, where their Men suffer exceedingly from the very inclement weather that has prevailed this winter which has induced numbers to desert...

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. XV, *Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 52- 54 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO 5/95, f. 116.

**Poem by Soldier of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Published in *The Pennsylvania Ledger*, March 14, 1778:**

An irregular ODE to PEACE,

I.

O Thou! who smil'st no more  
On these once happy plains;

Ah? whither art thou fled  
Fair Peace? It is to Britain's happy shore,  
Where plenty, with content and freedom reigns?  
Or to the silent mansions of the dead?  
If yet on earth thou deign'st to move,  
From that blest region, cast a pitying eye  
On this forsaken land, which else most prove  
A scene of horror, blood and cruelty.

II.

Lo! the poor hind, whose former life  
Was always spent in dull domestic care,  
Now sallies forth, to mix in horrid strife  
With those whom nature taught him to revere!  
Infatuate monster! stay thy guilty hand,  
Nor raise the dagger 'gainst thy brother's breast,  
Lest all-avenging heav'n pursue the land  
With some new curse which cannot be express'd.

III.

Behold the frantic widow's tender woe!  
When robb'd of him who ev'ry grief could charm;  
No mortal near, not e'en a generous foe  
To shelter her poor helpless head from harm.  
Behold her now, all arm'd with greater fears!  
Her infant offspring clinging to her breast:  
They cry for bread, and catch the trickling tears  
Fast flowing from those eyes where pleasure once did rest.

IV.

But hark! the raging crowd, whose furious sway  
Laid waste this fair, Hesperian soil,  
With horror seiz'd, now curse the fatal day  
On which they first began the civil broil.  
Tis past (they say) those happy days are gone  
When PEACE and PLENTY visited our shore:  
Too fatal error? Are we then indone?  
And must we see those happy days no more?

V.

And thou, fair Freedom! once our joy and boast,  
Our greatest good; alas! how art thou wrong'd!  
These upstart tyrants of our ruin'd coast,  
Our wishes flatter'd, and our doubts prolong'd;  
But now we see the proud Usurper's aim:  
Tho' LIBERTY'S name is heard each hour,  
The poor man's property and good man's fame  
Alike, are victim to their lawless pow'r.

VI.

Return then, heav'nly PEACE! and grace those plains  
Where whilom thou with pleasure did'st reside;  
Return and bless thy poor deluded swains;  
And may each genuine virtue be thy guide.  
Thus figh'd the multitude – O hear their pray'r  
Bright Maid! at thy divine command

The shepherd swain shall tend his fleecy care,  
And plenty smile again upon the land.  
J.C. 42d reg.

Source and Note: *Pennsylvania Ledger or the Philadelphia Market-Day Advertiser*, March 14, 1778. Lt. James Cramond was the only officer in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in March 1778 with the initials J.C., however, Lt. Cramond remained in the Adjutant General's office in New York during the Philadelphia Campaign.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Records  
Regiment Drilling by Divisions, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mar. 18, 1778**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>. March fine weather the roads drying fast, the [42<sup>nd</sup>] Reg<sup>t</sup>. out today at exercise twice, in divisions [two companies] – look'd into the state of the [General's] Comp<sup>ys</sup>. shoes and find them very bad almost all worn out order'd a pair a man directly...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry for Mar. 18, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 170. In regimental terms a division normally referred to two companies, commanded by the senior captain.



Detail of Portrait of King George III, 1771, by Johann Zoffany

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from the *Royal Collection*

**Excerpts of Secret Instructions from King George III to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton,  
Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Send Large Detachments to the West Indies and  
Florida, and to Evacuate Philadelphia and New York if Necessary, London, Mar. 21, 1778**

St. James 21 March 1778

Secret instructions for our trusty and well beloved Sir Henry Clinton K. B., General and Commander-in-Chief of our forces in North America, or the commander-in-chief of our forces for the time being. Given at our Court at St James's, the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 1778 in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of our reign.

Whereas the French King contrary to the most solemn assurances and in subversion of the law of nations hath signed a treaty of amity and commerce with certain persons employed by our revolted subjects in North America, and it being our firm purpose and determination to resent so unprovoked and unjust an aggression on the honour of our Crown and the essential interest of our kingdoms, we have come to the resolution to make an immediate attack upon the island of S<sup>t</sup> Lucia in the West Indies.

It is therefore our will and pleasure that you do with the greatest secrecy and dispatch make a Detachment of a body of five thousand Men from the troops under your command, and putting them under the command of such Officer of rank and experience as you shall think most fit to execute the service, and adding thereto a proper Corps of artillery and such a proportion of ordnance and stores and a



sufficient supply of provisions, embark the whole on board of transports. And so soon as the commander of our fleet in North America shall appoint a proper number of our ships of war to convoy the said embarkation, you do direct the commanding Officer of the troops to proceed with them to the island of S<sup>t</sup> Lucia and to attack and if practicable reduce and take possession of the said island. And in case of success he is to retain such a part of our forces as he shall judge sufficient for the defence thereof and distribute the remainder of our troops among our West India islands in such manner and in such proportions as from the information he receives he shall judge most proper for their protection and security against any attack of the Enemy.

It is most essential to the success of this enterprise that it be carried into immediate execution. You will therefore in concert with the commander of our ships use all possible diligence in forwarding the departure of the fleet so as that it may arrive at the place of its destination before the hurricane season.

It is also our further will and pleasure that you do likewise detach another body of our troops under your command to consist of three thousand Men, together with a proper proportion of ordnance and stores and a sufficient number of artillerymen to complete the company of that Corps in the Floridas, and embark the whole on board of transports and order them to proceed in two divisions under proper convoy, the one division to consist of such part of the said 3000 Men as you shall think proper to go to S<sup>t</sup> Augustine, and the other to consist of the remainder to go to Pensacola, with which last Mentioned division a general Officer is to proceed in order to take upon him the command of our forces in West Florida.

When these Detachments are made or at the time of making them if you shall find it convenient, it is our will and pleasure that you do evacuate Philadelphia, and having embarked all the troops, as also the ordnance, stores, provisions, and everything belonging to us or necessary for our troops, you are to proceed with the whole to New York where you are to continue and wait the issue of the treaty which we have authorized our commissioners to propose.

If that treaty should prove unsuccessful and you shall find yourself in danger of being overpowered and forced by the superior numbers of the Enemy, or your retreat likely to be cut off, in either of these cases it is our will and pleasure that you withdraw our troops from New York, and embarking them on board of transports and taking with you all the ordnance and stores and provisions and everything belonging to us or useful for our troops, proceed with them under convoy of a sufficient number of our ships of war to Rhode Island, if that post can be maintained, and leaving there in such case as many Men as may be necessary for its defence proceed with the rest to Halifax; and if you shall have a greater number of troops there than you shall judge necessary for the defence of Nova Scotia, you are to detach what you can spare to Canada, together with such light ordnance and stores and so many of the Corps of artillery as you shall think proper for the service in that province.

And in order to facilitate these removals of our troops, if such removals shall become necessary, you are upon your arrival at New York to select and set apart such proportions of our ordnance and stores as you shall judge necessary and useful to the Army in the present circumstances, and also such further ordnance and stores as may be wanted in case an attack upon New Orleans shall hereafter become expedient, and having so done you are to take all safe opportunities of sending to Great Britain all such ordnance and stores as you shall judge unnecessary to be retained.

As our ships of war must now be supplied with their marines, and we have given orders that the 70<sup>th</sup> Regiment and the new-raised Regiments commanded by Colonels [Francis] McClean [82<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] and [Lt. Col. Commandant John] Campbell [74<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt.], making together a body of 2700 Men, should proceed to Halifax from Great Britain, and they are expected to sail from the Clyde early in next month, you are upon the arrival of the aforesaid Regiments at Halifax to permit the [remainder of document missing]

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XV, Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 74-76 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO5/95.

### **Extract of Letter from Gen. Sir William Howe to Rebel Gen. George Washington**

**Requesting Release of Sgt. Donald Cameron, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Philadelphia, Mar. 21, 1778**

Philadelphia 21<sup>st</sup> March 1778

Sir...

I expected that Serjeant M<sup>c</sup>Mahon of the 17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, and Serjeant [Donald] Cameron of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment of Foot, would have been sent in as soon as the unjustifiable manner of their being taken came to your knowledge. It is now certain they are confined in Lancaster Jail, and I call upon you a Second time to restore these Men to their Liberty, or at least to assign the real Cause of their Detention. I am with due Respect Sir, Your most Obedient Servant

(Signed) W. Howe

Source: "To George Washington from General William Howe, 21 March 1778," *Founders Online*, National Archives.

**Extract of Letter from Rebel Gen. George Washington to Gen. Sir William Howe Reporting that Orders were Issued to Release Sgt. Donald Cameron, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Philadelphia and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Mar. 22, 1778**

Head Q<sup>rs</sup>. March 22<sup>d</sup>. 1778

Sir

Your several Letters of the 15<sup>th</sup>. 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Mar have been duly received...

Serjeants M<sup>c</sup>Mahon and Cameron were taken at a distance from ~~the flag~~ <sup>their party</sup> whither they had straggled, under very exceptional circumstances, and were confined in Lancaster Jail, on suspicion of their being Spies. I have sent directions to have them conveyed to your lines, which nothing but a regard to the promise of my Aid de camp would induce me to do, the conduct of those men having been so irregular and criminal as to make them justly answerable to punishment...

I am, Sir with due respect &c

*G. Washington*

Gen Howe &c &c &c

Source: Lib. of Congress, *George Washington Papers*, Series 4, General Correspondence.

**Letter from Secretary at War Viscount Barrington to Gen. Lord John Murray, Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Announcing Pardons for Deserters, London, Mar. 28, 1778**

War Office 28<sup>th</sup> March 1778

Sir,

Enclosed I have the honor to send you some printed Copies of His Majesty's most gracious pardon to Deserters from the Land Forces; and am to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure that all such who shall surrender themselves before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May next, to any party of your Regiment, be received and regularly attested for the same provided it appears that they were actually Deserters before the publication of His Majesty's Pardon, and that they are able bodied Men and fit for Service.

It is His Majesty's further pleasure, that for every such Deserter so entertained for your Regiment, the Sum of twenty Shillings be paid to the Regiment from which he deserted.

If such Deserters shall be totally unfit for Service, you are forthwith to give them a Certificate of their having surrendered agreeable to His Majesty's Directions, which Certificate shall entitle them to the full benefit of this pardon.

But, if it shall appear that the Desertion was committed since the publication of His Majesty's pardon, then such Deserter, tho' he may have surrendered himself to your Regiment, shall nevertheless be confined as a Deserter, and notice thereof given to this Office, that the necessary Orders may be sent for conveying him to the Corps to which he belongs.

I am to desire that for His Majesty's Information a Return may be made to one on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May next of Number of Deserters who shall have surrendered to your Regiment, or any party thereof, specifying also the Corps to which they formerly belonged.

You will be pleased to cause the several particulars of this Letter to be communicated to every Officer of your Regiment on the Recruiting Duty.

I have the honor to be &c  
Barrington

Honble General Conway Colonel of the Royal  
Reg<sup>t</sup> of Horse Guards

Like Letters of the same date to the Colonels of the Regiments of Cavalry and Infantry on the British Establishment as undermentioned viz<sup>t</sup>

[List of regiments follows including]...

42<sup>d</sup> do [Reg<sup>t</sup> of F<sup>t</sup>] – Murrays...

71<sup>st</sup> do – Fraser's...

Source: TNA, *Secretary-at-War, Out-letters* at WO 4/102, ff. 115 – 116.

**Capt. Lt. John Peebles' Account of 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Detachment's  
Engagement with a Party of Rebels, Germantown, Apr. 12-14, 1778**

Wednesday 22<sup>d</sup>... forgot to mention that about 8 or 10 days ago when the Light Infantry were out about Germantown, Serj<sup>t</sup> [John] M<sup>c</sup>Farlane of ours [42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] who had the advance Guard fell in w<sup>t</sup>. a party of the rebels, & Kill'd 12 out of 15 –

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Apr. 12-14, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 176.

**Excerpts of Letter No. 96 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief,  
North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American  
Department, Regarding Operations around Philadelphia, Apr. 19, 1778**

Philadelphia, 19 April 1778

My Lord, I have the honour to inform your lordship of [Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton's arrival here on the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, and that in consequence of His Majesty's permission to return to England I shall delay my departure no longer than is necessary to furnish my successor with the orders and Instructions with which I have been honoured and with every farther information that I can conceive may be of advantage or use to the service.

The King's instructions for the operations of the campaign being directed to Sir Henry Clinton, I do not presume to enter into any part of the contents of those dispatches which the General has been pleased to communicate to me.

Since the earliest return of spring a succession of Detachments from hence has ranged the country for many miles round this city and in the province of Jersey to open the communication for bringing in supplies, to relieve the peaceable inhabitants from the persecution of their oppressors, and to collect forage for the Army. These Detachments have without exception succeeded to my expectations, greatly to the credit of the troops employed, to the annoyance of the Enemy, and to the advantage of His Majesty's service. [Lt.] Colonel [Charles] Mawhood [17<sup>th</sup> Regt.] in particular with three Battalions and a provincial Corps made a descent on the coast of Jersey near Salem in the month of March, and after dispersing the force collected in that part of the country returned with a very seasonable supply of forage.

To the skill and activity of Lieutenant-Colonel [Robert] Abercromby [1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn.] must be attributed a successful surprise made on the 4<sup>th</sup> instant upon a Corps of the Enemy consisting of 900 Men under the command of a brigadier-general posted about seventeen miles from hence, with 400 Light Infantry, 300 Rangers and a party of Light Dragoons. That Officer attacked and defeated this Corps of the

Enemy, killing, wounding and taking 150 Men including officers, with the loss of only nine wounded. The rout would have been far more complete if the long march of the infantry in effecting this surprise had not disabled them from a vigorous pursuit...

Two posts are taken on the Jersey side of the Delaware at Cooper's Ferry and at Billingsport, the first to cover parties cutting wood for the future supply of the troops, the latter to secure the navigation of the Delaware in a narrow part of the channel.

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XV, Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, p. 120, from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO5/95, f. 8.

### **News Account of British Light Infantry Attacking Rebel Party Near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Apr. 24, 1778**

#### **PHILADELPHIA.**

Last Friday [Apr. 24], information having been received of a body of rebel troops, hovering about to frighten the militia to the field, a party of light infantry went in quest of them, and advanced with such impetuosity, that they killed three, and took fifty-one prisoners, before the rebels had time to recollect the use of their heels. This was effected without the loss of a man on our part; and the troops, with the prisoners, arrived in town about two o'clock the same day.

Source: *Royal Pennsylvania Gazette* (Philadelphia), Apr. 28, 1778, p. 3.

### **Engineer Capt. John Montresor's Account of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, Guarding Wood Cutters, Cooper's Ferry, New Jersey, Apr. 28, 1778**

28<sup>th</sup>. Wind Easterly. At 7 this morning I embarked in flat boats with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Light Infantry and crossed the Delaware and landed in the Jerseys at Cooper's Ferry and returned to Philadelphia the same day, after fixing upon a Post for covering the wood cutters. The Lord Hyde Packet only sailed from Chester this morning...

Source: "Journal of Captain John Montresor, July 1, 1777 to July 1, 1778," in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. VI, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1882, p. 202.

### **Journal of Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion, Describes Fourteen Light Infantry Companies Skirmishing at Crooked Billet Tavern (now Hatboro), Pennsylvania, May 1, 1778**

May 1<sup>st</sup>. Fourteen Companies of our two Battallions of Light Infantry, with the mounted [Lt. Inf. Troop], two troops of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Light-Dragoons, and a detachment of 430 men of the [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers, marched from Philadelphia at 11 o'clock at night, and proceeded to the crooked Billet [Tavern] where a body of 500 [Pennsylvania Militia] men of the Enemy were stationed, under the command of Colonel [Brig. Gen. John] Lacey, with two field pieces. As the rangers (who took a separate road,) marched up they engaged, and our party also on the other side, after a few minutes firing, the Enemy gave way but Colonel Lacey, after making some appearance of resistance at first. The Party took fourteen Waggon's loaded with Run, Whisky and other goods; took also 54 Prisoners and killed & wounded great many, with the loss of 5 men killed and wounded.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 215-216. Sullivan served in the 49<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. It is likely the fourteen companies would be taken from the fourteen most senior regiments represented in the two light infantry battalion. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. likely ranked as the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> eldest company.



Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton, 1777, by John Smart

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from National Institute of American History and Democracy

**General Orders Record the Change of the Commander-in-Chief from  
Gen. Sir William Howe to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Philadelphia, May 11 and 24, 1778**

Head Quarters Philadelphia 11<sup>th</sup> May 1778.

Gen. Sir William Howe having obtained his Majesty's permission to return to Europe, the King has been pleased to appoint His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton to succeed him, upon his departure, as General and Commander in Chief of the Army in this district of America, and all orders issued by Gen. Sir Henry Clinton are to be obeyed.

Gen. Sir William Howe cannot think of taking leave of the Army without expressing in the strongest terms the very high sense he entertains and ever shall entertain of the distinguished Spirit, alacrity, and unanimity exerted upon all occasions by every Officer and Soldier he has had the honour to Command, as well Foreign as British, in the course of a service attended with much fatigue and hardship.

At the same time he feels a real satisfaction in being able to congratulate the Army on his being succeeded in so important a Command by a General who, he is fully persuaded, will not only add Lustre to His Majesty's Arms, but acquire great Honour to himself and to the Army under his Command...

**Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Orders**

Head Quarters Philadelphia 24<sup>th</sup> May 1778.

His Excellency Gen. Sir William Howe having taken his departure for Europe, all Reports and Returns are in future to be made to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, as Commander in Chief of the Army...

Source: "The Kemble Papers," Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books.

**General Orders to Begin Preparation for the Evacuation of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,  
May 14 and 21, 1778**

Head Quarters Philadelphia 14<sup>th</sup> May 1778.



The heavy Baggage of the Army to be in readiness to embark upon the shortest notice; and it is recommended to the Officers of the Army to lighten their Baggage for the Field as much as possible...

Head Quarters Philadelphia 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1778...

The several Corps are now to put on Board of their Transports their Tents and every kind of Baggage and Stores they can possibly do without in the Field.

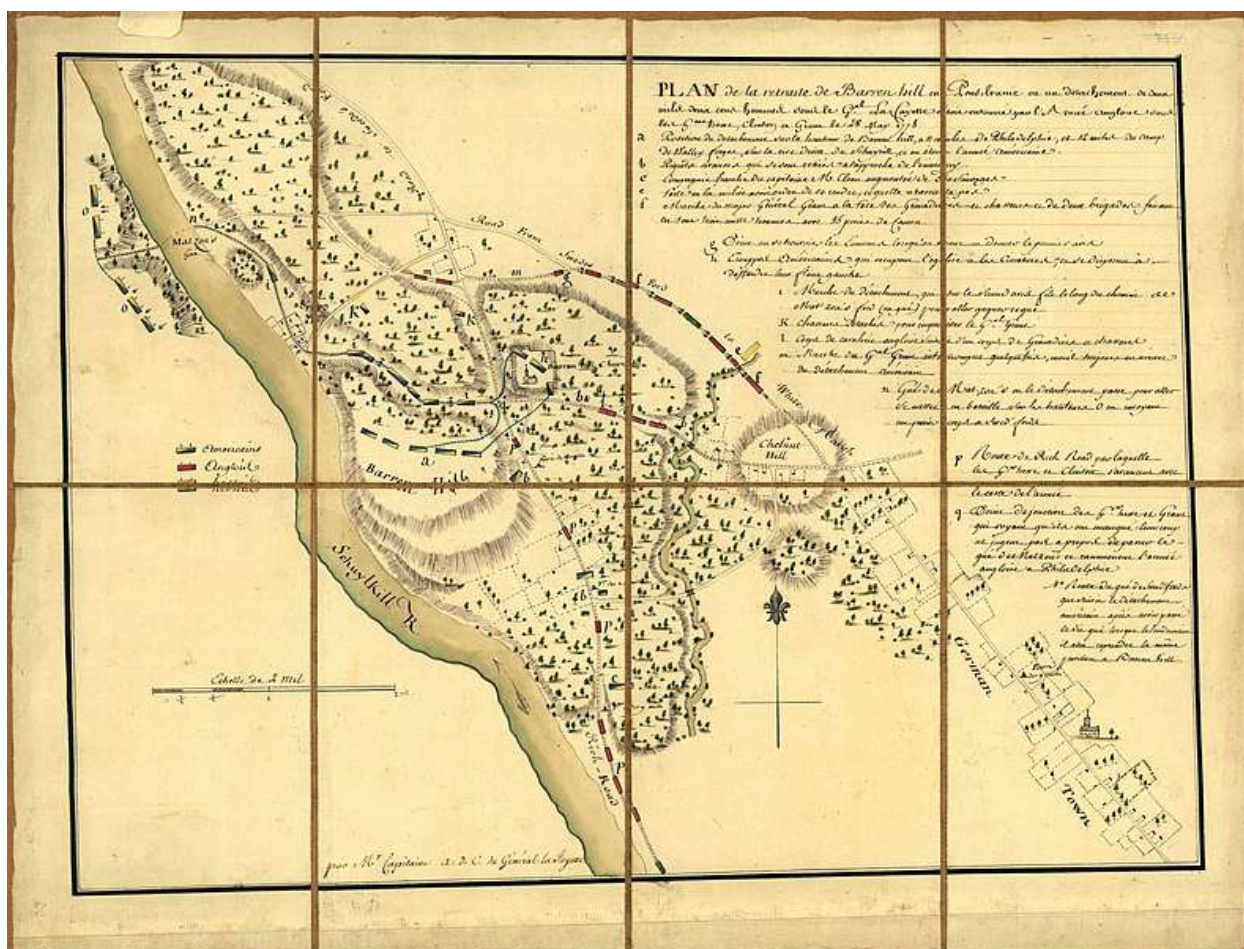
Source and Notes: "The Kemble Papers," Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books. This order begins the preparation for the army to abandon Philadelphia to return to New York by marching across New Jersey. This action was necessary due to the large detachments being taken from Gen. Clinton's army to go to Florida and the West Indies to combat French forces after the French alliance with the Rebels.

### News Account of Rebel Camp Celebrating French Alliance, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, May 15, 1778

#### PHILADELPHIA.

...Upon the news of the supposed alliance [with France] arriving in the rebel camp, they celebrated it with much pomp and magnificence as rebel opulence and taste could exhibit. The General [George Washington] gave a public entertainment to the choice spirits of sedition, and the whole was concluded with a preposterous parade of military arrangement.

Source: *Royal Pennsylvania Gazette* (Philadelphia), May 15, 1778, p. 3.



Barren Hill Map, May 28, 1778

Map Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Lib. of Congress

**42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry and 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Companies at the Skirmish,  
Barren Hill, Pennsylvania, May 18-20, 1778**



Detail of Portrait of Gilbert Motier the Marquis de Lafayette  
As a Lieutenant General, 1791, 1834, by Joseph-Desire Court

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Palace of Versailles*

**Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Commander Gen. George Washington to Maj. Gen.  
Gilbert Motier, Marquis de Lafayette to March to Barren Hill, Pennsylvania, May 18, 1778**

[Valley Forge, 18 May 1778]

Sir,

The detachment under your command with which you will immediately march towards the enemy's lines is designed to answer the following purposes—to be a security to this camp and a cover to the country between the Delaware and Schuylkil—to interrupt the communication with Philadelphia—to obstruct the incursions of the enemies parties, and obtain intelligence of their motions and designs. This last is a matter of very interesting moment, and ought to claim your particular attention. You will endeavour to procure trusty and intelligent spies, who will advise you faithfully of whatever may be passing in the city; and you will without delay communicate to me every piece of material information you obtain...

Given under my hand at Head Quarters this 18th day of May 17[78]

[Gen. George Washington]

Source: "From George Washington to Major General Lafayette, 18 May 1778," *Founders Online*, National Archives, last modified February 1, 2018, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/>



*Mischisanza Ticket*

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Benson Lossing's *Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution*, 1850

### **Engineer Capt. John Montresor's Account of the "Mischisanza" Celebrations and the Skirmish at Barren Hill, Pennsylvania, May 18-20, 1778**

18<sup>th</sup>. Weather overcast, wind Easterly but cleared up after noon, when an Entertainment called the "Mischisanza," [Italian for Medley] was given by some officers in the Army as a compliment to [former Commander in Chief Gen.] Sir W<sup>m</sup>. Howe and by way of taking leave of him before his departure for England, consisting of a Regatta, Fete Champetre, Tilts and Tournaments, Carosal, Procession through Triumphal Arches, Dancing, Exhibition of Fire works, musick and Feast.

19<sup>th</sup>. Weather very warm. At ½ past 10 this evening 2 Battalion British Grenadiers of Light Infantry, [Maj. John Graves] Simcoe's [Loyalist Queen's] Rangers with the Cavalry and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigades, hence in order to cut off Le Marquis de Fayette with 4000 men who had just taken Post there and fled on the appearance of our Troops to the opposite side of the Schuylkill [River] by Matson's Ford after leaving killed on the Field, one French officer and 5 more Rebels and 12 Prisoners. Un coup manque [French: *a failed strike*] in not having cut off the Marquis which 'tis thought might have been done.

20<sup>th</sup>. Winds variable. The Remainder of the Army, or rather the Gros marched out very early this morning, until 9 to support the great Detachment of last night leaving only the Garrison at Philadelphia, consisting of three Brigades and Woelwarth's Hessian Brigade. The whole army returned to Philadelphia this Evening.

Source: "Journal of Captain John Montresor, July 1, 1777 to July 1, 1778," in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. VI, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1882, pp. 285-286.



Detail of Photograph of Barren Hill Meetinghouse (also Plymouth Meetinghouse)

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Library of Congress, *Historic American Buildings Survey*

**Journal Account by Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., of Lt. Infantry and Grenadiers at the Skirmish at Barren Hill, Pennsylvania, May 19- 20, 1778**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>. May last night in consequence of intelligence brought to Head Q<sup>rs</sup>. of a move in the Rebel army, The Light Troops & Gren<sup>rs</sup>. were put in motion about 9 [p.m.] & several of the brigades followed, they marched by different roads to the Northward, by White Marsh & Baron Hill &c<sup>a</sup>. and found by intelligence that a Body of about 2000 of the Rebels under [Maj. Gen. Gilbert du Motier] Marquis de Fayette had cross'd the Sckuylkill [River] & taken post near Baron Hill meeting house but on the approach of our Troops they hastily decamp'd & cross'd the River again, – the 3<sup>d</sup>. Brigade [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] & one of the Hessians & 26<sup>th</sup>. Regt. all that were left in Town The troops return'd this Even<sup>g</sup>. after a long march very much fatigued. there had been some little skirmish, in which a few of the Enemy were kill'd among whom they say were two [Stockbridge] Indians –

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Notebook* Entry, May 20, 1778 and published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, 1998, p. 183.



Detail of Portrait of Maj. Gen. James Grant of Ballindalloch

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory

**Journal of Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion, Describes the Light Infantry and British Grenadiers, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Company and 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Company, Advancing Against a 3000-Man Rebel Force under Maj. Gen. Gilbert Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, Barren Hill, Pennsylvania, May 19 – 20, 1778**

May 19<sup>th</sup>. A Spy came to Philadelphia, with Intelligence that a body of 3000 of the Enemy, under the command of the Marquis la Fayette, advanced from their Encampment at valley Forge, as far as Doelworth Meeting-house within two miles of Chestnut-hill, with some artillery. A Detachment of the Army under Major General [James] Grant was ordered out to Dislodge them; consisting of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, 1<sup>st</sup>. and 2<sup>d</sup>. Battallions of Light Infantry, the two Battallions of British, and the Hessian Grenadiers, the Brigade of Guards, part of the [Loyalist] Queen's rangers, and three Battallions of British, the whole making a body of about 6000 men, with 12 Pieces of cannon, and the field pieces of them Corps.

The Detachment marched from the City at ten o'clock at night, and reached white-marsh [sic] at Day break, at which place the troops were formed in two Columns, and formed in order of battle. The Enemy who were apprised of their Danger, by the Inhabitants and some deserters, took the alarm, and made towards their camp, leaving some Dragoons and Rifflemen to cover their rear, as also to watch our motions. We pursued them about three miles, and a party of our Dragoons exchanged several Shots with them, and at length fell in with a party of about 100 in a thick wood, whom they attacked, being supported by the Riffle men of the Battalion Light Infantry; and after a few men killed and wounded, and five men Prisoners. Our loss was four men wounded and two horses killed.

Upon the three alarm Guns being fired in the Enemy's Camp, the whole of them made the best of their way to it, and we returned to Chestnut-hill by 12 o'clock.

General Sir William Howe at the head of 7000 men, marched as far as Germantown to reinforce us, in case of necessity, but the sudden flight if the Enemy occasioned the whole Army to return to Philadelphia, in the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Clinton succeeded Sir William Howe, as General & Commander in chief of His Majesty's Forces in North-America.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 217-218. Sgt. Sullivan served in the 49<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., was assigned town duty and remained in the city.

**Excerpt of Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald's Account of the Skirmish at Barren Hill, Pennsylvania, May 19-20, 1778**

The 19<sup>th</sup>. Since we received information that the marquis de Lafayette had crossed the Schuylkill with five thousand men and had encamped on the heights of White Marsh to harass our quarters and perhaps to carry out a stroke against our outworks covering the city [Philadelphia], [Maj.] General [James] Grant marched out at nine o'clock this evening with the English light infantry, the grenadiers, the 27<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Regiments, four light 6-pounders, and two hundred horse. He took his route between the two roads from Germantown and Yorktown by way of Abington Hill, in order to get in the rear of the aforesaid enemy corps... To our chagrin, an enemy spy had discovered General Grant's march. The Marquis de Lafayette acted swiftly and hurriedly withdrew, crossing Schuylkill at Levering's Ford... In order to save the whole he sacrificed the rear guard, which consisted of three hundred to four hundred men, part of whom were killed, wounded, and captured. Among the latter were a French major and several Indians who were armed with bows and arrows, the first that we had seen. It is said to be the Stockbridge tribe that has joined the Americans...

Source: *Diary of the American War, A Hessian Journal, Captain Johann Ewald, Field Jäger Corps*, Trans. and Ed. Justin P. Tustin, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven (Conn.), 1979, pp. 129-130.



**Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Commander Gen. George Washington to Henry Laurens Describing the Battle of Barren Hill, Pennsylvania, May 19-20, 1778**

To Henry Laurens

Head Qu<sup>rs</sup> Valley forge May 24<sup>th</sup> 1778

Sir...

On the night of the 19 the Enemy moved out in force against the Detachment under the Marquiss Fayette, mentiond in my Letter of the 18, which made a timely and handsome retreat in great order over the Schuylkill at Matson's ford. Our loss was nine men in the whole; The Enemy's supposed something more. Their march was circuitous and rapid, and I should imagine many of their Men suffered from it. Genl Clinton it is said commanded in person.

The accounts from Philadelphia are still in favor of an evacuation; It is certain that a great deal of baggage is on Ship board, and that they still seem busy in packing up. There are other reports which say, that it is only a Detachment which is going, and that the West Indies is conjectured to be the place of their destination...

I have the Honor to be with great respect & esteem Sir Y<sup>r</sup> Most Obed<sup>t</sup> sev<sup>t</sup>  
Geo: Washington

Source: "From George Washington to Henry Laurens, 24 May 1778," *Founders Online, National Archives*, last modified February 1, 2018, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-15-02-0212>.

**Preparations for the British Army to Evacuate Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 23-June 17, 1778**

**Excerpts of Letter No. 3 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting Plans to Move Army to New York, May 23, 1778**

Philadelphia, 23 May 1778

My Lord, in my letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> instant I had the honour to inform your Lordship that His Majesty's commands by the [16-gun sloop of war *HMS*] Porcupine should be fulfilled with all possible expedition. At the same time I acquainted your Lordship that the fleet being much dispersed on other necessary service, the Admiral could not with credibility inform me when a sufficient convoy could be collected for the expeditions. As this uncertainty still remains, and as I find it inexpedient to move from hence with a part only of the Army, I shall as soon as the stores etc. can be removed (which I hope will be very shortly) execute the other part of His Majesty's instructions by evacuating this place and proceeding to New York with the whole Army, as from that post I am persuaded the expeditions can be dispatched sooner as well as better provided than they could have been from hence.

I flatter myself His Majesty will approve of my having appointed Major General [James] Grant to command the expedition to the West Indies as he has been upon the spot and his services in this country much approved of by Sir William Howe...

*Signed*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XV, Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, p. 126, from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO5/95, f. 20.

**General Orders Direct Embarkation of Heavy Baggage as Preparation for Evacuation of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 24, 1778**

Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Orders

Head Quarters Philadelphia 24<sup>th</sup> May 1778...

After Orders, 10 at Night.

It is the Commander in Chiefs positive Order that the Baggage of the Army be completely Embarked by One o'Clock to-morrow afternoon, the Transports being ordered to fall down the River at that hour.

Source: "General Orders by Major General the Honourable William Howe," (1775-1778) The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books.

**Capt. Lt. John Peebles's Account of the March of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., to Beggarstown (now Mt. Airy Neighborhood, Philadelphia), Pennsylvania, May 28, 1778**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>. very cool – This morn<sup>g</sup>. about 2 o'clock the two Batt<sup>ns</sup>. of Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] a Detachm<sup>t</sup>. of Dragoons the 5<sup>th</sup>. one [1<sup>st</sup>] Bat: of the 42<sup>d</sup>. the 44<sup>th</sup>. went out the Barier and proceeded as far as Beggars Town where in consequence of intelligence we expected to find a Body of Rebels, but either the information was false or we were too late for there was nothing to be seen but a few light horse men towards Chestnut hill, we staid there till 9 & then march'd back to Town where we arrived about 11. – Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Sir Henry] Clinton came out to us in the morn<sup>g</sup>. about 8 –

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Notebook* Entry, May 20, 1778 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p.185.

**Engineer Capt. John Montresor's Account of Attempt to Surprise Rebels, Beggarstown (now Mt. Airy Neighborhood, Philadelphia), Pennsylvania, May 28, 1778**

28<sup>th</sup>. Very hard north wester and very cold, a difference of 40 degrees in the Thermometer from the warmest weather since the summer set in. [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe returned to this city this morning from the [64-gun *HMS*] Eagle. At 2 this morning went out the 2 Battalion of Light Infantry 5<sup>th</sup>, [1<sup>st</sup> Bn.] 42<sup>d</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Regts. and 140 Dragoons to surprise a body of Rebels supposed to be at Germantown, which got off. The 2 flank Companies of Guards went at the same time to Frankfort Bridge. [Commander in Chief Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton went out to Germantown to meet the troops with 20 Dragoons only. Families given in their names to proceed with the army when they quit this city...

Source: "Journal of Captain John Montresor, July 1, 1777 to July 1, 1778," in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. VI, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1882, p. 287.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Records Skirmish Between the Light Infantry, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, and Rebel Horsemen, Germantown Road, Pennsylvania, June 3, 1778**

Wednesday 3<sup>d</sup>. June cloudy N.E. – last even<sup>g</sup>. some of the Rebel light Horse came near the lines & attempted to take off some of the working party, but fail'd; early this morn<sup>g</sup>. the two Batt<sup>ns</sup>. Light Infantry the 17<sup>th</sup>. & 27<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. went out on the GermanTown road where they met a few of the Rebels and took 4 light horse men , & return'd this afternoon

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry for June 3, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 186.

**Excerpts of Letter No. 4 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting Decision to March the Army to New York, Philadelphia, June 5 and 13, 1778**

Philadelphia, 5 June 1778

My Lord...

In my last letter transmitted by His Majesty's ship *Andromeda* I had the honour of informing your Lordship that from the dispersed situation of the fleet on other necessary services the Admiral could not with certainty inform me when sufficient convoys for the intended expeditions could be assembled, and that I had therefore determined agreeable to the King's instructions to evacuate this place and proceed to New York from whence the latter could be much better fitted out than it was possible to have done here.

The Admiral having acquainted me that the troops could not be taken on board nearer than Newcastle, which is forty miles distant from hence, and as such a march could not be undertaken with less than the whole Army, I found it impracticable to embark the forces in order to proceed to New York by water as there are not transports sufficient to receive the whole at once, and therefore a great part of the cavalry, all our provision train, and all those persons whose attachment to government has rendered them objects of vengeance to the Enemy, must have been left behind.

I am to add to this that if we should afterwards have been detained by contrary winds, M<sup>r</sup> Washington might have seized the opportunity of making a decisive push at New York, all reports from thence seeming to indicate an intention of that sort. .

These reasons, my Lord, have induced me to resolve on marching through Jersey.

I am prepared to expect every obstruction that can be thrown in my way but am not apprehensive of any great delay, and I secure New York by this march.

I have embarked all the baggage of the Army in such transports as are here, the stores to a considerable amount, and the greatest part of the valuable merchandise necessary for the troops which had been imported since His Majesty's forces took possession of this town.

In these vessels also a refuge has been provided for those people whose sufferings in the cause of government gave them a claim to every protection we could possibly afford them.

I hope to arrive at New York in about ten days after I leave this, by which time the Admiral will probably be able to inform me when the ships destined to convoy the different expeditions will be assembled.

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1778. I had prepared my dispatch for your Lordship thus far when I received your dispatches No<sup>s</sup>. 3, 4, 5 and 6, together with a duplicate of His Majesty's secret instructions of the 21<sup>st</sup> of March by [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, and was informed of the arrival of the King's commissioners.

I must beg leave to refer your Lordship to their letter respecting the steps that have been taken since that time. As it is not probable that they mean to interfere at present with the operations of the Army, I shall proceed according to my original plan and hope to begin my march early in the next week.

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. XV, *Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 132-133 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO5/95, f. 22.

**Engineer Capt. John Montresor's Account of Attempt to Surprise Rebels,  
Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, June 6 and 10, 1778**

6<sup>th</sup>...S. E. and Rain in the night. This morning at 2 o'clock 2 Brigades, 2 Battalions Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.], [Maj. John Graves] Simcoe's [Loyalist Queen's] Rangers and some Cavalry went to Chestnut Hill. We had 3 Light Infantry wounded & 2 horses killed. The Rebels had 3 men killed & 4 prisoners. Our Army now consists of 20,000 Effectives, 17,600 fighting men...

10<sup>th</sup>. Wind at S. W. This morning at ½ past 5 a Corps was sent towards Chestnut Hill under the Command of Brig. Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Edward] Matthew consisting of 2 Battalion Light Infantry, the Brigade of Guards and their Light Infantry and Grenadiers and the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment accompanied with [Gen.] Sir Henry

Clinton, [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, and [Peace Commissioner Frederick Howard] Lord Carlisle...

Source: "Journal of Captain John Montresor, July 1, 1777 to July 1, 1778," in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. VI, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1882, pp. 289-290.

**Journal of Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion, Describes the Light Infantry, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Company, Marching to Germantown and Beggarstown (Now Northwest Philadelphia Neighborhood of Mount Airy), Pennsylvania, June 8, 1778**

June 8<sup>th</sup>. A Detachment of the Army under the Command of Major General [Charles] Gray, marched towards Germantown, in two Divisions. The 1<sup>st</sup>. Battallion [Light Infantry, including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] took their route by York-Road, and our [2<sup>nd</sup>] Battallion [Light Infantry] the ridge Road. We proceeded to Beggarstown, where our mounted [Lt. Inf. Troop] and a party of the 17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, pursued a troop of the American Horse. On the pursuit they passed about a hundred of their Foot, that were lying on both sides of the Road, which they could not see, on account of the morning being very foggy. As they passed by the concealed party fired on their rear, which fire put the Dragoons in Confusion, and occasioned their dropping the charge, excepting a Serjeant and six men, that kept on...

When the Battallion came up, the whole of the Enemy's party, formed near Chestnut-hill, leaving one man killed and two wounded, two the Battallion took prisoners at the road.

Our loss on this occasion was a Serjeant and five men wounded, and a horse killed & two wounded, together with a horse that threw his rider, and ran away. We returned in the afternoon to Philadelphia.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 218-219. Sgt. Sullivan served in the 49<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Notes that Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie, 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, was Leaving on the Packet Ship to Join the 73<sup>rd</sup> or Macleod Highland Regt. as Major, and that Capt. John Smith was to Command the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 9 – 10 and 12, 1778**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>. June, cool last night today pleasantly warm – call'd on [Lt.] Co<sup>l</sup>. [Thomas] Stirling [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] but he was not at home, he came up afterwards to our house & taking me out he asked me if I had any objections to go to the [42<sup>nd</sup>] Light Infantry [Co.]. I said none but hoped he wo<sup>d</sup> send me to the G<sup>rs</sup>. [42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co.] when there was an opening, but he wo<sup>d</sup> not promise – he said he had seen the Gen<sup>l</sup> [Sir Henry Clinton] & spoke to him about [Lt. John] Rutherford & me succeeding in the Reg<sup>t</sup>. & he told him he would always pay a proper attention to his recommendations, but that these vacancy's were not to be fill'd up yet – There are two or three applying to get into the 42<sup>d</sup>. on this occasion but Col Stirling thinks we need not be uneasy...

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>. June... I ask'd Col: Stirling when I was to join the Light Infantry, when to my great surprize & astonishment he told me he tho<sup>t</sup>. I had declined it as not convenient, & that he had spoke to Cap<sup>t</sup>. [John] Smith: very strange behaviour M<sup>r</sup>. Stirling, I must say...

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>. June warm as usual...had Company to dine...Cap<sup>t</sup>. M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie who goes home in the Pacquet, to take possession of his Majority

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry for June 9-10 and 12, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 186-188. Maj. Mackenzie's older brother, John Mackenzie, Lord MacLeod, was the colonel of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders.

**General Orders Issued to Begin the Evacuation of Philadelphia, June 15 – 16, 1778**

Head Quarters Philadelphia 15<sup>th</sup> June 1778...

Morning Orders, 9 o'Clock.

All the Horses and Carts in possession of the different Corps of Infantry are to be immediately sent to the upper Coal Yard Wharf in order to their being carried over the Water, an Officer from each Brigade or Corps, and Batt Men of the different Corps, to be sent over with them...

Head Quarters Philadelphia 16<sup>th</sup> June 1778.

Lieut-Gen. [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen and Maj.-Gen. [James] Grant will cross the [Delaware] River to-morrow morning at four with the following Corps (Viz.), Yagers Mounted and Dismounted, Queen's Rangers, Hessian Grenadiers, 2<sup>d</sup> New Jersey Volunteers, Maryland Loyalists, Volunteers of Ireland, and Caledonian Volunteers...

All the Sick absolutely unfit to march are to be at Pencrosse's Wharf to-morrow morning at five, where they will be received on board the Active, Webb.

Source: "General Orders by Major General the Honourable William Howe," (1775-1778), The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books. This order begins the evacuation of Philadelphia and the return of the army to the area around New York.



Detail showing Gloucester and Haddonfield from "A map of Philadelphia and parts adjacent," 1777, by Nicholas Scull and George Heap

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Records the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders' Departure from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 15 – 18, 1778**



Monday June 15<sup>th</sup>. moderate The Light Horse & Brigade of Hessians pass over [the Delaware River] today – and all the Bat [baggage] Horses, what little Baggage we have is to go over to morrow morning...

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>... every thing going forward for an Evacuation of this place –

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June very warm. orders to send every thing over the River but one blanket, & after orders for the Troops to be under Arms at 6 in the Even<sup>g</sup>. provision to be drawn on the other side Nothing being now left on this side but the British Infantry, they march'd out in the Even<sup>g</sup>. & lay at the lines, leaving the Town without the least disturbance with only the main & some other small Guards – & the 33<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. at Break of day the Troops got under arms at the lines, and march'd by the Skirts of the Town to Gloucester point (having evacuated the redoubts & call'd in the Troops that were in Town) where they embark'd in flat boats & cross'd over to Gloucester [New Jersey], by several trips the whole over in the forenoon, & two days provision being drawn there the Troops march'd to within 2 miles of Haddonfield where they Encamped in the usual manner, vi<sup>z</sup>. Wigwams, – Strict orders against Plundering, & a proclamation given out to encourage the people in the Jerseys to supply the army with fresh provisions & forage, & remain at home

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for June 15-18, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 188-189.

**General Orders Announce the Promotion of Lt. Patrick Graham to be Captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., in Scotland; Philadelphia, June 17, 1778**

Head Quarters Philadelphia, 17th. June, 1778...

The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions...

42<sup>d</sup> Regiment

Lieut. Patrick Graham to be Captain by purchase vice	} 5 <sup>th</sup> June 1778
[Brevet-Maj.] James McPherson who retires	}
Ensign Alexander M <sup>c</sup> Gregor to be Lieutenant by purchase vice Graham preferred	} 5 <sup>th</sup> June 1778

Source: "General Orders by Major General the Honourable William Howe," (1775-1778) The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books.



Detail of "View of Philadelphia. 28 Nov. 1777," by Archibald Robertson

Picture Source: New York Public Library Digital Collections, Spencer Collection

## **Departure from Philadelphia and the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, June 17 through Aug. 27, 1778**

### **Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald's Account of the Final Departure from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 16 – 17, 1778**

The 16<sup>th</sup>. Another part of the army has crossed the Delaware [River] at Upper Ferry. Only the Jäger Corps, the light infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.], the English and Hessian grenadiers [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> British Gren. Bn.], the [Loyalist Queen's] Ranger Corps, and a few provincials are left in and before the city, all of which have received orders today to be ready to march at a moment's notice.

At daybreak on the morning of June 17 the rest of the troops left Philadelphia, crossing the Delaware in two divisions at Upper Ferry and between the city and Kensington. As soon as it had assembled on the left [east] bank of the Delaware, the entire army set out toward Haddonfield... The light infantry and the English grenadiers covered the rear...

Source: *Diary of the American War, A Hessian Journal, Captain Johann Ewald, Field Jäger Corps*, Trans. and Ed. Justin P. Tustin, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1979, p. 132.



Detail of Self Portrait Sketch of Maj. John Andre, 1780

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Yale University Gallery*

### **Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade's Departure (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.), Philadelphia, June 17 – 18, 1778**

17<sup>th</sup>: The Army received Orders to parade at 6 in the Afternoon at their Brigade parades; from these they were marched to the works, behind which they lay on their Arms.

18<sup>th</sup> Before Daybreak, [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>: [James] Grant with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> Brigades and the Hessian Grenadiers marched in different Columns to Gloucester point, where he crossed the Delaware in flat boats.

At Sunrise the 3<sup>d</sup>: and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigades and the Guards were put in motion and came to Gloucester point, where they also crossed. The Grenadiers and Light Infantry passed last: The [22-gun *HM Armed Ship*] Vigilant was stationed a little above the point, and her guns could graze the Neck of Land thro' which the troops passed, so as to render the embarkation very secure. No shot was fired, nor did an enemy appear until the whole were on the opposite shore. ..

Source: *Major Andre's Journal*, Huntington Library.

### **Excerpts of Letter No. 5 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief,**

**North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American  
Department, Reporting the Evacuation of Philadelphia, June 18-27, 1778**

New York, 5 July 1778

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that pursuant to His Majesty's instructions I evacuated Philadelphia on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June at 3 o'clock in the morning and proceeded to Gloucester Point without being followed by the Enemy. Everything being from thence passed in safety across the Delaware through the excellent disposition made by the Admiral to secure our passage, the Army marched at 10 o'clock and reached Haddonfield the same day. A strong Corps of the Enemy having upon our approach abandoned the difficult pass of Mount Holly, the Army proceeded without any interruption from them excepting what was occasioned by their having destroyed every bridge on our road. As the country is much intersected with marshy rivulets the obstructions we met with were frequent, and the excessive heat of the season rendered the labour of repairing the bridges severely felt.

The advanced parties of our light troops, arriving unexpectedly at Crosswicks on the 23<sup>d</sup>, after a trifling skirmish prevented the Enemy from destroying the bridge over a large creek at that village and the Army passed it the next morning. One column under the command of his Excellency [Hessian] Lieutenant-General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen halted near Amely's Town, and as the provision train and heavy artillery were stationed in that division the other column under Lieutenant-General [Charles] Earl Cornwallis took a position at Allen's Town which covered the other encampment.

Thus far, my Lord, my march pointed equally towards the Hudson's River and Staten Island by the Raritan; I was now at the juncture when it was necessary to decide ultimately what course to pursue. Encumbered as I was by an enormous provision train etc., to which impediment the probability of obstructions and length of my march obliged me to submit, I was led to wish for a route less liable to obstacles than those above mentioned.

I had received intelligence that [Rebel] Generals [George] Washington and [Charles] Lee had passed the Delaware with their Army, had assembled a numerous militia from all the neighbouring provinces, and that [Maj. Gen. Horatio] Gates with an Army from the northward was advancing to join them on the Raritan. As I could not hope that, after having always hitherto so studiously avoided a general action, General Washington would now give in to it against every dictate of policy, I could only suppose that his views were directed against my baggage etc. in which part I was indeed vulnerable. This circumstance alone would have tempted me to avoid the difficult passage of the Raritan; but when I reflected that from Sandy Hook I should be able with more expedition and greater secrecy to carry His Majesty's further orders into execution, I did not hesitate to order the Army into the road which leads through Freehold to the Navesink. The approach of the Enemy's Army being indicated by the frequent appearance of their light troops on our rear, I requested his Excellency Lieutenant-General Knyphausen to take the baggage of the whole Army under the charge of his division, consisting of the troops Mentioned in the margin. Under the head of baggage was comprised not only all the wheel-carriages of every Department but also the bat horses, a train which, as the country admitted but of one route

17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons,  
2<sup>d</sup> Battalion Light Infantry,  
Hessian Yagers,  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> Brigades British,

Stern's and Loos's  
Brigades of Hessians,  
Pennsylvania Loyalists,  
Maryland Loyalists,  
West Jersey Volunteers.

for carriages, extended near 12 miles. The indispensable necessity I was under of securing these is obvious, and the difficulty of doing it in a most woody country against an Army far superior in numbers will I trust be no less so...

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XV, Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 159-163 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO 5/95, f. 27.

### **Journal of Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion, Describes Departure from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 17-18, 1778**

June 17<sup>th</sup>. [Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton thinking it adviseable to withdraw the Army from Philadelphia, the Baggage and horses belonging to the whole of the Troops, cross'd the Ferry in flat boats to Jersey; together with all the Stores and Artillery...

On the Evening of this day (17) the whole Garrison got under arms, and marched to the Redoubts and Abatis of the Lines, where the Light Infantry, grenadiers and Foot Guards lay upon their Arms all night.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Troops moved from the Lines, at six o'clock in the morning, and marched through the City, the Light Infantry and some Dragoons covering the rear. The Grand Army embarked at Gloucester Point in two Columns, under the command of [Hessian] Lieutenant General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen and [Lt. Gen. Charles] Earl Cornwallis; the latter having also the command of the flying Army.

The whole cross'd the Delaware [River], and in the evening encamped at Evesham [New Jersey], having the 1<sup>st</sup>. Battallion of Light Infantry on the Right Flank, and the 2<sup>d</sup>. Ditto on the Left.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 219-220. Sgt. Sullivan served in the 49<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. The phrase "*lay upon their Arms*" means to sleep in the field without tents or other covering besides the soldiers' blankets.

### **Engineer Capt. John Montresor's Account of British Army's Departure from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1778**

18<sup>th</sup> June, 1778, Evacuation of Philadelphia

18<sup>th</sup>. This morning early the Kings Troops evacuated the city of Philadelphia and the several Redoubts and works that form its Defences and retired by land to Gloucester point 4 miles below it on the Pennsylvania Shore and there embarked in Flat Bottomed Boats and crossed the River Delaware into New Jersey at Gloucester...

Source: "Journal of Captain John Montresor, July 1, 1777 to July 1, 1778," in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. VI, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1882, p. 292.



Detail showing Col. Daniel Morgan in White from *Surrender of General Burgoyne*, 1821, by John Trumbull

Wikimedia Commons, from *U. S. Architect of the Capitol*

**Journal of Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion, Describes a Skirmish Between the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion and Rebel Col. Daniel Morgan's Riflemen and Militia, Near Allentown, New Jersey, June 24, 1778**

June 24<sup>th</sup>. The right division [main body and Hessians] marched from Bickleston [Bustleton], and the left from Crosricks. On the march the 1<sup>st</sup> Battallion Light Infantry [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.], at the head of the Column, fell in with Colonel Morgan's Rifflemen and a body of Militia under Generals Dickinson and Heard near Allentown. A smart firing ensued and the Enemy at length retreated into the woods, without any material loss at either side, and the division remained encamped at Allentown that night. The Right wing encamped the same evening at Emblestown.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, p. 221. Sgt. Sullivan served in the 49<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.

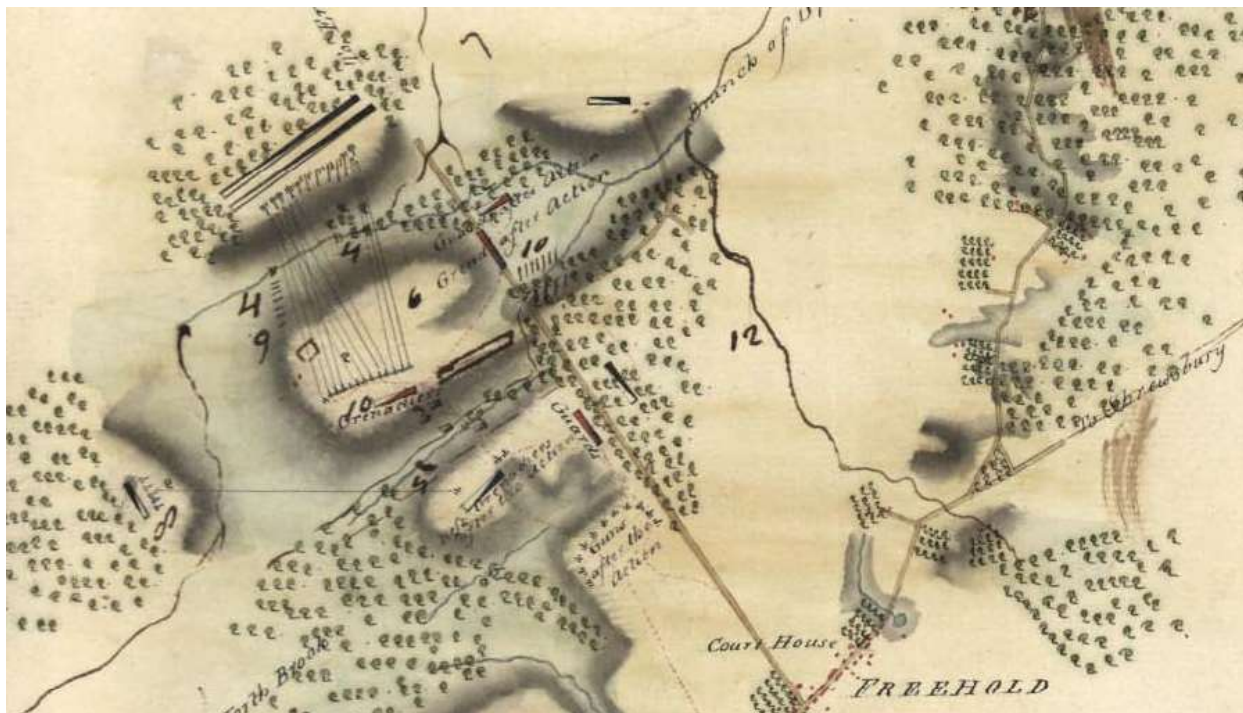
**General Orders for the March on the Day of the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, June 27, 1778**

Head Quarters Camp near Freehold 27<sup>th</sup> June 1778.

The Army will move to-morrow morning. The 2<sup>d</sup> Division, under His Excellency General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen, will march at three o'Clock, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Division [under Lord Cornwallis] at five. The Baggage of the whole Army will go with the 2<sup>d</sup> Division, except the Batt Horses of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, which may march with it.

The Baggage of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division will follow that of the 2<sup>d</sup> in the order in which they have hitherto moved...

Source and Note: "General Orders by Major General the Honourable William Howe," (1775-1778) The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books. As the army marched the next day the advanced corps of the Rebel army attack the baggage train beginning the Battle of Monmouth, near Freehold, N. J. Gen. Clinton turned Lord Cornwallis' division back to attack the following Rebel army, thinking it would draw away the forces attacking his baggage. After pushing back the attacking Rebels some distance to strong positions, Clinton's army returned to its march toward New York. The Rebel army claimed victory based on holding the battleground Clinton had abandoned to continue his march.



Detail of "Sketch of part of the road from Freehold to Middle Town shewing the skirmish between the rear of the British Army under the command of His Excellency Genl: Sir Henry Clinton and the advance corps of the rebel army, June 28, 1778," by John Hills.

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

## The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, New Jersey, June 28, 1778

**Excerpts of Letter No. 5 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, June 28, 1778**

New York, 5 July 1778

My Lord...

16<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons,  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> Battalions  
British Grenadiers,  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Light  
Infantry,  
Hessian Grenadiers,  
Guards,  
3<sup>d</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigades  
British.

I desired [Hessian] Lieutenant-General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen to move at daybreak on the 28<sup>th</sup>; and that I might not press upon him in the first part of the march in which we had but one route, I did not follow with the other division till near 8 o'clock. Soon after I had marched, reconnoitering parties of the Enemy appeared on our left flank. The Queen's Rangers fell in with and dispersed some Detachments among the woods in the same quarter. Our rearguard having descended from the heights above Freehold in to a plain near three miles in length and about one mile in breadth, several columns of the Enemy appeared likewise descending into the plain, and about ten o'clock they began to cannonade our rear. Intelligence was at this instant brought me that the Enemy were discovered marching in force on both our flanks. I was convinced that our baggage was their object; but it being at this juncture engaged in defiles which continued for some miles, no means occurred of parrying the blow but attacking the Corps which harassed our rear and pressing it so hard as to oblige the Detachments to return from our flanks to its assistance.



I had good information that [Rebel] General [George] Washington was up with his whole Army, estimated at about 20,000, but as I knew there were two defiles between him and the Corps at which I meant to strike I judged that he could not have passed them with a greater force than what [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis's division was well able to engage, and had I even met his whole Army in the passage of those defiles, I had little to apprehend but his situation might have been critical.

The Enemy's cavalry, commanded it is said by M<sup>r</sup> [Maj. Gen. Gilbert du Motier, Marquis] la Fayette, having approached within our reach, they were charged with great spirit by the Queen's [16<sup>th</sup>] Light Dragoons. They did not wait the shock but fell back in confusion upon their own infantry.

Thinking it possible that the event might draw to a general action I sent for a Brigade of British and the 17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons from Lieut- General Knyphausen's division, and having directed them on their arrival to take a position effectually covering our right flank, of which I was most jealous, I made a disposition of attack in the plain; but before I could advance, the Enemy fell back and took a strong position on the heights above Freehold Courthouse. The heat of the weather was intense and our Men already suffered severely from fatigue, but our circumstances obliged us to make a vigorous exertion. The British Grenadiers, with their left to the village of Freehold, and the Guards on the right of the Grenadiers, began the attack with such spirit that the Enemy gave way immediately. The 2<sup>d</sup> line of the Enemy stood the attack with greater obstinacy but were likewise completely routed. They then took a third position with a marshy hollow in front, over which it would have been scarcely possible to have attacked them; however, part of the second line made a Movement to the front, occupied some ground on the Enemy's left flank, and the Light Infantry and Queen's Rangers turned their left.

By this time our Men were so overpowered with fatigue that I could press the affair no farther, especially as I was confident the end was gained for which the attack had been made.

I ordered the Light Infantry to rejoin me, but a strong Detachment of the Enemy having possessed themselves of a post which would have annoyed them in their retreat, the 33<sup>d</sup> Regiment made a Movement towards the Enemy, which with a similar one made by the 1<sup>st</sup> Grenadiers immediately dispersed them.

I took the position from whence the Enemy had first been driven after they had quitted the plain, and having reposed the troops till ten at night to avoid the excessive heat in the day, I took the advantage of the moon light to rejoin Lieutenant-General Knyphausen who had advanced to Nut Swamp near Middletown.

Our baggage had been attempted by some of the Enemy's light troops, who were repulsed by the good disposition made by Lieutenant-General Knyphausen and Maj.-General [James] Grant and the good countenance of the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment whose picquets alone were attacked and one troop of the 17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons. The two Corps which had marched against it (being as I have since learnt a Brigade on each flank) were recalled, as I had suspected, at the beginning of the action.

It would be sufficient honour to the troops barely to say that they had forced a Corps, as I am informed, of near 12,000 Men from two strong positions, but it will I doubt not be considered as doubly creditable when I Mention that they did it under such disadvantages of heat and fatigue that a great part of those we lost fell dead as they advanced without a wound...



Your Lordship will receive herewith a return of the killed, wounded, missing etc. of His Majesty's troops on the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month. That of the Enemy is supposed to have been more considerable, especially in killed.

The loss of Lieu<sup>t</sup>.-Colonel [Henry] Monckton, who commanded the 2<sup>d</sup> Battalion of Grenadiers, is much to be lamented.

I am much indebted to Lord Cornwallis for his zealous services on every occasion, and I found great support from the activity of Major General [Charles] Grey. Brig.-Generals [Edward] Mathew, [Alexander] Leslie and Sir William Erskine.

I beg leave to refer your Lordship for any other particulars which you may wish to be informed of to Colonel [James] Paterson who will have the honour of delivering these dispatches and whose services in this country entitle him to every mark of your Lordship's favour.

*Signed.*

Source and Note: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XV, Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 159-163 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO 5/95, f. 27. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders were in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in this battle.

**Secretary of State George Germaine's Forward of King George III's  
Approval of the Army of Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Monmouth, June 28, 1778**

No. 12)

Duplicate

Whitehall 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1778.

Sir,

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of last Month I had the Pleasure to receive your Dispatches N<sup>rs</sup>. 5 & 6, by Colonel [James] Paterson, and immediately laid them before the King.

Majesty's Reliance on the Valour & Affection of His Troops, and His Confidence in the Zeal & Ability of His General, had not suffered a Doubt to arise in His Royal Breast that your March through the Jerseys would be other than successful, from the time your former letter was received; but it was with the greatest Satisfaction His Majesty dwelt upon every Circumstance of your very difficult Passage, so fully & clearly detailed in your Dispatch; and was graciously pleased to express the highest approbation of your whole Conduct in the Dispositions you made, and the Spirit & Address with which you effected your purpose. The Wisdom of your Choice of the Route by Freehold to Sandy Hook was particularly remarked by His Majesty, to which and the highly military & spirited Resolution you took of attacking the Enemy in their Main Body, and your forming so true a Judgement of the Effect of that Operation in obliging the Enemy to recall the Detachments which were ordered to attack the Corps under the Command of [Hessian] Lieut. General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen, His Majesty imputes the unexampled Event of conducting an army, encumbered with so long a Train of Baggage, through a very difficult Country, in the Face of a numerous Enemy, without the loss of a single Carriage.

The Commendations you so properly give to the Officers & Soldiers under your Command appear to His Majesty to have been fully merited; and it is His Majesty's Command that you acquaint them that their Intrepidity & Perseverance in so arduous a Service is highly approved by the King. It would, however, be injustice to Lieut. Generals Knyphausen & [Lt. Gen. Charles] Earl Cornwallis, as well as to Major General [Charles] Grey and Brigadier Generals [Edward] Mathew, [Alexander] Lesslie & Sir William Erskine, whose Services you distinguish, were I not to acquaint you that His Majesty desires you will convey to each of them in particular His fullest Approbation.

The Arrival of [French Adm. Charles Hector, Comte] M<sup>r</sup>. d'Estaing's Squadron on the Coast was undoubtedly a sufficient Reason for [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe to defer making the Embarkations directed in His Majesty's secret Instructions of the 21<sup>st</sup> of March; and as you will soon have heard that [Rear] Admiral [John] Byron's Squadron which followed the French Fleet, had the Misfortune of being

separated in a Gale of Wind off Newfoundland, the Propriety of that Step will be still more evident; But I trust so many of Admiral Byron's Fleet will have kept together, as when joined to the Ships with Lord Howe, will have enabled His Lordship to act with Success against M<sup>r</sup>. d'Estaing, and that an opportunity will then have offered of carrying those Instructions into Execution.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Humble Servant

Geo: Germain

Sir Henry Clinton

Source: *Sir Henry Clinton Papers* 40: 33, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan. Transcribed by Todd Braisted.



42<sup>nd</sup> Foot vs Cilley's "Picked" Men, Battle of Monmouth New Jersey - June 28<sup>th</sup> 1778

Picture Source: Courtesy of Mark Maritato, *Historical Paintings & Fine Art*

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Records the Actions of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, June 28, 1778**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June a fight – [Hessian Lt.] Gen<sup>l</sup> [Wilhelm von] Knipphausen with his Division & provision & Baggage train marched between 3 & 4 o'clock on the road leading to Middletown Our Division [commanded by Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis] moved after 5 o'clock on the same road, observing the same order of march as the two days past – Between 9 & 10 oclock when our [3<sup>rd</sup>] Brigade was about 4 miles advanced from the Village of Monmouth, (the Rear of the Division I suppose about 2 miles behind) the Enemy made their appearance in force near the Rear; the General rode back & ordered the troops to face about and march back with all speed to attack the Rebels; as our Troops approach'd their van, a Cannonade began about the East end of the Village, but the Enemy soon retired to their more solid Column as the flank Corps moved up, about 2 miles to the westw<sup>d</sup>. of the Village the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. [Grenadiers] attack'd, & the Light Inf<sup>y</sup>. were sent to the righ[t] The 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] & [Loyalist] Queen Rangers were dispatch'd to the right to try to gain the Enemys left flank, but meeting swamps & much impediment in the Woods they did not get up in time, mean while the Brigade of Guards & two Battalions of British Gren<sup>rs</sup>. [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn.] after a very

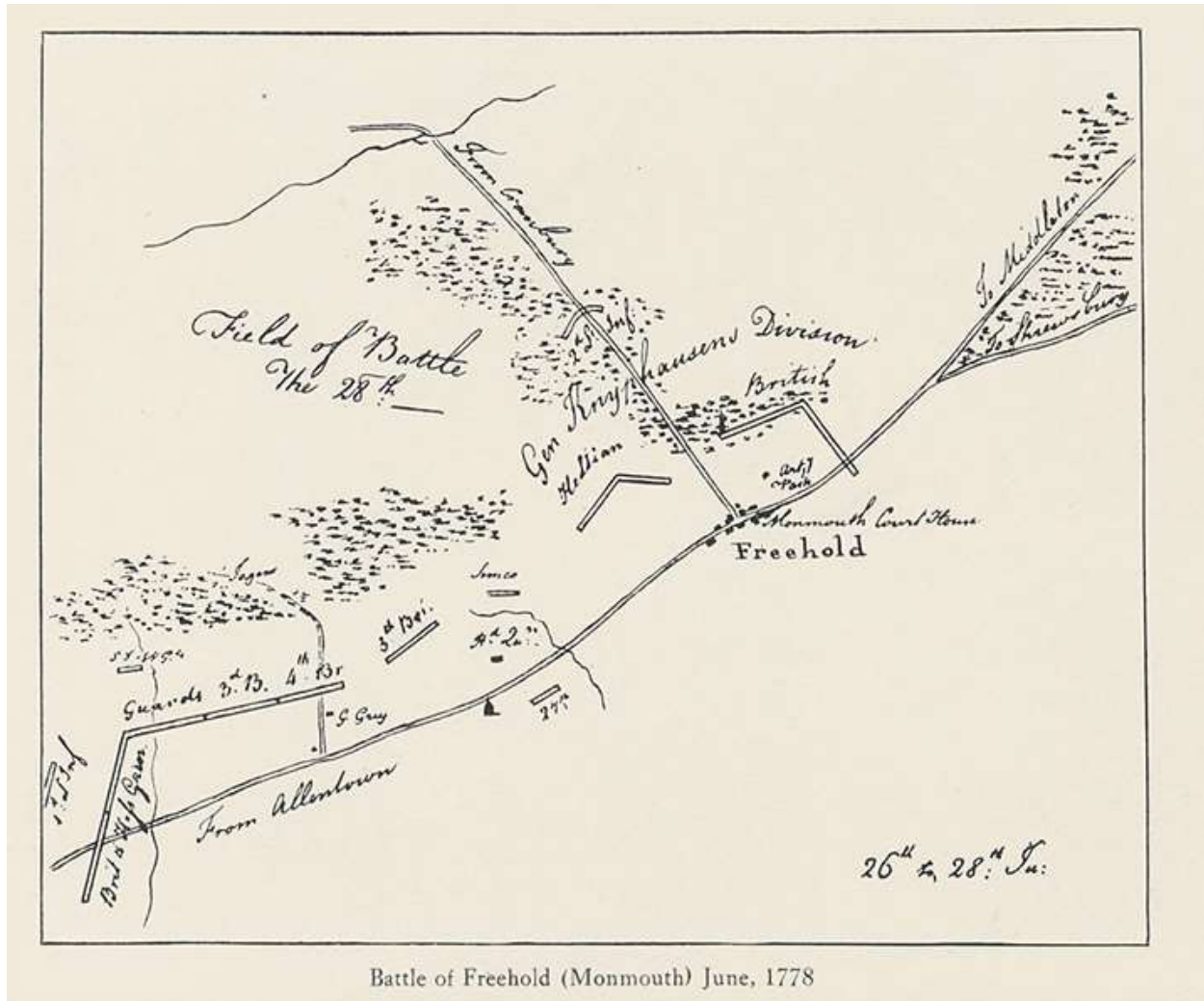
quick march moved up briskly & attack'd the Enemy in front receiving a heavy fire as they approach'd of both cannon & musketry & when within a short distance they pour'd in their fire & dashing forwards drove the foe before them for some considerable time, killing many with their Bayonets but seeing a fresh line of the Enemy strongly posted on t' other side a Ravine & Swamp & well supplied with Cannon & having suffer'd much both from the tire of the Enemy & fatigue & heat of the day, they were order'd to ret ire till more Troops came up to their Support – The 3<sup>d</sup>. Brigade came up after a very quick & fatiguing march of six or 7 miles, and leaving their Packs at the edge of the wood on their right, they dash'd tho' that wood & a deep swamp, and came upon a Scattter'd Body of the Rebels whom the left [2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion] of the 42<sup>d</sup>. drove before them, and coming to a rising ground saw the Enemy in force on a hill about 7 or 800 yards in front playing a good many pieces of Cannon as Briskly as they could on everything within their reach, whilst our Cannon were playing upon them with I'm told tolerable success; while this Cannonade was going on, part of the 42<sup>d</sup>. [1<sup>st</sup> Bn.] cross'd a very deep swamp & took possession of a hill on their right, &: were soon followed by the 44<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. but seeing no appearance of the Enemy there they were order'd hack to the Hill they left being Flank'd by the Enemys Cannon. These several maneuvers & rapid marches with the excessive heat & the difficult passes they met with had so fatigued & knock'd up the men y<sup>t</sup>. [that] a great number of the several Corps died upon the Spot; while the 3<sup>d</sup>. Brigade halted a little while to breathe the 1<sup>st</sup>. Light Infantry & Queens Rangers came upon their right & finding themselves likewise much fatig<sup>d</sup>. & having drop'd a good many men, it was thought improper to advance any farther upon the Enemy who were strongly posted, & the Troops were accordingly order'd to retire to cover the Village of Monmouth where the Wounded & Sick were brought to in the Evening – where we remained till near 12 oclock at night, & leaving those of the wounded that were too ill to remove, with a Surgeon & flag we march'd forwards to join the other division or the Army whom we overtook near to Middletown about 9 o'clock of the morn<sup>g</sup>. of the 29<sup>th</sup>. in this action the Gren<sup>rs</sup>. suffer'd considerably having; 13 officers killed & wounded and about 150 men killed wounded & missing [Lt.] Colo: [Henry] Monckton [2<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Bn.] among the slain – The Guards likewise lost above 40 – and the several other Corps that came up lost some men either by the Enemy or the heat & fatigue of the day, which was very distressing; – The total of killed wounded & missing near 400 – 358 The line of Baggage was likewise attack'd by a small party about 10 or 12 miles from Monmouth, & had a few men kill'd & wounded The last nights march about 14 miles NE thro' a thick wood & a sandy road almost the whole way, cross'd a creek about 5 miles from Middleton, march'd two miles further & halted till next morn<sup>g</sup>. The face of the Country now changed from level to hilly –

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry for June 28, 1778 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 193-195.

### **Maj. Gen. David Stewart's Account of Capt. Charles Graham and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadiers Before the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, Freehold, New Jersey, June 28, 1778**

When the Grenadier Brigade lay on their arms, before the commencement of the action, the [Rebel Maj. Gen. Gilbert du Motier] Marquis de la Fayette, accompanied by a number of officers, rode up, and halting at the distance of 300 yards, asked, "What troops are these," when Captain [Charles] Graham, of the 42<sup>d</sup> [Gren. Co.], answered, "The British Grenadiers;" "very well," said La Fayette, "be prepared and we will soon be up with you." Accordingly, in less than an hour, he made his attack with great briskness, but was driven back with such precipitation, that [Rebel Maj.] General [Charles] Lee, with a strong body of men in support, could not save him, and both were compelled to retreat in great disorder. Lee was sharply questioned by [Rebel] General [George] Washington, why he allowed himself to be beaten. "Sir," answered Lee, "you know not the troops I opposed, they were the English Grenadiers." General Lee knew them well, having served many years as a Lieutenant and captain in the grenadiers of the 44<sup>th</sup> regiment...

Source and Note: *Sketches of the Character, Manners, and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland; with Details of the Military Service of the Highland Regiments*, Vol. I, Second Edition, Col. David Stewart, Archibald Constable and Co., Edinburgh, 1822, Google Books, p. 387. Although Stewart wrote his book well after the American war, he relied heavily on accounts from the participants. He served in the 77<sup>th</sup> Highlanders during the American war and joined the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in 1787, when many of the officers who had served in the war were still with the regiment.



Maj. Andre's Map of the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, June 28, 1778

Map Source: *Major Andre's Journal*...Ed. C. DeW. Willcox, William Abbatt, Tarrytown (N.Y.), 1930, following p. 80.

**Journal of Maj. of Brigade John Andre, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders), Describes the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, Freehold, New Jersey, June 28, 1778**

28<sup>th</sup> [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen [column] marched from Freehold at 4. The baggage joined and followed his Division. Simco's Corps [Loyalist Queen's Rangers] and the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade took post on the Cranberry Road. At 5 o'clock [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis moved. Parties of Horse and Foot appeared on the heights to the left of the Cranberry Road, and Colonel Simco with two or three Companies was sent along the skirt of the wood, to endeavor to get around them. He fell in with a very superior body of Militia, whom he charged with his mounted Company, killing or wounding several of them. Himself and three or four of his own were wounded, but all brought off.

As the rear of Lord Cornwallis's Division [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] moved off the ground on which General Knyphausen had been encamped, the Enemy began to show themselves. At first only a few of their Light Horse appeared; a Corps soon came out of the wood to the left, but a few cannon-shot made them retire again, and their Light Horse only continued to follow. Some of these having ventured so far as to afford a chance of intercepting them, two or three Troops of the 16<sup>th</sup> Dragoons charged into the fields after them, but found a large body of Infantry ambuscaded, who gave them a heavy fire and obliged them to retreat. Immediately after this a Column appeared to our left and Rear, marching very rapidly and in good order. The 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] were fronted about to the advancing Enemy, the Guards, Hessian and British Grenadiers [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co., in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn.] were halted and faced to the left, and Orders being sent to the 3<sup>d</sup> [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders], 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigades to return and be ready to support, the whole began moving back. The Rebel Corps as soon retreated, nor was a shot scarcely fired until we had recrossed the Cranberry Road. The troops found themselves now arranged with the Light Infantry on the right, the Guards in the center and the Grenadiers on the left. The Hessian Grenadiers were in the rear of the Light Infantry, and the 3<sup>d</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade supported the Grenadiers and Guards. The Guards first fell into action by receiving a very heavy fire from a wood on their right. They soon dislodged the Enemy from it, and drove them as far as they had strength to pursue. The Enemy had yet cannon and Troops on an advantageous height in front, from which it was necessary to force them. The Grenadiers were therefore led on, and the Rebels were driven back across a deep morass, upon their main Army. This was not effected without loss, but more from heat and fatigue under which many died, then from the Enemy's shot. To this height our cannon, consisting of twelve 6-pounders, two medium 12-pounders, and two howitzers, were brought and opposed to that of the Enemy, whose whole force occupied the opposite hills. Whilst the Guards and Grenadiers were engaged the Light Infantry, pressing forward on the right upon the Cranberry Road, had headed the Swamp which divided the two Armies, and gained an eminence very near the Enemy's left flank, but without meeting any opposition. The 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade, upon the attack of the Guards, moved into the woods on their right and penetrated across the morass to the hill, where the Light Infantry took post a few minutes after. The Hessian Grenadiers and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade remained as a second line, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade kept in the rear as a reserve. In this situation the cannonade took place which lasted until the evening, when the Troops were withdrawn to a new position half a mile to the rear, where they lay on their arms in a convenient arrangement for proceeding on their march, and better covered from some guns the Enemy had brought round at a considerable distance on our left, and fired with a great elevation. A body of the Rebels attempted to possess themselves of the hill from which the Grenadiers were retiring; but were immediately attacked and put to flight with some loss. Another Corps was as unsuccessful in endeavoring to annoy the Light Infantry as they recrossed the swamp; after this they did not venture to advance. The wounded were brought into the village of Freehold, and those whose cases would admit of it, brought away when the Division marched.

At twelve o'clock the Division marched from Freehold, and in the morning joined Major General [James] Grant and General Knyphausen within five miles of Middletown.

*Source: Major Andre's Journal, Operations of the British Army Under Lieutenant Generals Sir William Howe and Sir Henry Clinton June 1777 to November 1778, Recorded by Major John Andre, Adjutant General to Which is Added the Ethics of Major Andre's Mission, Ed. C. DeW. Willcox, William Abbatt, Tarrytown (N.Y.), 1930, pp. 78-81.*

### **General Orders for Casualty Reports from the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, June 28, 1778**

Head Quarters Heights of Monmouth 28<sup>th</sup> June 1778.

A Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, in the Action of this day, to be given in to-morrow at orderly time.

*Source: "General Orders by Major General the Honourable William Howe," (1775-1778) The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789 in Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books.*





Detail showing Freehold, Middleton and Navesink from "The provinces of New York, and New Jersey; with part of Pensylvania, and the province of Quebec.," 1775 by Samuel Holland

Map Source: *Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.*

**Excerpts of Letter No. 5 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief,  
North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American  
Department, Reporting the Movement to Sandy Hook, New Jersey, June 29-July 5, 1778**

New York, 5 July 1778

My Lord...

Fearing that my first order had miscarried before I quitted this ground [at Monmouth], I sent a second for a Brigade of infantry, the 17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, and 2<sup>d</sup> Battalion of Light Infantry, to meet me on the march, with which additional force, had [Rebel] General [George] Washington shown himself the next day, I was determind to attack him; but there not being the least appearance of an Enemy, I suspected he might have pushed a considerable Corps to a strong position near Middletown. I therefore left the rearguard on its march and detached Major General [James] Grant to take post there, which was effected on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The whole Army marched to this position the next day and then fell back to another near Navesink, where I waited two days in the hope that M<sup>r</sup> Washington might have been tempted to have advanced to the position near Middletown which we had quitted, in which case I might have attacked him to advantage.

During this time the sick and wounded were embarked and preparations made for passing to Sandy Hook Island by a bridge, which by the extraordinary efforts of the Navy was soon completed and



over which the whole Army passed in about two hours time, the horses and cattle having been previously transported...

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. XV, *Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 159-163 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO 5/95, f. 27.

**Excerpt of Letter No. 67 from Vice Adm. Viscount Richard Howe, to Phillip Stephens, Secretary to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Reporting the Army's Movement to Sandy Hook and New York, June 29 – July 5, 1778**

[64-gun *HMS*] *Eagle*, off Staten Island, 6 July 1778

Sir, from my letters by the [16-gun *HM Sloop of War*] *Porcupine*, of which duplicates are forwarded herewith, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will be informed of the motions of the Army, whereby my proceedings with the fleet have been chiefly influenced to the 19<sup>th</sup> past.

Having been retarded on the passage down the Delaware after the town of Philadelphia was evacuated by almost continued calms. I was not able to quit that river until the 28<sup>th</sup> in the evening, but anchored off of Sandy Hook (followed by the transports) the next day.

The Army arrived on the Jersey shore adjacent to the heights of Neversink the succeeding morning, no considerable attempt to interrupt the march having been made until the 28<sup>th</sup>. An attack appearing (as I understand) to have been then meditated in force on the rearguard where the commander-in-chief was present, the rebels were charged with great vigour and beat off with considerable loss.

The Enemy desisting from every purpose of further obstruction to the Movement of the King's forces, and the artillery, baggage, and part of the troops taken off as the weather would permit in the meantime, the rest of the Army passed on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant over a bridge formed with flatboats across the channel which had been made by the sea last winter and separated the peninsula of Sandy Hook from the main.

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. XV, *Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, p. 163 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO 5/95.

**Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of the Army's Return to New York, June 29-July 5, 1778**

29<sup>th</sup> [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen marched to Middletown.

30<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant General [Charles] Lord Cornwallis marched at 3 in the morning and joined the other Division at Middletown. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>d</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and [Hessian] Stirn's Brigade were sent forward to occupy the heights of Neversink, and the baggage received Orders to follow. At 10 in the evening the remainder of The troops marched to the heights.

31<sup>st</sup> [actually July 1] The Troops were arranged on the heights and the embarkation of baggage, stores &c. began. During the succeeding days the embarkation was carried on.

A bridge of boats was thrown across the gap in the Isthmus, which till lately had connected Sandy Hook with the main, and the Troops were marched into the Hook and embarked on board transports.

The 3<sup>d</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Brigades were landed on Long Island; the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> on Staten Island and the Guards, Hessians and Cavalry on York Island.

Source: *Major Andre's Journal, Operations of the British Army Under Lieutenant Generals Sir William Howe and Sir Henry Clinton June 1777 to November 1778, Recorded by Major John Andre, Adjutant General to Which is Added the Ethics of Major Andre's Mission*, Ed. C. DeW. Willcox, William Abbatt, Tarrytown (N.Y.), 1930, p. 81.



Detail showing Gravesend Bay and New Utrecht from "Plan of New York and Staten Islands with part of Long Island, survey'd in the years 1781, & 82."

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.,  
Records the Army Preparations for the Departure from New Jersey,  
June 30 – July 4, 1778**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup>. Division [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] (still so call'd tho' on the rear) march'd at day light thro' strong Country & came to Middleton about 3 miles, in the Environs of which the army Encamp'd – This little Village surrounded with hills is about two or 3 miles from Rariton Bay, and about 12 miles to the light house [at Sandy Hook] – from the Hills here about you have a fine view of the Bay, the Hook, the Fleet, Long Island, Staten Island & Amboy – In the afternoon the heavy division moved a few miles towards Neversink and about 10 o'clock at night the first Division followed, creeping & halting on a crooked road till 2 oclock of the morn<sup>g</sup>. when we stopp'd & took a nap wh<sup>h</sup>. [which] was much wanted –

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July The army Encamp'd in a strong position occupying the Hills from 2 to 4 miles eastward of Middleton & making a communication with the bay in which the Fleet are lying within the Hook, our left extending tow<sup>d</sup>. [toward] the Neversink, our right within less than two miles of the Village facing differently as the ground requires, or as the Enemy may be expected, who are still hovering about us, showing themselves in different places in our front & right, some popping shots, now & then...

Thursday 2<sup>d</sup>. July – Employed in Embarking the stores & heavy Baggage of the army – The wounded & sick sent on board yesterday – The Camp quiet – 'tis said [Rebel Gen. George] Washington has gone back with the bulk of his army –

Friday 3<sup>d</sup>. it rained some last night, and almost all this day... The officers Baggage all sent off, except what their serv<sup>ts</sup> can carry on their backs – The waggons & y<sup>f</sup>. [their] horses gone –

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>. the weather clear'd up towards noon – all the officers horses sent off... orders to be ready to move at break of day –

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries for June 30-July 4, 1778*, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 195-196.

**General Orders to March for Embarkation, Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Compliments for the Army's Conduct at the Battle of Monmouth, and Orders for Temporarily Disbanding of the Lt. Infantry and Grenadier Battalions, Camp Near Navesink and Sandy Hook, New Jersey, July 4-5, 1778**

Head Quarters Camp near Neversunk 4<sup>th</sup> July 1778.

The Army will hold themselves in readiness to march at daybreak to-morrow...

Head Quarters Sandy Hook 5<sup>th</sup> July 1778.

The March being now completed, the Commander in Chief desires to return his thanks to the Army for the cheerfulness with which they have supported the fatigues of the duty; he wishes likewise to declare his satisfaction at the noble Ardour shown by that part of the Army who repulsed so superior a number of the Enemy on the 28<sup>th</sup>. of June; and on this occasion the Commander in Chief must beg leave to express his Sense of the assistance he received from the Zeal of Lieut.-Gen. [Charles] Earl Cornwallis, Maj.-Gen. [Charles] Grey, and Brig.-Gens. [Edward] Mathew, [Alexander] Leslie, and Sir William Erskine.

The Commander in Chief is, though with reluctance, obliged to say, that the irregularity of the Army during the March reflected much disgrace on that discipline which ought to be the first object of an Officer's attention.

The Flank Companies of all the British Regiments in this division of the Army are to join their respective Corps until further Orders, to settle their Accounts, &c.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> Brigades of British are to Encamp near the Watering place on Staten Island, but are not to land until they receive their Tents.

The 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, and the three Provincial Troops, the Guards, Queen's Rangers, Flank Companies of 22<sup>d</sup>, 43<sup>d</sup>, and Marines, and all the Hessian Corps, are to be posted on New York Island; the rest of the Army will be at Utrecht on Long Island...

Source and Note: "General Orders by Major General the Honourable William Howe," (1775-1778) The Kemble Papers, Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books. The officers of the Flank companies, i.e. the grenadiers and light infantry, took the order to disband as an insult to the elite status of their battalions.



Detail showing the channel to be crossed to reach Sandy Hook from “*A chart of the bar of Sandy Hook the entrance of Hudson’s River in the Province of New Jersey*,” 1782, by Lt. John Hills

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### **Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald’s Account of the Army’s Embarkation from Sandy Hook, New Jersey, July 4 – 7, 1778**

The 4<sup>th</sup>. For several days now we enjoyed a little rest instead of the enemy. On the other hand, we were severely pestered by insects of all kinds in these uninhabited mountains that I did not know whether I would not rather skirmish with the enemy than spend one day longer here. We were so terribly bitten at night by the mosquitoes and other kinds of vermin that we could not open our eyes for the swelling in our faces. Many men made unrecognizable, and our bodies looked like those people who have been suddenly attacked by measles or smallpox.

The 5<sup>th</sup>. At daybreak the army marched to its embarkation places. The Corps under [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen was embarked about noon, several miles above Sandy Hook. The corps under [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, which includes the Jäger Corps, marched through the impassable mountains and woods. About ten o’clock in the forenoon we crossed the channel which separates Sandy Hook from the mainland, where a pontoon bridge was built which was covered by two row galleys. The entire corps under Lord Cornwallis camped along the seashore on this sandy and deserted island. The deep white sand, out of which grew short fir bushes, served us as the softest bed. We slept here as peacefully as young children, because we were separated from the enemy on all sides by navigable water...

On the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup>, the troops which could not be embarked the day before were finally embarked. They set sail at once and entered the harbor of New York on the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup>, where they disembarked immediately. The greater part of the army was assigned to encampment on York Island...

Source: *Diary of the American War, A Hessian Journal, Captain Johann Ewald, Field Jäger Corps*, Trans. and Ed. Justin P. Tustin, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1979, p. 132.

### **Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Records the Army Embarkation and Landing on Long Island, July 5 – 9, 1778**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>. July everything being embark’d but the Troops & a few horses The army march’d between 5 & 6 from y<sup>r</sup>. [their] respective ground by different roads to the point of the Highland that joins the Hook, & there being a Gut of water across the low Sandy part next the main, a Bridge of flat boats was made for the Troops to pass some embark’d on board of flat boats & rode off to their ships but the greatest part of the army crossed at the Bridge & march’d along the Hook towards the Light House & went off in flat boats to their ships in the afternoon; it was night before the whole got on board. – a great number of horses on Sandy Hook yet not embark’d into the Vessels that are to carry y<sup>m</sup>. [them] up – the day cool, march about 6 miles in the woods before we came to the point & about 3 or 4 miles on Sandy Hook, deep sand – provison drawn on board a very irregular & ill managed Embarkation. This abrupt reduction of the flank Corps not relish’d

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>. July The Transports & some of the man of war got under way in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & sail’d up the Bay, those destin’d for long island, come to at Gravesend...

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>. The three Brigades viz<sup>t</sup>. the 3<sup>d</sup>. [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] 4<sup>th</sup>. & 5<sup>th</sup>. Landed at Gravesend Bay in the forenoon, & in the afternoon got their tents ashore, the 3<sup>d</sup>. Brigade Encamp’d close by New Utrecht, the 4<sup>th</sup>. at Gravesend, & the 5<sup>th</sup>. at Flatland, their flank [Lt. Inf. and Gren.] companies with them. Fine dry ground...

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>. July...

[42<sup>nd</sup>] Reg<sup>tal</sup>. orders for a Review of arms accoutrements & necessaries, a Return to be given in of the former, & the latter to be completed, & the Comp<sup>ys</sup>. to be clear'd [paid] to 24 June.

Source and Notes: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for July 5-97, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 196 and 199. At the end of the passage, Capt. Lt. Peebles is referring to the order that day for "*The Flank Companies of all the British Regiments in this division of the Army are to join their respective Corps until further Orders, to settle their Accounts, &c.*" This order disbanded the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> British Grenadier Battalions which were considered elite formations. "*Necessaries*" included extra shirts, hose, shoes, soles & heels, stocks etc.

**Journal of Capt. Archibald Robertson, Deputy Quarter Master General, Describes 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) Crossing to Sandy Hook and Arrival at Camp, Utrecht and Bedford, Long Island, July 5-7 and 24, 1778**

5<sup>th</sup> Early all the Army march'd in 4 Columns and got over the Bridge of Boats into the [Sandy] Hook by 10 o'clock with out a shot being fired. This Evening all Troops were embark'd on board their Transports, and getting the Horses sent up in Boats to Long Island...

7<sup>th</sup> Mark'd the encampment for the 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade at Utrecht, 4<sup>th</sup> at Gravesend, and the 5<sup>th</sup> at Flat Lands. The Provincials at Yellowhook. The Troops Disembark'd...

24<sup>th</sup> moved the 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigades to Bedford.

Source: *Archibald Robertson, Lieutenant-General Royal Engineers, His Diaries and Sketches in America*, Ed. Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, New York, 1930, p. 179-180.



Charles Henri Jean-Baptiste, Comte d'Estaing, by Jean-Pierre Franque

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Palace of Versailles*

**Excerpts of Letter No. 6 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting Delays in Reinforcing Rhode Island due to the Arrival of Comte d'Estaing's French Fleet, New York, July 11, 1778**

N<sup>o</sup>. 6

New York July 11<sup>th</sup> 1778

My Lord...

The Admiral having received Intelligence that the French Fleet commanded by the [Adm. Charles Henri Jean-Baptiste] Count d'Estaing, is arrived on the Coast, does not think it advisable to send off the Expedition at present, the troops however shall remain ready to proceed upon that Service whenever his Lordship shall judge it proper for them to embark, and is pleased to order Convoy for them...

I have the Honor to be with great Respect,

Your Lordship's, most obedient and most humble Servant

Right Honorable  
Lord George Germain  
&ca &ca &ca

H Clinton

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Part IV, p. 223 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1778* at CO 5/96, f. 34.

**Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of Arrival of the French Fleet and Flank Companies  
(Including Those of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) Assigned as Marines, New York, July 11-12, 1778**

11<sup>th</sup> The French fleet, of twelve Sail of the line and four or five ships of inferior force, came to an anchor off Sandy Hook.

12<sup>th</sup> ... Eight companies from the Light Infantry and Grenadiers were distributed on board the ships of war. The Companies were chosen by lot and the whole drew at their own request. The ardor to serve and the confidence in Lord Howe were as conspicuous in the seamen of the transports, who almost to a man were Volunteers to go on board the King's ships. Those at the Hook at this time were:

The Eagle 64	Preston 50	Amazon 32
Somerset 64	Experiment 50	Pearl 32
St. Albans 64	Isis 50	Richmond 32
Nonsuch 64	Roebuck 44	Brune 32
Trident 64	Phoenix 44	Venus 36
	Apollo 32	Delaware 26

with three sloops, three fire-ships, two bombs and three galleys. The flank Companies came ashore again and the 23<sup>d</sup> Regiment (Welsh fusiliers) took that duty.

22<sup>d</sup> The French fleet weighed anchor and sailed from the Hook for Rhode Island.

Source: *Major Andre's Journal, Operations of the British Army Under Lieutenant Generals Sir William Howe and Sir Henry Clinton June 1777 to November 1778, Recorded by Major John Andre, Adjutant General to Which is Added the Ethics of Major Andre's Mission*, by C. DeW. Willcox, William Abbott, Tarrytown (N.Y.), 1930, p. 82.

**Excerpt of a Letter from Lt. William Hale, 45<sup>th</sup> Grenadier Company, Regarding the  
Assignment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Flank Companies as Marines, New York, July 14, 1778**

New York, 14<sup>th</sup> July 1778

...Our affairs wear at present a most desperate aspect; the [French Adm. Charles Henri Jean-Baptiste,] Count D'Estaing with his fleet is now at anchor off the [Sandy] Hook, one 90 [gun ship], two 80's, nine 74's and four frigates. [Adm. Richard] Lord How's small force of 6 64, 4 fifties, two forties are drawn up in the form of a crescent in the channel, [Rear] Admiral [John] Byron is expected, or more properly hoped for with the greatest anxiety. The Transports are all stript of their men, who voluntarily enlisted as soon as the French fleet was discovered; notwithstanding which the 15<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> together with the Grenadiers and Light Companies of the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> are distributed among the Men of War, some howitzers are carried to Paul's Hook, and a boom is preparing to be laid across the channel...

Source: "Hale" in *Some British Soldiers in America*, Capt. W. H. Wilkin, Hugh Rees, Ltd., London, 1914, pp. 262-263.

**Excerpts of Letter No. 7 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to  
Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting French  
Blockade, New York, July 19, 1778**



Nº. 7

New York July 19<sup>th</sup> 1778

My Lord,

The sudden and unexpected opportunity by which I have the honour of transmitting these dispatches to Your Lordship, not allowing sufficient time to inform you of our present situation, which, since my last is somewhat altered on account of the French Fleet having blockaded the entrance to this Post by Sandy Hook, I propose to dispatch a Packet for England in a few days, in order to give Your Lordship every necessary information relative to our actual disposition in the meantime.

I have the Honor to be

Your Lordship's Most obedient and Most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lord George Germain

H Clinton

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Part IV, p. 269 from CO 5/96, f. 58.



Detail showing Bedford, Bushwick and Wallabout Bay from "Plan of New York and Staten Islands with part of Long Island, survey'd in the years 1781, & 82."

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Records the Movement and Muster of the Regiment, Bedford, Long Island, July 24 and 27, 1778**

Friday 24 July. not hot – The 2 Brigades vi<sup>z</sup> the 3<sup>d</sup> [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] & 4<sup>th</sup>. march'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. from their respective Encampments & took up ground near to Bedford towards Bushwick the left of the 3<sup>d</sup>. Brigade extending near to the Wallabacke [Wallabout] facing about east...

Monday 27<sup>th</sup>. very warm – The [42<sup>nd</sup>] Reg<sup>t</sup>. was muster'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. at 8 – we [Gen. Lord John Murray's Co.] muster'd on the spot 3 Serj<sup>ts</sup>. 4 Corp<sup>ls</sup>. & 1 Dr<sup>r</sup>. [drummer] & 68 private – NB I sign'd fr an Effective Drum<sup>r</sup>. that I knew nothing about, the [Lt.] Col: [Thomas Stirling] caused him to be inserted –

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries* for July 24 and 27, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 204. As a battalion company of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Lord Murray's company was authorized 5 sergeants, 5 corporals, two drummers and 100 private men.

## **Officer Commission List from the Regimental Agents Shows Capt. Charles Graham's promotion to Major, and several Captain Promotions in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., New York, Aug. 3 – 26, 1778**

List of the Officers of the 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Regim<sup>t</sup> of Foot Commanded by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Lord John Murray...

Since making out this List, we have just rec<sup>d</sup> advice at the War Office of the following promotions made by [Gen.] S<sup>r</sup> Henry Clinton...

Ensign Allan McLean to be Lieu <sup>t</sup> vice James Campbell promoted	3 Aug <sup>t</sup> 78
Ensign Alexander Innes to be Lieu <sup>t</sup> vice John Campbell	D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>
Ensign James Stirling Do vice Lord William Murray	D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>
W <sup>m</sup> Fraser Volunteer to be Ensign vice Allan McLean	D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>
Ensign John Young from Pennsylvania Loyalists to be Ensign vice Innes promoted } D <sup>o</sup>	
[Kenneth] Callander Volunteer to be Ensign vice Stirling	D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>
Cap <sup>t</sup> Lieut John Peebles to be Captain vice [Alexander] Donaldson	18 Aug <sup>t</sup> 78
Lieut James Campbell from 57 <sup>th</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> to be Captain vice George Mackenzie Promoted }	D <sup>o</sup>
Lieu <sup>t</sup> John Rutherford to be Cap <sup>t</sup> Lieut vice Peebles promoted }	D <sup>o</sup>
Ensign James Graham from the 57 <sup>th</sup> Regiment to be Lieu <sup>t</sup> vice Rutherford promoted }	D <sup>o</sup>
Ensign Alex <sup>r</sup> Cumming from 52 <sup>d</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> to be Lieutenant vice George Mackenzie promoted }	D <sup>o</sup>
Cap <sup>t</sup> Charles Graham to be Major by purchase vice [William] Grant who retires }	25 D <sup>o</sup>
Lieu <sup>t</sup> George Dalrymple to be Cap <sup>t</sup> by Purchase vice Graham promoted }	D <sup>o</sup>

List of Promotions Sent in [Regt. Agent] M<sup>r</sup> [Alexander] Andersons letter 9<sup>th</sup> March 1779.

Ensign Dugald Campbell Lieu <sup>t</sup> vice [Harry] Gilchrist dead of his wounds	26 <sup>th</sup> Aug <sup>t</sup> 1778
Ensign Alex <sup>r</sup> Home from 71 <sup>st</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> vice D. Campbell	D <sup>o</sup>
Ensign George Campbell to be Lieu <sup>t</sup> vice Alex <sup>r</sup> Munro preferred	18 Oct <sup>r</sup>
John Robertson Vol <sup>r</sup> to be Ensign vice H. [Hugh] Fraser	19 D <sup>o</sup>
Lieu <sup>t</sup> David Anstruther from 26 <sup>th</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> to be Captain vice [Archibald] Erskine preferred to Majority 22 <sup>d</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup>	6 Dec <sup>r</sup>

Ensign Henry David Fraser from 64<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Lieu<sup>t</sup> vice James Graham removed to 64<sup>th</sup> Regim<sup>t</sup>.

Source: *Lord John Murray Papers*.

## **General Order Transfers Capt. Charles Graham's 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company to the 1<sup>st</sup> British Grenadier Battalion, New York, Aug. 10, 1778**

Head Quarters New York [illeg date – likely Aug. 10, 1778]

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadiers are to be transferred from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the First Batt<sup>n</sup> Graneders – And the 37<sup>th</sup> Lig<sup>t</sup> Compy from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lg<sup>t</sup> I<sup>y</sup>

Source: "Captured British Army Orderly Book, August 4 – October 13, 1778," *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 6. Military Papers. 1755-1798.

## **Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., to his Brother, Sir William Stirling of Ardoch, Regarding the Arrival of the French Fleet, New York, Aug. 20, 1778**

Bedford Camp Long Island Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 1778

...[French Adm.] M<sup>r</sup> [Charles Henri Jean-Baptiste] D Estange after lording triumphant ten or twelve days went off & attacked Rhode Island where we have 7000 troops they were obliged to burn five of our Frigates & about 20 sail of other vessels to prevent them falling into the Enemy's hands, [Adm. Richard, Viscount] Howe after mustering everything he could & being reinforced by one 74 Gun Ship of Byson's fleet that were separated from him [illeg.] not having appeared & [illeg.] sailed after D Estange to Rhode Island who immediately upon his appearance came out to attack him Let slip his cables & put

to sea & but for a strong storm that came on an engagement would probably have ensued but which lasted for three days, which scattered both fleets & dismasted one of the French Lord Howe came back two days ago one of his 50's the [50-gun *HMS*] Isis Cap<sup>t</sup> Raymer behaved most Gallantly having met w<sup>t</sup> the French Admiral of 74 all raked him for 3 glasses & probably would have taken him if his rigging had not been totally demolished, the [illeg.] fairly off it is expected L[ord] H[owe] will soon go in quest of them they being seen off the Delaware 8 of them two days ago D Estange left 2 or 3 Frigates at Rhode Island by whose assistance we hear the Rebels have landed on the Island to the amount of 12000, what the fate of this may be time will show, what we are to do I cannot say as I ever inquire about it, The Commiss<sup>rs</sup> have no more success than at first...

Source: NRS, *Papers of the Family of Stirling Home Drummond Moray of Abercairny* at GD 24/1/458/10 or 11.



Detail of "A map of Connecticut and Rhode Island with Long Island Sound, &c," 1776

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

## Rhode Island Relief Expedition and Raids on Bedford and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, Aug. 22 – Sept. 23, 1778



Detail showing area on Long Island from Bedford (lower left) to Flushing and Whitestone (upper right) from  
“*Plan of New York and Staten Islands with part of Long Island, survey'd in the years 1781, & 82.*”

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Records  
Preparations for Rhode Island Expedition and Promotion of Grenadier Capt. Charles Graham to  
be Major, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and Himself to be Capt., 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company,  
Bedford, Flushing and Whitestone, Long Island, New York, Aug. 22 – 28 and Sept. 1, 1778**

Saturday 22<sup>d</sup>. cool & pleasant... went to [New] York in the forenoon where I hear'd that the french fleet are gone back to Rhode Island that the Americans have landed 16000 men on the island...

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. warm SW...got orders to march 1<sup>st</sup>. Bat<sup>t</sup>. Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] 1<sup>st</sup>. Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] 3<sup>d</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] & 4 Brigades to march at ½ past 4

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>. march'd after 5. The morn<sup>g</sup>. warm & the day very hot & severe on the men, could not make out Flushing, stop'd at the head of the Fly about 9 tenths of the men not up, some very ill & one or two died the rear all up in the Even<sup>g</sup>.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>. march'd at ½ past one & got to white stone between 4 & 5 where the troops Embark'd on board of Transports & were all on board by dinner in the Even<sup>g</sup>. a Signal for saling by the [28 gun *HMS Carysfort*] Carrysford, got under way about sunset Wind about N & little of it join'd [the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co. in] the 1<sup>st</sup>. B<sup>n</sup>. G<sup>rs</sup>. this morn<sup>g</sup>. vice C: Graham promoted ...

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>. the wind coming more to the eastward the fleet came to an anchor about 11 off City island; today the wind still contrary till the Even<sup>g</sup>. when the fleet got under way with a slight breeze about S.E. & sailed about 4 leagues [12 miles] when the wind coming to east they came to, about midnight – got orders today for the manner of landing when we come to the place of destination [Rhode Island] 1<sup>st</sup> Light Inf<sup>y</sup>. & G<sup>rs</sup>. with 70 rounds to join the Enemy with points of Bayonets &<sup>ca</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Sir Henry] Clinton goes himself on board Carrysford; & [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Charles] Gray, their suite on board a little sloop, 5 or 6 ships of war w<sup>t</sup>. us – we are on board the [transport] Esk. Cap<sup>t</sup>. M<sup>c</sup>. Donald w<sup>t</sup>. [Lt.] Co<sup>l</sup> [William] Meadows & the 4<sup>th</sup>. & 5<sup>th</sup>. 15<sup>th</sup>. 40<sup>th</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. [Grenadier] Comp<sup>ys</sup>...

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. The fleet [of 32 men of war and transports and 38 small craft] got under way this morn<sup>g</sup>. about 2 or 3 o'clock ... we got into the harbour between one & two & came to anchor on the Conanicut side the transports near the ferry. we find the Rebels had landed to the amount of 18000 or upwards under [Maj. Gen. John] Sullivan & the Marquis [La]Fayette & had made their approaches to with 500 yards of our works but on receiving intelligence of our reinforcements com<sup>g</sup>: to the relief of Rhode island they raised the siege & retired off the Island the 29<sup>th</sup>. Augt...

Source and Notes: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Aug. 22-27, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 210-211, 213. As the muster report for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co. for the period covering this march does not show any casualties, the deaths referred to by Capt. Peebles were not from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadiers. Capt. Graham replaced Brevet-Lt. Col. William Grant, Maj., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., who had retired.

**Excerpts of Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of Relief Expedition with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade  
(Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.), New York to Rhode Island, Aug. 25 – Sept. 1, 1778**

[Aug.] 25<sup>th</sup> Some provision ships came in. During these transactions the Rebels had landed 20000 men on Rhode Island and were carrying on approaches against Newport...

26<sup>th</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadiers, 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry and 3<sup>d</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigades marched under Major General [Charles] Grey to Flushing Fly (from Bedford). General Grey in person proceeded to Flushing, where he met [Commander-in-Chief Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton. Transports for the Troops, with 2 or 3 frigates, lay at this time at Whitestone, 3 miles beyond Flushing.

27<sup>th</sup> The Troops marched to Whitestone and were embarked on board the transports. according to the Return which follows. Sir Henry Clinton and General Grey came on board the Carisfort frigate, commanded by Captain [Robert] Fanshaw. Between five and six in the afternoon the Fleet got under way, and about an hour after came to an anchor off City Island.

		Embarkation Return		Tons	
		Strength			
1 <sup>st</sup> : Batt. L. I.	637	Diana	298 }		
		{ Archer	287 }	860	
		{ Happy Janet	275 }		
1 <sup>st</sup> : Batt. Gren:	624	{ Esk [with 42 <sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.]	304 }		
		{ Triton	280 }	861	
		{ Bird	277 }		
{ 15 <sup>th</sup> Reg.		{ Spring	378	378	
3 <sup>d</sup> Brig: { 42 <sup>d</sup>	553	{ Glasgow	257 }		
		{ Empress	251 }	688	
		{ Britannia	180 }		
{ 44 <sup>th</sup>	305	Margaret & Martha...	353	353	
{ 17 <sup>th</sup> :		Alicia	320	320...	
{ 33 <sup>rd</sup>		{ Gale	221 }		
{ 46 <sup>th</sup>	373	{ George	244 }	465	
4 <sup>th</sup> Brig { 64 <sup>th</sup>	298	Royal Briton	303	303	
{	394	{ Union	302 }	526	
{ 37 <sup>th</sup>	325	{ Caledonia	224 }		
{		{ Bowman	208 }	392	
Art <sup>y</sup> .	124	{ John & Bella	194 }		
Pioneers	74	{ Suprize	264	264	
dism <sup>d</sup> : L <sup>t</sup> . Dragoons		{			
		Betsey Brig			
	4333			5410...	

28<sup>th</sup>: The Fleet remained at an anchor the whole morning... At five in the afternoon the Fleet weighed anchor and at 12 at night came to with a calm.

29<sup>th</sup> Wind contrary, the ships remained at anchor.

30<sup>th</sup> The Fleet got under way at five in the morning and stood to the Eastward...

31<sup>st</sup> Wind contrary. The Fleet remained anchored off Block Island.

Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> The Fleet got under way at one o'clock in the morning, and half an hour after two in the afternoon arrived in Rhode Island Harbour. The [10-gun sloop *HMS*] Diligent was standing out as we came near the mouth of the Harbour. [Adj. Gen. and Brevet Lt. Col. Francis] Lord Rawdon returned on board and informed the General that the Rebels, after a stay of twenty-two days on the island, had evacuated it; that their last Detachment had crossed to the continent the day before, and that a sally had been made from the garrison, which had followed them as far as the strong grounds at the Northern extremity of the island.

A very important stroke would probably have been struck had we arrived a day or two sooner, by cutting off their retreat. S<sup>r</sup>: Henry Clinton and Gen. Grey went ashore at Newport and returned on board next day.

2<sup>d</sup>: Towards Sun Set the Fleet weighed Anchor and Stood back toward the Sound.



Sources: *Major Andre's Journal, Operations of the British Army Under Lieutenant Generals Sir William Howe and Sir Henry Clinton June 1777 to November 1778, Recorded by Major John Andre, Adjutant General to Which is Added the Ethics of Major Andre's Mission*, by C. DeW. Willcox, William Abbatt, Tarrytown (N.Y.), 1930 and *Major Andre's Journal*, Huntington Library.



Detail from "Charles Grey, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Grey," 1797, by Joseph Collyer the Younger, after Sir Thomas Lawrence

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Anne SK Brown Collection*, Brown Univ.

**General Orders Direct the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Companies to Move to Flushing, Long Island,  
in Preparation for Expedition Under Maj. Gen. Charles Grey, New York, Aug. 28, 1778**

Head Quarters New York 28<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> 78

Half Past 10 at Night the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> of L<sup>t</sup> I<sup>n</sup> [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> of Grenadiers [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] 3<sup>rd</sup> [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] & 4<sup>th</sup> Bragades to march to Morrow Morning at 5 oClock to Flushon [Flushing, Long Island] Troops to Carry 2 Days Provisions their Blankets and Knap<sup>k</sup> the Tents and Baggage to be Left Under the Care of the Qua<sup>r</sup> Master Serj<sup>t</sup> and 12 men from Each Batt<sup>n</sup> and to be Put into a Barne When the Crares [Corps] March of –

Maj<sup>r</sup> G<sup>l</sup> Greays [Charles Grey] Orders. The Maj<sup>r</sup> G<sup>l</sup> Expects the Commanding Off<sup>rs</sup> of Corps Will take Care that the Batt<sup>ns</sup> march as Strong as Possible in this Service and Reminds it to the Off<sup>rs</sup> to Carry as Litle baggage as Posipal and Off<sup>r</sup> from Each Batt<sup>n</sup> to be at G<sup>l</sup> [Charles] Grayes Quarters at ½ after 4 tomorow Morning

Source: "Captured British Army Orderly Book, August 4 – October 13, 1778," *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 6. Military Papers. 1755-1798.





Detail showing *HMS Carysfort* from “*Capture of the Castor May 29<sup>th</sup> 1794*” 1816 Print.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons from *Collections of the National Maritime Museum*

### **Maj. Gen. Charles Grey’s Orders for Landing, 28-gun *HMS Carysfort*, Off Rhode Island, Approx. Aug. 29, 1778**

Orders Aboard Caryfort Frigate [no date]

When the Ships comes to Ancor at the Place of their Distination the Troops and Artillary Immediately to prepare for landing –

The Lig<sup>t</sup> Infantry Will be the First to Land – Fouled by the Graneders therefore these Ships to ...Ahead of the Fleet and to be the First lin Behynes then the Pinoers Carining thier Spades ...and the Reg<sup>ts</sup> as Brigaded...Cap<sup>t</sup> Scoot Commanding the Artillary...Detached to the Lig<sup>t</sup> Infantry and Greneders With 2 Cohorns to land With the first of Each Bradades and the Remainder of the Stoares &c, &c : after the Troops are Landed – No Horses to be Put into the Boats Till all the Troops are Landed –

The Ships of Each Reg<sup>t</sup> to come to Anacur as near as Posiabl to Each other –

2 Days Provishen and of Rum to be caried ...the Mens Packs; Blankets Ascepted; to be Left on Board of Ship; With Careful Man to Take care of them; and the Reg<sup>ts</sup> to Disenbark as Strong as Posibal Not Leaving a singal Man behind Who Can Do his Duty –

as Soon as the Lig<sup>t</sup> Infantry have Made their Landing Good; to Take Pishon of Houses and Commanding Ground neir Uniting; Till the are Supersad and Recave further orders to Advance. the Soldiers to have 2 Good Flints and 50 Rowns of Aminishen Except the Lig<sup>t</sup> Infantry and Graneders Who Must be Suplyed with 70 Rowns – The Troops to Land as Silantly and in the Best Order the Nauter of the service Will alow –

When the First Part of the Troops is Imbarked it is to Procide silantly to the Place of Randvuse Apoynted for the Devishon and There the Whole Devishon Will Recave orders from Off<sup>rs</sup> of the Navee Which the are Strictly to obey –

No Soldier is to fyer from the Boats Upon any Account What Evier but to Watte the Moment the Tyne the Enmany With their Banets...

The Commanding Off<sup>rs</sup> of Transports to be Answerbel that No Boats goes on Shoar Without the permishon of Maj<sup>r</sup> G<sup>l</sup> Gray...

Source and Note “Captured British Army Orderly Book, August 4 – October 13, 1778,” *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*; Series 6. Military Papers. 1755-1798. This order prepares a large detachment under Gen. Clinton to sail to the relief of Rhode Island under siege by the Rebels. The siege was broken before the arrival of Gen. Clinton, so Maj. Gen. Charles Grey’s troops were sent to destroy rebel shipping at New Bedford, Massachusetts and obtain forage for the army from Martha’s Vineyard. All of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. companies were part of the expedition.



Detail showing Bedford and Fairhaven, Mass. from "A plan of the sea coast from Boston Bay to the light house near Rhode Island, reduced from the large survey," 1775, by Charles Blaskowitz

Picture Source: *Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.*

### **Maj. Gen. Charles Grey's Orders for Landing, 28-gun *HMS Carysfort*, Off Bedford, Massachusetts, Sept. 4, 1778**

On Board the Caryfort Frigate 4<sup>th</sup> September

Maj<sup>r</sup> G<sup>l</sup> [Charles] Greays Orders

The Soldiers When they Land Will Leave their Blankets as Well as Knapsacks on Board of Ship – upon all Ocashones When the Enemy are so Posted that the[y] Canot be Got at – the Maj<sup>r</sup> G<sup>l</sup> Commands the Troops Which are ordered to Attack them Will March Vigresly Up and Receav thier Fyer till the[y] come Verty Cloase; and Upon Eviry Proper Opertunety the[y] are to Rush Upon the Enemy With thier Banets; Amedatly [Immediately] After Heaving Throwen in thier Fier With Out Wating to Loade Agane; in Which Method of Atack the Serpearer Valuer [Valor] and Strenth of the British Troops Must allwies be Crowned With Gloary and Sucess –

the Maj<sup>r</sup> G<sup>l</sup> is Impressed With Every Ashurens [assurance] that Both Off<sup>rs</sup> and Soldiers are Thorly [thoroughly] Convinced of the Great Advantige the[y] have Over the Enmy in this Maner of Fighting and Canot Fale of Sucess but Do them Oner [honor] and Answer the Exptashan [expectation] of the Commander in Chieff Whose Opinion of those Troops Canot be more Strongly Maninffested than by Sending them Upon this Essential Service –

the Maj<sup>r</sup> G<sup>l</sup> Flaters him self it is Un Nesary tho it May Not be Unproper to Remind the Solders and Explane to them the Fatel Consequences Atending ... in Quest of Plunder as the[y] Must be Convinced boath Cuntry and Peopels that the[y] Will Fall Ignobly by the hands of the Enmy Whoes Chieff Prowess

Consistes in Lying in Wate to Stab a Solder; He Hopes the Troops thus Will be Suficant to Weigh With Solders in Such a Maner as to Give them no Reason to Complaine of the Want of Deciplan in the Troops he has Oner [honor] to Command on this Expdishon as it Will Give him Great Concern to be Put Under the Disagreabel Nedcededy of Punishing Any Silder as a Disobear of Milatry Orders –

Incase by bad Wether or any other Exadent [accident] if any of the transports Should be separated from the Fleet and Fall in With a Privatter so as to Make An Escape Imposabel Which May not be Unlucky Many Small ones being Lirken Abought Upon the Water –

the Maj<sup>r</sup> G<sup>l</sup> Disers [desires] Commanding Off<sup>rs</sup> of the Troops on Board Each Transport Will Oblage the Cap<sup>t</sup> of the Ship to bare Amedtly [immediately] Down Upon Such Privatters Runing them Directly and With Ought Delay On Board the Troops being Ready at the Critical Moment to Enter and take Pashion this being Surparig [surprisingly] don – Will Ever Priceed [deceive] the Enmy not being a Weare of such an Atack and the Troops being Superer in Every Respect to Put it in Excushen –

The Fowling Alterashones to take Place in the Order of Debarchsen in the 2 Bragades Which are to be Landed as Follows –

15<sup>th</sup> & 42<sup>nd</sup> Reg<sup>ts</sup>

Under the Command of Lu<sup>t</sup> Colonel [Thomas] Sterling [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.]

33<sup>rd</sup> & 64<sup>th</sup>

Under the Command of Lu<sup>t</sup> Colonel Webstar [James Webster, 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt.]

44<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

Under the Command of [Brevet] Lu<sup>t</sup> Colonel [Robert] Duncan [44<sup>th</sup> Regt.]

37<sup>th</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup>

Under the Command of Lu<sup>t</sup> Colonel [Enoch Markham] Malcom [46<sup>th</sup> Regt.]

B;O Diamond Transport 4<sup>th</sup> Septembar 78

the G<sup>l</sup> Orders of this Day are to be Red to the Troops on Board the Difrant Ships Emadatly [immediately] the Roffelmen of the Batt<sup>n</sup> are to be Under the Command of Lu<sup>t</sup> [Arthur] French [22<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] and thoes men Who have Givin thier Riffels are to be Cuoitined With that Corps as Ushal [usual] those men to be Poasted in the Bow of the Boats as the First to Land but not to Fire Ought of the Boats

G<sup>l</sup> After Orders

G<sup>l</sup> Signals...a Flag Striped Red White and Blew at the Foretopgalenmast head – for Infantry Under orders to Prepare for landing to be Imbarked in the Flat Boats and other Vesuls Apoynted to Recave them and to Asenbal at the Ship Where the Signal is made...

The Commanding Off<sup>rs</sup> of Coares [corps] to be Answerbal that no Houses nor Barnes is Sit on Fyer by the Solders onles Praticklas [particular] orders by Maj<sup>r</sup> G<sup>l</sup> Gray –

Source and Note: “Captured British Army Orderly Book, August 4 – October 13, 1778,” *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 6. Military Papers. 1755-1798. This order prepares Maj. Gen. Grey’s detachment to land at the Rebel privateer strongholds of Bedford and Fair Haven, Mass., where about 70 ships and a large amount of supplies were burnt. Maj. Gen. Grey’s fleet arrived off Martha’s Vineyard on Sept. 10 to collect sheep and cattle for the armies at Rhode Island and New York.



Detail from “*Chart of Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound*,” 1776 by Joseph F. W. Des Barres

Picture Source: Lib. of Congress, Geography and Map Div.

## **Maj. Gen. Charles Grey’s Raids on Bedford and Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, Aug. 31 – Sept. 12, 1778**

**Excerpts of Letter No. 14 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Relief of Rhode Island and Maj. Gen. Charles Grey’s Attack on Bedford, Massachusetts, Aug. 31 – Sept. 15, 1778**

N<sup>o</sup>. 14

New York September 15<sup>th</sup> 1778

My Lord...

I detached Major General [William] Tryon some time ago to the east End of Long Island to secure the Cattle on that Part, in which Situation he could either reinforce Rhode Island, or make a Descent on Connecticut as circumstances might occur, and Transports for 4000 Men were laying then in the Sound, & that number of troops ready for Embarkation on the shortest Notice.

In this state things were, when [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe sailed for Rhode Island, & it was my intention to proceed up the Sound with the troops above mentioned, that they might be within His Lordship’s reach, in case we should see an opportunity for landing them to act with Advantage, but on the 27<sup>th</sup> of last Month, at the Instant they were embarked, I received a letter from Lord Howe, inclosing one from Major General [Sir Robert] Pigot, by which I was informed that the French Fleet had quitted Rhode Island, but the Rebels were still there in great force.

I thought it advisable to sail immediately for the relief of that Place, but contrary Winds detained us ‘till the 31<sup>st</sup> and on our Arrival found that the Enemy had evacuated the Island. for particulars I must beg leave to refer your Lordship to Sir Robert Pigot’s letters, Copies of which I have the honor to enclose.

—

I was not without hopes that I should have been able to effect a landing in such a manner as to have made the retreat of the Rebels from Rhode Island very precarious or that an opening would have

been offered for attacking providence with advantage. – Being thwarted in both these Views by the retreat of the rebels, As the wind was fair, I proceeded towards New London, where I had reason to believe there were many Privateers, but the Wind coming unfavorably just as I arrived off that Port, and Continuing so for 24 hours, I left the Fleet directing Major General [Charles] Grey to proceed to Bedford, a Notorious Rendezvous for Privateers &c<sup>a</sup> and in which there were a Number of captured Ships at that time. – For the particulars of his Success, which has certainly been very compleat, I must beg leave to refer your Lordship to the enclosed Letter...

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect  
Your Lordship's Most obedient and Most humble Servant  
*H Clinton*

Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Lord George Germain  
&ca &ca &ca...

[Enclosure]

On board the [28-gun *HMS*] Carisfort Frigate Off Bedford  
Harbour September 6<sup>th</sup> 1778

Sir,

I am happy to be able to acquaint you that I have been so fortunate, in the fullest manner, to execute the Service your goodness entrusted me with at Bedford and Fair Haven.

A favorable Wind, and every possible exertion and assistance received from the Navy, enabled us to land so rapidly yesterday evening about 6 o'clock, that the Enemy had a very few hours notice of our approach; The business was finished and the Troops all reembarked this morning by 12 o'clock, with the loss, which particularly gives me pleasure and Content, of only 5, or 6 Men wounded, one of whom is since dead. The Stores destroyed were valuable, and the number of Ships burnt about 70. Privateers & other Ships, ready with their Cargoes in for sailing. The only Battery they had was on the Fair Haven side, an enclosed Fort with Seven pieces of Cannon, which was abandoned, & the Cannon properly demolished by Captain Scott Commanding Officer of the Artillery, and the magazine blown up.

I cannot enough praise the Spirit, Zeal and Activity of the Troops you have Honored me with the Command of upon this Service, also their Sobriety in the midst of Temptation, Obedience to Orders, as not one House in Bedford & Fair Haven I think was consumed that could be avoided, except those with Stores.

I write in haste & not a little tired, therefore must beg leave to refer you for the late plan of operations and Particulars to [Maj. of Brigade] Captain [John] Andre.

I shall proceed to Martha's Vineyard for the purpose of collecting Cattle for Rhode Island &c<sup>a</sup>, immediately; after performing that service, shall return with the Troops to Long Island, but; in my way, if any thing worth while on the Enemy's Coast, shall endeavor further to promote His Majesty's Service, & think myself particularly happy to meet with your approbation of my Conduct.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, Sir  
Your most Obedient and most humble Servant  
/signed/ Charles Grey

Source: "Copy of a letter from General Grey to His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton, dated Off Bedford Harbour September 6<sup>th</sup> 1778, In Sir Henry Clinton's (N<sup>o</sup> 14) of 15 Sept<sup>r</sup> 1778," TNA, Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1778 at CO 5/96, ff. 90-91 and 103. Bedford and Fair Haven are towns on the southeast coast of Massachusetts. The troops involved in this expedition were listed in British General Orders dated at New York on about Aug. 28, 1778 and included the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion British Grenadiers (including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co.), 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Light Infantry (including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Inf. Co.), 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

**Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of a Raid, Including the Role of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.,  
Bedford and Fair Haven, Massachusetts, Sept. 3-5, 1778**

3<sup>d</sup> We passed Fishers Island and stood for New London. [Commander-in-Chief Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton and [Maj.] Gen: [Charles] Grey came on board the [20-gun *HMS*] Galatea to work up more Expeditionously and obtain a nearer view of the place. Alarm guns were fired ashore. It was S<sup>r</sup>: Henry Clintons Intention on approaching somewhat nearer to the place, to have landed the troops and proceeded immediately to destroy what Shipping or Stores were to be found, but Capt: [Robert] Fanshaw [28-gun *HMS Carisfort*] adduced unforeseen difficulties, asserting that the Troops could not be landed that evening. The Fleet was indeed much scattered and many ships very far astern. The [22-gun *HM Armed Ship*] Vigilant and [8-gun sloop *HMS*] Raven had both been disabled by running foul of each other. It therefore became a matter of deliberation whether the Troops should be landed next day, after giving the Enemy so much time to collect force and to remove whatever was valuable; and it was thought more advisable, after having spread an alarm here, to proceed to New Bedford in Buzzard's Bay. General Grey returned on board the *Carisfort* and Sir Henry Clinton sailed this evening in the *Galatea* for New York.

4<sup>th</sup> The Rebels appeared to be at work on the beach. At five in the Afternoon the Fleet sailed away from New London, and at Sun Set bore away for the Eastward.

5<sup>th</sup>: At 3 in the morning we discovered several Sail of large Ships. The Commodore in consequence changed his course and Stood for Rhode Island.

At 7 in the morning the Strange fleet came up with us. It consisted of several sail of the line of [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe's Squadron. Capt: Fanshaw went on board L<sup>d</sup>: Howes Ship. L<sup>d</sup>: Howe told Capt: Fanshaw that he would remain off Block Island until he heard the issue of our Expedition.

At 8 oClock the Fleet stood its Course again towards Buzzards Bay with a view to Bedford. The flat boats were hoisted out whilst the Transports were under way. The *Carisfort* in passing thro' the Bay struck twice upon the Rocks, but got off again immediately. A little before Sunset the Ships reached their Stations in Clarks Cove, and the Troops from the Transports assembled in the flat boats at Capt: Henrys Boat and landed without opposition.

The Light Infantry and grenadiers were the first disembarked, and this was conducted with the greatest rapidity. As soon as the L<sup>i</sup> Inf: and Grenadiers were landed and the boats returned to fetch the remainder of the Troops, they marched on with all expedition to Bedford and 6 Companies under [Capt. and Lt. Col.] S<sup>r</sup> James Murray [3<sup>rd</sup> Guards] were sent into the town to burn the Vessels at the Wharves, the Stores &c<sup>a</sup>. In the meantime the advanced Corps took post at the entrance of the town and crossroads north of it until, the rest of the Troops being disembarked and at hand, they proceeded to the head of the river (seven miles) and took post on the heights on either side that pass. The burning party, being reinforced by three Companies of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment, proceeded up the banks of the river destroying everything at McPherson's and other wharves. The 33<sup>d</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> passed the Grenadiers and Light Infantry at the bridge at the head of the River, and marched a little way down the opposite shore upon the Fair Haven Road. Everything being consumed on the West side of the River, the Troops marched down the other Shore, and in passing Fair Haven the 33<sup>d</sup>: entered that place and destroyed everything of Stores or Shipping, falling Afterwards in the rear of the Column. This was to proceed to Skonticut Neck, a very narrow point of land which juts out opposite to Clarks Neck from which place the Boats and Vessels had crossed over to Skonticut to receive it on board when the Service should have been performed. [Brevet-Lt.] Col: [Robert] Donkin with the 17<sup>th</sup>: & 44<sup>th</sup>: Regiments had been landed here and guarded the Istmus in the mean time. The guide very unaccountably carried us thro' a wrong road which led to a Rebel Battery on a point between Fair Haven and Skonticut Neck, thinking perhaps we might, by going along the Beach, gain our place of Embarkation.

After destroying the Battery, which we found evacuated, we followed the course of the shore over trackless ground until stopped by a run of water which obliged us to turn to our left to search and fall into the road which headed the run, a detour which brought us back to Fair Haven; from hence we gained the Neck and joined Col: Donkin at about six in the morning. At twelve Gen: Grey came on board the *Carisfort*, the whole being reembarked. ..

M Gen: Grey determined to proceed from thence to Marthas Vineyard, and wrote to [Maj. Gen.] S<sup>r</sup> Robert Pigot at Rhode Island to desire he would send Vessels to receive Cattle...



Return of Killed Wounded and Missing at Bedford in Buzzard's Bay, 7<sup>th</sup> September 1778

	Killed	Wounded	Missing
Light Infantry	1	2	3
Grenadiers	-	1	3
33 <sup>d</sup>	-	-	1
42 <sup>d</sup>	-	1	8
46 <sup>th</sup>	-	-	1
64 <sup>th</sup>	-	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>16</u>

Five men of the 42<sup>d</sup> came in afterward, having made their escape.

18<sup>th</sup> } The troops of General Grey's Expedition landed and marched to New Bedford. General Grey  
 19<sup>th</sup> } came to New York.  
 20<sup>th</sup> }

Sources: *Major Andre's Journal, Operations of the British Army Under Lieutenant Generals Sir William Howe and Sir Henry Clinton June 1777 to November 1778, Recorded by Major John Andre, Adjutant General to Which is Added the Ethics of Major Andre's Mission*, C. DeW. Willcox, William Abbott, Tarrytown (N.Y.), 1930, pp. 87–97 and *Major Andre's Journal*, Huntington Library.

**Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., to William Graham of Airth, Describing the Relief of Rhode Island and Raid on Bedford and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, Sept. 3 – 5, 1778**

English Neighbourhood in [New] Jersey

Dear Airth

Oct 3 1778

... I have had an excursion on the Coast of New England under [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Charles] Grey w<sup>t</sup> one Batt<sup>n</sup>: L. Inf<sup>y</sup> one Grenadier & nine of foot we went first to the relief of Rhode Island then besieged by the Rebels who went off than to a place called Bedford where we landed burnt 50 or 60 vessels & as many small craft a number of Store houses full of good rum Caked without any Loss we then went to Marthas vineyard where we took off 10,000 Sheep & 300 bullocks on our return met w<sup>t</sup> a violent gale & was w<sup>t</sup> in 3 feet of perdition happily we clawed off the shore & two days after landed safe after a 4 week trip..... Adieu My Dear Airth kindest Love to Annie & the Bairns & remember me to all my other friends and believe me

Yours Sincerely

Tho<sup>s</sup> Stirling

Source: *Stirlings of Ardoch and Grahams of Airth Family Letters, A Personal View of the Value of Kinship*, Transcribed and Ed. by Sarah Harrison, Dept. of Social Anthropology, Univ. of Cambridge (UK), pp. 35-36 from NLS, *Graham of Airth Papers and additional papers at MS.10943*, f. 64.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Describes Maj. Gen Charles Grey's Raid on Bedford and Dartmouth, Massachusetts, Sept. 5 – 6 and 8, 1778**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. having stood to the Eastward all night... and about 5 haul'd our wind & stood into a Bay call'd Clark's Cove in Buzards Bay where the troops were immediately landed on the East side and march'd about 3 miles to the Northward when coming to a Village call'd Bedford a Detachm<sup>t</sup>. was ordered to Burn all the Shipping lying there & part of the town suffer'd likewise, we then continued our march to the North, till we came to another Village dartmouth & bridge about 4 miles & there burned some more Vessels & stores – here the Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] & Gr<sup>rs</sup>. [including

the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] took post on the heights to the west & Northw<sup>d</sup>. while the Battalions [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] pass'd the Bridge & took a Road that turn'd to the Southward down the other side of the harbour, & 2 Regt<sup>s</sup>. having cross'd below Bedford they took a [defensive earth]Work that was just abandon'd by the Enemy & burn't a good many large Vessels & some houses of a Village Fairhaven The Troops continued their march having met with only a few popping shots in the course of the night, kill'd some & took some prisoners and tho' led astray by the guide in the last part of the march arrived at a neck of land by the east side of the Entrance of the harbour, where our fleet lay & there Embark'd without any molestation all aboard between 9 & 10 A:M: of 6<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. having burnt above 50 Vessels and a good deal of stores of different kinds 2 or 3 men wounded & a few missing The Troops march'd I suppose near 20 miles few or none of the Inhabitants at home the Yankies all fled for it, their guilty consciences not daring to trust us...

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>.... The morn<sup>g</sup>. warm & calm – about noon a little breeze from the so: westward when the fleet got underway...

I hear the 42<sup>d</sup>. left a Serj<sup>t</sup>. & 7 ashore that night we made the incursion...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Sept. 5 and 8, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 215-216. Five of the eight men of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. returned after escaping from capture.

### **Rebel Account of Prisoners and Deserters from Raid on Bedford, Mass. Arriving at Providence, Rhode Island, Sept. 9, 1778**

Wednesday last [Sept. 9] 7 Deserters and 4 Prisoners arrived here from Bedford. They belonged to the Troops that were landed there from the British Fleet on Saturday Last.

Source: *Providence Gazette*, Sept. 12, 1778 as shown in *The Magazine of History with Notes and Queries*, Vol. XIII, No. 7, July, 1911, p. 326.

### **American Account of the Raid on Bedford and Fair Haven, Massachusetts on Sept. 5, 1778**

...Last Saturday noon about 40 sail of British men of war and transports appeared, off Bedford; at six o'clock they landed about 4000 British troops, tories, &c. under the command of [Maj.] Gen. [Charles] Gray; they burnt the rope-walks and 13 dwelling houses in the lower street, all the store-houses and the principal part of the shipping in the harbour; also, all the dwelling-houses and shipping at M<sup>c</sup>Pherson's wharf, and the principal part of the houses at the head of the river; the mills and two or three houses on the road on the east side towards Fairhaven, three store-houses and a number of shipping there. The enemy embark'd on Sunday, and on Monday night re-landed a party to burn some vessels and stores at Fairhaven, but were prevented. Yesterday the fleet remained at the harbour's mouth. They killed Abraham Russel and a boy, wounded one Cook, and Lieut. Mitchell mortally – *Oh Clinton! can you expect that after such savage and cowardly conduct, that Americans will treat with Britons upon terms of reconciliation?*

Source: *Continental Journal* [Massachusetts], Sept. 10, 1778. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. participated in this raid. See Maj. Gen. Grey's letter dated Sept. 6, 1778 above.

### **News Account of the British Raid on Bedford and Fair Haven, Massachusetts, Sept. 5, 1778**

NEW-YORK, September 12. PROCEEDINGS OF HIS MAJESTY'S TROOPS UNDER MAJOR GEN. [Charles] GRAY. Published by Authority. [Rebel Maj.] General [John] Sullivan, having by a timely retreat from Rhode-Island, evaded the blow that was aimed at him, Major General [Charles] Gray turned his thoughts towards New-London, where he hoped to surprize a number of privateers. When he arrived off that harbour, not more than three or four small vessels were discovered in it, the General therefore

would not risque the lives of any of the brave fellows under his command for so inadequate an object. Having anchored there for some hours in order to draw the attention of the Rebels to that point, he again set sail, and in the evening of the 5th of September, arrived off Dartmouth river in Buzzard's-Bay. The troops were landed immediately, and proceeded to the town of Bedford, where they destroyed several vessels, and many rich stores, without opposition. They then proceeded to the mills above the town, where they burnt a considerable number of vessels; and having crossed the river, demolished all the stores at Fair-Haven; the Rebels having abandoned their Fort near last town, a party was detached to it, who destroyed eleven pieces of cannon, and blew up the magazine. The troops then proceeded to Seonticut Neck, where they were re-imbarked by 12 o'clock on the 6th, having had only six men wounded by some random shots which were fired by a few stragglers at a great distance. Above seventy sail of vessels, among which were some privateers, were destroyed in this expedition; the conduct of which does as much honour to the troops, amidst much temptation reflects credit upon them...

A letter from an officer, dated off Clark's Cove, mentions, that on the army's arrival, from hence off Rhode-Island, Sept. 6th was found that the rebels had two days before abandoned their enterprize against it, greatly to the credit of [Maj. Gen.] Sir Robert Pigot, and his garrison. We then proceeded Eastward, and landed at Clarks's Cove, and immediately marched in in the night to Bedford, when we burnt above 70 sail of vessels, and a great quantity of stores which were of considerable value, we then proceeded with great rapidity to get possession of the heights and bridge at the head of the bay, commanding the roads to Boston and Providence, gained these, after exchanging a few shot, from the acquisition we had time to complete our operation, and without loss of time, marched, and burnt the shipping at Dartmouth and Fairhaven. These places had been the resort of privateers we took, and destroyed a fort with eleven iron guns, and some ammunition in it; afterwards we re-embarked, which was effected without one shot being fired at us...

Source: *Royal Gazette* (New York), Sept. 12, 1778. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. participated in this raid. See Maj. Gen. Grey's letter dated Sept. 6, 1778 above.



Detail showing Holmes Hole, Martha's Vineyard at the top of the map from *A plan of the sea coast from Boston Bay to the light house near Rhode Island, reduced from the large survey, 1775*, by Charles Blaskowitz

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.,**

### **Arriving at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, Sept. 10 – 11, 1778**

10<sup>th</sup> The Fleet weighed anchor at 6 in the morning and turned thro' the Vineyard Sound, passing Tarpaulin Cove, Wood's Hole Harbour and Falmouth. The gallies went into the last place and cut out two sloops and a schooner, and burned another vessel. At 1 o'clock the [28-gun *HMS*] *Carisfort* came to an anchor off Holmes' Hole. The transports and small vessels were ordered into the Harbour, excepting those which carried the Grenadiers and Light Infantry and 33d Regiment, which Troops [Maj.] General [Charles] Grey intended taking with him to Nantucket...

11<sup>th</sup> A detachment of 150 men from each of the Corps in the Harbour disembarked under Lieutenant Colonel [Thomas] Stirling [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.]. He consented not to march into the country provided the inhabitants should immediately furnish 10,000 sheep and 300 oxen, with hay for them. Twenty vessels from Rhode Island arrived to take in stock.

12<sup>th</sup> Wind unfavorable for Nantucket. A quantity of stock was embarked for Rhode Island, and the vessels sailed.

The 17<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> Regiments (The 150 men from each corps are here alluded to) were ordered from their different positions to the beach. The 44<sup>th</sup> under [Brevet Lt.] Colonel [Robert] Donkin, marched towards the Southeast of the island. Only 229 stand of arms having been brought in, the Colonel and Five captains were confined. The Committee-men were likewise confined for having concealed a quantity of ammunition.

13<sup>th</sup> The 17<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> regiments embarked. More arms, sheep and oxen were brought in. Two men having deserted, the inhabitants were required to restore them, on pain of having a double number of their friends seized. A Tender arrived from [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe with orders to the Fleet to return to New York. The Nantucket Expedition was of course set aside.

The cattle and sheep were embarked on board the Men-of-War and transports. Colonel Donkin was ordered to return from Chilmark.

14<sup>th</sup> The remainder of the cattle was embarked. The Troops embarked. The deserters were restored and the Militia officers and Committeemen released, with a solemn injunction to abstain from taking part any more in the War or persecuting others for their political opinions; they were also bound to assist the King's ships with water or provisions whenever they should call upon them to do it. The public money which had been required, was paid, being a tax just collected by authority of the Congress. A salt work was destroyed this day.

15<sup>th</sup> The signal was made for sailing at 6 in the morning, but the transports were so dilatory that it was sunset before they came up with the Commodore. The whole sailed. A schooner and sloop taken in Holmes Hole Harbuor were burnt.

16<sup>th</sup> The Fleet arrived off Rhode Island and lay to, to send off some flat boats and pilots belonging to that place. Part of the cattle sent to Rhode Island was destined for Lord Howe's fleet [sic], but this being sailed the vessels had waited for us, and now joined the Fleet and proceeded with us into the Sound.

At 4 we past New London, the wind blowing very fresh. The Rebels fired their alarm guns and made smoakes. Towards 11 at night, the gale was very violent, and the Fleet lay to.

17<sup>th</sup> In the morning the Fleet was much separated – the headmost ships were off Huntingdon Bay. At 10 the *Carisfort* and some transports came to an anchor at Whitestone. The whole got up next day, having suffered no loss but a few rowboats, and some horses which one vessel was obliged to disburden herself of. Amongst these were General Grey's and Family's....

*Source: Major Andre's Journal, Operations of the British Army Under Lieutenant Generals Sir William Howe and Sir Henry Clinton June 1777 to November 1778, Recorded by Major John Andre, Adjutant General to Which is Added the Ethics of Major Andre's Mission, Ed. C. DeW. Willcox, William Abbatt, Tarrytown (N.Y.), 1930, pp. 91-95.*

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company,  
Describes Maj. Gen. Charles Grey's Raid on Martha's Vineyard,**

## Massachusetts, Sept. 10 – 19, 1778

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>. it blew hard all last night... continued our course betwixt Marthas Vinyard & Eliz<sup>a</sup>. Islands a strong tide setting to the westw<sup>d</sup>... we got up about sunset when the fleet anchor's in Bay near the East end of Marthas Vinyard...

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>. fine cool w<sup>r</sup>... the 3<sup>d</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] & 4<sup>th</sup>. Brigades except the 33<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. landed under the Command of L<sup>t</sup>. Colo<sup>l</sup>. [Thomas] Stirling [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] to collect what stock they can & the rest of the Troops are to go with [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Charles] Grey to Nantucket to destroy what Privateers or vessels they find there but no word of our moving yet this day at Noon – N:B: a flag of truce came from the Island yesterday Even<sup>g</sup>: to know our business, & were told it was to get what stock of cattle & Sheep was intended for the French fleet which if they would drive down to the shore & bring in their arms (for they Register here 500 militia) they would not be molested – This end of the island seems to be well Inhabited & a good deal of wood on it, & & this bay seems to be safe anchorage against So<sup>ly</sup>: [southerly] & W<sup>ly</sup>: [westerly] wind... N:B: only 150 of each Reg<sup>t</sup>. & 300 of the 42<sup>d</sup>. landed this morn<sup>g</sup>. about 1200 in all, some advanced into the Country 5 or 6 miles. no word of our division moving yet...

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. cool w<sup>r</sup>. wind N:E: - the fleet with sheep for Rhode island sail'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. at daybreak they carried above 6000 sheep, & are to return for more – sent likewise to [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe's fleet, 300 sheep & 150 Bullocks...

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. very cool w<sup>r</sup>... Embarking some sheep & some Cattle on board the Transports & making ready to leave this place; the Nantucket scheme we suppose will not take place...

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>. The wind & w<sup>r</sup>. continues in the Morn<sup>g</sup>. a signal to get under way those at the mouth of the Bay got out presently, but those that were within did not get out till Even<sup>g</sup>. The Como:[dore] & those that were out first, lay too for the rest of the fleet & when all pretty well made up sail about dusk & stood on to the westward, with a slight breeze from N.E.

Gen<sup>l</sup>. Grey's thanks to the Troops for their Behavior since under his Command & acquaints them of the intended Expedition to Nantucket which he is obliged to relinquish, in consequence of orders to return & join the army –

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. after day light... the fleet made sail & stood up the [Long Island] Sound; some ships came to anchor about Sharp point the morn<sup>g</sup>. rainy & foggy as the day advanced the wind fell away the Como: & some others got up to Whitestone & anchor'd there, but the wind failing us we & some others brought to at Frog point about noon, & in the Even<sup>g</sup>. when the tide turn'd got round the pont and anchor's with the Rest, where we [had] Embark'd –

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>. wind about South – orders to send the baggage ashore & be ready to Disembark tomorrow morn<sup>g</sup>. at daylight – a long string of promotions in Gen<sup>l</sup>. orders, in which [Peebles] appointed Cap<sup>t</sup>. 18 Aug<sup>t</sup>. – one [Lt. James] Campbell from 57<sup>th</sup>. put in on us [as Capt.], with I think great injustice to [Lt. John] Rutherford who has only got the Cap<sup>t</sup>. L<sup>ty</sup>. [Lieutenancy] – 8 or 9 Transports behind –

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>. southerly wind & pleasant w<sup>r</sup>. – The Troops landed in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & march'd soon after, in two divisions 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. Gr<sup>rs</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] took up their ground about 4 miles from Newtown towards Bedford about 2 o'clock on the right of the 2<sup>d</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. G<sup>rs</sup>.; the Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] & the Brigades some where betwixt that & Bedford we have good ground facing about N.W. to Bushwick...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Sept. 10-19, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 217-220.

### Rebel Commissary Col. Beriah Norton's Journal Account of Interaction with Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Martha's Vinyard, Massachusetts, Sept. 10-12, 1778

September 10<sup>th</sup>. – [Maj.] Gen. [Charles] Grey commanding a detachment of his Majesty's army arrived at Martha's Vineyard, when I waited on him on shipboard. Agreed to deliver him 10,000 sheep, 300 head of cattle; the General informed me that payment would be made for the same if they were not resisted. The

General then required the stock to be brought to the landing the next day, which was punctually complied with.

September 11<sup>th</sup>. - This day the troops landed under the command of [Lt.] Col. [Thomas] Sterling. Said Sterling then informed me that Gen. Grey had directed him to assure me that the whole stock would be paid for if they came down according to the conversation of the evening before. Sterling then informed me that a person must be appointed to appraise the stock before they would take any on shipboard. To which I agreed and we jointly agreed to. I did appoint proper persons to do that business; who were sworn by me to do their duty faithfully by the request of Col. Sterling. The stock was by this time coming down to the landing and was taken on board to the amount of 10,000 sheep and 312 head of cattle.

September 14<sup>th</sup>. - Col. Sterling then informed me and other inhabitants of the island that he had a message to deliver to the people. Then he recommended them to meet in a field for there was not room for them in doors, accordingly they met to the amount of several hundred. He informed us that we were to apply to New York for payment for the stock that they had received. I asked the Colonel if we best send a man in the fleet at this time for the payment to which the Colonel replied, we might if we chose but he recommended us to wait a little time before application was made.

September 15<sup>th</sup>. -- The fleet sailed for New York.

Source and Note: *Martha's Vineyard*, Henry Franklin Norton., Pub. Henry Franklin Norton and Robert Emmett Pyne, 1923. According to author Norton "A man was sent to New York to receive payment for the stock, but Grey had forgotten that he had ever stopped at Martha's Vineyard. Colonel Beriah Norton made two special trips to London for the same purpose, and at one time he was given a hearing in Parliament. Very little was accomplished in these two trips to England."

**Receipt from Capt. John M<sup>c</sup>Intosh, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., to Benjamin Pease, Martha's Vineyard,  
Sept. 12, 1778**

Edgerstown [Martha's Vineyard] 12<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1778 –

Received four sheep, & one lamb from Benj<sup>n</sup> Pease, for a Detachment of the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> under my  
Command –

*John M<sup>c</sup>Intosh Capt<sup>n</sup> 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>*

Source: Houghton Library, *John Lowell Papers, 1743-1802*, at MS Am 1582 (with permission). This receipt document's Capt. M<sup>c</sup>Intosh's participation on the detachment that landed from Maj. Gen. Grey's expedition on Martha's Vineyard. See Maj. Gen. Grey's letter dated Sept. 18, 1778, below.

**Excerpts of Letter No. 15 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North  
America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting He  
Will be Restricted to Defensive Operations due to Low Troop Strength, Sept. 15, 1778**

New York, 15 September 1778

My Lord...

70 <sup>th</sup> ,	As the three Regiments are arrived at Halifax I hope that place is sufficiently reinforced.
Maclean's,	As soon therefore as the Admiral acquaints me that the convoys are ready I shall detach
[82 <sup>nd</sup> ]	the expedition [to St. Lucia] under the command of Major General [James] Grant, send
Campbell's	the 3000 Men to the Floridas, and a Battalion to Bermuda and the Bahama Islands,
[74 <sup>th</sup> ]	without some Movements in the rebel Army, which seem to indicate an intention of an
	expedition and may possibly, as the French fleet are now at Boston, point towards
	Halifax, should render it expedient to send an additional reinforcement for its security
	and thereby occasion the other operations to be delayed for a time.



When these expeditions, my Lord, are sailed there will remain 17,000 Men for the defence of Rhode Island and this post, of which number 4000 at least must be left at the former of those places, so that 13,000 only will remain in this district, which recollecting its extent is certainly not sufficient but with which I shall endeavour to maintain it.

I must beg leave to observe to your Lordship that without this Army is greatly reinforced it must remain on a most strict defensive next year...

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XV, Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, p. 201 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1778* at CO 5/96, f. 110.

**Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander in Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, with Enclosed Letter from Maj. Gen. Charles Grey Describing His Expedition (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) to Bedford and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, Sept. 4-17, 1778**

N<sup>o</sup>. 17

New York Sept<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1778

My Lord...

In my last I had the honor to inform Your Lordship of the Success of Major General [Charles] Grey at Bedford and Fair Haven. I have now the pleasure to transmit an Account of his whole proceedings upon the Expedition, which will shew how effectually this Enterprize has been Executed and the very great loss the Enemy have sustained, at the same time that it reflects much honor upon the abilities of the General and the behaviour of the Troops employed on the Occasion.

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect

Your Lordship's Most obedient and Most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
*H Clinton*

Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>

Lord George Germain  
&ca &ca &ca

[Enclosures]

On board the [28-gun *HMS*] Carysfort, Whitestone  
September 18<sup>th</sup> 1778

Sir.

In the Evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> Instant the Fleet with the Detachment under my Command sailed from New London and stood to the Eastward with a very favorable Wind: We were only retarded in the Run from thence to Buzzards Bay by the altering our Course for some Hours in the Night, in consequence of the Discovery of a Strange Fleet, which was not known to be [Adm.] Lord [Richard] Howe's until Morning. By 5 o'clock in the Afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup> the Ships were at an Anchor in Clarkes Cove and the Boats having been previously hoisted out, the Debarkation of the Troops took place immediately. I proceeded without loss of time to destroy the Vessels and Stores in whole extent of Accushnet River (about 6 Miles) particularly at Bedford and Fairhaven, and having dismantled and burnt a Fort on the east Side of the River mounting 11 Pieces of heavy Cannon with a Magazine and Barracks, compleated the Reembarkation before Noon the next Day. I refer your Excellency to the annexed Return for the Enemy's Losses, as far as we were able to ascertain them and for our own Casualties.

The Wind did not admit of any farther Movement of the Fleet the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> than hauling a little distance from the Shore; Advantage was taken of this Circumstance to burn a large Privateer Ship on the Stocks and to send a small Armament of Boats with two Gallies to destroy two or three Vessels, which being in the Stream the Troops had not been able to set fire to.

From the Difficulties in passing out of Buzzards Bay into the Vinyard Sound thro' Quickses Hole and from Head Winds, the Fleet did not reach Holme's Hole Harbour in the Island of Martha's Vinyard until the 10<sup>th</sup>. The Transports with the Light Infantry, Grenadiers, and 33<sup>d</sup> Regiments were anchored without the Harbour as I had at that time a Service in View for those Corps whilst the Business of collecting Cattle should be carrying on upon the Island. I was obliged by contrary Winds to relinquish my Designs.

On our Arrival off the Harbour the Inhabitants sent Persons on board to ask my Intentions with respect to them, to which a requisition was made of the Arms of the Militia, the public Money, 300 Oxen and 10,000 Sheep, They promised each of these Articles should be delivered without delay. I afterwards found it necessary to send small Detachments into the Island and detain the deputed Inhabitants for a time, in order to accelerate their Compliance with the Demand.

The 12<sup>th</sup> I was able to embark on board the Vessels which arrived that day from Rhode Island 6000 Sheep and 130 Oxen.

The 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> were employed in embarking Cattle, and Sheep, on board our own Fleet, in destroying some Salt Works, in burning or taking in the Inlets what Vessels and Boats could be found and in receiving the Arms of the Militia. I here again refer your Excellency to Returns.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> the Fleet left Martha's Vinyard and after sustaining the next Day a very severe Gale of Wind arrived the 17<sup>th</sup> at Whitestone without any material Damage.

I hold myself much obliged to the Commanding Officers of Corps and to the Troops in general for the Alacrity with which every Service was performed.

I have the Honor to be, your Excellency's  
most obedient & most humble Servant  
Signed Charles Grey

Return of vessels and Stores destroyed on Accushnet River the 15<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1778

- 8 Sail of large vessels from 200 to 300 Tons, most of them Prizes.
  - 6 Armed Vessels carrying from 10, to 16 Guns & a Number of Sloops and Schooners of inferior Size, amounting in all to 70, besides Whale Boats, and others Amongst the Prizes were three taken by D'Estang's Fleet.
  - 26 Store Houses at Bedford, several at M<sup>c</sup>Pherson's Wharf, Cran's Mills and Fair Haven. These were filled with very great Quantities of Rum, Sugar, Molasses, Coffee, Tobacco, Cotton, Tea, Medicines, Gunpowder, Sail Cloth, Cordage &c<sup>a</sup>.
- Two large Rope Walks.

At Falmouth in the Vinyard Sound the 10<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>

- 2 Sloops and a Schooner taken by the Galleys, one loaded with staves.
- 1 Sloop burnt

In Old Town Harbour, Martha's Vinyard

- 1 Brig of 150 Tons Burthen, burnt by the Scorpion
- 1 Schooner 70 D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>. —
- 23 Whale Boats taken, or destroyed
- A Quantity of Plank taken

At Holme's Hole Martha's Vinyard

- 4 Vessels, with several Boats taken or destroyed
- A Salt Work destroyed, and a considerable Quantity of Salt taken.

Arms taken at Martha's Vinyard &c<sup>a</sup>

388 Stand, with Bayonets, Pouches &ca. Some Powder and a Quantity of Lead, as by Artillery Return

At the Battery near Fair Haven, & on Clark's Point

13 Pieces of Iron Ordnance destroyed, the magazine blown up, and the Platforms &ca and Barracks for 200 Men burnt.

£1,000 Sterling in Paper, the Amount of a Tax collected by Authority of the Congress, was received at Martha's Vinyard from the Collector.

Cattle and Sheep taken from Martha's Vinyard

300 Oxen – 10,000 Sheep

Signed Charles Grey  
M.G.

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing of the Detachment under the Command of Major General Grey.

Corps	Killed	Wounded	Missing
1 <sup>st</sup> Batt <sup>n</sup> Light Infantry	..	1	3
1 <sup>st</sup> Batt <sup>n</sup> Grenadiers	1	1	3
33 <sup>rd</sup> Regiment	..	..	1
42 <sup>nd</sup> Regiment	..	1	8
46 <sup>th</sup>	..	..	1
64 <sup>th</sup>	..	1	..
Total	1	4	16

The Enemy's Loss which came to our Knowledge, was an Officer and 3 men killed by the advance Parties of Light Infantry, who on receiving a fire from the Enclosures rushed on with their bayonets. 16 were brought Prisoners from Bedford, to exchange for that Number missing from the Troops.

Signed, Charles Grey  
M.G...

Source and Notes: "Report of the Expedition under the Command of Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Grey, 18<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1778, In Sir Henry Clinton's (N<sup>o</sup> 17) of 21<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1778" at TNA, Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1778 at CO 5/96, ff. 118, 120-121, 122 and 126. Bedford and Fair Haven are towns on the southeast coast of Massachusetts. The troops involved in this expedition were listed in British General Orders dated at New York on about Aug. 28, 1778 and included the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion British Grenadiers (including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co.), 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Light Infantry (including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Inf. Co.), 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade. Maj. of Brigade John Andre noted in his Sept. 7 return that five of the missing soldiers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt escaped rebel captivity and returned to the expedition.

**General Orders Announce Capt. Lt. John Peebles Promoted to Command the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Maj. of Brigade and Lt. James Campbell, 57<sup>th</sup> Regt., Promoted to Command a 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Company (Although Seconded) and Lt. John Rutherford Promoted to Capt. Lieutenant of Gen. Lord John Murray's Company, New York, Sept. 17, 1778**

Head Quarters New York 17<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1778...

The Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following promotions...

42<sup>nd</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>:

Capt<sup>n</sup> Lieu<sup>t</sup>: [John] Peebles to be Capt<sup>n</sup>: vice [Alexander] Donaldson Promoted} 18<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> 1778

Lieu<sup>t</sup>: James Campbell from the 57<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> to be Capt<sup>n</sup>: vice [Hon.] Geo: } D<sup>o</sup>

M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie promoted [in 73<sup>rd</sup> (MacLeod's) Highland Regt.] }

Lieu <sup>t</sup> : [John] Rutherford to be Capt <sup>n</sup>	Lieu <sup>t</sup> : vice Peebles Promoted	} D <sup>o</sup>
Ens <sup>n</sup> [James] Graham from the 57 <sup>th</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> :	to be L <sup>t</sup> : vice Rutherford Promoted	} D <sup>o</sup>
Ens <sup>n</sup> : [Alexander] Cummine from 52 <sup>nd</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup>	to be Lieu <sup>t</sup> : vice Lieu <sup>t</sup> : Geo:	} D <sup>o</sup>
M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie Promoted [in 73 <sup>rd</sup> Regt.]		}...

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. Although Capt. Lt. Peebles was promoted to replace the commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Additional (or Recruiting) Company in Scotland (Capt. Donaldson who had received the majority of the new 76<sup>th</sup> or MacDonald's Highland Regt.), Peebles remained in America. Capt. James Campbell was serving as Maj. of Brigade for his uncle, Maj. Gen. John Campbell of Strachur.



Portrait of Capt. Robert Bertie, 15<sup>th</sup> Regt., Later 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Ancaster

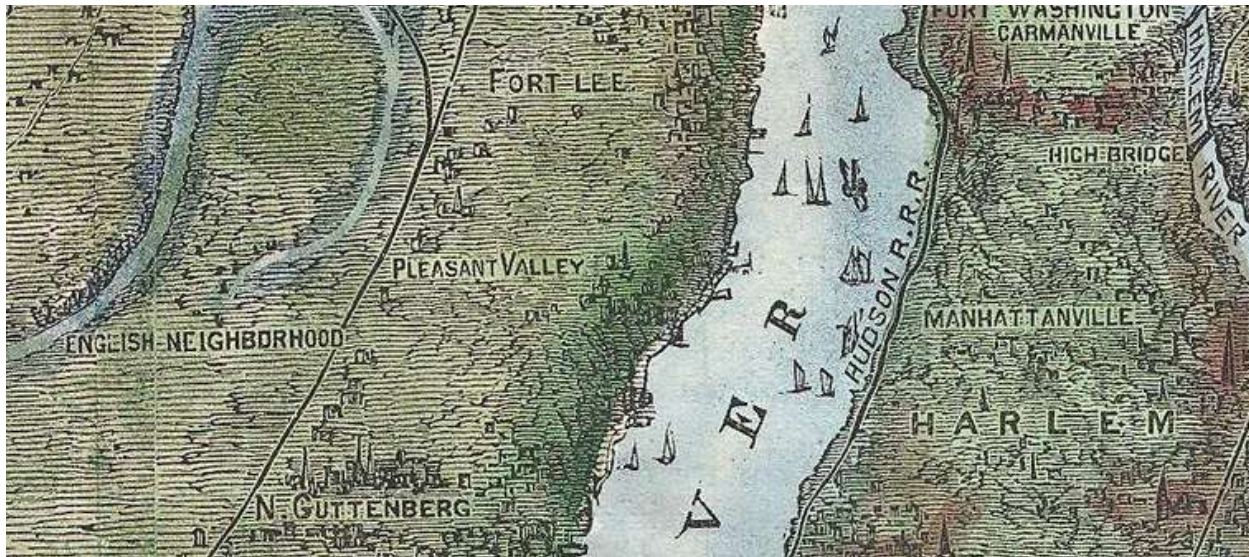
Picture Source: Wikimedia Common

### **Louisa Susannah Wells' Journal Account of the March of Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Near Flushing, Long Island, Sept. 18, 1778**

In September 1778 I received a kind and pressing invitation from Colonel Archibald Hamilton and his Lady, to pass the remainder of the summer with them at their Farm, near Flushing on Long Island....

The next morning I was indulged with a Novel, though pleasing sight. The Regiments which had been on the Expedition to Martha's-vineyard &c., had landed at White Stone, which place is a few miles below Flushing, and were all marching by the Farm along the high road. The Colonel, my Host, went out to see if he could recognise any old acquaintance amongst the Officers. He soon sent in Col. Stirling of the 71<sup>st</sup> [actually 42<sup>nd</sup>] or "Old Highland Watch" I turned my attention to the window and saw several of the Subalterns pulling the Peaches from the Hedge, and some of them had mounted the Orchard Wall. Col. Stirling immediately ordered a safe-guard for the Farm, which was not unnecessary as the Soldiers begin to be fond of what they have been so long used to, namely Plunder? Col. Hamilton seeing the Gentlemen so fond of Peaches asked them to walk into the Farm House... He ordered in abundance of Fruit of all sorts then in season. Col. Stirling started when he saw the first Officer [Capt. Robert Bertie (later Robert, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Ancaster), 15<sup>th</sup> Regt.] enter, and smiling said – "Your Lordship, I assume you, was the occasion of my ordering the Safe-Guard, for I believe it was you who first mounted the Wall," He introduced him to us as "Marquis of Lindsey"...

Source: *The Journal of a Voyage from Charlestown, S.C., to London Undertaken During the American Revolution by a Daughter of an Eminent American Loyalist in the Year 1778 and Written from Memory Only*, by Louisa Susannah Wells, New York Historical Society, New York, 1906, Google Books, pp. 40-43. Whitestone is on the Long Island Sound, opposite from Throg's Neck, and about three miles from Flushing.



Detail of Map showing English Neighborhood to the west of the Hudson River, near Fort Lee from "New York, From a Balloon. Pictorial Map of New York and Vicinity, Showing the Suburban Town, and Railroad and Water Communications." 1871, from Harper's Weekly

Map Source: Wikimedia Commons

### **Excerpts of Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of Movements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) to English Neighborhood, New Jersey, Sept. 18 – 23, 1778**

18<sup>th</sup> }

19<sup>th</sup> } The Troops of [Maj.] Gen: [Charles] Greys Expedition landed and marched to Bedford.

20<sup>th</sup> }

19<sup>th</sup> Gen: Grey came to New York.

22<sup>d</sup> The Grenadiers, Light Infantry & 3<sup>d</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Brigades crossed in Transports and flat Boats from Red Hook to Paulus Hook. The guards and [Loyalist] Volunteers of Ireland joined these Corps from York Island The whole lay at Bergen that night, except the 1<sup>st</sup>: L<sup>t</sup>. Infantry, which was pushed on towards English Neighbourhood.

23<sup>d</sup>: At 5 in the morning the Troops under [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, consisting of the L<sup>t</sup>. Infantry, Grenadiers: Volunteers of Ireland, 3<sup>d</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>: Brigades and a detachment of Dragoons under Maj: [Francis Edward] Gwynn [16<sup>th</sup> Dragoons] moved from Bergen to English Neighbourhood, where they were encamped with their left to Newbridge. About 60 Militia who were posted at the Liberty Pole at the head of Eng<sup>h</sup> Neighb<sup>d</sup> Creek, were Surprised by Capt: [Hon. Francis] Needham of the [17<sup>th</sup>] Dragoons. A few were killed and 27 taken.

Source: *Major Andre's Journal*, Huntington Library.

### **Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Describes Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Grand Foraging Expedition, Paulus Hook to Newbridge, New Jersey, Sept. 22 – Oct. 15, 1778**

Tuesday 22<sup>d</sup>. got orders last night to march in the morn<sup>g</sup>. by 3 o'clock – under arms at 3 & march'd off at 4 oclock to Red hook [Long Island] where we embark'd on board of Transports & flat Boats & landed at Paulus Hook [New Jersey] the four flank Corps [1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Bns. and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brit. Gren. Bns.] 3<sup>d</sup>. [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] & 4<sup>th</sup>. Brigades & some light horse & flatboats went over to

York island to bring some troops from thence – the Guards I believe – those from Long island march'd as they landed to the heights of Bergern where they halted & Cook'd – the Guns horses & Baggage &<sup>ca</sup>. getting ashore [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis Commands & has [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Charles] Grey with him – but don't know yet what this Expedition in the Jerseys is to be...in the Even<sup>g</sup>. the troops moved on to the Environs of Bergen where they huttet for the noght. The people all at home...

Wednesday 23<sup>d</sup>. The Troops march'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. Day light to the On<sup>ward</sup>: it came on rain in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & continued to rain & blow all day long – passed through' English Neighbourhood, at the head of which the Guards, & Brigades halted, the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. on other side the mill & Liberty pole, & the Light Infantry Light horse & [Col. Francis] Lord Rawdon's [Loyalist] Corps [Volunteers of Ireland], towards Newbridge, we got a compleat ducking today – a Picquet of the Rebels taken at Liberty pole by a few Light horse –

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. The weather cleared up the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. moved in the afternoon about a mile to higher & better ground, the Light Bobs [Lt. Infantry] at Newbridge they sent to Hackensack today a few Comp<sup>ys</sup>. who met with nothing – two days fresh meat for all the Off<sup>rs</sup>. of this army – we hear [Hessian Lt.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen with a strong division has moved out from Kings Bridge while we make a sweep into the Country for the purpose of Collecting forage –

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>... 100 Waggons come over to Collect the forage & some Commissarys to get Cattle...

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1778...The foraging going on below by Vessels, – a large foraging party out yesterday in front for the use of the Garrison...

Friday 2<sup>d</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. another large foraging party out today towards Tapan, some Reg<sup>ts</sup>. from the Brigades cover, they bring the Hay down to the Mill about 5 miles below this in waggons & there put it on board Vessels – it will take a great while to lay in enough at this rate for the Winter – 5000 horses will eat a great deal of hay 1 ½ tons each –

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>. fine weather two Batt<sup>ns</sup>. Light Infantry 1<sup>st</sup>. Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. one Batt<sup>n</sup>. Guards, 33<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. & 2<sup>d</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. all the Dragoons except an off<sup>r</sup>. & 20 & the Volunteers of Ireland – march'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. and took post on the heights of Hackensack & about the Village while the Waggons were employed in carrying off the forage – staid there till even<sup>g</sup>. with<sup>t</sup> [without] seeing any of the Enemy & return'd to our Respective Encampments – they bro<sup>t</sup>. off 240 waggon load of fine hay...

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>... making ready to move –

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>. we (the troops in Jersey) march'd between 7 & 8 by the left & carried our straw with us to the ground betwixt the main road & Fort Lee the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. occupied that ground where the Rebels were Huttet two years ago –

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>. we march'd again in the morning to the ground near Bergen & some cross'd over from Powlis hook –

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>. The troops crossing over all day from Powlis hook to Brooklyn we the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. got over about 2 o'clock & march'd to our old ground, where we found our tents & pitch'd them...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Sept. 22-26, Oct. 1-15, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 221-224.

### **Advertisement for Lost Horse Belonging to Lt. Harry Munro, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Sept. 26, 1778**

Three Guineas Reward. STOLEN or Strayed on Wednesday the 23d inst. from the environs of the 42d regiment's encampment near Bedford, A BAY HORSE, about 14 hands high with a short switch tail, long maine...Whoever secures said horse or gives information in order to have him secured shall receive the above reward, by applying to the printer or Lieut. HARRY MUNRO, of said regiment in Camp near Bedford.

Source and Note: *Royal Gazette* (New York), September 26, 1778. This advertisement indicates the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was camped near Bedford, Long Island.



**Excerpts of Letter No. 20 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief,  
North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the  
American Department, Reporting the Dispatch of Detachments Weakening his  
Force and Requesting Permission to Resign His Command, New York, Oct. 8, 1778**

New York, 8 October 1778

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform your lordship that the Admiral having at length been able to appoint a convoy, I shall in a few days have it in my power to obey His Majesty's instructions by detaching the troops for the expedition to the West Indies. And I shall further send, agreeable to those received from your Lordship, 1000 Men to Pensacola and 2000 to S<sup>t</sup> Augustine. For those garrisons I have employed foreign troops and provincials whose loss to this Army will not be so much felt, but as the treaties with the former and the understood stipulation with the latter have precluded my sending them to the West Indies I have been forced to send 5000 British effective rank and file up on that service, a dismemberment which is severe in deed.

After a wound, in my humble opinion so fatal to the hopes of any future vigour in this Army, I trust, my Lord, you can not wish to keep me in the mortifying command of it. I fear tis not in the power of Great Britain to restore to me the force I lose by the Detachment of these ten British Regiments. They are the very nerves of this Army. The British who remain with me are equal to them in every respect, but their number will be too small to animate the over-proportion of foreigners etc., who though they may be faithful cannot be supposed equally zealous and are not equally inured to service. This I have said, my Lord, stating the supposition that you mean to reinforce me, which I am not authorized to think is your intention. I have had a still further drain upon me by the necessity of sending near 700 Men to replace the Marines at Halifax and 300 to garrison Bermuda and the Bahama Islands. Were all the troops that remain with me of the first stamp, their scanty numbers would stifle any hope that might arise from the consideration of their valour.

You cannot I am confident, my Lord, desire that I should remain a mournful witness of the debility of an Army at whose head, had I been unshackled by instructions, I might have indulged expectations of rendering serious service to my country.

I trust, my Lord, that I have done my duty zealously in a command at least unsolicited by me. I have followed my instructions strictly and punctually whensoever I could well warp my circumstances to them. True indeed, as to the manner of evacuating Philadelphia, I ventured to deviate from my orders; but by that deviation I think I may say I rescued the honour, perhaps the existence, of the Army as well as the interest of my country.

His Majesty, upon whose goodness I repose my hopes, will I doubt not make an allowance for my feelings, and when I apply to your Lordship to request his gracious permission for resigning this command I do it in the fullest confidence that my royal master cannot look upon that desire as proceeding from want of ardour for his service but will attribute it to the conviction that I am no longer in a situation to promote his interests.

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. XV, *Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 209-210 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1778* at CO 5/96, f. 161.



Detail showing Assembly of British Troops, including the 42nd Highlanders, for Raid on Baylor's Dragoons at Tappan, New Jersey from "Plan of the country at and in the vicinity of Forts Lee and Independency, showing the position of the British Army."

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

## Lord Cornwallis' Raid on Tappan, New Jersey, Sept. 27, 1778

**Excerpt of Letter No. 21 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander in Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, New York, Oct. 8, 1778**

Nº. 21

New York October 8<sup>th</sup> 1778

My Lord

On the return of the Troops from the [Maj. Gen. Charles Grey's] Expedition to Bedford [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] &c, I proposed taking a forward position with the Army. As well to procure a Supply of Forage (which we were much in want of) as to observe the motions of the rebel Army and to favor an Expedition to Egg Harbour at which place the Enemy had a number of Privateers and Prizes, and considerable Salt Works.

Accordingly, on the 22<sup>d</sup> of last Month, I requested [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis to take a position between Newbridge on the Hackensack River in Jersey, and Hudson's River, and [Hessian] Lieut General [Wilhelm] Knyphausen one between Wepperham, or the last of those Rivers and the Brunx.

In this Situation, with the assistance of the flat Boats, we could assemble the Army on either side of the North River in Twenty four hours, & by our having the Command of that River as far as the Highlands, [Rebel Gen. George] M<sup>r</sup> Washington could not assemble that of the Rebels in Ten days: to have done it in Jersey he must have quitted his Mountains and risked a general Action in a Country little favourable to him.

As by the Move beforementioned the Province of Jersey and New York were opened, we received a considerable supply of Provisions and a number of Families came in.

General Washington did not seem to shew the least disposition to assemble his Army, and the Militia kept at a distance, however, by a well projected plan of Lord Cornwallis's almost an entire Regiment of the Enemy's Light Dragoons were surprised and carried off.

For the particulars of this I beg leave to refer Your Lordship to Lord Cornwallis's Report, a Copy of which I have the honor to enclose...

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect  
Your Lordship's Most obedient and Most humble Servant  
*H Clinton*

Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Lord George Germain  
&ca &ca &ca...

Source:

[Enclosure: Report by Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis to Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sir Henry Clinton]

New Bridge 28<sup>th</sup>. September 1778

Sir,

Having received Intelligence that a considerable Body of Militia and a Regiment of Light dragoons were assembled in the Neighbourhood of Taapan in order to interrupt our Foraging, a Plan was formed on the Evening of the 27<sup>th</sup>, for surprizing them – Three Deserters from the Right Column alarmed the Militia who were posted near new Taapan by which means they made their escape, but the left column Commanded by [Maj.] General [Charles] Grey was so fortunate as not to be discovered, and the Major general conducted his March with so much Order and so silently, and made so good a Disposition to surround the Village of Old Taapan where the [Lt. Col. George Baylor's 3<sup>rd</sup>] Regiment of [Light] Dragoons lay that he entirely surprized them and very few escaped being either Killed or taken, he likewise fell in with a small Party of Militia, a few of whom were killed and some take Prisoners – The whole loss on our side was one Man killed of the Second Battalion of Light Infantry, which Corps had the principal Share in this Business and behaved with their usual Spirit and Alacrity.

The 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment Commanded by Lieut<sup>t</sup>. Colonel [Archibald] Campbell and the [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers under Lieut<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>o</sup>. [John Graves] Simcoe who crossed the North River from [Hessian] Lieutenant General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen's Division and were to have co-operated with the other Columns were prevented, by the desertion of the three Men beforementioned from surprising a Body of Militia, who, by that means took the Alarm and made their Escape.

I have the honor to be, Your Excellency's most Obedient and most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

His Excellency

(signed) Cornwallis

General Sir Henry Clinton

Sources and Note: (Clinton) TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1778* at CO 5/96, ff. 163-166 and (Cornwallis) *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784* (hereafter *RBCO*) Ed. by Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 4, pp. 405-406 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1779* at CO 5/98, pp. 329-330. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was part of Lord Cornwallis' column and was not engaged.



Detail showing location of Raid on Baylor's Dragoons at Tappan, New Jersey from "Plan of the country at and in the vicinity of Forts Lee and Independency, showing the position of the British Army."

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Journal of Capt. Archibald Robertson, Deputy Quarter Master General, Describes Role of 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) in the Raid on Baylor's Dragoons, Tappan, New Jersey, Sept. 27, 1778**

27<sup>th</sup> [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, having intelligence that a Considerable Body of Militia were Assembling at New Tapan about 10 miles in our Front and a Regiment of Dragoons were gone to Old Tapan and Driving back all the Cattle, determin'd to Attack them by surprize in two Columns and in order to surround them. Accordingly the Left Column Commanded by [Maj.] General [Charles] Grey consisting of the 2<sup>d</sup> Light Infantry 2<sup>d</sup> Grenadiers, 33<sup>d</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Regiments, march'd from New Bridge at 9 at night, to get in the Rear of the Rebels, while the Right Column with Lord Cornwallis march'd the Direct Road. It Consisted of 1<sup>st</sup> Grenadiers, Guards, 42<sup>d</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Regiments, but in order to give General Grey time did not march untill 12 at Night. The left Column entirely surprized [Rebel Lt. Col. George] Baylor's [3<sup>rd</sup>] Regiment of Light Dragoons at Old Tapan and except a few men that were out on Patrole Killed and took them all. They were about 100. 3 deserters from the Right Column, while we lay upon our Arms to give time to General Grey, Apprised the Militia at New Tapan so they made their Escape, except a few that fell in with General Grey in their retreat. 10 Officers and 40 men were taken Prisoners.

Source: *Archibald Robertson, Lieutenant-General Royal Engineers, His Diaries and Sketches in America*, Ed. Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, New York, 1930, p. 183.

**Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., to William Graham of Airth, Describing the Raid on Baylor's Dragoons, Tappan, New Jersey, Sept. 27, 1778**

English Neighbourhood in [New] Jersey  
Oct 3 1778

Dear Airth

... next day we got orders to march & crossed Hudson river for this province at Nous y voila [French: "here we are"] our chief business is foraging, tho we have since our coming here cut up [Lady] Washingtons Reg<sup>t</sup> of life Guards Dragoons [Lt. Col. George Baylor's 3<sup>rd</sup> Regt. of Light Dragoons] they were all asleep in barns when our [2<sup>nd</sup> Bn.] Light Inf<sup>y</sup>, dashed in among them & only 3 escaped of 128, upwards of 80 were bayoneted the rest taken w<sup>t</sup> their Horses &<sup>c</sup> what more we are to do or how long to stay I know not nor do I give myself much trouble about it, it is all in our days work... Adieu My Dear Airth kindest Love to Annie & the Bairns & remember me to all my other friends and believe me

Yours Sincerely  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Stirling

Source: *Stirlings of Ardoch and Grahams of Airth Family Letters, A Personal View of the Value of Kinship*, Transcribed and Ed. by Sarah Harrison, Dept. of Social Anthropology, Univ. of Cambridge (UK), pp. 35-36 from NLS, *Graham of Airth Papers and additional papers at MS.10943, f. 64.*

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Describes an Attack on the Rebel Lt. Col. George Baylor's 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Light Dragoons at Tappan, New Jersey, Sept. 27 – 28, 1778**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. pleasant w<sup>r</sup>... In the even<sup>g</sup>. got orders to be ready to march at 10 o'clock at night. –

Monday 28<sup>th</sup>. march'd last night at 10 Oclock, one Column under [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis consisting of the Guards 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>. Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] & the 42<sup>d</sup>. moved

from the Picquet ground in from the Liberty pole at 12 on the road to Tapawn where we arrived about sunrise & found the Village evacuated by about 500 militia who had got intelligence of our coming by two deserters, – another column under [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Charles] Grey consisting of the 2<sup>d</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. Light Infantry & Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. and 2 Reg<sup>ts</sup>. march'd by another road to the northward and about an hour before day surprized a cantonment of the Enemy's Light horse of about 100 of whom the bayoneted some 40 or 50 took between 30 & 40 prisoners the remaining few escaped...

The Troops halted there till the afternoon & then march'd back to y<sup>r</sup>. [their] respective Encampments, & brought in some Cattle – pretty much fatigued, marching & halting for above 20 hours & little to eat or drink

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries* for Sept. 26-27, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 221-223.

**Extract of Letter from Rebel Brig. Gen. William Maxwell to Gen. George Washington, Incorrectly Reporting the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was to sail to Halifax; Acquackinac, New Jersey, Oct. 8, 1778**

Acquackinac 8<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1778

Sir...

Two Deserters from the 2<sup>d</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. Light Infantry at the new bridge this moment came in, says that the 42 & 15<sup>th</sup>. Regt<sup>s</sup>. on the Forraging party was to set off this morning to go to N. York there to Embarque for Hallifax that 9 or 10 Regts was to embarque in a few days for the W. Indias that prevous to that the Granadiers & Light Infantry would Joyn their Corps they say it is thought that the Forrag'g party is finished or nearly so. I am your Excellencys Most Obedient Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

*W<sup>m</sup>. Maxwell*

Source: "To George Washington from Brigadier General William Maxwell, 8 October 1778," *Founders Online*, National Archives, last modified February 21, 2017.

**Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Spy John Vanderhoven to his Father, Cornelius Vanderhoven, Reporting Information Obtained from Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., New York, Oct. 9, 1778**

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir

October 9<sup>th</sup>. 1778 –

I send you the best intelligence, that I am capable of getting at present...Colo: [Thomas] Stirling of the 42<sup>d</sup>. informed me that all the invalids are to be embodied & sent to garrison the Island of Bermudas And all the officers of the 5<sup>th</sup>. & 55<sup>th</sup>. still expect orders every hour to embark for the West Indies...

From your dutiful Son

Afternoon 4 oClock

*John Vanderhoven*

Source and Note: Lib. of Congress, George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence. Vanderhoven letter enclosed in letter from Rebel Maj. Gen. William Alexander (Lord Stirling) to Gen. George Washington, dated Oct. 11, 1778.

**Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Maj. Gen. William Alexander (Lord Stirling) to Gen. George Washington Reporting the Embarkation of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., East River, Oct. 15, 1778**

Dear Sir

Elizabeth Town October 16<sup>th</sup>: 1778...

Every thing is in Motion with the Enemy at New York and Staten Island... I have this day seen a Cap<sup>t</sup> Clun an exchanged prisoner...that yesterday he saw the [42<sup>nd</sup>] highlanders Embark in the east River as they arrived in flat bottomed boats from powles Hook...

I recollect nothing more at present and am with most Sincere Affection Esteem Regard and Attachment

Your Excellencys Most obedient Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
*Stirling*

Source and Note: Lib. of Congress, *George Washington Papers*, Series 4, General Correspondence. On Oct. 30 Lord Stirling reported "On Staten Island there are no more troops left than the 42d & Boskirks and these are Stationed at the Watering place."

**Advertisement for Lost Trunks Belonging to Lt. Alexander Stewart, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.,  
Bedford, Long Island, Oct. 16, 1778**

LOST, On Friday the 16th [Oct.] inst, coming from Powles Hook to Brooklyn ferry, a PORTMANTUA TRUNK, covered with blue oil cloth, marked Lt. Stewart, 42d Regt. also a vallance, containing bedding, &c. both bound together with leather straps. Whoever can give information where they may be found, by applying to the Adjutant of the 42d regiment, in camp, near Bedford, on Long-Island, shall receive a Reward of FIVE GUINEAS, upon the articles being delivered, and no questions asked, the vallance mark'd Lt. Stewart, 42d Regiment.

Source and Note: *Royal Gazette* (New York), October 21, 1778. This advertisement documents the location of the camp of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. on Oct. 16, 1778. Lt. James Stewart was serving in the Lt. Inf. Co. at this time and Lt. Alexander Stewart was assigned to Maj. Charles Graham's. Because the finder was to notify the adjutant of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. instead of the adjutant of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Bn. this portmanteau was lost by Lt. Alexander Stewart.

**Excerpt of Letter from Sir William Stirling of Ardoch to His Brother,  
Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Responding to Lt. Col. Stirling's Letter,  
Ardoch, Scotland, Oct. 24, 1778**

Ardoch 24<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1778

I would not delay one Moment my Dear Tom in acknowledging your letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> of August from Bedford Camp and assuring you of the pleasure it gives me to hear from you often and of your being in good health. by the same post Lady Stirling had a letter from Lady Christian Erskine telling her of Mr Erskines having a letter from [Capt.] Archie [Erskine, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> mentioning your having gone to Rhode Island with [Gen.] S<sup>r</sup> H [Henry] Clinton to the relieff of that place I hope upon the appearence of your reinforcement the Rebels would go off and that you are by this time in Winter Quarters safe at New York - I am heartily sorry that [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe had not an opportunity of trying his Strength with [French Adm. Charles Hector, comte] M<sup>r</sup> DEstaigne as I entertained the Greatest hopes his Lordship would have destroyed his whole Fleet which is the first thing that would probably give our Affairs a favourable turn in America as I have not the least hopes from our Commissioner...Lady Stirling and all here join me in kind Comp<sup>ts</sup> and best Wishes to you remember me to Archie and all Friends. I hear [Brig. Gen] Sir W [William] Erskine comes home. I wish you was to Succeed him as Q. M. [Quarter Master] General and follow his example every way I ever am most affectionately yours W. Stirling

[addressed] Lt Colonel Stirling 42<sup>d</sup> or Royal Highland Reg<sup>t</sup> New York North America

Source: *Stirlings of Ardoch and Grahams of Airth Family Letters, A Personal View of the Value of Kinship*, Transcribed and Ed. by Sarah Harrison, Dept. of Social Anthropology, Univ. of Cambridge (UK), pp. 36-37 from NLS, *Graham of Airth Papers and additional papers at ACC 12290 f.17.*

**Letter from Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, to Dr. Charles Fleming  
Describing the Situation in America, Long Island, Oct. 26, 1778**

Camp Long Island 26<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1778

My Dear Friend



Your kind letter of the 25 June I had the pleasure to receive above two months ago, and was happy to hear of your Welfare, that of your family and all my friends in Irvine, which ever gives me pleasure to hear of frequently. My last to Irvine was to my friend Thomas dated in Jersey about three weeks ago, we were then on an excursion into that Province for the purpose of collecting forage, we had no further Skirmishing while we remain'd there which was till the 15<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>t</sup> when the troops on that Service cross'd over & return'd to their former ground, some to York Island & some to Long Island

Just before we left that we got the News of [Vice] Adm<sup>l</sup> [Augustus] Keppels Action [First Battle of Ushant – July 27] with the French fleet, which I think seems to have been a drawn battle tho' I suppose the French have got the worst of it. I saw a letter yesterday from M<sup>r</sup> Arthur to M<sup>r</sup> Geo: M<sup>c</sup>Cree dated London 11<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> with a more particular account of the French loss than any I had seen before, but as the Action was not decisive we suppose they have been at it again before this time –

Military operations have been at a Stand in this Country for sometime past, except on the small Scale; you will have seen by this time the Manifesto & Proclamation published by the Commissioners which I suppose is their ultimate offer of peace & reconciliation, but neither those rascals the Congress, nor any Assembly of People, have hitherto given the least Answer to it or acknowledged the receipt of it, the term will soon be expired [word off edge of page] now when I suppose something will be done that will mark the fiction conduct of Great Britain towards her [recutic? ] Provinces –

An [Maj. Gen. James Grant's] expedition of 10 Reg<sup>ts</sup> compleated some light horse and a Detachment of Artillery Embark'd yesterday, it has been long in Agitation, & every body thought was designed for the West Indies but people begin to change their opinions & think it may be destined for some of the Southern Provinces, & they are supposed to be waiting for further instructions from home before they are dispatch'd, but indeed every thing here wears the face of disorder & undermin'd counsels, & we suppose that you are so much taken up with your French War at home that we and this Country are but a Secondary consideration –

There are some more Reg<sup>ts</sup> under orders of Embarkation whose destination [East and West Florida] is likewise a secret, indeed they once talk'd of leaving New York altogether, but that cannot happen this winter, We the troops on Long Island expect to go into Hutts or Cantonments very soon for the Winter, but every thing here now is done with an air of surprize, and we are as often surprized with a Spell of idleness as with a sudden movement –

[Rear] Admiral [John] Byron sail'd about a week ago with 13 Ships of the Line & some frigates, he was to see a large homeward bound fleet off the Coast, & some Ships towards Halifax, & then take a look of [French Adm. Charles Hector] Mons<sup>r</sup> D'Estaing who we hear is making ready to leave Boston; where I am told he & the Yankees do not agree.

[Rebel Gen. George] Washington has the bulk of his Army in New England & part up the Hudson River about 40 or 50 Miles from New York & is intirely upon the defensive watching our motions, Caution & perseverance has gain'd that Man a Charachter equal to some here; but I think it put the finishing Strokes to it he should lay down the Command if the Congress does not accept the terms offer'd

–  
There was a little expedition lately of 500 Men under a Cap<sup>t</sup> [Patrick] Ferguson [70<sup>th</sup> Regt.], and some Small Ships of War, they went to Egg harbour in West Jersey near the Delaware, Destroy'd their Salt works & a good many Shipping, & killed above 50 of the Militia, they return'd a few days ago with the loss of only 2 or 3 men – but these sort of things will never put an end to the war. I am glad to hear [Archibald Montgomerie] Lord Eglintown is getting the better of his Affliction, no man more Occasion to mourn the loss of a Wife than he, she was an amiable Woman, but alas the fairest flower falls undistinguished by the hand of death, & time as you observe is the only balm for these Misfortunes.

I was extremely sorry to hear lately of the death of M<sup>rs</sup> Wilson of Kilmarnock, another fine Woman snatch'd off early in the prime of life – and poor M<sup>rs</sup> Jamerons reversal of fortune will no doubt add much to the grief of the Cunninham head family, I am truly sorry for them –

I hope you had good Accounts from Tom by the West India fleet, I have not had an opportunity of writing him yet, Willie I dare say will make a good Sailor, & I suppose you will bring up Charlie for

Some of the learn'd professions – but alas the poor Girls of Irvine what is to become of them in this dearth of Men, I pity them much & wish I could introduce a few handsome young fellows of my acquaintance to them, who would be happy in their Agreeable Company, pray remember me kindly to all my favourites you know who they are – Please give my Compl<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>rs</sup> Fleming by whose kind remembrances of me I am much flattered pray present my Compl<sup>ts</sup> in the Arthur family & to all my other good friends with you & I am Dear friend yours Most Sincerely &c

*J Peebles*

Source: NRS, *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun* at GD21/145.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company,  
Records the Return of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Prisoners, Long Island, Oct. 28, 1778**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>. warm w<sup>r</sup>. A great number of prisoners arriv'd yesterday from the Rebels, mostly Hessians, the 42<sup>d</sup>. get 44. more coming – poor creatures they have been often ill used & mostly in jails all the time...Drum<sup>r</sup> [Hugh] M<sup>c</sup>Leod that was taken 23<sup>d</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. 77 Returned to y<sup>e</sup>. [42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier] Com<sup>y</sup>...

Source and Note NRS, *Peebles Journal Entry* for Oct. 28, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 228. A War Office letter dated Feb. 27, 1779 shows the actual number of returned prisoners to be "5 Serjeants, 3 Corporals & 41 Private."



"Watering Place" shown in Detail from "Plan of New York and Staten Islands with part of Long Island," 1780's

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Maj. Gen. William Alexander (called Lord Stirling),  
Reporting the Location of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. at the Watering Place, Staten Island, New York,  
Oct. 30, 1778**

Dear Sir

Elizabeth Town [N.J.]  
October 30<sup>th</sup> 1778. 9 oClo. A.M.

The Sixteen Sail of Ships I mentioned to be at the hook in my letter of Yesterday, were afterwards Joined by Seven Sloops & Schooners, and towards evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> went to Sea... On Staten Island there are no more troops left than the 42<sup>d</sup> & Boskirks and these are Stationed at the Watering place. Many Circumstances look like a total Evacuation and others against it; the tories and their friends insist there is to be a Strong Garrison left... I am your Excellency's Most Obedient & Most Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

[Lord] Stirling

Source and Note: *Papers of George Washington Digital Edition*, Univ. of Va. Press. "Boskirk's" was Loyalist Lt. Col. Abraham Van Buskirk's 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers. The ships discussed referred to Maj. Gen. James Grant's West Indies expedition.



Detail showing Newtown and Jamaica from "Plan of New York and Staten Islands with part of Long Island," 1780's

Map Source: *Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.*

### **General Orders Issued for Winter Quarters with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Assigned to Newtown, Long Island, Nov. 2, 1778**

Head Quarters New York 2<sup>nd</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup> 1778...

The Corps will march to the Ground allotted to them...

Corps	Stations
Light Infantry and B <sup>r</sup> Grenadiers	At Jamaica [Long Island]...
42 <sup>d</sup> ditto [Regiment]	Newtown [Long Island]...

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan.

### **Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record the Consolidation of the Grenadiers and Light Infantry into One Battalion Each and March to Jamaica, Long Island, Nov. 3 – 4 and Dec. 2, 1778**

Tuesday 3<sup>d</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. frost last night the day pleasant & sunshine – orders for the flank corps to be form'd into one Battalion each, the Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] under the Command of L<sup>t</sup>. Colo: [Robert] Abercromby [37<sup>th</sup> Regt.] & the Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] of L<sup>t</sup>. Colo:

[Henry] Hope [44<sup>th</sup> Regt.]... [Lt.] Col<sup>o</sup> [John] Yorke [22<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] took his leave of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. Gr<sup>rs</sup>. in a verbal message by the Adju<sup>t</sup>. wishing us much happiness & Glory...

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. pretty cold wind at N:W: – orders in the morn<sup>g</sup> to have the wagons loaded by 8 o'clock & to march at 9 – before the 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup> got under arms & drew up on the right of the Parade when presently after the 2<sup>d</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. march'd from their Encampment by ½ Com<sup>ys</sup>. to that of the 1<sup>st</sup>. who when they came near their left they presented arms & beat a march, the 2<sup>d</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. then form'd on their left & return'd the compli<sup>t</sup>. [compliment] & Col<sup>o</sup> Hope rode up & took the Command, they were then form'd into one Battalion, according to Seniority of Companies & marched off by ½ Comp<sup>ys</sup>.

#### Right Wing

7. 22. 26. 37. 57. 64

#### Left Wing

71. 71. 63. 44. 42<sup>d</sup>. 33. 23. 17.

arrived at Jamaica [Long Island] between 12 & one & Encamp'd at the west end near the English Church, the Light Infantry more to the east & back of the Town – the off<sup>rs</sup>. have to go into houses the best way they can till the Quarters are settled – The Town will be much crowded with the off<sup>rs</sup>. & men will be obliged to hutt...

Wednesday 2<sup>d</sup>. a very fine day Still working at the huts, trimming them in the inside & getting doors & windows made – one pane of glass to each hutt – bedding delivered out & some potts & axes –

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries* for Nov. 3-4 and Dec. 2, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 229-230 and 236. The consolidation of the flank corps was due to the loss of a number of regiments and their flank companies to other expeditions.

### **Excerpt of Letter No. 31 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Light Infantry and Grenadiers Supported Operations on the Hudson River and the End of 1778 Campaign, New York, Dec. 2-5, 1778**

New York 17 December 1778

My Lord,

Having received information some time since amounting almost to a certainty that two considerable bodies of Loyalists and Indians had advanced into the country about Albany and from thence towards Eusopus, and another account about the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month to be depended upon that [Rebel] General [George] Washington's rearguard was about to pass the North River and that he had detached a considerable force against the loyalists and Indians beforementioned, I was tempted by the favourable appearance of the weather to order Brigadier-General [Edward] Mathew to embark with the Brigade of Guards, the Loyal American Regiment, and part of Lieut.-Colonel [Andreas] Emmerich's Corps of chasseurs, and proceed up the North River under convoy of the [32-gun *HMS*] Emerald, Captain [Benjamin] Caldwell, whom the Admiral upon my application appointed to escort the troops.

Brigadier-General Sir William Erskine was at the same time directed to march out of Kingsbridge with five Battalions of infantry and a Squadron of cavalry and to take possession of Tarrytown. I further ordered the Light Infantry and Grenadiers to embark and proceed as high as that place by water, in which situation they were at hand to support either Brigadier-General Mathew or Sir William Erskine in case it had been found necessary.

Notwithstanding the troops were embarked on the 2<sup>d</sup> at night and that Captain Caldwell exerted himself as much as possible, they did not arrive at Verplank's Point before the 5<sup>th</sup>. This delay gave time for every kind of baggage to be removed from thence before our arrival and the rearguard of the Enemy was beyond our reach having passed the river on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

I have, however, reason to believe this Movement occasioned the recall of troops ordered to proceed to the northward and answered some other purposes. The flank companies [of the Guards] and part of a Battalion of the Guards landed at Stoney Point under cover of the galleys placed by Captain Caldwell for that purpose and remained there for some time; but no object occurring, they were reembarked without interruption though the rebels appeared in some force within a few miles of them .

Sir William Erskine met with a few small parties of the Enemy and had a little skirmishing but without the loss of a man on either side...

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. XV, *Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 287-288 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1778-1779* at CO5/97, f. 48.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record the Attempt to Intercept and Rescue the Prisoners from Lt. Gen. John Burgoyne's Army near Tarrytown, New York, Dec. 3 – 9, 1778**

Thursday 3<sup>d</sup>. roused this morn<sup>g</sup>. early, the [British Grenadier] Batt<sup>n</sup>. having got orders to march – The Light Infantry & Gren<sup>rs</sup>. march'd between 8 & 9 with their Guns [artillery] to Brooklyn where they cross'd over to N: York & embark'd on board of transports lying in the N: [Hudson] River at the Hay Wharf – The Guards & some other troops having embark'd as we were to board we got under way directly and sailed up the North River as far as the Cheveaux de frize where we came to anchor at the turn of the tide –

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>. got under way in the morning & stood up the River, when we were about Dob's ferry & Tarrytown saw a Column of our troops marching up the Country proceeded by parties of Light horse, they Encamp'd, that night about tarry Town & we proceeded farther up River & came too, near the Jersey shore about 5 miles below Kings ferry...

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>. up anchor early in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & stood further up the River with the flood, the frigate, two Gallies & some transports ahead of us, when we got orders about 8 in the morn<sup>g</sup>. that we the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. & Light Infantry were to drop down to Tarrytown & should not have proceeded any further up that day. it being tide of flood we dropp'd anchor about 2 or 3 miles below Verplanks point the Gallies being up that length fired some shot to shore on either side & soon after a body of men landed from the Transports on the Jersey shore, & having march'd a little way a Smoke arose that look'd very like the firing of small arms but believe it was only burning some houses tho' we saw about 200 of the Rebels at a house about a mile or two from thence the troops staid ashore about an hour & Reembark'd again, & when the tide turn'd we all got under way down the River... we dropp'd down to near tarry town that night

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. rain in the night up anchor in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & away down the River...

Monday 7<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. very fine w<sup>r</sup>. got underway about 3 in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & turned down with the tide as far as Greenwich 2 miles from N: York, where at the flood we drop'd anchor. and I sent an officer to York to receive orders, but soon after a boat came with a written order from [Lt.] Co<sup>l</sup> [Robert] Abercromby [Lt. Inf. Bn.] to land the troops proceed to the Ship Yard, cross over to Brooklyn & march to Jamaica, which we accordingly did and arrived there about 3 oclock in the afternoon, some Companies before us & some not yet arrived.

The purport of this Clintonian Expedition was to have intercepted Burgoyne's people, whom the Rebels were marching to the Southward, but they cross'd the North River at Kings ferry two days before we got there, so we came back again

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. rain in the night & a stormy day... some more Company's arrived today

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>. better weather more Comp<sup>ys</sup>. of Bobs [Lt. Inf.] & G<sup>rs</sup>. came up I believe the whole are arrived now.

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Dec. 2-9, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 237-239. Lt. Gen. John Burgoyne's army had surrendered to Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates' rebel army in Oct. 1777 at Saratoga, New York.

**Excerpt of Separate Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting His Actions are Limited by His Desperate Food and Money Situation, New York, Dec. 15, 1778**

New York 15 December 1778

My Lord,

The embarrassment in which it is possible I may sometime, hence find myself obliges me to solicit your Lordship's attention to some particular points of my situation.

Your Lordship will be startled when I inform you that this Army has now but a fortnight's flour left. I hear no accounts that can give me hopes that supplies are on the coasts and the north-west winds which blow violently and almost incessably at this season make the arrival of any fleet in this port very precarious indeed. Our meat with the assistance of cattle purchased here will last about forty days beyond Xmas, and a bread composed of pease, Indian corn and oatmeal, can be furnished for about the same time. After that I know not how we shall subsist.

The military chest, My Lord, is empty. It is not without considerable difficulty that we raise money for our immediate occasions, though our credit stands yet unimpeached; but the inhabitants from the apprehension of an evil hour hide and buy all specie that comes into their hands.

Were any unforeseen calamity to render it necessary for me to quit this place, I should find myself totally unable to do it. I have not transports for the reception of half the troops, even should our artillery and stores be excluded from the embarkation.

My Lord. I do not complain of these circumstances, I only lament them. I feel that the state of affairs in Europe may have entailed public difficulties in which it is but just that this Army should bear its part. But, My Lord, do not let anything be expected from me, circumstanced as I am. Were I in a state for action, my hopes and endeavours would be equal to the arduous task allotted to me. With these sensations it is a most mortifying consideration that my inactivity is liable to public and bitter censure. For all can scrutinize the parade of my command, but very few can or ought to suspect its embarrassments.

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. XV, *Transcripts 1778*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 285-286 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1778-1779* at CO5/97, f. 28.





Long Island Detail showing Southampton in lower right hand corner from "Connecticut and parts adjacent," 1780, by Covens et Mortier, H. Klockhoff and Bernard Romans

Map Source: Lib. of Congress, *Geography and Map Div.*

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record the Departure of the Light Infantry Battalion, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, to Hampton, Long Island, Dec. 16 and 21, 1778 and Jan. 5, 1779**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>. a fine day... The 42<sup>d</sup>. Light Com<sup>y</sup>. come from N: Utrecht to Jamaica, to march with the Batt<sup>n</sup>. when they go...

Monday 21<sup>st</sup>. very fine mild & pleasant day – The Light Infantry march'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. for the eastend of the Island, where they are to cover the foraging for a month or six weeks. The [Loyalist British] Legion march'd a day or two ago for the same place – Hampton ...

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup>. soft w<sup>f</sup>. & snow in the afternoon – Accounts from the Light Infantry that they have had a disagreeable cold march, and a good many men frost bit, but have got to plentiful Quarters at the Hamptons. 100 miles from here.

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Dec. 16 and 21, 1778 and Jan. 5, 1779 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 240-242.

**Journal of Capt. Archibald Robertson, Deputy Quarter Master General, Describes Arrival of Light Infantry (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Company), Huntington and Southampton, Long Island, New York, Dec. 22-31, 1778**

22<sup>d</sup> A very stormy Cold day and most severe frost. The Light Infantry Arrived At Huntington from Hempstead. 60 or 80 men were frost bit on their march crossing the Plains.

24<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> [Dragoons] reach'd Southampton. Legion went to Millar's Place. Light Infantry to the Branch and Waggon to Coram. [Quarter Master Gen.] Sir William [Erskine] went to Millars Place.

25<sup>th</sup> Sir William and the Legion reach'd River head, the Light Infantry Coram, The Provision Train Moriches. This Evening it snow'd a good deal.

26<sup>th</sup> A most Violent Storm of Snow. All halted.

27<sup>th</sup> With Difficulty the Legion reached the Canoe Place 9 miles. The snow in many Places 4 and 5 feet deep and a severe Frost. The Provision Train reach'd Ouag and the Light Infantry Moriches...

30<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Arrived at Southampton.

31<sup>st</sup> Legion went to Quarters in Sag. The Light Infantry and 17<sup>th</sup> Quartered in Southampton.

Source: *Archibald Robertson, Lieutenant-General Royal Engineers, His Diaries and Sketches in America*, Ed. Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, New York, 1930, p. 186.

### **General Orders to Indicate Receipt of King George III's Approval of Officers and Soldiers for March Through New Jersey; New York, Dec. 23, 1778**

Head Quarters New York 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1778...

The Commander in Chief has his Majesty's orders to signify to the Officers and Soldiers of the Army which Marched thro' the Jerseys from Philadelphia last Campaign His Majesty's Royal Approbation of the Intrepidity and Perseverance which they displayed during the March and in the affair of the rear Guard at Freehold. His Excellency is further directed to express to Lieutenant Generals [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen & [Lt. Gen. Charles] Earl Cornwallis, to Major General [Charles] Grey and to Brigadiers General [Edward] Mathew, [Hon. Alexander] Leslie, & Sir William Erskine to Convey to each of them in particular His Majesty's fullest Approbation which His Excellency the Commander in Chief takes this most publick manner of doing.

Source: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan.

### **Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles Record the Strength of 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company at Muster, Jamaica, Long Island, Dec. 29, 1778**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>. more moderate The Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. were muster'd at 11 o'clock we had 70 private, 9 of which were on duty & 1 sick, 60 on parade...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Dec. 16 and 21, 1778, and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 240-241.