



Detail showing the British Landing Point from "A sketch of the navigation from Swan Pt. to the River Elk at the head of Chesapeak Bay. Sketch of the River Elk, at the head of Chesapeak Bay," by John Hunter, 1777

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

Commander in Chief Gen. Sir William Howe's Philadelphia Campaign, July 23 – Sept. 10, 1777

Excerpts of Letter No. 67 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief,
North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department,
Describing the Arrival of the Army, Head of Elk, Maryland, July 23 – Aug. 30, 1777

Camp at the Head of Elk
30th August 1777

My Lord...

My last Dispatches advised your Lordship of the Embarkation of the Army at Staten Island, from whence the Fleet sailed on the 23^d of July and arrived off of the Capes of Delaware on the 30th following when from Information I judged it most advisable to proceed to Chesapeake Bay, But meeting with constant unfavorable Winds, we did not enter the Bay until the 16th Instant [Aug.] from which Time the Winds proving fair, the Fleet arrived at the Mouth of Elk Ferry, the Enemy's Army being then in the Neighbourhood of Philadelphia.

On the 29th a Corps of the Army marched from the Ferry to this Place by the West side of the River leaving [Hessian] Lieu^t General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen with three Brigades [including the 42nd Regt. in the 3rd Brigade] in that camp and one Brigade on the Communication.

The Corps commanded by General Knyphausen will cross the Ferry to Cecil Court House tomorrow and is to form a Junction with this on the 3^d next ensuing about eight Miles on this Side of Christien Bridge.

The Enemy's Army is at this Time encamped behind Brandy wine Creek, with an advanced Corps on White – Clay Creek. There Force consists of about fifteen Thousand Men including Militia,

nevertheless I am of Opinion it will be a difficult Matter to bring them to a general Action even tho it should be in the Defence of Philadelphia...

I have the Honor to be / Your Lordship's
most faithful / & obedient Servant
W. Howe...

Lord George Germain
&^c &^c &^c

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. 509-530 and TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO 5/94, ff. 318-333.



Detail showing Lt. Col. the Hon. George Mackenzie, 2nd Bn., 73rd Highland Regt. from *General Elliot and his Officers Observing the Destruction of the Floating Batteries, Gibraltar, 1782*, by George Carter

Picture Source: National Army Museum, London

**Excerpts from the Journal of Lt. Henry Stirke, 10th Lt. Inf. Company, Records
the Movements of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie's
42nd Lt. Infantry Company, from Head of Elk, Maryland to Brandywine Creek,
Pennsylvania, Aug. 17 – Sept. 10, 1777**

- Aug^t
17th Arriv'd in Chesapeak Bay. 'Till this day, the wind had been Contrary...
- 25th We got into they flat Boats at 3 O'Clock in y^e morning, and landed at ½ after 10 O'Clock within 7 miles of the head of Elk River, in Maryland, without Opposition.
- 28th March'd at 5 O'Clock in the morning, and arriv'd about 9 O'Clock at Elk Village, on the head of y^e River, some part of the rebels appear'd on a [Red Hill] hill about 2 miles above y^e Town, which gave us reason to expect a Vigorous Opposition, as it was a Very strong post. The light Infantry push'd up the hill, and were to be supported by y^e Grenadiers; but y^e Rebels retired without a shot being fired...
- Sept^r
3^d This Morning about 5 O'Clock The L^t Infantry, Grenadiers, Hessian Chasseurs [Jägers], [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers, some battalions of British and Hessians, march'd under the Command of [Gen.] S^r W^m How, to take possession of they Iron Hills. About 8 O'Clock y^e Hessians Chasseurs, and 2^d battalion of Light Infantry, attack'd a large party of the Rebels,

strongly posted at a [Cooch's] bridge [over Christina Creek] at the foot of the Iron hills; which after a faint resistance, was carried with very little loss. The Rebels had about 50 kill'd, and Wounded. The 1st Battalion of Light Infantry endeavouring to turn the left flank of y^e Rebels, and cut off their Retreat, was prevented by an Impassable morass, which y^e Guide was not acquainted with. At this pass was 500 Regulars, and 300 militia, under the Comm^d of [Rebel Brig.] Gen^l [William] Maxwell.

5th At 12 O'Clock y^e 1st battalion of Light Infantry, was order'd under arms to attend [Lt. Gen. Charles] L^d Cornwallis [Brig. Gen.] S^t W^m Erskine, [Hessian Col. Carl von] Count Donop &^c on a Reconnoitering party in our front; we went about two miles without seeing any of the rebels; and was inform'd by one of their Light Dragoons that came into us, that there was not more than 2, or 300 of the Rebels at Christeen bridge.

6th [Maj.] Gen^l [James] Grant with the Brigades left at Elk-Town, join'd the Army... The fleet are sail'd for the river Delaware.

8th At ½ after 5 O'Clock the Army march'd in three Divisions, from the left, towards Lancaster; and after marching about 10 miles, took post on some high grounds having turn'd the Right flank of y^e Rebel Army...

9th The Army march'd at 4 O'Clock in y^e evening towards Lancaster and y^e Light Infantry after a very disagreeable march, thro swamps, and rivers, in many places up to y^e middle; and after several halts, took post on a hill, at 2 O'Clock in the morning, about three miles from y^e ground we had left.

10th march'd at 7 O'Clock, and arrived about 1 O'Clock, at Kennets Square.

Source and Note: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 – 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, pp. 167-169. The 42nd Lt. Inf. Co. under Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie (son of the late Earl of Cromarty) was part of the 1st Lt. Inf. Bn.



Detail of "A sketch of the navigation from Swan P. to the River Elk at the head of Chesapeak Bay. Sketch of the River Elk, at the head of Chesapeak Bay., " 1777, by John Hunter, showing Turkey Point.

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

General Orders for the Landing of the Army, Off Turkey Point, Maryland, Aug. 23 – 24, 1777

On Board the [64-gun *HMS*] *Eagle*, Man of War, off Turkey Point, Chesapeake Bay, Saturday, 23^d August 1777.

A Red Flag pierced with white at the Foretopmasthead of the *Eagle*, or whatever Ship the Commander in Chief may be on board, is the signal for all Majors of Brigade and Adjutants to repair there for Orders...

On Board the *Eagle*, Man of War, off Turkey Point, Chesapeake Bay, Sunday, 24th August 1777...

When the Troops receive Orders to disembark, they will land in the following Order:

1st Debarkation to consist of 1st and 2^d Light Infantry, 1st and 2^d Grenadiers, and Hessian and Anspach Yagers.

Lieut.-Gen. [Charles] Earl Cornwallis will please to superintend this Debarkation, having under his Command Colonel [Carl von] Donop.

2^d Debarkation. Hessian Grenadiers, Queen's Rangers, Guards, 4th and 23^d Regiments.

3^d Debarkation. 28th, 49th, 5th, 10th, 27th, 40th, 55th, 15th, and 42^d Regiments.

4th Debarkation. 44th, 17th, 33^d, 37th, 46th, 64th, and 71st Regiments.

5th Debarkation. [Hessian] Brigade of Stirn, consisting of Regiments Du Corps, Donop, Mirbach, and Loos.

Boats will be provided for the General Officers, and they are to land with the first of their respective Divisions; Maj.-Gen. [James] Grant at the Head of the 4th Regiment.

The Dragoons will Disembark after the Infantry.

The Commanding Officer of Artillery will receive his Orders for disembarking from the Commander in Chief.

All Negroes that may join any part of the Army are to be immediately conducted to Head Quarters, where Orders will be given for the further disposal of them.

[Capt. Patrick] Ferguson's Riflemen and the Corps of Pioneers to land in their own Transports' boats along with the first Debarkation.

After Orders.

The Troops to be in readiness to go into the Flat boats to-morrow morning at three o'clock, according to the Distribution in the former orders of this day. The Navy Officers will direct the Arrangement of the Boats.

It is recommended to the Troops to take on shore some salt with them from on board their Transports.

The Stores and Camp Equipage are to be left on board, till further Orders, under the charge of a careful Non-Commissioned Officer and a few Men, such as the Commanding Officer of Corps shall think most proper.

The Majors of Brigade are to remain with their respective Brigades, and to be answerable that all Orders are properly circulated.

A Flag, Striped Red and White, hoisted at the Foretopmasthead of the *Eagle*, is the signal for all Majors of Brigade and Adjutants to repair on Board that Ship for Orders; The Red Flag pierced with White, as Ordered Yesterday, being expressive of some other purpose...

Source and Note: "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. These orders prepare the army to land near Head of Elk, Maryland to begin the campaign to seize the Rebel capitol at Philadelphia. Turkey Point is located about 15 miles southwest of Head of Elk (Elkton), Maryland

Excerpt of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, Acting Commander, 42nd Grenadier Company, Records Army's Landing, Head of Elk, Maryland, Aug. 24-25, 1777

Sunday 24th. Aug^t. The fleet remaining in the same position The Adm^l. [Richard, Viscount Howe] at Turkey point & the Headmost ships at the Embouchure [mouth] of Elk River – Orders

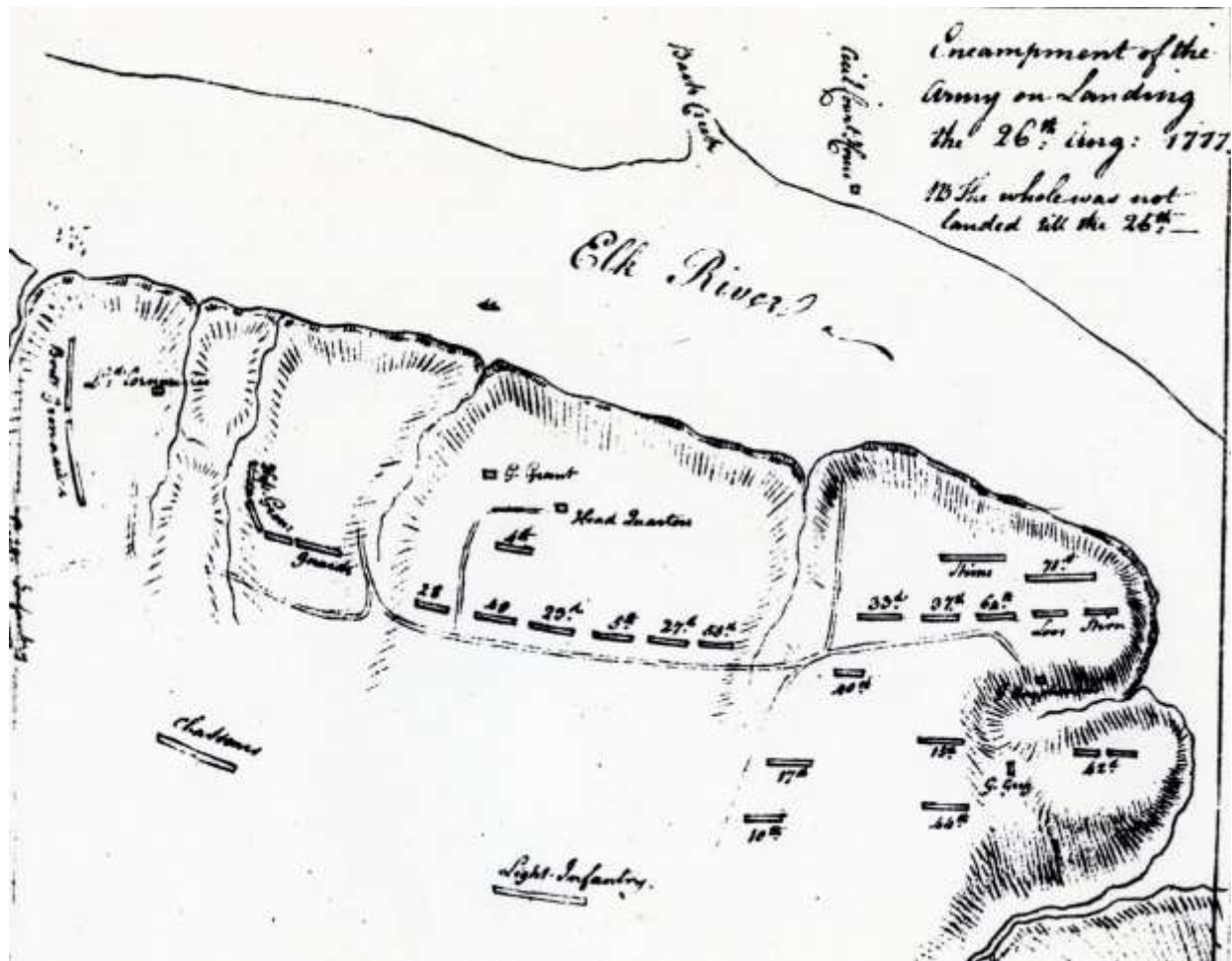
for dressing two days Provision – A Distribution made for the disembarkation Light Infantry [with 42nd Lt. Inf. Co. on 1st Bn.] Gren^{rs}. [with 42nd Gren Co. in 2nd Bn.] & Yagers first w^t. [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis & [Hessian Col. Carl von] Donop the rest as follows

2 ^d . Debarkation	Hessian Gr ^{rs} . [Loyalist] Queen Rangers Guards. 4 th & 23 ^d . Reg ^{ts} .
3 ^d .	28. 49. 5. 10. & 27 40. 55. 15. & 42
4 th .	44. 17. 33. 37 46. 71. & 64
5 th .	[Hessian] Brigade of Sterne consisting of Du Corps, Donops Mirbach's, & Loo's

The Comp^{ys}. to form as they land without attending to seniority or places – orders in the Even^g. to be ready to disembark at 3 in the morn^g.

Monday 25th. Aug^t. the first Debarkation got into their flat Boats at 3 in the Morn^g. & arranged near the [44-gun *HMS*] Roebuck *P* [per] signal & a little after day light the Boats row'd on *P* signal. – 2 frigates 2 sloops of war, the [22-gun *HM Armed Ship*] Vigilant & Gually [gally], along Starboard [right] shore within us. The Roebuck & part of the fleet followed – we went up the Elk River as far as the ferry, about 3 or 4 leagues [9-12 miles] The adm^{ls} flag on board the Vigilant which went before, we land'd about 9 o'clock a little above the ferry & march'd about 3 miles up the West side of the River The inhabitants almost all gone off & carried everything with them they could, a pretty Country & plentiful Crops – the day exceedingly hot...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entries dated Aug. 24-25, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 127 - 128. Capt. Charles Graham, commander of the 42nd Gren. Co., had been left behind at New York, being sick. He rejoined the Company on Oct. 18, 1777.



Maj. John Andre's Map "Encampment of the Army on Landing 26th: Aug: 1777"

Picture Source and Note: *Major Andre's Journal*, Huntington Library. The 42nd Regt is shown in the lower right hand corner.

**Excerpts of Disembarkation Description by Maj. of Brigade John Andre, 3rd Brigade
(Including the 42nd Regt.), Elk River, Opposite Cecil Court House, Maryland, Aug. 25. 1777**

25. The Transports Frigates and the Roebuck sailed up Elk River and lay opposite Cecil Court House excepting the Roebuck which could not come so far. The Troops landed on the West Side of Elk River in 5 Disembarkations.

1 st . & 2 ^d . L. Infantry	}
1 st . & 2 ^d . Grenadiers	}
Hessian & Anspach Jägers	}
	} 1 st First Debarkation

Hessian Grenadiers	}
Queens Rangers	}
Guards	}
4 th . and 23 ^d . Regiments	}
	} 2 ^d . Debarkation

28 th . 49 th . 5 th . 10 th . 27 th . 40 55 th . 15 th . 42 ^d .	}
	} 3 ^d . Debarkation

44th: 17th: 33^d: 37th: 46th: 64th: 71st: } 4th: Debarkation

[Hessian] Brigade of Stirn, consist: of Donop } 5th Debarkation
Du Corps, Mirbach and Loos }

The L^t: Infantry were advanced about 4 Miles in Front towards the head of Elk, and the rest of the Army hutted in a direction parallel with the River.

At the Embarkation of the Troops at Staten Island the Regiments were brigaded as follows
Queens Rangers

Light Infantry

British Grenadiers

Brigade of Guards commanded by Brigadier General [Edward] Matthew...

1st Brigade

4th, 23^d, 28th, 49th, Major General [John] Vaughan (* did not sail with the fleet), afterwards General Grant.

2d Brigade

5th, 10th, 27th, 40th, 55th, Major General [James] Grant

3d Brigade

15th, 42^d, 44th, 17th, Major General [Charles] Grey

4th Brigade

33^d, 37th, 46th, 64th, Brigadier General [James] Agnew

5th Brigade

71st Regiment, three Battalions – Brigadier General [Hon. Alexander] Leslie

Reserve

71st and 26th British (* did not sail with fleet), one battalion of Anspach * and Ferguson's Rifle Corps - 16th Regiment of Dragoons mounted and dismounted.

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. 36-37.

**Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald's Account of the Debarkation of the Army at
Turkey Point, Maryland, Aug. 25, 1777**

The first disembarkation, under [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis and [Hessian] Colonel [Carl von] Donop, consisted of the foot jägers, the light infantry [including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1st Bn.], the English grenadiers [including the 42nd Grenadier Co. in the 2nd Bn.], and the Guards...

The third, under [Maj.] General [Charles] Grey, of the 28th, 49th, 5th, 10th, 27th, 40th, 55th, 4th, and 42^d regiments...

On the 25th of August, at two o'clock in the morning, the flatboats arrived alongside the transport ships of the first disembarkation, which were quickly boarded by the troops and set in motion according to the order. Five boats formed one line, led by a naval officer in a small boat, with Captain [John] Baurmaster [RN] commanded the boats. Two sloops and the four row galleys covered the troops.

Both Howe brothers [Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe and Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sir William Howe] were present.

About ten or eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the first disembarkation landed on Turkey Point in the Elk River in the province of Maryland, amid boisterous shouts of joy and in the best order. Several enemy parties were seen, which honored us with a few cannon shots at long range but withdrew in great haste...

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. 74-75.

Journal of Capt. Archibald Robertson, Dep. Quarter Master Gen., Describes the Landing of the British Army, Head of Elk, Maryland, Aug. 25-30, 1777

25th at 3 in the morning went on Board the [44-gun *HMS*] Roebuck and at 6 all the Flat Boats, with the first Disembarkation which were Assembled near here, set out rowing up the Elk River, the [22-gun *HM Armed Ship*] Vigilance and some sloops of War being a head and all the Transports with the Rest of the Troops, Horses, etc., following the Boats. We went up to Elk Ferry opposite Cecil Court house which is about 7 miles from Turkey Point and Landed without the least Opposition, every thing being conducted with the utmost regularity. There were a few Militia men made their Appearance on the shore but went off with out firing. The Roebuck got up opposite the Landing Place with the Admirals [Richard, Viscount Howe] Flag. The Army advanced about 2 ½ miles and were posted.

26th the Horses, Light Dragoons, and Artillery, etc., were Landed. The Troops no tents ashore and unluckily the weather very rainy.

27th this morning at 3 o'clock Part of the Army were to have march'd but were prevented by very heavy Rains. Went on a Reconnoitering Party of 4 Companys Light Infantry and 18 mounted Jagers, with [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis and [Brig. Gen.] Sir William Erskine, within two miles of the Head of Elk.

28th At Day Break Part of the Army consisting of the Jagers, Rangers, Ferguson's [Rifle] Corps, 2 Battalions Light Infantry, 2 Battalions British Grenadiers, Hessian Grenadier Guards, 1st and 2^d Brigades, march'd towards the Head of Elk which we took Possession of as well as Grey's hill about 1½ miles farther. Advanced without Opposition. The Village of Head Elk was entirely deserted. A Good Deal of Tobacco and some Craft taken. The 71st 3 Battalion were posted at intervalls from the Landing hither.

29th and 30th the Boats brought up Provisions and the Soldiers tents. 30th [Maj.] General [Charles] Grey with the 3^d Brigade [including the 42nd Regt.] pass'd the Elk Ferry and March'd to Cecil Court House.

Source: *Archibald Robertson, Lieutenant-General Royal Engineers, His Diaries and Sketches in America*, Ed. Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, New York, 1930, pp. 142-143.



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

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

**Maj. of Brigade John Andre, 3rd Brigade, Describes Landing and Initial Movements,
Head of Elk, Maryland, Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 1777**

28th [Aug.] This morning the Light Troops [including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.], British and Hessian Grenadiers [including the 42nd Gren. Co.], 1st, 2^d, and 5th Brigades marched to the Head of Elk. The remainder of the Army under [Hessian] Lieutenant General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen [including the 42nd Regt. in the 3rd Brigade] changed the disposition of their encampment. The advanced part of the Army took a considerable quantity of tobacco, Indian corn, oats and other articles. It seems the rebels had had very large stores there, and had been employed since the landing of the troops in carrying them away. [Rebel Commander Gen. George] Washington had been there on the 27th and dined at the house now General [Sir William] Howe's Headquarters. [Maj.] General [Charles] Grey sent out a party from the 3^d Brigade for cattle; they brought in eighteen head; a distribution was made of it the next day. The flank corps were encamped on the northwest side of Elk, the other advanced corps between the forks of the river. Both branches are fordable. The sloops lay within, a mile of the Troops.

29th The following orders were sent late in the evening to Lieutenant-General Knyphausen:

Head of Elk, 29th August, 1777

Sir,

Finding it advisable to make a movement to my right with this Corps, I have ordered one battalion of the 5th Brigade to join your Excellency tomorrow afternoon.

In pursuance of the plan I have in view I am to beg your Excellency will advise with the Admiral, whom I have seen and consulted this morning upon the measures necessary to be taken for the crossing of the 3^d Brigade British and the Dragoons under the command of Major-General Grey over to the Cecil Courthouse tomorrow, and that they may move in time for him to take post one mile or two beyond the courthouse on the road leading to Christien Bridge; and it is my wish that the Battalion of the 71st [Highlanders] may pass over to join Major-General Grey as soon as it arrives at the ferry.

I am likewise to desire that everything may be settled for the remainder of your corps to cross to the same place on Sunday, and that your Excellency may as soon afterwards as possible, take the most advantageous position to be found on the above mentioned roads, four or five miles advanced from the Courthouse.

[Brig. Gen.] Sir William Erskine, who has the best idea of the country that information can afford, will wait upon your Excellency to morrow, and attend upon the march to receive your commands; from him you will become particularly acquainted with my intentions and the route I wish you to take in the execution of them.

The situation of the enemy being known to Sir William Erskine, I flatter myself that after communicating with him your Excellency will agree in opinion with me that there is not the slightest risk in the division of your corps for a night.

My wish is to have as many cattle and horses collected as possible, and driven with the Army, wherefore I am to beg your Excellency will order parties for that purpose.

I shall hope we may join on Tuesday, and do beg leave to refer your Excellency to Sir William Erskine for further particulars respecting the movement of our two corps for forming this junction.

There are some Declarations on board the [44-gun *HMS*] Roebuck similar to the one enclosed, for which your Excellency will be pleased to send, and have distributed in the country as you pass along.

If the soldiers carry with them two days salt provisions, four days bread and one days rum, taking three days rum upon the baggage wagons, which may be issued daily by the respective commanding officers, it will be sufficient for the march, depending upon two days fresh provisions to be got in the country. Your Excellency will be pleased to order a deputy commissary and assistants to attend your column. I have the honor to be etc. etc. etc.

(Signed) W. HOWE.

30th In consequence of the above orders, which General Knyphausen communicated to General Grey, the 3^d Brigade together with three troops of Light Dragoons, paraded on their ground at ½ past 5 o'clock, and at 6 marched to the ferry, where they were embarked and crossed over to the Court-house. As General Grey thought it material the troops should move immediately into the country, they did not wait for the artillery, but marched forward and took post on a height near Cecil Church...

General Grey say only a small body of the Rebels at Cecil Church, who first drew up, and immediately after ran off. Two pairs of Colours were found in the church. The inhabitants on the road had all quitted their houses. But at Cecil Church several yet remained. A great part of the cattle had been driven away. Detachments to the right and left under [Lt.] Colonel Mawhood [17th Regt.] and Major [William] Murray [1st Bn., 42nd Regt.] swept in what they could meet with. Other parties were sent out, on coming to our ground, to drive in cattle and gather roots. On this march the piquets, augmented to forty men per Battalion, formed the advance Guard.

31st... The remainder of General Knyphausen's Command crossed the ferry this morning and encamped with the 3rd Brigade.

September 1st Great complaints were made of the plunder committed by the Troops, chiefly the Hessians.

2^d The Corps under General Knyphausen marched to Carson's Tavern, five miles from Cecil Church. Detachments of 100 men each marched to the right and left of the Column, at about half a mile distance to collect cattle. The piquets formed the advanced Guard. A few rebel Light Dragoons were seen on the road, and two or three Militiamen in arms picked up. At a mill near Carson's, 60 barrels of flour were taken. The inhabitants were in general fled and a great deal of cattle driven off.

3^d General Knyphausen marched to Aiken's Tavern a village four miles from Carson's. The main body of the Army under Sir William Howe had just passed this place and marched towards Iron Hill when General Knyphausen came up. By this time a considerable drove of cattle had been collected and was a very seasonable supply to the other Column, which had none. The whole however, had a very narrow escape, having gone near half a mile on a road leading to the Enemy's posts.

The van of Sir William Howe's column, consisting, of Chasseurs and Light Infantry, fell in with a body of about 500 rebels posted a little beyond Aiken's on the road to Iron Hill. They disposed of themselves amongst some trees by the roadside, and gave a heavy fire as our Troops advanced, but upon being pressed ran away and were pursued above two miles. At first retreating they fired from any advantageous spot they passed, but their flight afterwards became so precipitate that great numbers threw down their arms and blankets. Amongst their dead were two or three Officers. A wounded man who was left on the field was found to be quite drunk. It seems the whole had received an extraordinary quantity of strong liquor, and that the detachment was composed of Volunteers and looked upon as a Corps from which great exertions were to be expected. They were commanded by a [Brig] General [William] Maxwell. The attempts made by our troops to get round them were defeated by their being unable to pass a swamp. Of the Chasseurs and Light Infantry, the only troops engaged, three or four were killed and twelve or fourteen wounded.

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. 38-43.



Detail of Mezzotint Titled "*The Hon^{ble} S^r. W^m. Howe. Knight of the Bath & Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces in America,*" Nov. 1777, by Richard Purcell

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Anne S. K. Brown Military History Collection*, Brown Univ.

Excerpts of Letter No. 68 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing the Army's Advance Towards Philadelphia, Aug. 30 – Sept. 9, 1777

N^o 68

Head Quarters Germantown 10th October 1777

My Lord,

In my last Dispatch of the 30th of August I had the Honor to advise your Lordship of the Army having landed on the West Side of Elk River and of its being afterwards divided into two Columns, one under the Command of [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis at the Head of Elk and the other commanded by [Hessian] Lieutenant General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen at Cecil Court – House [including the 42nd Regt.]. I am therefore to give your Lordship an Account of the Operations from that Period, wherein will be included two general Actions, in both of which I have the Satisfaction to promise that Success has attended His Majesty's Arms.

On the 3rd of September, Major General [James] Grant with six Battalions remaining at the Head of Elk to preserve the Communication with the Fleet, the two Columns joined at Pen adder, laying four miles to the Eastward of Elk on the road to Christien Bridge, In this Day's March the Hessian and Anspach Chasseurs and the 2^d Battalion of Light Infantry, who were at the Head of Lord Cornwallis's Column, fell in with a chosen Corps of one thousand Men from the Enemy's Army, advantageously posted in the Woods, which they defeated with the Loss only of two Officers wounded, three Men killed and nineteen wounded, when that of the Enemy was not less than fifty killed and many more wounded.

On the 16th Major General Grant, after Captain [Henry] Duncan [64-gun, *HMS Eagle*] who superintended the naval Department had destroyed such Vessels and Stores as could not be removed from the Head of Elk, joined the Army.

The whole marched on the 8th by Newark and encamped that evening in the township of Hokessen upon the road leading from Newport to Lancaster, at which first Place [Rebel] General [George] Washington had taken Post, having his left to Christien Creek and his front covered by Red Clay Creek.

The two Armies in this situation being only four Miles apart, the Enemy moved early in the Night of the 8th by the Lancaster road from Wilmington, and about Ten o'clock next Morning crossed Brandywine Creek at Chads Ford, taking Post on the Heights on the Eastern Side of it.

On the 9th in the Afternoon Lieutenant General Knyphausen marched with the Left of the Army to New Garden and Kennets Square, while Lord Cornwallis with the Right moved to Hokessen Meeting House, and both joined the next morning at Kennets Square...

With most perfect Respect I have the Honor to be,

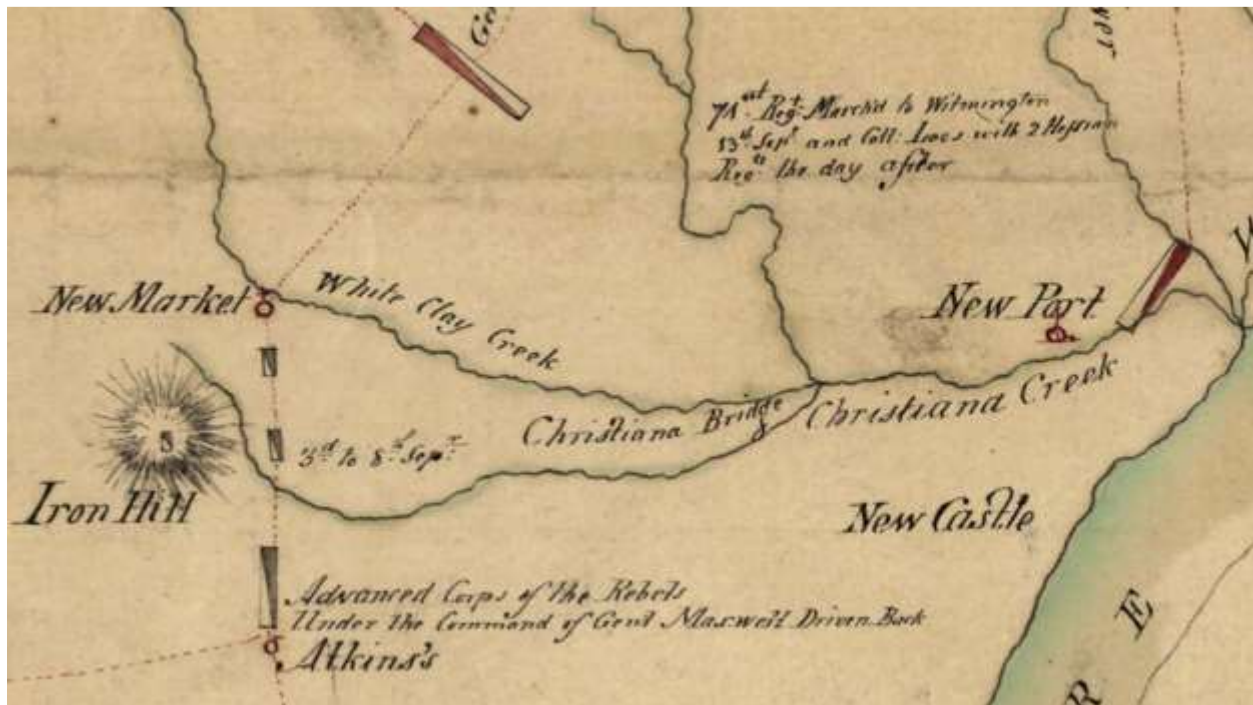
Your Lordship's most faithful and obedient Servant

W. Howe

The Right Honorable Lord George Germain

&c^a &c^a &c^a

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. 509-530 and TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO 5/94, ff. 318-333.



Detail from "Operations of the British army, from the 25th August to 26th Sep^r. 1777," by John Montrésor

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

Letter from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Maj. Gen. James Grant, Explaining the Light Infantry's Role in the Skirmish at Iron Hill and Christiana Bridge, Delaware, Sept. 3, 1777

Aikins Tavern
Nine o'clock pm
Wednesday Sep^r. 3

My Dear Sir

This going tomorrow morning with a few wounded, it is necessary you should know that y^e light Infan^y. & Yagers gave y^e Rebel Corps at this place & Iron hill a complete Trimming. They went on in y^e most cursed country you ever saw with more (I think) than their usual spirit.

Their rapidity was so great that y^e Gren^s. who were as willing to have had their share in y^e business as could be wished, could hardly keep up to support them in a run, their Guns Galloping to get a shot. The Enemy lost 8 or ten Off^s. whose Commissions are forth coming, having been taken from their

pockets & between 40 & 50 men killed. We are in a very strong position with [Maj. Gen. Edward] Mathew upon Iron hill with his batt^{ns} with y^e 27th & 49th upon our left, the right extending about half a mile beyond this house.

[Hessian] Gen^l. [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen got here between ten & Eleven having been stopt by a bridge having been broken on his way, he would otherwise have got here by Eight about y^e time of our arrival. Worm behaved amazingly as did our 2nd L. In.; y^e first [Lt. Infantry, including Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie's 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.] to their great disappointment being Shut off by an abominable Creek, that had it been fordable, [Lt. Col. Robert] Abercrombie would have cut off y^e whole Party consisting of about 700 men. We propose to send for provisions on friday morning & hope to see you here with them on saturday – but I am at present so much asleep that I hardly know what I write, except when I assure you That I am Dr. sir

Y^{rs}. most faithfully
W Howe

Ewald, Fredeu & indeed all y^e Off^{rs}. of y^e Yagers behaved charmingly.

M.G. Grant

Source: James Grant Papers of Ballindalloch Castle, Scotland; Library of Congress Microcopy, Reel 37, Army Career Series, Correspondence, September – December, 1777. Transcribed by Todd Braisted.

**Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of the Skirmishes at Iron Hill and Christiana Bridge,
Delaware, Sept. 3, 1777**

3^d [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen [with the 42nd Regt. in the 3rd Brigade] marched to Aiken's Tavern a village four miles from Carson's. The main body of the Army under [Gen.] Sir William Howe had just passed this place and marched towards Iron Hill when General Knyphausen came up. By this time a considerable drove of cattle had been collected and was a very seasonable supply to the other Column, which had none. The whole however, had a very narrow escape, having gone near half a mile on a road leading to the Enemy's posts.

The van of Sir William Howe's column, consisting, of Chasseurs and Light Infantry [with the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.], fell in with a body of about 500 rebels posted a little beyond Aiken's on the road to Iron Hill. They disposed of themselves amongst some trees by the roadside, and gave a heavy fire as our Troops advanced, but upon being above two miles. At first retreating they fired from any advantageous spot they passed, but their flight afterwards became so precipitate that great numbers threw down their arms and blankets. Amongst their dead were two or three Officers. A wounded man who was left on the field was found to be quite drunk. It seems the whole had received an extraordinary quantity of strong liquor, and that the [rebel] detachment [Corps of Light Infantry] was composed of Volunteers and looked upon as a Corps from which great exertions were to be expected. They were commanded by a [Brig.] General [William] Maxwell. The attempts made by our troops [including the 1st Lt. Inf. Bn. with the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.] to get round them were defeated by their being unable to pass a swamp. Of the Chasseurs and Light Infantry, the only troops engaged, three or four were killed and twelve or fourteen wounded.

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. 42-43.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, Acting Commander, 42nd Grenadier Company,
Records the Action Against the Rebels at Cooch's Bridge, Delaware, Sept. 3, 1777**

Wednesday 3^d Sept^r. Camp at Coater's Mill [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis. [Loyalist Queen's Rangers] Qr^{rs}. The yagers, 2 Batt^{ns}. Light Infantry [with the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1st Bn.]

Rangers & Riflemen [2 Bns.] British Grenad^{rs}. [with the 42nd Gren. Co. in the 2nd Bn.] Hessⁿ. Gr^{rs}. 1st. Battⁿ. Guards, a Brigade of British & the 16th Dragoons march'd at day break & proceeded along the Philad^a. road N:E.; about 8 the Yaugers fell in with a Body of the Rebels Posted near the [Cooch's] Bridge & mill about 5 or 6 miles from head of Elk, the yaugers rec^d. a heavy fire from them, & made some difficulty in passing the Bridge, but the 2^d Batt Light Infantry coming up dash'd over and drove the rebels, with the loss of 1 kill'd & 10 wo^d. The yaugers suffer'd about the same. The skirmishing continued in different parts of the wood first & last about an hour. The Rebels must have lost a good many, as five officers were found dead in the field. – The 2^d. Gr^{rs}. order'd to support the 2^d. Light Infantry, they proceeded on the left of the Road about a mile & ½ past y^e Bridge & seeing nothing halted & came into the road when the whole march'd back to the Bridge & took up their ground near that for the night. The 1st. Batt Light Infantry struck off to the right in order to turn the Enemys left flank but met with a swamp which they could not get thro' – [Hessian Lt. Gen. Wilhelm von] Knipphausen with his Colⁿ. [column] landed at Cecil Co[urt]: House got plenty of fresh Provⁿ. [provision] in his Route & is now in our Rear about 2 miles, near Head Q^{rs}. at Aiken's farm. they consist of 3^d. [with the 42nd Regt.] & 4th. Brig^s. 1 bat of 71st [Highland Regt.] & Hessian Brig^e.

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry dated Sept. 3, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 129-130

Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of the Advance of Maj. Gen. Charles Grey's 3rd Brigade, Including the 42nd Regt., to Kennett's Square, Pennsylvania, Sept. 8 – 9, 1777

8th The Army marched in three Divisions and by the left at daybreak, passing Newark and White Clay Creek they came in a march of about ten miles to the New Garden Road, where they were encamped.

9th The Army received Orders to be in readiness to march at 1 o'clock in the afternoon in two Columns. The Troops, however, did not move till sunset. The 3^d and 4th Brigades were at first in the right-hand Column, but the road being found very bad, were ordered, together with a Brigade of Artillery and the baggage of that Column, to turn back and take the road [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen had marched. This movement was attended with a great deal of trouble and protracted the march of the Brigade in the rear till near 3 'the next day. It was fortunate we had not an enterprising well-informed Enemy near us. The line of baggage was produced, by the badness of the road and insufficiency of the horses, to a very great length, and the 4th Brigade, which was in front of it, had by quickening their pace to reach General Knyphausen, gained so much upon the carriages that there was a space of two or three miles between them. It was with some difficulty at a crossroad that it was ascertained which way the front of the Column had passed. [Commander in Chief] General [Sir William] Howe's Column had reached Kennett's Square early in the morning and the whole was encamped there (10 miles).

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. 44-45

General Orders for the March to the Battle of Brandywine Creek, Pennsylvania, Sept. 10 – 11, 1777

Head Quarters Kennett Square 10th Sept. 1777...

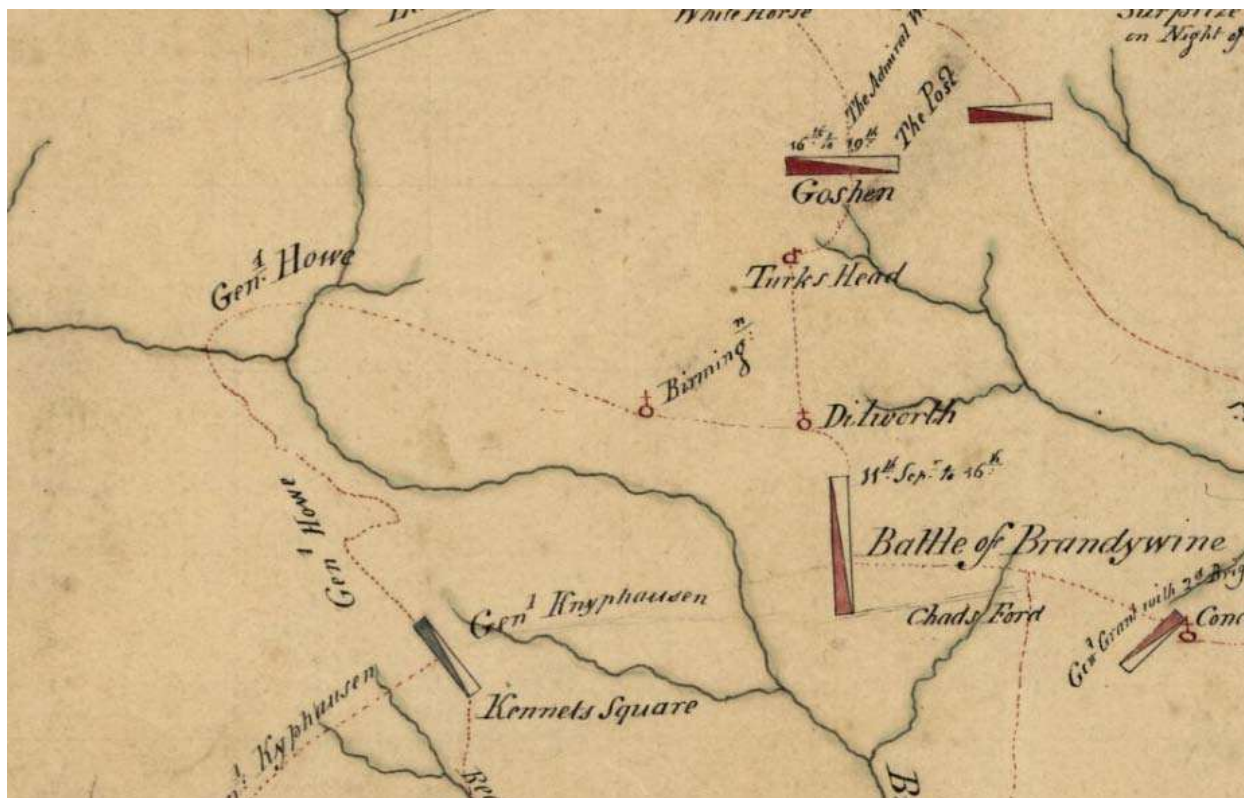
The 1st and 2^d Brigades British, under the Command of Maj.-Gen. [James] Grant, are to be attached to the Corps Commanded by His Excellency, Lieut.-Gen. [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen. One Squadron of Dragoons is to remain with that Corps, and two Squadrons with the Corps under the Command of Lieut.-Gen. Earl Cornwallis.

The whole of the Baggage, Provision train and Cattle (except One Waggon per Battalion or Corps, and ten Spare Waggon with Earl Cornwallis's Division) are to march with Lieut.-Gen. Knyphausen's Corps.

After Orders, Evening Gun firing...

The army will March in two Columns at 4 o'Clock to-morrow morning, and receive their Orders of March from their respective Lieutenant Generals His Excellency Lieut-Gen. [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen and Lieut.-Gen. [Charles] Earl Cornwallis.

Source and Note: "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 starts the army in motion to attack the Rebel army at Brandywine Creek, Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 1777. The 42nd Light Infantry and Grenadier Companies were heavily engaged in the battle under Lord Cornwallis on the Rebel's right flank, but the 42nd Regt., which was assigned as the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, was not engaged.



Detail from "Operations of the British army, from the 25th August to 26th Sep. 1777," by John Montrésor

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

Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania, Sept. 11, 1777

Excerpts of Letter No. 68 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing the Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania, Sept. 11, 1777

Nº 68

Head Quarters Germantown 10th October 1777

My Lord...

On the 11th at Day-break the Army advanced in two Columns, the Right commanded by [Hessian] Lieutenant General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen consisting of four Hessian Battalions under

Major General [Johann Daniel] Stirn, the 1st and 2^d Brigades of British, three Battalions of the 71st [Highland] Regiment, The [Loyalist] Queen's American Rangers, and one Squadron of the 16th Dragoons under Major General [James] Grant, having with them six Medium Twelve-Pounders, four Howitzers, and the Light Artillery belonging to the Brigades. This Column took the direct Road to Chads Ford, seven Miles distant from Kennets Square and arrived in Front of the Enemy about Ten o'clock, skirmishing most Part of the March with their advanced Troops, in which the Queens Rangers commanded by Captain [James] Wemyss of the 40th Regim^t distinguished themselves in a particular Manner.

The other Column under the Command of [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, Major General [Charles] Grey, Brigadier Generals [Edward] Mathew and [James] Agnew, consisting of the mounted and dismounted Chasseurs [Jägers], two Squadrons of the 16th Dragoons, two Battalions of Light Infantry, two Battalions of British and three of Hessian Grenadiers, two Battalions of Guards, the 3^d [with the 42nd Regt.] and 4th Brigades, with four light Twelve-pounders and the Artillery of the Brigades, marched about twelve Miles to the Forks of the Brandywine [led by the Hessian Jägers, 42nd and 17th Lt. Infantry Cos.], crossed the first Branch at Trimbles Ford and the second at Jefferys Ford about two o'clock in the Afternoon, taking from thence the Road to Dilworth in order to turn the Enemy's Right at Chad's Ford.

[Rebel] General [George] Washington, having Intelligence of this Movement about Noon, detached [Maj.] General [John] Sullivan to his Right with near ten thousand Men who took a strong Position on the commanding Ground above Birmingham Church with his left near to the Brandywine, both flanks being covered by thick Woods and his Artillery advantageously disposed.

As soon as this was observed, which was about four o'clock, the Kings Troops advanced in three Columns and upon approaching the Enemy, formed the Line with the Right towards the Brandywine; the Guards being upon the Right, and the British Grenadiers upon their Left, supported by the Hessian Grenadiers in a second Line. To the Left of the Center were the two Battalions of Light Infantry with the Hessian and Anspach Chasseurs, supported by the 4th Brigade – The 3rd Brigade formed the Reserve.

Lord Cornwallis having formed the Line, the Light Infantry and Chasseurs began the Attack, the Guards and Grenadiers instantly advanced from the Right, the whole under a heavy Fire of Artillery and Musquetry, but they pushed on with an Impetunity not to be sustained by the Enemy, who falling back into the Woods in their Rear, the King's Troops entered with them and pursued closely for near two Miles.

After this Success a Part of the Enemy's right took a second Position in a Wood about half a Mile from Dilworth, from whence the 2^d Light Infantry and Chasseurs soon dislodged them, and from this Time they did not rally again in Force.

The 1st British Grenadiers, the Hessian Grenadiers and Guards, having in the pursuit got entangled in very thick Woods, were no further engaged during the Day.

The 2^d Light Infantry, 2^d Grenadiers [with Capt. Charles Graham's 42nd Grenadier Co.] and 4th Brigade moved forward a Mile beyond Dilworth, where they attacked a Corps of the Enemy that had not been before engaged and were strongly posted to cover the Retreat of their Army by the Roads from Chads Ford to Chester and Wilmington, which Corps not being forced until after it was dark, when the Troops had undergone much Fatigue in a March of seventeen Miles, besides what they supported since the Commencement of the Attack, the Enemy's Army escaped a total Overthrow that must have been the Consequence of an Hour's more Day Light.

The 3^d Brigade was not brought into action but kept in Reserve in the rear of the 4th Brigade, it not being known before it was dark how far Lieutenant General Knyphausen's Attack had succeeded, nor was there an Opportunity of employing the Cavalry.

Lieutenant General Knyphausen, as had been previously concerted, kept the Enemy amused in the course of the Day with Cannon and the Appearance of forcing the Ford, without intending to pass it until the Attack upon the Enemy's Right should take Place. Accordingly, when it began, Major General Grant crossed the Ford with the 4th and 5th Regiments, and the 4th Regiment passing first forced the Enemy from an Entrenchment and Battery where three Brass Field Pieces and a 5 ½ Inch Howitzer were

taken that had been placed there to command the Ford . The Enemy made little Stand on that Side after the Work was carried, when the Guards appearing on their Right Flank the Retreat became general, but Darkness coming on before Lieut^t General Knyphausen's Corps could reach the Heights there was no further action on that Side.

From the most correct Accounts I conclude the Strength of the Enemy's Army opposed to Lieutenant General Knyphausen and Lord Cornwallis was not less than fifteen thousand Men, a Part of which retired to Chester and remained there that Night, but the greater Body did not stop until they reached Philadelphia. There Loss was considerable in Officers killed and wounded, and they had about three hundred Men killed, six hundred wounded, and near four hundred made Prisoners.

The Loss on the Side of His Majesty's Troops and the Ordnance, Ammunition and Stores taken from the Enemy will appear in the enclosed Returns N^o 1 and 2.

The Army laid this Night on the Field of Battle, and on the 12th Major General Grant with the 1st and 2^d Brigades marched to Concord. Lord Cornwallis, with the Light Infantry and British Grenadiers, joined him next Day and proceeded to Ashtown within five Miles of Chester...

With most perfect Respect I have the Honor to be,

Your Lordship's most faithful and obedient Servant
W. Howe

The Right Honorable Lord George Germain
&ca &ca &ca

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. 509-530 and TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO5/94, ff. 318-333.



Detail of View looking SE from the top of Osborne's Hill along Birmingham Road toward the American positions, Oct. 13, 2011. The power lines indicate position of Birmingham Road.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Djmaschek

Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald's Account of the 42nd Light Infantry Company at the Battle of Brandywine Creek, Pennsylvania, Sept. 11, 1777

I led the advanced guard of the column under [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, which consisted of sixty foot jagers, Lieutenant [Wilhelm] Hagen with fifteen mounted jagers, a [Lt. Infantry] company of Highlanders from the 42^d Regiment under Captain McPherson [actually Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie], and a company of light infantry under Captain [William] Scott [17th Regt.]. I had hardly

marched half an hour when I ran into a warning post of the enemy, five to six hundred men strong, who withdrew from one favorable position to another under constant skirmishing until around noon-time.

Now, since I was ordered to march as slowly as possible, and to use all caution in order not to fall into an ambushade, as the area was traversed by hills, woodlands, marshes, and the steepest defiles, I marched in the following order. [Ewald includes a sketch showing a road column led by four foot Jägers, then two mounted Jägers, two formations of foot Jägers, one unit of mounted Jägers, four units of Scots and light infantry, with flankers on both sides of the road made up of foot Jägers and "*single Scots*."].

Lord Cornwallis had sent me a guide who was a real geographical chart and almost a general by nature. During the entire march I often spoke with him regarding the area which was beyond the horizon. He constantly judged so correctly that I always found the enemy there where he presumed him to be. His description was so good that I was often amazed at the knowledge this man possessed of the country.

About two o'clock in the afternoon the army crossed the Brandywine, which has two branches enclosed by hills, where the road ran up along a deep and winding precipice. I halted on this side of the defile, where Lord Cornwallis himself came to me. My guide asserted that if we did not meet with the enemy here, he must have been defeated by [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen, whose fire we had heard during the whole day and which moved on with us.

I took twelve jägers and let them pass the defile by twos, two hundred paces apart, with instructions to take post as soon as all twelve were across and had reached a point where they could see far around. But as soon as the van of the enemy was encountered, they were to retreat by twos.

I was astonished when I had safely reached the end of this terrible defile, which was over a thousand paces long, and could discover nothing of the enemy a good half hour away. Lord Cornwallis, who had followed me, was surprised himself and could not understand why the warning post with which I had fought from morning until around noon was not stationed here. The pass had been left wide open for us, where hundred men could have held up either army the whole day.

The advanced guard then passed the defile and the entire army followed. A good quarter hour distant, or two thousand paces, Lord Cornwallis again came to me and ordered me to halt. The army then marched up, regiment behind regiment, and halted for about a half hour, whereupon Adjutant General [Alexander] Ross brought me orders to proceed and said to the jägers: "One more good hour's marching and you will eat Welsh hens. General Knyphausen has thoroughly beaten [Rebel Gen. George] Washington."

About half past three, I caught sight of some infantry and horsemen behind a village on a hill in the distance, which was formed like an amphitheater. I asked my guide what he thought about these guests whereupon he replied that this was surely a party covering the road to Chester on which Washington was retreating. I said, "Good, we will attack the village," and rode over to Captain McPherson [Mackenzie], whom I had to consult because he was the senior captain. I gave him my opinion, which he, as well as the worthy Scott, fully agreed with.

I drew up at once and deployed the jägers, asking McPherson [Mackenzie] and Scott to support me on both flanks, and ordered the mounted jägers to follow the foot jägers in the center. My disposition was about as follows. [Ewald's sketch showed a screen of Jägers across the front of the Advanced party, with the mounted Jägers on the Birmingham Road, the 17th Light Company under Capt. Scott formed in line on the left of the road and the 42nd Light Company formed in line of the right of the road.]

I reached the first houses of the village with the flankers of the jägers, and Lieutenant Hagen followed me with the horsemen. But unfortunately for us, the time this took favored the enemy and I received extremely heavy small-arms fire from the gardens and houses, through which, however, only two jägers were wounded. Everyone ran back, and I formed them again behind the fences or walls at a distance of two hundred paces from the village. They shouted to me that the army was far behind, and I became not a little embarrassed to find myself quite alone with the advanced guard. But now that the business had begun, I still wanted to obtain information about these people who had let me go so easily.

I then took with me the mounted jäger Hoffman, a very courageous fellow, and two Scots and tried to reach a hill which lay to the right of the village. I gazed in astonishment when I got up the hill,

for I found behind it – three to four hundred paces away – an entire line deployed in the best order, several of whom waved to me with their hats but did not shoot. I kept composed, examined them closely, rode back, and reported it at once to Lord Cornwallis by the jäger Hoffman.

Source and Note: *Dairy of the American War*, Capt. Johann Ewald, Ed. Joseph P. Tustin, Yale University Press, 1979, pp. 83-86. The following Letter (*Sol Feinstone Collection*, no. 111) clarifies that it was the 42nd Lt. Infantry Company in the Advanced Guard. Contrary to Ewald's memory, that company was commanded by Capt. the Hon, George Mackenzie, son of the late Earl of Cromarty. The only officer named M^cPherson in the 42nd Regt. in America at this time was line company commander Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan M^cPherson, who would have been referred to as "Major M^cPherson" as the news of his promotion to Lt. Col. "in the army" on Aug. 29, 1777 had not yet reached America.



Birmingham Meetinghouse, circa 1902

Picture Source: *Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania 1682-1750*, Albert Cook Myers, Swarthmore (Pa.) 1902, p. 117

British Lt. Infantry Officer's Account of the Advanced Guard (Including Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie's 42nd Lt. Infantry Company), Brandywine Creek, Pennsylvania, Sept. 11, 1777

Memo battle of Brandiwine. 11th Sep^r 1777.

Our Army advanced in two columns.- right took the direct road to Chads ford, enemy on the opposite side of the river; left took a circuit to cross the forks of the Brandiwine river, and arrive on the enemys flank.-

About noon enemy discovered this movement by their patrols and the British column having crossed the forks and gained the heights discovered the enemy marching to take up a position.-

The Kings army formed in column of battalions and halted to refresh the men after a march of about 12 or 14 miles. –

–Upon the Troops getting again into motion the advance guard was composed of the 17th and 42nd light companies and Capt. [Johann Ewald's] Evalts troop of mounted yagers. having advanced less than a mile Capt. Evalt proposed charging a party of dragoons on the road, provided we secured his left flank.–this was assented to, and the two companies quitted the road for this purpose to gain an orchard on the flank; received a fire from about 200 men in the orchard, which did no execution; companies run up to the fence and halted, as it was evident tho' the enemy fell back they were well supported.- Lord Cornwallis Aid de camp came to order the advanced guard to halt.- Looked back saw the line nearly formed and presently advancing.–

Right of the road Guards –, 2 Batt^s B. Gren^s [including Capt. Cherles Graham's 42nd Gren. Co.]

left of the road Battⁿ of yagers. 2 Batt^s of light infantry. 2nd Line – Hessian Gren^s on the right. - brigade of British on the left.- Reserve Brigade of British.-

As soon as the line approached the advanced guard L^t Col [Robert] Abercromby [1st Lt. Inf. Bn.] ordered the 17^t light company to form on the right of the battalion, the 42nd, on the left. As soon as the line came up to Dilworth [Birmingham Meetinghouse] Church the enemy opened a fire from five field pieces; the church yard wall being opposite the 17^t light company, the captain determined to get over the fence into the road, and calling to the men to follow ran down the road and lodged the men without loss at the foot of the hill on which the guns were firing. the hedge on the left side of the road much cut with the grape shot.– by a bend of the hill had a view of part of the enemys line opposite the grenadiers and opened a fire from about half the company on it; no more being able to form on the space; presently joined by the 38^t company some of their gallant soldiers wanted to ascend the hill immediately; objected as too imprudent; the 33rd company joined immediately afterwards, and the men of the three companies calling out up the hill; at their cannon, ascended the hill and had a glimpse of the enemys line as far as the eye could reach to the right and left.– some firing might have taken place on the left, but as yet the heavy fire of musketry was not begun. enemys guns too far back on the height to annoy us, their line advancing on us we were compelled to throw ourselves on our knees and bellies, and keep up a fire from the slope of the hill.– – enemy repeatedly attempted to come on, but were always drove back by our fire altho' their general (Lincoln) [incorrect name] very much exerted himself At this time a most tremendous fire of musketry opened from both lines.– Looking back to see how far the grenadier line was off from which alone we could receive immediate support, to my surprize I saw close to me major [Hon. Charles] Stuart of the 43^d whose regt being at Rhode island attended the army as a spectator; recollecting the 43^d grenadier company was the left of their line, we persuaded Major Stuart to run down the hill and prevail on that company to hasten to our support; he did so, but before he could return, to my inexpressible joy, saw [Capt. Hon. Charles] Cochrane of the 4^t company on my left throw up his cap and cry Victory. – and looking round saw the 43^d company hastening to our relief;- we dashed forward passed the five pieces of cannon which the enemy had abandoned and made some few prisoners, enemy running away from us, with too much speed to be overtaken.–

The men being blown we halted and formed to a fence, and were immediately joined by the 2nd grenadiers to our right His own battalion left away more to the left; as soon as the men were fit to go on, out of gratitude to Major Stuart we desired to elect him our chief and meant to have gone on under his command, but before we could move Col Abercromby galloped to us, and we joined the battalion.–

A british brigade got into action with the enemys reserve, which terminated the battle on the left.– The column on the right as soon as soon as our fire was heard, crossed the river and drove the enemy from their works.–

Source: David Library of the American Revolution, *Sol Feinstone Collection*, no. 111, on deposit at the American Philosophical Society Library.

**Description of Battle of Brandywine, by Capt. Charles Cochrane,
4th Lt. Inf. Company, 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Pennsylvania, Sept. 11, 1777**

Pennsylvania German Town 19th: October 1777

About the 24th: August the Army landed at the upper end of Chesapeake Bay which there takes the name of head of Elk from that time till the 11th, Sep^r. its' movement was of necessity slow being in the heart of an enemys country, hampered with our Provisions & Baggage; little opposition was made by the rebels except at one place where They lost about fifty men Untill the 11th. of Sep^r: the day of the action at Brandy Wine Our troops being all assembled the 10th: at Kennets Square a place in one direction then within four miles of M^t: [Rebel Gen. George] Washingtons Army and by which Route He seems only to have expected Us In the morning of the 11th: we moved in two Divisions One under the immediate command of Gen^l: [Sir William] Howe and [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis consisted of the Light Infantry Grenadiers Guards and Second Brigade [actually 3rd and 4th Brigades] of British This had to

make a round of fourteen Miles and we would cross the Brandy Wine at an unsuspected ford, and from thence three miles to where the Rebels met us. The rest of the Army composed the second Division under the command of [Lt.] Gen^{ls}: [Wilhelm von] Kniphausen & [Maj. Gen. James] Grant They were to march to the place where M^r. Washington expected us to cross. There to amuse Him but not to pass until they heard we had begun the attack: It fortunately was late before the Rebels had intelligence of the first move, As soon as they received which Gen^{ls}: [John] Sullivan [William Alexander] L^d: Stirling and a [Maj. Gen. Gilbert du Motier] Marquis de Fayette with the greatest part of their army and sixteen field Pieces were sent to oppose us; They had time to chuse their ground which was done to the best advantage but without Success The affair began about Three o'clock and Tho' There was repeated lines and fresh Brigades of Them met with in the course of the Day They were all compleatly routed and lost here Eight pieces of Artillery... By this time the Affair could hardly be pushed further, it began to turn dark, And the Rebels were drove and dispersed at all quarters, both Divisions of the Army join'd and we that night lay at Dillingworth Three miles this side of the field of Battle The flight of the other side was so rapid that many of them that same evening reach'd Philadelphia which is not less than 36 Miles And their Army was not collected untill they had passed the Shootkill [Schuylkill River] and halted at German town where we now are. The loss as frequently happens fell heavy on particular Corps Light Infantry Grenadiers and the 64th: Reg^t; suffer'd the most, In all I suppose our loss of killed and wounded to be about five hundred or thereabout In this affair and in the late fracca I have had an Officer a Volunteer and fifteen men killed or disabled for this Campaign So that with sick Lame and Lazy I have but a small command left ...

Of Prisoners we have a great many both Officers and men a curious list of the country of those taken the 11th: I have sent you they are such a Motley Crew I had the curiosity to enquire from whence they came

Prisoners taken the 11th. of Sep^r: at Brandy Wine

English	65
Scotch	9
Irish	134
Germans	16
French	3
Russians	1
Switz	1
Gurnsey	1
	<hr/> 230

Americans	82
Born on sea	<hr/> 3

315 I understand that there is about 480 more in our possession, these are no doubt rather are an incumbrance to us and Eat our Provisions, they still act as a considerable diminution of numbers to them however, and have in general been the most forward people that we have taken from them ...

... I beg my best Respects to all Friends at home & believe me to be

Your Affec^t and Obed^t: Humble Serv^t

Ch: Cochrane...

Source: National Library of Scotland, *Correspondence of Andrew Stuart, 1768-98* at MS5375, ff. 35-42.

Journal of Lt. John Peebles, Acting Commander, 42nd Grenadier Company, 2nd British Grenadier Battalion, Describes the Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania, Sept. 11, 1777

Thursday 11th. Sept^r. Kennetts Square in y^e morn^g. the army put in motion by breack of day – [Hessian Lt.] Gen^l. [Wilhelm von] Kniphausens division (Reinforced with two Brigades British, 1st. & 2nd.) moved on the lower or right hand road to Brandywine to Shade’s [Chadd’s] ford with the spare Artillery & all the Baggage & Provision – The other division of the army march’d by the upper roads & crossed both braches of the Brandywine, by the road leading to Dilworth making two short halts; the 2^d. Light Infantry had a skirmish in the morn^g. about 9 by the way, the last about a mile from Dilworth Village After having march’d, 15 or 16 miles; here the Gen^l. [Sir William Howe] refresh’d. & getting some recent intelligence of the Enemy he put the Troops in motion & made a quick disposition of those in front – The 1st. [including 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.] & 2^d. Light Infantry & some Yagers on the left the Guards on the right, 1st. Gr^{rs}. [Grenadiers] On the left of the Guards, 2^d Gr^{rs}. [including 42nd Gren. Co.] On the left of the 1st. & the 4th. Brigade on the left of the 2^d. Gr^{rs}.; these moved on in Columns for near half a mile then the Rebels were discover’d drawn up on an advantageous ground form an extensive line, with Cannon on several hills The British Troops form’d their respective Corps & moved up to the Enemy under a heavy fire mostly from behind fences, & after given them a few rounds charged y^m. [them] with such spirit that they immediately fled in confusion leaving several pieces of Cannon in the field & playing those there were more distant. Our Troops pursued the fugitives thro’ the woods & over fences for about 3 miles, when they came upon a second & more extensive line of the Enemys best Troops drawn up & posted to great advantage, here they sustain’d a warm attack for some time & poured a heavy fire on the British Troops as they came up, who were by this time much fatigued with a long march & a rapid pursuit, notwithstanding these disadvantages we briskly attack’d y^e enemy & after a close fire for some minutes charged them again & drove them into the woods in the greatest confusion; when the wearyness of the Troops & the night coming on prevented any further pursuit & saved thousands of the Rebels – Kniphausens Division about the time we began the attack (Viz^t. Between 4 & 5 o’clock in the afternoon) cross’d over the Brandywine after sustaining a Cannonade for several hours; The Queens Rangers & the 4th. Regt. in front pass’d over & attack’d the Rebels briskly, driving them from their entrenchments & strong grounds, the 1st. Brigade & other Troops followed & attack’d the Enemy where ever they met them and drove them from every ground they possess’d untill the rout became general & the Rebels fled in confusion from every quarter – In this days action the whole Rebel army were drawn out & posted to the greatest advantage, on all the high grounds from the North side Shade’s ford to the westw^d. of Dilworth Village (a space of 4 miles) being 20,000 strong & confident of Victory, but were beat and totally routed by about 5000 British Troops.

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry Sept. 11, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles’ American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 132-134.

Lt. Henry Stirke’s Account of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, at the Battle of Brandywine Creek, Pennsylvania, Sept. 11-13, 1777

Sept^r...

11th The Division of the Army that mov’d off this morning to the left, under the Command of [Gen.] S^r W^m How, after a very fatiguing march of 17 miles; at 5 O’Clock in y^e evening found the Rebels very strongly posted on y^e heights of Dilworth, to the amount of 8000 men, under y^e Command of [Maj. Gen. William Alexander, called] Lord Sterling. The Attack was made by the British Light Infantry, and Grenadiers, Hessian Chasseurs [Jägers] and 4th Brigade, under a heavy fire both of cannon and small arms; not withstanding which, and the difficulty of the ground we had to march over, we push’d the Rebels from y^e heights, in about 15 minutes, with great loss; besides most of their Cannon which fell into our hands. The 2^d Division that mov’d off to the right (at y^e same time we march’d in the morning) under the Comm^d of [Hessian Lt.] Gen^l [Wilhelm von] Kniphauson; as soon as he heard we were engag’d began the Attack on the main body of the Rebel Army, under the Comm^d of Gen^l [George] Washington and very advantageously posted above the ford at the Brandywine, from which y^e were push’d with

13th

Considerable loss; and had there been but one hour more of daylight, all their Waggon, and baggage would have fallen into our hands. The loss of the Rebels we can't ascertain; but have reason to believe it to be, about 1000 men in kill'd, wounded and taken prisoners – with 17 pieces of Cannon &c. The 1st Battalion of Light Infantry took 5 of the number; and the general is pleased to make a present of 100 [Spanish] Doll^{rs} for each Gun taken. march'd at 10 O'Clock at night.

Source and Note: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 – 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, pp. 169-170. Lt. Stirke was assigned to the 10th Lt. Inf. Co.



Detail of Portrait of Maj. John Andre

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from the *Tower of London*

Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of Maj. Gen. Charles Grey's 3rd Brigade, Including the 42nd Regt., at the Battle of Brandywine and its Aftermath, Pennsylvania, Sept. 8 – 19, 1777

...11th The Army marched in two Columns under [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis and [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen. ([Commander in Chief Gen.] Sir William Howe was with the former) and [Cornwallis' column] proceeded to the forks of Brandywine, crossed the ford there and by a circuit of about fifteen miles came upon the enemy's right flank, near Birmingham Meeting House. The latter [Knyphausen's column] took the straight road to Chad's Ford, opposite to which the Rebel Army lay.

The design, it seemed was that General Knyphausen, taking post at Chad's Ford, should begin early to cannonade the Enemy on the opposite side, thereby to take up his attention and make him presume an attack was then intended with the whole Army, whilst the other column should be performing the detour. Lord Cornwallis's wing being engaged was to be the signal for the troops under General Knyphausen to cross the ford when they were to push their advantage. The event fell little short of the project. General Knyphausen posted himself early in the day on the heights opposite the Rebel Army. This was distributed on all the most advantageous eminences overlooking the ford which lay beneath. On one of these hills they had thrown up a small breastwork with two Guns, one a 12 pounder, and beneath this, flanking the ford and road, another battery of three guns and a howitzer. Felled trees

obstructed the passage at other fords near this place. It was not without some opposition that General Knyphausen took up his ground, and whilst he was there a body of 2000 men crossed the river and came upon his right. They were driven back by one or two Regiments.

On the left, Sir William Howe drawing near Birmingham found the Rebels posted on the heights to oppose him. Washington had drawn part of his Army here about two hours before, on receiving the first intimation of General Howe's approach. At about 4 o'clock the attack began near the Meeting House. The Guards were formed upon the right, the British Grenadiers [with the 42nd Gren. Co. in the 2nd British Gren. Bn.] in the Centre, and the Light Infantry [with the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1st Lt. Inf. Bn.] and Chasseurs [Jägers] on the left. The Hessian Grenadiers supported the Guards and British Grenadiers, and the 4th British supported the Light Infantry and the left of the Grenadiers. The 3^d Brigade under General Grey was the Reserve. The Guards met with very little resistance and penetrated to the very height overlooking the 4-gun battery of the Rebels at Chad's Ford, just as General Knyphausen had crossed. The Hessian Grenadiers were to their left and not so far advanced. The British Grenadiers divided after passing Birmingham Meeting House, the 1st Battalion inclining to the right and the 2^d pushing about a mile beyond the village of Dilworth. The Light Infantry and Chasseurs inclined to the left, and by this means left an interval which was filled up by part of the 4th Brigade. The Light Infantry met with the chief resistance at a hill on which the Rebels had four pieces of cannon. At the end of the day the 2^d Battalion Grenadiers received a very heavy fire; the 64th Regiment, which was near them was engaged at the same time. The Rebels were driven back by superior fire of the Troops, but these were too much exhausted to be able to charge or pursue. The Reserve moved centrically in the rear of the whole and inclined successively to the parts most engaged.

General Knyphausen, as was preconcerted, passed the ford upon hearing the other Column engaged, and the Troops under him pushed the Enemy with Equal Success. Night and the fatigue the Soldiers had undergone prevented any pursuit. It is remarkable that after reconnoitering after the action, the right of General Howe's camp was found close on General Knyphausen's left, and nearly in line, and in forming the General Camp next day, scarce any alteration was made.

We took this day eleven pieces of ordnance, five French brass guns, three Hessian and three American, viz: a brass 6-pounder, a howitzer an iron gun of a particular construction. The ammunition wagons, horses, &c. were likewise taken.

12th Parties were sent from the different regiments to find their wounded in the woods and bury their dead. The village of Dilworth was fixed upon for the Hospital. [Maj.] General [James] Grant with the 1st and 2^d Brigades and [Loyalist Queen's] Rangers marched to Concord (two miles)

13th Lord Cornwallis with the Light Infantry and Grenadiers marched to Concord and proceeded from thence with [Maj.] General [James] Grant towards Chester. The 15th and 64th regiments took post at Concord. The 17th regiment took possession of Wilmington.

14th the wounded were conveyed to Wilmington, which place was fixed upon for the General Hospital. A great many deserters came in the 12th and 13th. The Rebel Army was said to be at Derby.

15th Surgeons came from the Rebel Army to attend their wounded. They went with their patients to the Turk's Head (5 miles). Two men, one of the Light Infantry and one of the Grenadiers, were executed at Lord Cornwallis's camp for plunder.

16th The Army marched from Brandywine to Goshen. The greatest part of the day it rained excessively hard. The 3^d Brigade, Battalion of Donop, and Rangers covered the baggage, which from the badness of the road could not all get up that evening. Some shots were fired on the Column at Turk's Head five miles from Brandywine, where a soldier of the 33^d Regiment was killed and another wounded; an Officer was likewise slightly wounded...

19th The main Army of the Rebels was said to be at Coventry on the Reading Road. A Brigade under a [Rebel Brig.] General [Anthony] Wayne was said to be very near us, for the purpose of attacking our Rear on the next march. An order was given for marching the next morning, but was afterwards countermanded. Three companies of Light Infantry, who the proceeding day had taken possession of 4000 barrels of flour at Valley Forge, were this day reinforced by the Grenadiers, 1st Battalion Light Infantry, and the Guards. A report prevailed in camp that [Brig. Gen.] Sir William Erskine was taken. It

was without any foundation; he returned to Camp form reconnoitering and brought in 150 horses. Deserters from the Rebels came in daily. Three Artillery men who were straggling this morning fell into the enemy's hands. In the store at Valley Forge were taken, besides the 4000 barrels of flours, a great quantity of camp kettles, axes, horseshoes, nails &c.

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. 45-49.

General Orders After the Battle of Brandywine Creek, Dilworth, Pennsylvania, Sept. 11 – 12, 1777

Head Quarters Dilworth, 11th Sept. 1779.

At Night.

A small party, with a Surgeon's Mate and Waggon from each Corps, to be sent off by day-break in the morning, to Pick up their Wounded in the Woods and bring them to the General Hospital at Dilworth.

Head Quarters Camp on the Heights of Brandywine, 12th Sept., 1777...

Patrols to be immediately sent from each Corps, into the Woods near their respective Encampments, to search for Wounded Men, Ordnance Stores, &c...

Returns of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, to be immediately given to the Deputy Adjutant Generals at Head Quarters.

The General Hospital is Established at Dilworth.

One Battalion of the 42^d Regiment will immediately take up their Ground near the Hospital in the rear of the Army, where the Troops first engaged Yesterday afternoon.

Four Women from each Brigade British to be sent to the General Hospital to attend the Wounded; the Surgeons of the Hospital will dispose of them...

Head Quarters Camp on the Field of Battle, On the Heights of Brandywine, 12th Sept. 1777.

Evening, Gun firing.

The Acknowledgements and thanks of the Commander in Chief to the General Officers, and Soldiers of the Army in General and to advanced Corps, in particular, very weakly expresses the Sentiments he entertains of their very gallant and Spirited behaviour in the General engagement of Yesterday, by repeatedly charging and Routing, under a very heavy fire, the Enemy posted to the greatest advantage...

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.

Excerpts of Letter No. 68 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing the Advance Towards Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sept. 13-18, 1777

Nº 68

Head Quarters Germantown 10th October 1777

My Lord...

On the same day, (13th) the 71st [Highland] Regiment was detached to Wilmington [Delaware] where the Enemy had thrown up Works both to the Land and to the River, with seven Pieces of Cannon in the latter, but these Works being evacuated Major [John] M^cDonell took Possession of the Place without Opposition and made M^r [John] M^cKinley, the new appointed President of the Lower Counties on Delaware, his Prisoner.

On the 14th [Hessian] Lieutenant-Colonel [Johann von] Loos with the combined Battalion of Rhall's Brigade escorted the wounded and Sick to Wilmington, whither the Battalion of Mirbach was sent two days afterwards to join him.

The Army moved in two Columns towards Goshen on the 16th, and Intelligence being received upon the March that the Enemy was advancing upon the Lancaster Road and were within five Miles of Goshen, it was immediately determined to push forward the two Columns and attack them: [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis to take his Route by Goshen Meeting House and [Hessian] Lieutenant General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen by the Road to Downing Town.

The two Divisions proceeded on their March, but a most violent Fall of Rain setting in and continuing the whole Day and Night without Intermission made the intended Attack impracticable.

The 1st Light Infantry at the Head of Lord Cornwallis's Column, meeting with a Part of the Enemy's advanced Guard about a mile beyond Goshen, defeated them, killing twelve and wounding more without the Loss of a Man.

Nearly at the same Time the Chasseurs [Jägers] in front of Lieut^t General Knyphausen's Column fell in with another Party, of which they killed an Officer and five Men and took four Officers Prisoners, with the loss of three Men wounded.

The Enemy, being thus apprized of the approach of the Army, marched with the utmost Precipitation the whole Night of the 16th and got in the Morning to the Yellow Springs, having as is since known all their small Ammunition damaged by the excessive Rain.

In the evening of the 17th Lord Cornwallis advanced to the Lancaster Road and took post about two Miles distant from Lieutenant General Knyphausen.

The Army joined in the Lancaster Road at the White Horse on the 18th and marched to Truduffrin, from whence a Detachment of Light Infantry was immediately sent to the Valley Forge upon Schuylkill where the Enemy had a Variety of Stores and a considerable Magazine of Flour. The 1st Battalion of Light Infantry and the British Grenadiers took Post there next Day and were joined on the 20th by the Guards...

With most perfect Respect I have the Honor to be,

Your Lordship's most faithful and obedient Servant
W. Howe

The Right Honorable Lord George Germain

&c^a &c^a &c^a

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. 509-530 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO 5/94, ff. 318-333.

Lt. Henry Stirke's Account of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, on the Advance toward Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sept. 16 – 19, 1777

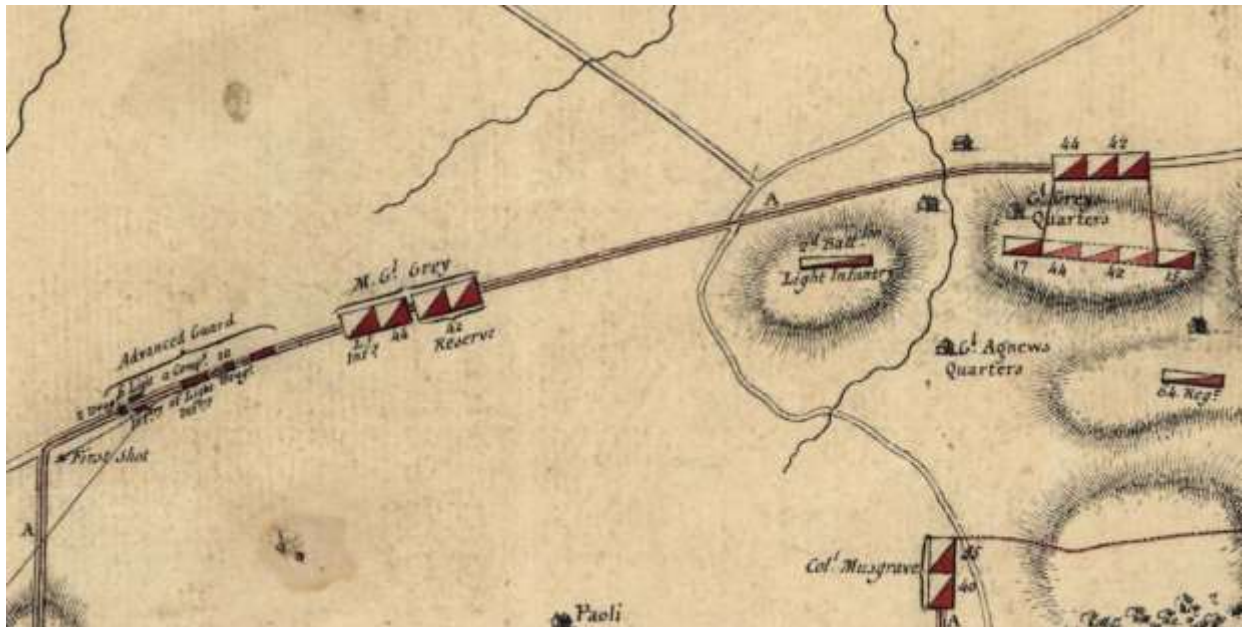
Sept^r...

- 16th ...About 3 O'Clock, the first Battⁿ of Light Infantry, attack'd a body of 500 rebels, under the Command of [Brig.] Gen^l [Anthony] Waine, posted behind a fence, on a hill, about half a mile from Goshen meeting House on our advancing very briskly y^e gave us one fire and run away; leaving 10 men kill'd and Wounded on the field; and by Deserters that came in just after, we ae inform'd the loss of the Rebels, is about 50 men kill'd, wounded, and missing. Ours, only one man wounded.
- 17th March'd at 3 O'Clock in y^e evening: about 4 miles; which brought us on y^e road to Philadelphia. Every day Deserters come in from y^e Rebel Army.
- 18th At 10 O'Clock the Army march'd in 2 Columns towards Philadelphia; & at 4 O'Clock encamp'd on some hills about 20 miles from philadelphia, and two from y^e Shuylkiln [Schuylkill] River.

This evening 3 Companys with our riffle men, under the Command of Major [Peter] Craig [57th Regt.] was detach'd to take possession of a large store, the Rebels have at valley Forge, about two miles in our front.

19th The 1st Battalion of Light Infantry and 1st and 2nd of grenadiers, march'd at 1 O'Clock to sustain Major Craig, as the Rebels appear'd in large bodys, and made a show of attacking that post...

Source and Note: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 – 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, pp. 170 - 171. Lt. Stirke was assigned to the 10th Lt. Inf. Co.



Detail showing 1st and 2nd Battalions, 42nd Regt. in Maj. Gen. Grey's column from "British camp at Trudruffrin from with the attack made by Major General Grey against the rebels near White Horse Tavern., " 1777

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

Maj. Gen. Charles Grey's Night Attack Near the *General Paoli* Tavern, Malvern, Pennsylvania, Sept. 20, 1777

Excerpts of Letter No. 68 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing the Night Attack Near the *General Paoli* Tavern, Malvern, Pennsylvania, Sept. 20, 1777

N^o 68

Head Quarters Germantown 10th October 1777

My Lord...

The Enemy crossed the Schuylkill on the 18th above French Creek and encamped upon the River on each side of Perkyomy Creek, having detached Troops to all the Fords of Schuylkill with Cannon at Swede's Ford and the Fords below it.

Upon Intelligence that [Rebel Brig.] General [Anthony] Wayne was lying in the Woods with a Corps of fifteen hundred Men and four Pieces of Cannon about three Miles distant and in the Rear of the Left Wing of the Army, Major General [Charles] Grey was detached on the 20th late at Night with the 2^d Light Infantry, the 42^d and 44th Regiments, to surprise this Corps – The most effectual Precaution being taken by the General to prevent his Detachment from firing, he gained the Enemy's Left about One

o'clock, and having by the Bayonet only forced their out Sentries and Pickets, he rushed in upon their Encampment, directed by the Light of their Fires, killed and wounded not less than three hundred on the Spot, taking between seventy and eighty Prisoners including several Officers, the greater Part of their Arms, and eight Waggon loaded with Baggage and Stores. Upon the first Alarm the Cannon were carried off and the Darkness of the Night only saved the Remainder of the Corps. One Captain of Light Infantry and three Men were killed in the Attack and four Men wounded – Gallantry in the Troops and good conduct in the General were fully manifested upon this critical Service...

With most perfect Respect I have the Honor to be,

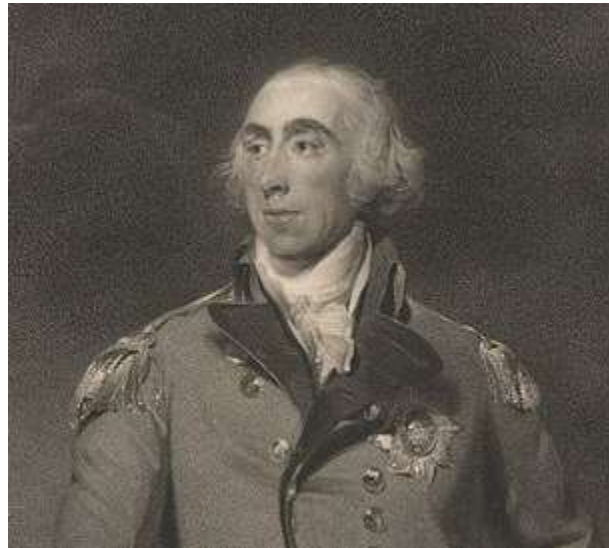
Your Lordship's most faithful and obedient Servant

W. Howe

The Right Honorable Lord George Germain

&c^a &c^a &c^a

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. 509-530 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO 5/94, ff. 318-333.



Detail from *Charles Grey, 1st Earl Grey*, 1797, by Joseph Collyer (after Sir Thomas Lawrence)

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

Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of Maj. Gen. Charles Grey's 3rd Brigade, Including the 42nd Regt., at the Battle Near the General Paoli Tavern, Malvern, Pennsylvania, Sept. 20, 1777

20th Intelligence having been received of the situation of [Rebel Brig.] General [Anthony] Wayne and his design of attacking our rear, a plan was concerted for surprising him, and the execution entrusted to Major General Grey. The troops for this service were the 40th and 55th regiments, under [Lt.] Colonel [Thomas] Musgrave [40th Regt.], and the 2^d Battalion Light Infantry, the 42^d and 44th regiments under General Grey. General Grey's detachment marched at 10 o'clock at night, that under Colonel Musgrave at 11. No soldier of either was suffered to load; those who could not draw their pieces took out the flints. We knew nearly the spot where the Rebel Corps lay, but nothing of the disposition of their Camp. It was represented to the men that firing discovered us to the Enemy, hid them from us, killed our friends and produced a confusion favorable to the escape of the Rebels and perhaps productive of disgrace to ourselves. On the other hand, by not firing we knew the foe to be wherever fire appeared and a charge ensured his destruction; that amongst the enemy those in the rear would direct their fire against whoever fired in front, and they would destroy each other. General Grey's Detachment marched by the

road leading to the White Horse, and took every inhabitant with them as they passed along. About three miles from Camp they turned to the left and proceeded to the Admiral Warren [Tavern], where, having forced intelligence from a Blacksmith, they came in upon the out sentries, piquet and Camp of the Rebels. The sentries fired and ran off to the number of four at different intervals. The piquet was surprised and most of them killed in endeavoring to retreat. On approaching the right of the Camp we perceived the line of fires, and the Light Infantry being ordered to form in front, rushed along the line putting to the bayonet all they came up with, and, overtaking the main herd of the fugitives, stabbed great numbers and pressed on their rear till it was thought prudent to order them to desist. Near 200 must have been killed, and a great number wounded. Seventy-one Prisoners were brought off; 40 of them badly wounded were left at different houses on the road. A Major, a Captain, and two Lieutenants were amongst the prisoners. We lost Captain [William] Wolfe [40th Regt.] killed and one or two private men; four or five were wounded, one an officer, Lieutenant [Martin] of 52^d Light Company.

It was about 1 o'clock in the morning when the attack was made, and the Rebels were then assembling to move towards us, with the Design of attacking our baggage.

Colonel Musgrave marched a different way and took post on the Philadelphia Road at the Paoli [Tavern]. It was thought he would have first fallen in with their outposts. By our attacking them on the flank next to Colonel Musgrave's Post, they retired the opposite way and his Detachment saw nothing of them.

A second Brigade had joined Major [Gen.] Wayne the evening before, and 1500 Militia under [Brig. Gen. William] Smallwood [1st Maryland Regt.] lay at the White Horse. We took eight waggons and teams with flour, biscuit and baggage; their guns we could not overtake. The Detachment returned to Camp by daybreak by the Paoli and the road Colonel Musgrave had marched.

Wayne's Corps consisted of		
1 st Battalion Pens'a – Chambers	}	}
2 ^d Battalion Pens'a – late DeHaas	}	Hartley }
7 th Battalion Pens'a – Grier	}	}
10 th Battalion Pens'a – Hubley	}	}
		}
		} Wayne
Hartley's Rovers		}
4 th Battalion Pens'a – Butler	}	}
5 th Battalion Pens'a – Johnson	}	Humpton }
8 th Battalion Pens'a – Broadhead	}	}
11 th Battalion Pens'a – Humpton	}	}...

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. 49-51

Account of the Battle near the General Paoli Tavern by Lt. Martin Hunter, 52nd Lt. Infantry Company, 2nd Lt. Infantry Battalion, Malvern, Pennsylvania, Sept. 20, 1777

As soon as it was dark the whole battalion got under arms. Major-General [Charles] Grey then came up to the [2nd Lt. Infantry] battalion and told Major [Hon. John] Maitland [Marines], who commanded, that the battalion was going on a night expedition to try and surprise a camp, and that if any men were loaded, they must immediately draw their pieces. The major said the whole of the battalion were always loaded, and that if he would only allow them to remain so, he (the Major) would be answerable that they did not fire a shot. The General then said if he could place that dependence on the battalion they should remain loaded, but that firing might be attended with very serious consequences. We remained loaded, and marched at eight in the evening to surprise [Rebel Brig.] General [Anthony] Wayne's camp. We did not meet a patrol or vidette of the enemy till within a mile or two of the camp,

where our advanced guard was challenged by two videttes. They challenged twice, fired, and galloped off full speed. A little further on there was a blacksmith's forge; a party was immediately sent to bring the blacksmith, and he informed us that the piquet was only a few hundred yards up the road. He was ordered to conduct us to the camp; and we had not marched a quarter of a mile when the piquet challenged, fired a volley, and retreated. General Grey then came to the head of the battalion and cried out, 'Dash on, Light Infantry!' and without saying a word the whole battalion dashed into the wood, and, guided by the straggling fire of the piquet, which was followed close up, we entered the camp, and gave such a cheer as made the wood echo. The enemy were completely surprised, some with arms, and others without, running in all directions in the greatest confusion. The light infantry bayoneted every man they came up with. The camp was immediately set on fire, and this and the cries of the wounded formed altogether one of the most dreadful scenes I ever beheld. Every man that fired was instantly put to death. Captain [William] Wolfe [40th Lt. Inf. Co.] was killed, and I received a shot in my right hand soon after we entered the camp. I saw the fellow present at me, and was running up to him when he fired. He was immediately killed. The enemy were pursued for two miles. I kept up till I got faint from loss of blood, and was obliged to sit down. Wayne's brigade was to have marched at one in the morning to attack our battalion while crossing the Schuylkill river, and we surprised them at twelve. Four hundred and sixty of the enemy were counted next morning lying dead, and not one shot was fired by us, – all was done with the bayonet. We had only twenty killed and wounded.

Source: *Historical Record of the Fifty-Second Regiment (Oxfordshire Light Infantry) From the Year 1755 to the Year 1858*, 2nd Edition, Ed. William S. Moorsom, Richard Bentley, London, 1860, Google Books, pp. 19-20.



"A Dreadful scene of havoc, depicting the British light infantry and light dragoons attacking the the Continental Army encampment at Paoli on 20 September 1777," by Xavier della Gatta, 1782

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from ExplorePAHistory.com

**Account of the Battle Near the *General Paoli* Tavern by an Officer,
2nd Light Infantry Battalion, Malvern, Pennsylvania, Sept. 20, 1777**

...I have been in a more bloody affair at midnight on the 22^d [20th] of September. The battalion I served in (the second of light infantry), supported by three regiments and some dragoons, surprised a camp of the rebels consisting of fifteen hundred men, and bayoneted (we hear) from four to five hundred.

The affair was admirably conceived and executed. I will (as it is remarkable) particularize. I was released from picket at sunset—the preceding sunset I mounted—and was waked at nine at night to go on the bloody business. The men were ordered to unload; on no account to fire. We took a circuit in dead silence; about one in the morning fell in with a rebel vidette (a vidette is a horse sentinel), who challenged three times and fired. He was pursued but escaped. Soon after two foot sentries challenged and fired; these escaped also. We then marched on briskly, still silent; our company was advanced immediately preceding a company of riflemen, who always are in front. A picket fired upon us at the distance of fifteen yards, miraculously without effect. This unfortunate guard was instantly dispatched by the riflemen's swords. We marched on through a thick wood, and received a smart fire from another unfortunate picket; as the first, instantly massacred. We then saw the wigwams or huts partly by the almost extinguished light of the fires and partly by the glimmer of a few stars, and the frightened wretches endeavoring to form. We then charged. For two miles we drove them, now and then firing scatteringly from behind fences, trees, &c. The flashes of the pieces had a fine effect in the night. Then followed a dreadful scene of havoc.

The light dragoons came on sword in hand. The shrieks, groans, shouting, imprecations, deprecations, the clashing of swords and bayonets, &c., &c., &c. (no firing from us and little from them, except now and then a few, as I said before, scattering shots,) was more expressive of horror than all the thunder of the artillery, &c., on the day of action...

Source: Account by an Officer of the second battalion, British Light Infantry. From an unsigned letter in the *Materials for History printed from Original Manuscripts*, Ed. Frank Moore, Zenger Club, New York, 1861, p. 53.



Detail of Portrait of Capt. John Montresor, 1771, by John Singleton Copley

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Detroit Institute of Arts

Engineer Capt. John Montresor's Account of the Battle of Paoli, Pennsylvania, Sept. 20, 1777

20th. Weather extremely fine. At 2 this morning the guards moved and posted themselves with the Light Infantry at the Valley Forge. Waggons employed in carrying off from the magazine there, the rebel stores. This morning 5 rebel centries fired on the Guards who took the whole. They slightly wounded 1 of our officers. This night Major Gen^l. [Charles] Gray was detached with the 2nd Battalion of Light Infantry, 42^d and 44th Reg^{ts}. and Sergeant and 12 of 16th dragoons to surprise 2 Brigades of near 2000 men under the command of General [Anthony] Wayne. Between 10 and 12 they fell in on the Rebel picket, between the Admiral Warren and the Paoli [Taverns], which fired on them; they rushed in

and put the whole of the picket to the Bayonet and then huzza'd which further alarmed the main body, however our troops rapidly advanced on their left, which were chiefly in their wigwams, and put between 4 or 500 of them to the Bayonet and the rest fled except about 100 that were taken prisoners, amongst which was a Major and a French officer and also 9 loaded waggons with 4 horses each, and brought off their cattle. Their General escaped and 4 pieces of Cannon through the woods. Our loss was a Captain [William Wolfe, 40th Regt.] of Light Infantry, one Sergeant, and one Private killed, and 2 dragoons and 2 Light Infantry, and 8 Battalion men wounded. This capital service, was effected without our firing a shot...

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. 39.

Pvt. Thomas Sullivan's Account of the 42nd Highlanders at the Battle of Paoli, Pennsylvania, Sept. 20, 1777

Sep^r. 20th. Upon intelligence that [Rebel Brig.] General [Anthony] Wayne was lying in the Woods with a Corps of 1500 men, and four Pieces of cannon, about three miles distant, & in the Rear of the left Wing of the Army, in order to cut off our Rear, Major General [Charles] Grey, was detached late at night, with the 2^d. Battallion of Light Infantry, a Troop of Light Dragoons, 42^d. and 44th. Regiments to surprize this Corps... he gained the Enemy's left about one o'clock , at Whiteland-Township, being first challenged by a Light Dragoon, who, after firing his Carabine ran away to alarm the rest; then their Picquet fired a Volley at the Light Infantry and retreated, but did not hurt a man. Without the least noise our Party by the Bayonet only, forced and killed all their out sentries and Picquets, and rushed in upon their Encampments, directed by the light of their fires, killed and wounded not less than 300 in their Huts and about the fires, the 42^d. sat fire to them, as many of the Enemy would not come out, chusing rather to suffer in the Flames than to be killed by the Bayonet. The party took between 70 and 80 Prisoners, including several officers, the greater part of their Arms, and eight waggons loaded with Baggage and Stores. Upon the first alarm the cannon were carried off, and y^e darkness of the night only saved the Remainder of the Corps. We had one Officer [Capt. William Wolfe, 40th Lt. Inf. Co.] and three men killed and four wounded. The party returned to their Camp that morning.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, p. 138. Pvt. Sullivan was in the 49th Regt. in the 1st Brigade. He had been reduced from Corporal on Sept. 14th.

News Account of the Battle Near the General Paoli Tavern, Describing Advance of the 42nd Regt., Malvern, Pennsylvania, Sept. 20, 1777

Sept. 22. Yesterday the British having received intelligence of the situation of [Rebel Brig.] General [Anthony] Wayne, and his design of attacking their rear should they attempt to pass "the Schuylkill, a plan was concerted for surprising him, and the execution intrusted to Major-General [Charles] Gray. The troops for this service were the fortieth and fifty-fifth regiments under Lieutenant-Colonel [Thomas] Musgrave, and the second battalion of light infantry, the forty-second and forty-fourth regiments, under the general. The last detachment marched at ten o'clock last night—the other at eleven. No soldiers of either were suffered to load; they that could not draw their pieces took out their flint. The general knew nearly the spot where the rebel corps lay, but nothing of the disposition of their camp. He represented to the men that firing would discover them to the enemy, kill their own friends, and cause a confusion favorable to the escape of the rebels, and perhaps, productive of disgrace to the British. On the other hand, by not firing, they would know the foe to be wherever fire appeared, and a charge insured his destruction; that amongst the enemy, those in the rear would direct their tire against whoever fired in front, and consequently destroy each other.

General Gray marched by the road leading to the White Horse, and took every inhabitant with him as he passed along. About three miles from camp he turned to the left and proceeded to the Admiral Warren, where, having forced intelligence from a blacksmith, he came in upon the out sentries, pickets, and camp of the rebels. The sentries fired and ran off, to the number of four, at different intervals; the picket was surprised, and most of them killed in endeavoring to retreat. On approaching the right of the camp, the line of fires were perceived, and the light infantry, being ordered to form to the front, rushed along the line, putting to the bayonet all they came up with, and, overtaking the main herd of fugitives, stabbed great numbers, and pressed on their rear till it was thought prudent to order them to desist. The forty-fourth regiment, advancing in line likewise, closed up in support of the light infantry, putting to the sword such of the rebels as the heat of the pursuit had escaped that corps; whilst the forty-second came on in a third line as a reserve. Upwards of two hundred were killed and as many more wounded. Seventy-one prisoners were brought off—forty of them being badly wounded were left at different houses on the road. The British loss consisted of Captain [William] Wolfe and one or two men killed, Lieut. [Martin] Hunter and five men wounded. It was about one o'clock this morning when the attack was made, and the rebels were then assembling to move toward the King's forces.

Source: *Diary of the Revolution*, Vol. I, by Frank Moore, Charles Scribner, New York, 1860, pp. 498-499. Copied from *Gaine's Mercury*.

General Orders Commending Maj. Gen. Charles Grey and His Troops, Including the 42nd Regt., for the Successful Attack on Rebel Brig. Gen Anthony Wayne's Encampment, Near the Warren and Paoli Taverns, Pennsylvania, Sept. 22, 1777

Head Quarters Charles Town Camp 22^d Sept. 1777

The Commander in Chief desires his particular thanks to Maj.-Gen. [Charles] Grey, and to the Officers and Men of the Detachment under his Command, that Yesterday morning Surprised a Post of the Enemy. Their Steadiness in Charging with their Bayonets without firing a single Shot not only proves their Spirit and Discipline, but also their evident Superiority over the Enemy. The Gallant Charge made at the same time by the Detachment of Dragoons does them great Honour...

Source and Note: "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 thanks the troops, including the 42nd Regt., under Maj. Gen. Charles "No Flint" Grey who attacked Brig. Gen Anthony Wayne's Pennsylvania troops near the Warren and Paoli Taverns on the night of Sept. 20, 1777. This battle is often incorrectly termed the "Paoli Massacre" although there is no evidence to support that charge.

Lt. Henry Stirke's Account of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, on the Advance up to the Capture of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sept. 21 – 26, 1777

Sept^r...

- 21st About 12 O'Clock last night, [Maj.] Gen^l [Charles] Grey, with y^e 2^d Battalion of Light Infantry, 42^d & 44th Reg^{ts}, with some Light dragoons surpris'd [Brig.] Gen^l [Anthony] Waines brigade in their Camp, (which lay in our rear, in order to insult us on our march) and without firing a Shot, put about 300 of the Rebels to Death, with y^e Bayonet; and too 200 prisoners; with all their baggage. Our loss was (Captⁿ [William] Wolfe [40th Lt. Inf. Co.]) 1 Captⁿ kill'd, with a Serg^t, and private; and 1 L^t [Martin Hunter, 52nd Lt. Inf Co.] Wounded. This evening [Gen.] S^r W^m Howe with y^e Army arriv'd at Valley Forge.
- 22^d At 6 o'Clock in y^e evening, a brigade of Guards, and one of Hessians, Cross'd the Scuylkiln River, without Opposition...
- 23^d [Gen.] S^r W^m Howe with y^e main body of the Army pass'd the Scuylkiln and encamp'd about 17 miles from Philadelphia.
- 25th Arriv'd at Germantown...

26th The British, and Hessian Grenadiers took Possession of Philadelphia.

Source and Note: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 – 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, p. 171. Lt. Stirke was assigned to the 10th Lt. Inf. Co.



Detail of "Plan of the city of Philadelphia and its environs shewing its defences during the years 1777 & 1778, together with the siege of Mud Island on the River Delaware," 1778, by Pierre Nicole.

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Excerpts of Letter No. 68 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief,
North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the
American Department, Reporting the Capture of Philadelphia, Sept. 21-25, 1777**

N^o 68

Head Quarters Germantown 10th October 1777

My Lord...

On the 21st the Army moved by Valley Forge and encamped upon the Banks of Schuylkill extending from Fat Land Ford to French Creek – The Enemy upon this Movement quitted their Position and marched towards Pottsgrove in the Evening of this Day.

On the 22^d the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the Guards crossed over in the afternoon at Fat Land Ford to take Post, and the Chasseurs crossing soon after at Gordon's Ford opposite to the Left of the Line took Post there also – The Army was put in Motion at Midnight, the Van Guard being led by [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, and the whole crossed the River at Fat Land Ford without Opposition. Major General [James] Grant, who commanded the Rear Guard with the Baggage, passed the River before two o'clock in the Afternoon, and the Army encamped on the 23^d with its Left to the Schuylkill, and the Right upon the Monatomy Road, having Stony Run in Front – The 2^d Battalion of

Light Infantry was detached to Swedes Ford, which a small Party of the Enemy immediately quitted, leaving six Pieces of Iron Cannon behind them.

On the 25th the Army marched in two Columns to Germantown, and Lord Cornwallis with the British Grenadiers [including the 42nd Grenadier Co.] and two Battalions of Hessian Grenadiers took possession of Philadelphia the next morning.

In the evening of the 26th three Batteries for six Medium Twelve-Pounders and four Howitzers were begun at Philadelphia to act against the Enemy's Shipping and Craft that might approach the Town. These Batteries were unfinished on the 27th when two Frigates, a Number of Gallies, Gondolas, and other armed Vessels came up from Mud Island, and attacked the lower Battery of two Guns and two Howitzers. The largest [Rebel] Frigate called the Delaware, mounting thirty Guns, anchored within five hundred Yards of the Battery and the other Vessels taking their respective Stations as they could bring their Guns to bear. About Ten o'clock in the Morning they began a heavy Cannonade upon the Town as well as the Battery, but the Tide falling the Delaware grounded, upon which the four Battalion Guns of the Grenadiers being brought to bear upon her to the greatest Advantage, they did such execution in a short time that she struck her Colours and was taken possession of by the Marine Company of Grenadiers commanded by Captain [Thomas] Averne...

With most perfect Respect I have the Honor to be,

Your Lordship's most faithful and obedient Servant
W. Howe

The Right Honorable Lord George Germain
&c^a &c^a &c^a

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. 509-530 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO 5/94, ff. 318-333.

Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of the Advance of Maj. Gen. Charles Grey's 3rd Brigade, Including the 42nd Regt., to Germantown, Pennsylvania, Sept. 21 – 28, 1777

21st The Army marched from Trudusfrin [Tredyffrin] to Valley Forge and was posted in an extent of three miles from Fatland Ford to some distance beyond Moore Hall. Large bodies of the Enemy were seen on the opposite shore; they frequently fired on our Sentries.

22^d There was reason to believe the enemy had quitted the opposite side of the river. In the evening the Guards passed the river at Fatland Ford and the Hessian Chasseurs and some Grenadiers passed at some distance above Moore Hall. Some Light Dragoons crossed at dusk at Long Ford. The guns of the Hessians and those of the 3rd Brigade fired a few shot across the river opposite their Encampments to deceive the Enemy with respect to the ford at which it was intended the Army should pass. The Hessians and Light Dragoons returned at night. At the rising of the moon the Troops were in readiness to march and at ... o'clock began crossing at Fatland Ford.

23^d At ... o'clock the Troops, artillery and baggage had all passed and were drawn up on the opposite shore. As soon as the men had dried themselves, the whole marched and proceeded to Norrington where the Army was encamped, with their right on the Reading Road, and their left to the Schuylkill. A Battalion of Light Infantry was posted at Swede's Ford. Three hundred Militia who were stationed there quitted it as the Army drew near. They left five iron 12-pounders on traveling carriages, some ammunition, stores, and a pair of Colours were found in the neighborhood. [Rebel Gen. George] Washington was said to be at the 32-mile stone from Philadelphia on the Reading Road.

24th The Army remained at Norrington. A few persons came in from Philadelphia. Several deserters came in from Washington's Army.

25th The Army marched in two columns to Germantown, and encamped on the heights near that place. On the march some Militia were seen in front of the right-hand Column...

26th This morning the British [including the 42nd Gren. Co.] and Hessian Grenadiers marched at 8 o’Clock towards Philadelphia and took possession of the town. The Rebels had withdrawn part of their shipping to Burlington, and rested in hopes of opposing ours with armed vessels, gondolas &c., which lay near a fort on Mud Island, seven miles below Philadelphia.

27th The [32-gun *USS*] Delaware, Rebel frigate, attempted to pass the town in her way to Burlington, or was approaching to fire upon the town, but ran ashore and struck to the Grenadiers, who brought down their field guns and two 12 pounders to bear upon her. Howitzers were likewise brought against her. A schooner which was coming up at the same time also struck, but as we were not able to take possession of her, she got off in the night. Another frigate, seeing the fate of the Delaware, would not venture near enough to receive much damage, but returned to her station near Mud Island. There has been since great reason to believe their intention was to set fire to the town. Alexander, the Captain of the Delaware, was put in jail...

The Militia, of which there were skulking parties about the right of our Encampment, wounded three of four men and two officers of Wemys’s Corps [Queens Rangers]. Washington was supposed to be beyond Perkiomy Creek.

28th [Gen.] Sir William Howe visited Philadelphia. A Lieutenant and 50 Seamen came from Wilmington to man the Delaware Frigate...

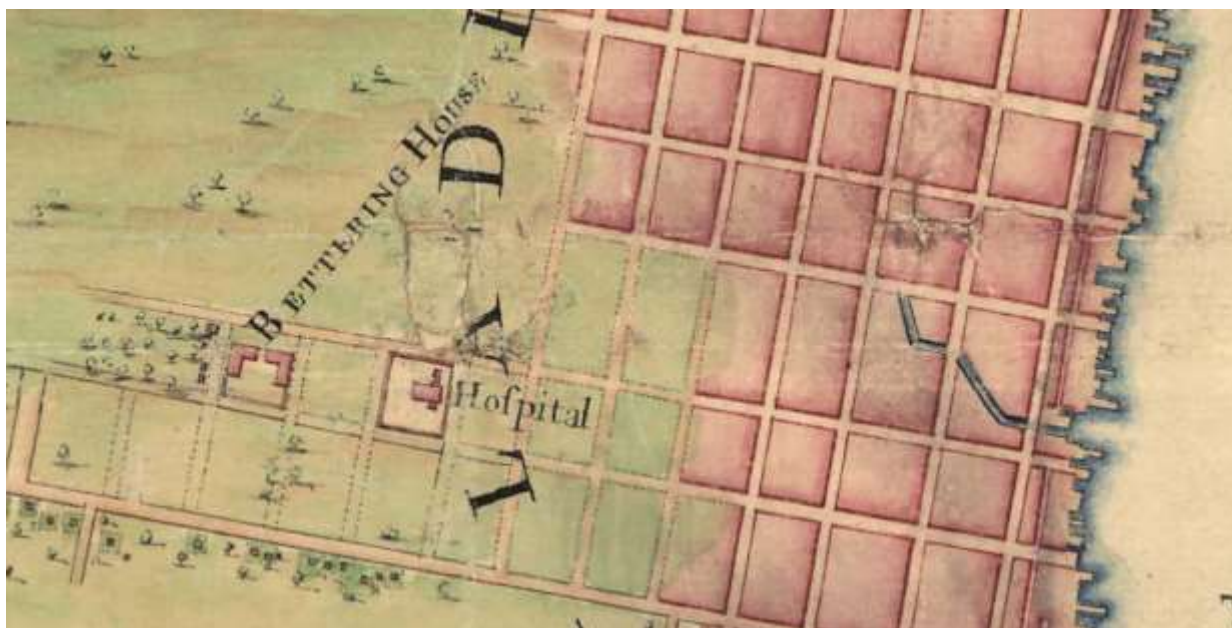
Source: *Major Andre’s Journal, Operations of the British Army Under Lieutenant Generals Sir William Howe and Sir Henry Clinton June 1777 to November 1778, Recorded by Major John Andre, Adjutant General to Which is Added the Ethics of Major Andre’s Mission*, Ed. C. DeW. Willcox, William Abbatt, Tarrytown (N.Y.), 1930, pp. 51-53.

General Order for Lt. Gen. Charles Cornwallis, with the British Grenadiers, Including the 42nd Grenadier Company, to Capture Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sept. 25, 1777

Head Quarters Camp at German Town 25th Sept. 1777...

The Two Battalions British Grenadiers, Two Battalions Hessian Grenadiers, two Squadrons of Dragoons with their Guns and Baggage, 6 Medium Twelves and 4 Howitzers are to parade in the front of the British Grenadiers, to-morrow morning at 8 o’Clock, under the Command of Lieut.-Gen. [Charles] Earl Cornwallis, to March to Philadelphia.

Source and Note: “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. Lord Cornwallis and his troops, including the 42nd Grenadier Company, entered the city of Philadelphia on Sept. 26, 1777, thus completing the main purpose of the campaign.



Detail showing 42nd Grenadier Co. Quarters at the "Bettering House" from "A survey of the city of Philadelphia and its environs shewing the several works constructed by His Majesty's troops, under the command of Sir William Howe, since their possession of that city 26th. September 1777, comprehending likewise the attacks against Fort Mifflin on Mud Island, and until its reduction, 16th November 1777," by Pierre Nicole and John Montrésor

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

Engineer Capt. John Montresor's Account of Taking of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sept. 25 – Oct. 1, 1777

25th. Wind fresh at N. N. East. The whole marched in 2 columns and arrived at Germantown, being Eleven miles, marched through a great deal of wood land and some stony ground. All the afternoon and night heavy rain and hard wind...

26th. At half past Eight this morning [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis with the two Battalions of British Grenadiers [including the 42nd Gren. Co.] and Hessian Grenadiers, two Squadrons of sixteenth dragoons and artillery with the Chief-Engineer, Commanding officer of Artillery, Quartermaster and Adjutant-General marched and took possession of the city of *PHILADELPHIA* at 10 the same morning amidst the acclamation of some thousands of the inhabitants mostly women and children. After the necessary guards were fixed, the Troops were posted as follows, the Hessian Grenadiers to the North of the city, the East [2nd] Battalion British Grenadiers [including the 42nd Gren. Co.] at the Bettering House, &c., fronting out from the centre of the city, and the 1st Battalion British Grenadiers at the Shipyard, to the South of the City, forming a semi-circle, and covering the whole, At the same the Engineers with working parties constructed 2 Batteries and marked out a 3d along the waters edge with 6 medium 12 Pounds and 4 Royal Howitzers to prevent the Enemy's fleet repairing up the River or annoying the city...

27th. At ½ past 8, wind at the West. Two of the Rebel Frigates and 5 row Gallies came up with the Tide with orders to lay as close to the City as possible, and cannonade it in order to drive the King's Troops out. Fortunately the 2 lower Batteries were just completed as they approached us within cannon shot, when we opened upon them and the artillery being extremely well directed their best Frigate the [32-gun *USS*] Delaware which got somewhat aground, stuck to us and one of the Gallies having her foremast carried away run ashore at New Jersey directly opposite to our Batteries. The other Frigate and 4 Gallies in great haste put about and went back to the Fort. This Frigate has 24 Twelve pounders, and 6 Nine pounders with 150 men...

28th. Sunday. As cold as in the beginning of November. Wind at N. E. and fresh. Lt. Colonel [Hon. Henry] Monkton [2nd Brit. Gren. Bn. with the 42nd Gren. Co.] and a detachment of 600 Grenadiers crossed the Schuylkill Ferry to escort some sailors sent by the [44-gun *HMS*] Roebuck to man the rebel Frigate...

29th. Wind at N. E. and very cold. The detachment of Grenadiers returned from towards Chester and escorted safe the seamen sent by Captain [Andrew Snape] Hammond of the Roebuck...

October 1st, Wednesday. Wind stiff to the North. Weather extremely pleasant. The 2nd Battalion Grenadiers returned but with little cattle...

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. 41-44.



Detail of "Bettering House - Philadelphia Almshouse," 1884 "From an Engraving executed about the year 1769"

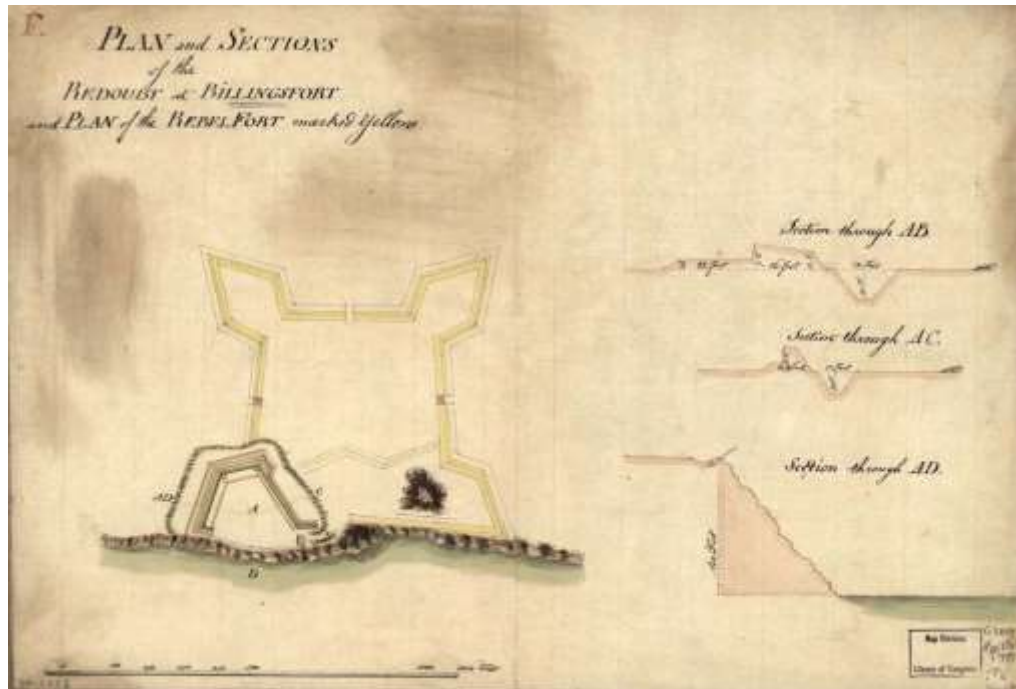
Picture Source and Note: Free Library of Philadelphia, Digital Collection from *History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884*, Vol. 2, J. T. Scharf & T. Westcott, (Philadelphia) 1884, p. 1451. The House was located between Spruce and Pine and 10th and 11th Sts.

Excerpt of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, Acting Commander, 42nd Grenadier Company, Records Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Taking of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sept. 26, 1777

Friday 26th. Sept^r. The British & Hessian Gren^{rs}. w^t. Baggage and Guns two Squadrons of Dragoons 6 medium 12^s. [12 pounds] & 4 Howitzers march'd about 9 o'clock under the command of L^t. Gen^l. Earl Cornwallis to Philad^a. the Q^r. M^r. Gen^l. [Sir William Erskine] & a D^y [Deputy] the Commiss^y. Gen^l. [Daniel Wier] a Dep^y. attend this Corps – The troops march'd in about noon. the Streets crowded with Inhabitants who seem to rejoice on the occasion, tho' by all accounts many of them were publicly on the other side before our arrival, – The Congress went off the day before yesterday in great haste to Trenton & that way; the Rebels busy these two or three days past in removing everything they could over to the Jersey, whether Public Stores or Torry [Loyalist] property.

The 1st Batⁿ. Gr^{rs}. Canton'd at the south end of the Town with some of the 12^s. & howitzers – The 2^d. Bⁿ. [with the 42nd Grenadier Co.] & Hessian Gren^{rs}. Lodged in the Bettering House...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry Sept. 26, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 138.



"Plan and sections of the redoubt at Billingsfort and plan of the rebel fort marked yellow," 1777

Picture Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling's Capture of Billingsport, New Jersey, Sept. 29 – Oct. 6, 1777

Excerpts of Letter No. 68 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing the Capture of Billingsport, New Jersey by Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, Commanding the 10th, 42nd and 71st Regiments, New Jersey, Sept. 29- Oct. 4, 1777

N^o 68

Head Quarters Germantown 10th October 1777

My Lord...

Brigadier-General [Samuel] Cleaveland, who attended the Batteries in Person, seeing the effect of the Battalion Guns upon the Delaware, turned the direction of his Fire to the smaller Frigate and armed Vessels, which forced all of them, excepting a Schooner that was disabled and driven on Shore, to return to their former Situation under the Protection of the Fort where there were two floating Batteries in the Manner of Hulks of considerable Strength, with three Ranges of sunken Machines which they term Chevaux de Frize to obstruct the Passage of the River, the lowest Row being three miles below the Fort.

The Enemy had a Redoubt upon the Jersey Shore at a place called Billings Point with heavy Guns in it to prevent these Machines from being weighed up.

Upon the Representation of Captain [Andrew Snape] Hammond, commanding [44-gun] His Majesty's Ship Roebuck, who was lying off of Chester with some other Ships of War, that the Possession of Billings Point would give him the lower Chevaux de Frize, the 10th and 42^d Regiments were detached on the 29th under the command of Lieut^t Colonel [Thomas] Stirling; This Detachment, crossing the River next Day from Chester, took Possession on the 1st of October of the Enemy's Works at the Point, which three hundred Men posted there, evacuated after Spiking the Guns and burning the Barracks. Lieutenant Colonel Stirling pursued them about two Miles, but to little Purpose as they retired

with the utmost Precipitation – Captain Hammond immediately opened the Navigation of that Place by removing a part of the Chevaux de Frize.

On the 3^d the [23rd] Regiment of Royal Welch Fuziliers was detached to Philadelphia with Orders to proceed next Day to Chester, where they were to be joined by the 10th and 42^d Regiments on their return from Jersey, and to form an Escort for a Convoy of Provisions to the Army...

With most perfect Respect I have the Honor to be,
Your Lordship's most faithful and obedient Servant
W. Howe

The Right Honorable Lord George Germain
&c^a &c^a &c^a

Source: *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, pp. 509-530 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO 5/94, ff. 318-333.



Detail showing the Middle Ferry from "A survey of the city of Philadelphia and its environs shewing the several works constructed by His Majesty's troops, under the command of Sir William Howe, since their possession of that city 26th. September 1777, comprehending likewise the attacks against Fort Mifflin on Mud Island, and until it's reduction, 16th November 1777," by Pierre Nicole and John Montrésor

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

General Order for Lt. Col. Stirling's Detachment of the 10th and 42nd Regiments (and later the 71st Highland Regt.) to March to Cross the Delaware River and Capture Billingsport; Germantown, Pennsylvania, Sept. 29, 1777

Head Quarters German Town Camp 29th Sept. 1777...

After Orders, 2 o'Clock.

The 10th and 42^d Regiments to March this afternoon at 4 o'Clock to the Middle Ferry on the Schuylkill.

The 42^d to take with them the 2 Six pounders from the 3^d. Brigade.

Source and Note: "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. With this order, Lt.

Col. Thomas Stirling, 42nd Regt., took command of three regiments to attack and seize the small Rebel fort at Billingsport (also Billingsfort), New Jersey. This fort guarded obstacles placed in the Delaware River to prevent British shipping from reaching Philadelphia. Stirling and his detachment seized the fort on Oct. 2, 1777 and returned to the army on Oct. 6, 1777. The 71st Highlanders, who had been at Wilmington came down river on the warships assigned to ferry Stirling's force across the Delaware River.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, Acting Commander, 42nd Grenadier Company,
Records 2nd Grenadier Battalion Participation in Beginning of Expedition to Take Billingsport,
New Jersey, Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 1777**

Monday 29th...The 42^d. & 10th. Reg^{ts}. came down to Schuylkill ferry...

Thursday 30th. Sept^r. The 10th. & 42^d. Reg^{ts}. cross'd the Schuylkill & march'd to Chester where they Embark'd – our [2nd Grenadier] Battⁿ. cross'd likewise at the middle ferry & march'd as far as Darby from whence a detachm^t. of 2 comp^{ys}. went on about 3 miles further & met the wagons that carried the baggage of the 10th. & 42^d. we likewise cover'd a Commissary's party collecting Cattle, stayed on the heights above Darby all night, and return'd to the Bettering House by breakfast time next day, – came by the lower ferry...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries Sept. 29-30, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 139.

**Hessian Capt. Friedrich von Muenchhausen's Account of the Capture of Billingsport, New Jersey,
Sept. 30 – Oct. 6, 1777**

September 30... The 42nd regiment of Scots and the 10th regiment of English under [Lt.] Colonel [Thomas] Stirling were detached late last night...

October 3. Last night we heard the following news. The 42nd regiment of Highland Scots and the 10th English regiment, both under Colonel Stirling, which were detached from camp on the 30th of September, went down to Chester where they were taken aboard our five frigates that [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe had sent in advance and, which are under the command of sea Captain [Andrew Snape] Hamond of the [44-gun *HMS*] Roebuck. Here they found the 71st regiment of Scots, which, under the command of the Hessian Colonel [Johann] von Loos, had been at Wilmington [Delaware, 15 miles SW of Chester] and had come up from there with the frigates.

These three regiments, which constitute six battalions, landed under cover of the frigates near Billingsport at noon yesterday, and took the battery there without suffering any losses. The rebels, 300 strong, ran away after some small arms fire on their side and some cannon shots from our side. They left behind in the fort, nine spiked heavy iron cannon...

October 6. On the evening the 42nd regiment of Scots and the 10th regiment returned from Billingsport. The 71st regiment of Scots went to Wilmington...

Source and Note: *At General Howe's Side 1776-1778, The diary of General William Howe's aide de camp, Captain Friedrich von Muenchhausen*, Trans. and Ed. Ernst Kipping and Samuel Smith, Philip Freneau Press, Monmouth Beach (N. J.), 1974, pp. 38-39. The "six battalions" were the 10th Regt., 1st and 2nd Battalions, 42nd Regt, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 71st Highland Regt. (Fraser's).

**Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe's Account of Taking of Billingsport, New Jersey,
Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 1777**

Admiralty-Office, December 1, 1777

Copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Lord Viscount Howe to Mr. Stephens. Dated on board his Majesty's ship Eagle, in the River Delaware, October 25, 1777...

The general [Sir William Howe] was in possession of Philadelphia, and a [Rebel] frigate of 32 guns named the Delaware, attempted to be passed above the town, had been taken by the troops which were first posted there.

Captain [Andrew Snape] Hammond (who was returned here in the [44-gun *HMS*] Roebuck) had moved up the river with the [32-gun *HMS*] Pearl, [20-gun *HMS*] Camilla, and [28-gun *HMS*] Liverpool, as the army advanced.

When I came to this station, he was lying with those frigates off of Billingsport, where the rebels had nearly completed a very extensive work for defending the approach to the first double line of sunk frames or chevaux de frize, which crossed the navigable channel in that part of the river.

The general having a few days before appointed a strong corps of infantry [including the 10th, 42nd and 71st Regts.] to dislodge the enemy from that post, they abandoned it at his [Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling's] approach. The front to the river had thereupon been destroyed, and the troops that evening withdrawn.

A trial had in the mean time been begun for opening a passage through that first obstruction, which the enemy, with their fire rafts, galleys, and other armed craft, repeatedly endeavoured to prevent under cover of the night, but without any material injury to the frigates: And a sufficient channel was at length (though not without much difficulty) made for the larger ships, by the advanced squadron; the conduct of which was on every occasion to be much approved.

Source: *London Evening Post*, Dec. 2, 1777, pp. 3-4.

Excerpts of Log of 44-gun *HMS Roebuck* Supporting Lt. Col. Stirling's Capture of Billingsport, New Jersey, Sept. 29 – Oct. 4, 1777

Week days	Month days...	Remarks & ^{ca}
Sep ^r Monday 29 that 9 Weigh'd & made sail at 11 Anchor'd of Chester in 5 Fat ^m at 12 made the Sig ^{ll} for Boats to Embark troops.
Tuesd ^y 30 that 1 Boats Employ'd in Embarking Troops [10 th and 42 nd Regts.] from Chester on Board at 7 – ½ P ^t a Rafft of the Enemys Fire Stages Appear'd dropping towards us with the Tide & Guarded by the Galley's & ^{ca} . at 8 made the Sig ^{ll} . to weigh & not being able to purchase the Anchor cut the cable and Dropt down at 9 Anchor'd about a mile below Chester Am Employ'd in Landing Troops on the Jersey Shore
Oct ^r Wedns ^y 1 stemploy'd as above in Landing troops Am at 9 weigh'd and made sail at 10 Anchor'd of Chester in 5 Fath ^m ¼ Mile from Town
Thurs ^y 2 ndMod ⁱ [moderate] & foggy PM at 1 the Enemy's Galleys & ^{ca} after firing some time at Billingsfort retired farther up the River Am at 9 Made the Sig ^{ll} for all Lieu ^{ts} & at 10 the Sig ^{ll} to weigh Weigh'd with the [28-gun <i>HMS</i>] Liverpool, [20-gun <i>HMS</i>] Camella & [32-gun <i>HMS</i>] Pearl at 12 Made the Sig ^{ll} and anchor'd in 5 Fat ^m Billingsfort Earth 2 Miles upper end of great Tinicum Isl ^d NW by N ½ Mile.
Friday 3 rdEmploy'd moving the Cheaveaux de Frize.
Saturd ^y 4 th PM at 4 two Galleys & some gun boats came thro' the Creeks within Hog Isl ^d & fir'd upon the Tenders & Boats at a great Distance at 8 Sent the Boats to embark Troops from Billingsfort Upon Tinicum Isl ^d spit & made the Sig ^{ll} to anc ^r at 9 employ'd in Landing Troops at Chester at 11 got a warp to the [20-gun <i>HMS</i>] Camelia & hove off Billingsport East 1 Mile.

Source: TNA, *Admiralty: Captain's Log, Roebuck, July 14, 1777-Dec. 31, 1778* at ADM 51/4311, film No. 223413.

Excerpts of Log of Capt. Charles Phillips, 20-gun *HMS Camilla*, Supporting Lt. Col. Stirling's Capture of Billingsport, New Jersey, Sept. 30, 1777

Sept^r 1777
Tuesday 30th Chester Town NEBN 1 Mile
at 8[AM] weighed and Came to sail up the River at 11 a Signal to Anchor, Anchor'd with the B^t B^r [Best Bower anchor] at do a Signal for all Boats in the fleet to Land at Chester to Embark the troops, Rebel fleet Bearing ENE ½ E 4 Leagues – Light Airs and Calm with Clear weather, at 6 PM Received on Board 150 Troops, ½ Past 7 the Rebels Towed Down a fire Raft, the Ships weighed, the [44-gun *HMS*] Roebuck and [28-gun *HMS*] Liverpool fired several broad Sides at the Boats and Gallies that Came down Towing the Raft, the Gallies fired Several Guns at our Ships –

Source: *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 9, Ed. William James Morgan, Naval Historical Center, Washington, 1986, p. 983 from TNA, ADM 51/147.

Excerpts of Log of Capt. Henry Bellew, 28-gun *HMS Liverpool*, Supporting Lt. Col. Stirling's Capture of Billingsport, New Jersey, Sept. 30, 1777

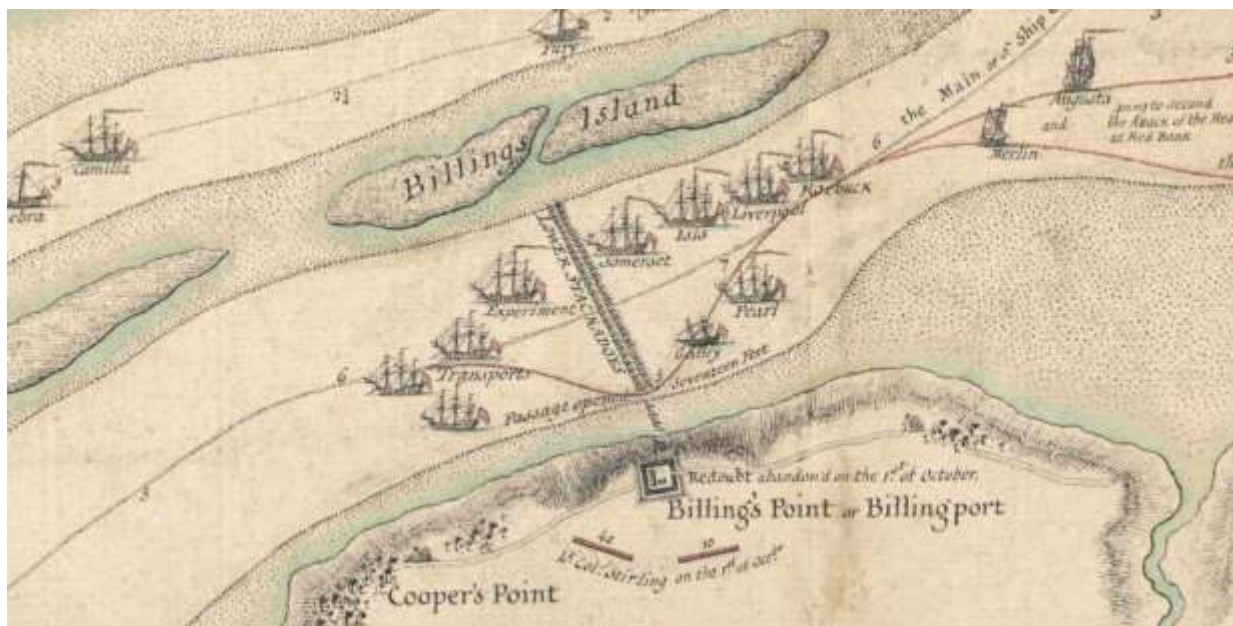
Septem ^r 1777 Tuesd ^y 30 th	In the River Delaware at 8 AM weigh'd as P ^r Sign ^l in Co with the [44-gun <i>HMS</i>] Roebuck, [28-gun <i>HMS</i>] Solebay, [20-gun <i>HMS</i>] Camilla, & [32-gun <i>HMS</i>] Pearl, emp ^d working up the River at 11 D ^o brot too off Chester in 5 ½ f ^m boats emp ^d embarking Troops [10 th and 42 nd Regts.] Light Airs & Calms, at 7 PM the Rebels sent a Large Fire Raft down the River, to burn us, & from their Gallies fir'd Several Shot at us weigh'd & Dropt a Little lower Down, & fir'd a number of Shot at their Gallies &c
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Source: *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 9, Ed. William James Morgan, Naval Historical Center, Washington, 1986, p. 983 from TNA, ADM 51/548.

Excerpt of Journal of 28-gun *HMS Solebay*, Capt. Thomas Symonds, Giving Account of Ferrying 42nd Regt. Across Delaware River, Oct. 1, 1777

October 1777 Wed ^y 1 st	Do: [At Single Anchor in Delaware River] Am Weighd & took in our B ^t . B ^r . [Best Bower or anchor] again, Emp ^d . landing the Troops [10 th , 42 nd and 71 st Regts.], on the Jersey side. At Single Anchor 2 miles below Chester – Light Airs & f ^r . Emp ^d . land ^s Troops on the Jerseys, at 4 in dropping down to join the Squadron, got aground, started several Tons of Water, & carried out the stream Anchor, & Cable & Hawsers, at 10 hove off & let go B ^t . B ^r . in 4 f ^m .
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Source and Note: TNA, *Admiralty: Captains' Logs Including Solebay (1775 Aug 22-1780 Mar 3)* at ADM 51/909 in *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 10, p.12. These troops, composed of men from the 10th and 42nd Regiments, embarked at Chester, Pa., on board *Solebay*, *Roebuck*, *Pearl*, *Liverpool*, and *Camilla* on 30 Sept. They were ferried ashore the following day at Paul's Point at the mouth of Raccoon Creek. *HMS Solebay* carried Capt Erskine's and Brevet-Maj. McPherson's companies. *HMS Pearl* carried Capt. Smith's and Capt. Grant's companies and some of the 10th and 71st Regts. *HMS Camilla* carried troops of the 10 Regt.



Detail showing river obstacles from "The course of Delaware River from Philadelphia to Chester, exhibiting the several works erected by the rebels to defend its passage, with the attacks made upon them by His Majesty's land & sea forces," 1777, by William Faden

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

Pvt. Thomas Sullivan's Account of Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling's Capture of Billingsport, New Jersey Sept. 29 – Oct. 3 1777

Sep^r. 29th. Upon representation of Capt. [Andrew Snape] Hammond, commanding [44-gun] his Majesty's Ship Roebuck, who was lying off Chester... that the Possession of Billing's Point would give him the lower chevaux de frize, the 10th. and 42^d. Regiments were detached, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Stirling [42nd Regt.]. This detachment crossing the [Delaware] river next day from Chester, took Possession on the 1st. of October of the Enemy's Works at the Point, which 300 men posted there evacuated, after spiking the Guns and burning the Barracks. Lieu^t. Colonel Stirling pursued them about two miles, but to no purpose, as they retired with the utmost Precipitation; he destroyed the front to the River of the Works.

Captain Hammond immediately made a trial to open a passage through the first obstruction...

October. 3^d. The [23rd] Regiment of Royal Welsh Fusileers was detached to Philadelphia with orders to proceed the next day to Chester where they were to be joined by the 10th. and 42^d. Regiments on their return from jersey, and to form an escort for a Convoy of Provisions to the Army.

Source and Notes: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, p. 138. Pvt. Sullivan was in the 49th Regt. in the 1st Brigade. Frisia is a coastal region of Netherlands. In the middle ages the Frisians developed a portable obstacle consisting of a framework of pointed limbs to stop enemy cavalry. The frameworks were called "Frisian Horses," or "chevaux de frize" in French. A sunken version of the frameworks were effective as river obstacles to shipping. The 10th and 42nd regts were joined by the 71st Regts. which was on the warships from Wilmington.



Detail of Portrait of Capt. Andrew Snape Hamond

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Extract of Autobiography of Adm. Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, 44-gun *HMS Roebuck*, Claims Credit for Command of Capture of Billingsport, New Jersey, Sept. 29 – Oct 3, 1777

... [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe & his Fleet soon after arrived in the Delaware, but not before I had taken the Fort of Billingsport, with the assistance of the 42^d Reg^t which upon my application [Gen.] S^r W^m Howe sent to act under my orders.

Source: "Autobiography of Sir Andrew S. Hamond," as shown in App. D, *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 10, p. 1189.

Extract of Rebel Commander's Account of Loss of Fort Billingsport to Lt. Col. Stirling's Detachment of 10th, 42nd and 71st Regiments, New Jersey, Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 1777

Sir,

... the Enemy were advancing to the Fort, on which I ordered the People into Boats and sent most of them to Fort Island [Mud Island], spiked up all the Cannon we could not carry off, and set the Barracks & Bake House on Fire, but the Dwelling House some how escaped – We took off all the Ammunition – I stayed myself with Cap^t [Isaiah] Robeson of the [14-gun] Continental Brig [*Andrew Doria*] on shore for some more certain advice; about 12 o'clock the Enemy come on so close thro' a corn field that they were not more than 30 yards from us, and began to fire on us before our Boat put off the shore, we returned the fire with 6 muskets we had on board, and a Guard Boat we had with us also fired on them, and all got off, one man only being wounded... The Enemy ships are now coming up to Billingsport.

Your most H^{ble} Serv^t,

W^m. Bradford

Fort Mifflin, Oct^r 3^d, 1777.

On public Service.

To His Excellency Tho's Wharton, Esq^r, President
of the State of Pennsylvania at Lancaster."

Source and Note: *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st ser., 5: 644-45 in *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 10, p. 29. The rebel Brig *Andrew Doria* had a previous interaction with the Highlanders, having captured the transport *Oxford* with Capt. Smith's company while sailing to America in May 1776.



Detail of Portrait of General Samuel Smith, 1817 by Rembrandt Peale

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Maryland Historical Society*

Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Lt. Col. Samuel Smith, 4th Maryland Regt., to Gen. George Washington Reporting the Landing of the 10th, 42nd and 71st Highland Regiments, Billingsport, New Jersey, Oct. 1, 1777

Sir

Fort Mifflin, 2nd October 1777

Col^o [Lewis] Nichola with the advice of the Officers in Garrison withdrew his Invalids before the Arrival of your Excellency's Letter so that the Command remains with me. The Enemy yesterday landed a number of men (below Billingsport and encamp't last night within nine miles) some say 400. others 600. My opinion is the first as we had [incorrect] intelligence of that number having march'd from Willmington for that purpose. There is now about 250 militia in that Garrison, It was the Opinion of the Officers Yesterday not to give up that post till the last extremity, to remove the heavy Ammunition and if oblig'd to leave the fort (which from the disposition I believe will be case) to spike up the Cannon and retreat by Water which will be safe & easy. Our Reason for not dismantling Billingsport was the great discontent in the State fleet who are already much scar'd...

I have the Honor to be Your Excellencys Most Obe^d. Serv^t
Sam Smith

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

Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Lt. Col. Samuel Smith, 4th Maryland Regt., to Gen. George Washington Reporting that the 10th, 42nd and 71st Highland Regiments had taken the Fort, Billingsport, New Jersey, Oct. 1, 1777

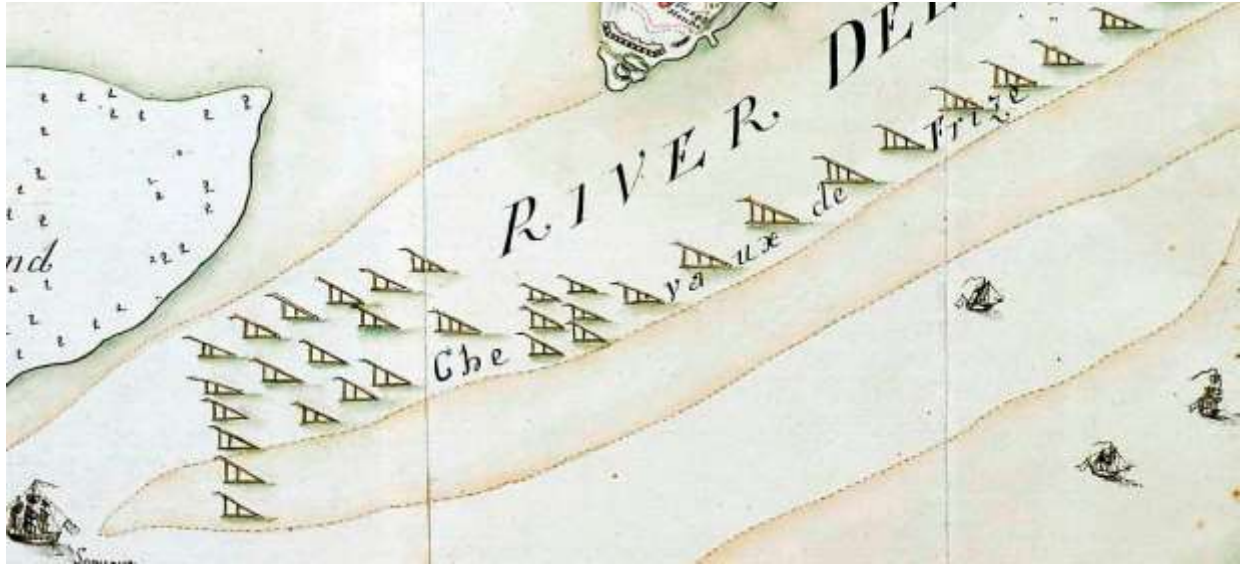
Fort Mifflin Oct^r 3rd 1777.

Sir

I sent yesterday an express to your Excellency with an account of the enemies having landed near Billingsport, which place they now have possession of, Our Militia evacuated it after bringing off all the Stores and Spikeing up the Cannon. This event I foresaw struck the fleet with much panic last night five Officers and 18 Men deserted and a great part of the rest only want for Opportunity. The Enemy have not yet taken possession of Red Bank...I have the Honor to be

Your Excellencys Most Ob^t. Serv^t.
Sam Smith

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



Cheveaux de Frise River Obstacles Similar to Ones at Billingsport shown in Hessian Map the Delaware River near Philadelphia

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

**Letter from Rebel Lt. Col. Samuel Smith, 4th Maryland Regt., to Gen. George Washington
Reporting the Activities of the 10th, 42nd and 71st Highland Regiments, Billingsport,
New Jersey, Oct. 3, 1777**

Fort Mifflin October 3rd 1777.

Sir

This will be delivered you by Maj^r Boyce who has reconnoitered the enemy now in Billingsport and reports their strength to be 1500 men at least 1300 of whom went from Phil^a. he will inform you of particulars. This evening the enemy have been reconnoitering us from the Meadows, what they intend I know not. Certainly their force scatter^d in this manner must weaken them much. Their Shipping have not yet come as far as the Chevue de freize. they are busy throwing up works at Billingsport to annoy our fleet shou^d they attempt to fire on the Ships. The Panic still increases in the fleet, every instant new fears are started and false stories told of the enemies erecting Batteries on this that or the other spot. I have the Honor to be

Your Excellencys Most Obediant Serv^t

Sam Smith

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

Captain's Log of 32-gun *HMS Pearl*, Capt. John Linzee, Describing Embarkation of 10th and 42nd Regiments for Return to the Main Army, Billingsport, New Jersey, Oct. 4, 1777

October
Saturday 4

Billingsfort. East 3 or 4 Miles.

At 9 AM our Sig^r. was made for a Petty Officer. At 10 all the Masters & Pilots in the Squadron were sent with two Boats from each Ship to remove the Chiveaux de frize, which they did about a ½ a Cable's length in shore & broke our Hawsers in purchasing them.

d^o.

Mod^{te}: & fineW^r: At 3 PM two of the Enemies Galleys came down and lay in shore & fired several Guns at the [HM Brig Tender] Dunmore Brigg. At 6 all the Boats in the Squadron were employ^d embarking part of the 10th and 42^d Reg^{ts}. at 8 heard the report of several Guns & saw a number of lights up the River.

Source: *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 10, Ed. Michael J. Crawford, Naval Historical Center, Washington, D. C., 1996, p. 39 from TNA, ADM 51/675.

Master's Journal of 44-gun *HMS Roebuck*, Capt. Andrew S. Hamond, Describing Embarkation of 10th and 42nd Regiments for Return to the Main Army, Billingsport, New Jersey, Oct. 4, 1777

Oct^r 1777 Tinnicum Isl^d. NWbN ½ a Mile
 Saturday 4 AM sent the Boats to Assist in moving the Cheveaux du freeze. fine weather –
 D^o.
 Light Breezes and fair weather PM two Galleys and some Gun Boats came through the
 Creek within Hog Island, and fired upon the Tenders and Boats at a great distance at 8
 sent the Boats to Embark Troop from Billingsp^t.

Source: *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 10, Ed. Michael J. Crawford, Naval Historical Center, Washington, D. C., 1996, pp. 39-40 from TNA, ADM 52/1964.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, Acting Commander, 42nd Grenadier Company,
Records the Return of the 42nd Highlanders, Chester and Germantown, Pennsylvania,
Oct. 5 – 6, 1777**

Sunday 5th. Oct^r. the 10th. & 42^d. return'd over from the Jersey side leaving a Detachm^t. of between 2 & 300 of the 71st at Billingsport...

Monday 6th. the 10th. & 42^d. came up to Chester with a number of waggons loaded with stores & provisions, & proceeded to German Town...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries Oct. 5-6, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 141.

**Engineer Capt. John Montresor's Account of the Return of the 42nd Regt. from Billingsport;
Germantown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 6, 1777**

6th. Weather very warm. Wind S. W... This night returned the escort with Provisions and Artillery from Chester, and the 42^d and 10th Regt...

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. 45-46.

Journal of Capt. Archibald Robertson, Dep. Quarter Master Gen., Notes the Return of the 42nd Regt. to the British Camp, Germantown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 6 – 19, 1777

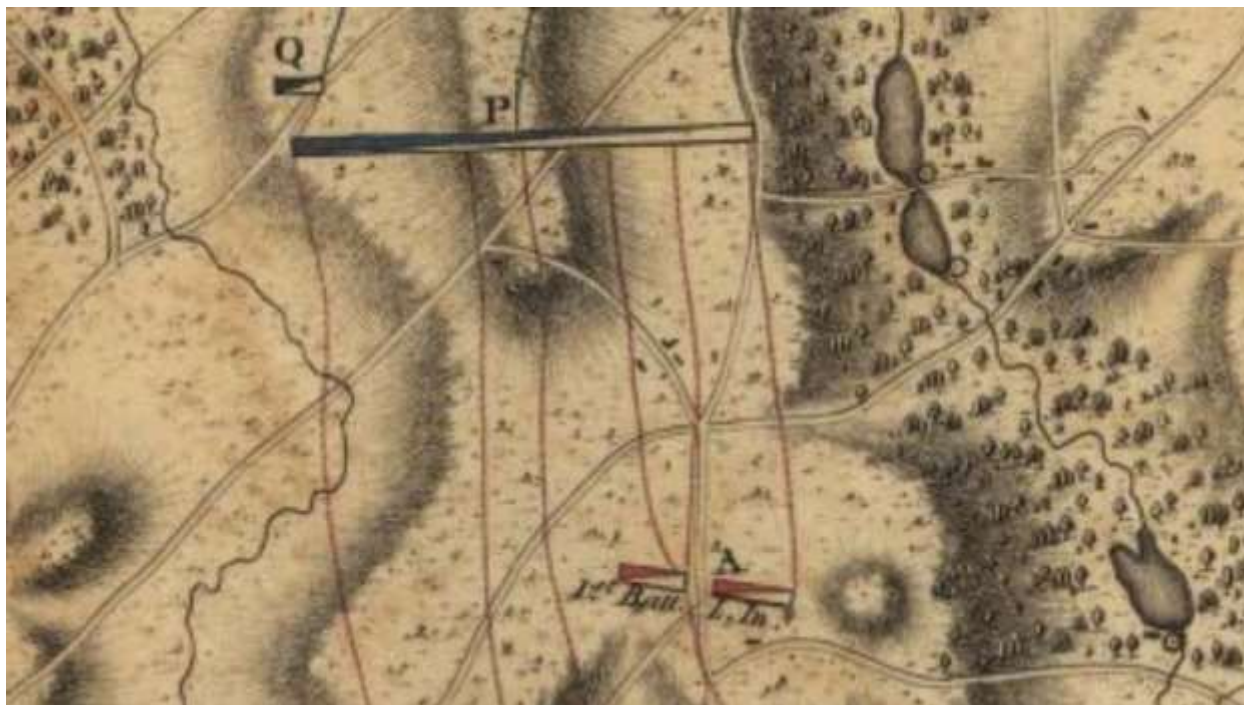
6th We had an Escort with Provisions from Chester. The 42^d and 10th Regiments return'd to Camp with it...

7th the 42^d mov'd from the Old Grenadier Encampment in the rear of the 4th Brigade...

18th The Army ordered to send their Straw within the Redouts at Town...

19th Quitted the Camp at German Town and Encamp'd within the Redouts at Philadelphia.

Source: Archibald Robertson, *Lieutenant-General Royal Engineers, His Diaries and Sketches in America*, Ed. Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, New York, 1930, pp. 152-153.



"Sketch of surprize of Germantown, 4 October 1777," Showing position of 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion

Picture Source: *Atlas of the battles of the American Revolution, together with maps shewing the routes of the British and American Armies, plans of cities, surveys of harbors, &c.*, Lib. of Congress, Geography and Map Div.

42nd Regt. Lt. Infantry and Grenadier Companies at the Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 4, 1777

**Excerpts of Letter No. 68 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to
Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing the Battle of
Germantown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 4, 1777**

N^o 68

Head Quarters Germantown 10th October 1777

My Lord...

The Enemy, having received a Reinforcement of fifteen hundred Men from Peeks Kill, one thousand from Virginia, and presuming upon the [British] Army being much weakened by the Detachments to Philadelphia and Jersey, thought it a favorable time for them to risk an Action. They accordingly marched at six o'clock in the Evening of the 3rd from their Camp near Skippack Creek about sixteen Miles from German Town.

This Village forms one continued Street for two Miles which the Line of Encampment, in the Position the Army then occupied, crossed at Right Angles near a Mile from the Head of it, where the 2^d Battalion of Light Infantry and the 40th Regiment were posted.

In this Line of Encampment [Hessian] Lieutenant General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen, Major Generals [Johann Daniel] Stirn and [Charles] Grey, Brigad^r General [James] Agnew, with seven British and three Hessian Battalions, the mounted and dismounted Chasseurs, were upon the Left of the Village extending to the Schuylkill, the Chasseurs being in front.

Major General [James] Grant and Brigadier General [Edward] Mathew, with the Corps of Guards, six Battalions of British and two Squadrons of Dragoons, were upon the Right; the 1st Battalion

of Light Infantry [including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.] and the Queen's American Rangers were advanced on the Front of this Wing.

At three o'clock in the Morning of the 4th the Patrols discovered the Enemy's Approach, and upon the Communication of this Intelligence the Army was immediately ordered under Arms.

Soon after the Break of Day the Enemy began their Attack upon the 2nd Light Infantry, which they sustained for a considerable Time, supported by the 40th Regiment; but at length being overpowered by increasing numbers the Light Infantry and a Part of the 40th retired into the Village, when Lieutenant-Colonel [Thomas] Musgrave, with six Companies of the latter Corps, threw himself into a large Stone [Chew] House in the Face of the Enemy, which though surrounded by a Brigade and attacked by four Pieces of Cannon he most gallantly defended until Major General Grey at the head of three Battalions of the 3rd Brigade, turning his Front to the Village, and Brigadier General Agnew, who covered Major General Grey's Left with the 4th Brigade, by a vigorous Attack repulsed the Enemy that had penetrated into the upper part of the Village which was done with great Slaughter – The 5th and 55th Regiments, from the Right engaging them at the same Time on the other side of the Village, completed the Defeat of the Enemy in this Quarter.

The Regiments of Du Corps and Donop being formed to support the Left of the 4th Brigade, and one Battalion of Hessian Grenadiers in the Rear of the Chasseurs, were not engaged; the precipitate Flight of the Enemy preventing the two first Corps from entering into Action, and the success of the Chasseurs in repelling all efforts against them on that Side, did not call for the Support of the latter.

The 1st Light Infantry and Pickets of the Line in front of the Right Wing were engaged soon after the Attack began upon the Head of the Village; the Pickets were obliged to fall back but the Light Infantry, being well supported by the 4th Regiment, sustained the Enemy's Attack with such determined bravery that they could not make the least Impression on them.

Two Columns of the Enemy were opposite to the Guards, 27th and 28th Regiments, who formed the Right of the Line. Major General Grant who was upon the Right moved up the 49th Regiment with four Pieces of Cannon to the Left of the 4th Regiment, about the time Major General Grey had forced the Enemy in the Village, and then advancing with the Right Wing the Enemy's Left gave Way and was pursued through a strong Country between four and five Miles.

[Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, being early apprized at Philadelphia of the Enemy's Approach, put in motion the two Battalions of British and one of Hessian Grenadiers with a Squadron of Dragoons; and his Lordship getting to German Town just as the Enemy had been forced out of the Village, he joined Major General Grey, when placing himself at the Head of the Troops he followed the Enemy eight Miles on the Skippack Road, but such was the Expedition with which they fled, he was not able to overtake them.

The Grenadiers from Philadelphia, who full of Ardor had run most of the Way to German Town, could not arrive in Time to join in the Action.

The Country in general was so strongly enclosed and covered with Wood that the Dragoons had not any opening to charge, excepting a small Party on the Right which behaved most gallantly.

The Enemy retired near Miles by several Roads to Perkiomy Creek and are now encamped upon Skippack Creek about eighteen Miles distant from hence .

They saved all their Cannon by withdrawing them early in the day.

By the best Accounts their Loss was between two and three hundred killed, about six hundred wounded, and upwards of four hundred taken. Among the Killed was [Brig.] General [Francis] Nash with many other Officers of all Ranks, and fifty-four Officers among the Prisoners.

Since the Battle of Brandywine seventy-two of their Officers have been taken, exclusive of Ten belonging to the Delaware Frigate.

Your Lordship will see the Loss on the Part of the King's Army in Return N^o 3, and among the Killed will be found the Names of Brigadier General Agnew and Lieut^t Colonel [John] Bird of the 15th Regiment, both of whom are much to be lamented as Officers of Experience and approved Merit.

Lieutenant Colonel [William] Walcot of the 5th Regiment is among the Wounded, but I have the Satisfaction to report that he is now in a fair Way of Recovery though at first his Wound was thought Mortal. His Behaviour on this Occasion reflects upon him infinite Honor.

In these several Engagements, the Successes attending them are far better Vouchers than any Words can convey of the good Conduct of the General Officers and of the Bravery of the other Officers and Soldiers: The Fatigues of a March exceeding one hundred Miles supported with the utmost Cheerfulness by all Ranks, without Tents and with very little Baggage, will, I hope, be esteemed as convincing Proofs of the noble Spirit and Emulation prevailing in the Army to promote His Majesty's Service.

Major [Cornelius] Cuyler, my first Aid de Camp, will have the Honor to deliver my Dispatches, and I flatter myself is well informed to answer your Lordship's further Enquiries.

With most perfect Respect I have the Honor to be,

Your Lordship's most faithful and obedient Servant
W. Howe

The Right Honorable Lord George Germain
&c^a &c^a &c^a

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. 509-530 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO 5/94, ff. 318-333.



Detail of right flank from "A Sketch of the Battle of German. Tⁿ., 4th October 1777, where the rebels were repulsed," 1777 by John Montrésor

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

Description of Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie's 42nd Light Infantry Company in the Battle of Germantown by Capt. Charles Cochrane, 4th Lt. Infantry Company, 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Germantown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 4, 1777

Pennsylvania German Town 19th: October 1777...

We had remained Tollerable quiet in our rather dispersed Quarters in and about German Town untill the morning of the 4th: instant when [Rebel] Gen^l. [George] Washington having received a considerable reinforcement of men from Virginia, and joined by all the Militia he could assemble made a forced March the night of the 3^d. and was close upon us by the morning without our having had any good Intelligence of his motions; A most uncommon thick Fog favour'd their scheme and enabled them to get close upon our advance Posts ere we had any other intelligence, than the Attack being began; They

brought their whole Army against ours which was at that time from the variety of objects necessary to attend to extreamly scattered. Yet the spirited resistance made by the first Corps they met with Viz. the 2^d. Light Infantry and 40th. Reg^t. was such, as to stop their progress untill a small part of the Army came up. In short the whole Rebel force with 20 field pieces, each man fortified with a Gill of Rum ere he came on, and Billets in their hats where they would be Quarter'd in at Philadelphia were told that They would end the affair that Day and drive "us right out into the Delaware". Notwithstanding this the reception They met with from the two Batt^{ns}. of Light Infantry 4th. 5. 15 & 40th Reg^{ts}. who were principally engaged, and some few other Corps was so contrary to their expectation that we soon drove them at full Gallop nine miles back the Road they came, and they did not stop till they regained the place they had come from; for Marching and expedition I give them all possible merit and their Departments of Waggon and horses for Guns are so vastly well supply'd That it is hardly possible to catch them – a rather un common circumstance happening in this last attack of Theirs I Think is worth mentioning My Comp^y. and the 42^d. Light Comp^y. having in the pursuit of some of them to the right separated in the Fog from the rest of the [1st. Lt. Inf.] Battalion, were seeking for it when we observed a considerable Body which turned out to be the 9th Virginia Reg^t. in our Rear, and between us and our own Hutts. At first they were supposed to be our own people But on farther examination proved to be Rebels who had contrived to get round us. It occur'd to me that their intention was to come in from the appearance of some of them coming forwards I therefore called to them to throw down their Arms, But was soon undeceived by their beginning to fire. We made the best haste we could to them, drove them into and through our own Hutts & killed Co^l. Sayer Potter and most of them with our bayonets: It afterwards appeared that they had been before we fell in with them, in my Companys Wigwams & the 42^d. had taken out our Bread and divided it among themselves So certain they then were of carrying the Day – as to our present Situation I have nothing further to inform you, we have been very quiet since the 4th. The Navigation of the River is not as yet open as the upper Chevaux de frize is not raised, nor can it be untill we have taken Mud Island and destroyed or drove off the floating Battery & Gondolas that protect it – works are now preparing for that purpose opposite the Island; Their Vessels and Fort has kept up a heavy fire ever since with no great loss to us, whenever our Works are ready to begin with them we have such a superior skill in Artillery that It cannot stand out long, we are however at a loss for heavy Cannon as the Shipping is so far off. As far as the loss of the Rebels I refer you to the publick returns I can judge of it with little exactness only what came under my own eye – There loss in general must be greater than ours I am almost certain...

I beg my best Respects to all Friends at home & believe me to be

Your Affec^t and Obed^t: Humble Serv^t

Ch: Cochrane...

Source: National Library of Scotland, *Correspondence of Andrew Stuart, 1768-98*, at MS5375, ff. 35-42.



Right front of Cliveden (Benjamin Chew House) in Germantown, Philadelphia, 2011

Picture Source, Wikimedia Commons, from Djmaschek

Lt. Henry Stirke's Account of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, in the Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 4, 1777

Oct^r
4th

This morning at 6 O'Clock, we were attack'd at several different Quarters by y^e Rebel Army under Gen^l [George] Washington; the morning was so foggy that their Columns cou'd hardly be distinguished at Twenty paces distance, and did not clear up 'till between nine and Ten O'Clock. The Attack was made with some degree of Spirit, and lasted about four hours, before the Rebels begun to retreat, when we pursued them above Eight miles: Their loss was pretty Considerable, as they left numbers dead on y^e field. The 1st battⁿ of Light Infantry was entirely Surrounded, their Wigwams, & provision Waggon in possession of the Enemy, 'till they fought their way thro' and retook them. L^t Colonel [Thomas] Musgrove with some Companys of the 40th Reg^t. defended a large house [Cliveden, or Chew House] in Germantown, against a great Superiority of numb^{rs}, with Cannon, which forc'd open the doors, which were defended with great Bravery, and Slaughter to the Rebels, 'till they were drove entirely out of the Town, by the arrival of more Troops...

Source and Note: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 – 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, pp. 172-173. Lt. Stirke was assigned to the 10th Lt. Inf. Co.

Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of the Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 4, 1777

4th Some intimations had been received the 3^d of the designs of the Rebels to attack us, which were very little credited. In the morning of the 4th a Rebel flanker was taken prisoner by a sentry from a Light Infantry piquet. The patrols of the 1st Light Infantry fell in with a party of the Rebels, some men of which they took prisoners; they learnt from them that [Rebel Commander Gen. George] Washington's whole army had marched the preceding evening from the 19th mile-stone; that he was within a very small distance and was to begin his attack immediately. Whilst this intelligence was circulating, their first onset began upon the 2^d Light Infantry and 40th Regiment. These not only maintained themselves a great while, but drove the Rebels off repeatedly, till, from their unsupported position, fresh bodies of men appeared and pressed on both their flanks and rear. The [2nd] Light Infantry then fell back and the 40th

Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel [Thomas] Musgrave, threw themselves into a house from the avenues to which they had driven the Rebels. They here for upwards of an hour resisted the efforts of the Enemy, who in vain brought several pieces of cannon upon them and attempted to storm the house, until released by the 44th Regiment. The 1st Light Infantry [with Capt. Hon. George Mackenzie's 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.], who were on the right of the line, were attacked soon after, and the 4th Regiment, which was on their left and have moved forward from their Encampment, was engaged at the same time. In this quarter the Rebels did not gain ground upon the troops. The line now began to move in support of the advanced Corps, the Guards, 28th and 27th regiments were drawn towards the right of the 4th Regiment and 1st Light Infantry. The 37th and 15th Regiments were moved from the 4th and 3^d Brigade across German Town to the left of the 5th and 55th, which had marched forward inclining somewhat to the right, and by that means were formed to the left of the 4th Regiment and 1st Light Infantry, the Corps attacked. Thus the 1st and 2^d Brigades, consisting of only the 4th, 49th, 5th and 55th, and the 1st Light Infantry, supported on the right by the Guards * 28th and 27th Regiments and on the left by the 37th and 15th, formed the right wing and fell under the command of Major-General [James] Grant, and as far as from the irregularity of an action they could be considered as forming a line, their front was northeast and towards Abingdon. The 37th, 5th and 15th were the only Regiments engaged, and on this side the Enemy was repulsed and pursued a considerable distance. General Grant, finding it not possible to come up with them, left Abingdon to his right and marched his column to White-marsh Church, where he joined [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis's rear.

On the left and on the West side of German Town the 4th and 3^d Brigades and Hessians moved forward from their Encampment in a direction parallel with the Village. This as far as near the market-place, was occupied by the Rebels, who had pressed on upon the retreat of the 2^d Light Infantry, leaving the 40th Regiment besieged in the rear. The 4th Brigade received Orders by inclining to their right to enter German Town and drive the Enemy from it. From some misunderstanding, or from receiving some fire, they did not immediately go into the village, but halted on the skirts of it, and kept up a very heavy fire against a distant Column they had some intimation of in front. The 17th and 44th Regiments were therefore ordered to wheel to the right and drive out the Rebels. This was executed, the 44th crossing the village and moving up the skirts on the opposite side, and the 17th moving up the street. [Maj.] General [Charles] Grey headed the 44th Regiment. Lord Cornwallis came up as the Rebels had retired, and took the command of the left wing, with which he pursued as far as Whitmarsh Church, leaving a Corps at Chestnut Hill. At Chestnut Hill the 2^d Battalion Grenadiers [including the 42nd Grenadier Co., commanded by Lt. John Peebles], who had marched from Philadelphia, joined Lord Cornwallis. The 2^d Light Infantry, having received the submissions of about 150 men, who found themselves cut off by the 44th crossing German Town above them, marched forward at some distance on the right of the 44th, and fell in with the left Column near Whitmarsh Church. The Grenadiers were pushed across Wisahicon Creek, but received orders to retire again and bring up the rear of the Column, which was marched back to German Town and encamped on the same ground it had left. The Rebels were each equipped with a piece of white paper in his hat, which made us imagine they meant a surprise by night. Their disposition for the attack is not easily traced; it seems to have been too complicated; nor do their Troops appear to have been sufficiently animated for the execution of it in every part, altho' the power of strong liquor had been employed. Several, not only of their Soldiers but Officers, were intoxicated when they fell into our hands. Besides the attacks above mentioned a column showed themselves to the Jägers, and another came within sight of the Guards, but did not wait to be engaged. We supposed the Rebels to have lost between 200 and 300 killed, with the proportion of wounded. On our side about 300 were killed or wounded. Amongst the killed were Brigadier-General [James] Agnew and Lieutenant-Colonel [John] Bird of the 15th Regiment. We took 380 prisoners, whereof 50 were Officers. It has been said since that the 2^d Light Infantry and 40th Regiment had been left unsupported through some mistake, for that the 55th and 5th Regiments had been ordered to move towards them and again unfortunately countermanded and drawn off to the right.

*These regiments having been detached from their brigades, as likewise the 40th, 10th and 42^d are not considered when the brigades are mentioned. The 23^d regiment was also detached.

Source and Note *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, pp. 54-56. The 10th, 42nd and 71st Regts. under the command of Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42nd Regt. had been detached to take the Rebel post at Billingsport, New Jersey, in order to destroy the Cheveaux de Frise river obstacles blocking the British Fleet from reaching Philadelphia.

Pvt. Thomas Sullivan's Account of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, in the Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 4, 1777

...the Picquet of the 1st battallion of Light Infantry in front of the right wing, were engaged soon after the [rebel] attack began upon the Head of the Village; the Picquets after a most resolute attack against the left wing of the Enemy, were obliged to fall back, but the 1st. Battallion of Light Infantry engaged them afresh, being supported by the 4th. Regiment, and sustained the Enemy's attack with such determined bravery, that they could not make the least impression upon them; the Enemy's Numbers being still encreasing, they inclined to the Right and came close to our encampment, after the 1st. Battallion of Light Infantry and 4th. Regiment's forcing them through their Line...

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, p. 138. Pvt. Sullivan was in the 49th Regt. in the 1st Brigade.

Excerpt of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, Acting Commander, 42nd Grenadier Company, Records the March of the Grenadiers to Reinforce Germantown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 4, 1777

Saturday 4th. Oct^r. we were relieved off guard at six that the [2nd Gren.] Battⁿ. might go down tow^{ds}. Chester but about that time we hear'd a firing at german Town, which grows very heavy and soon after we got an order to march thither in all haste, this proved to be an attack of the whole Rebel army on our Camp at german Town, they forced in the Picquets, & push'd the advanced Corps for some time, under a heavy fire & thick fog, untill the Brigades got formed to support them, which took up some considerable time: most of the 40th. Reg^t. took possession of a large house which they defended & checked the progress of the Rebels, the different Reg^s. form'd as the ground or the attack of the enemy required, & charged or firmly opposed those by whom they were attacked, till they [the Rebels] gave way & retreated, about which time we arrived to the front & pursued the fugitives for 10 miles without getting a shot at them but with our 6 pounders... we returned in the Even^g. to Philad^a. after a march of 4 or 5 & 30 miles...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries* Oct. 4, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 140-141. Germantown is located about eight miles north of Philadelphia. The 42nd Grenadier Company Commander, Capt. Charles Graham, had been left sick in New York and did not rejoin the company until Oct. 18, 1777.



Badge of the 27th or Inniskilling Regt.

Picture Source: *The Historical Record of the 27th Inniskilling Regiment*, W. Copeland Trimble, Wm. Clowes and Sons, London, 1876, Google Books, title page.

**General Order Promoting Brevet-Maj. William Grant to be Major, 42nd Regt.,
in Place of Maj. William Murray, Promoted to Lt. Colonelcy of 27th or Inniskilling Regt.,
Germantown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 8, 1777**

Head Quarters Camp at German Town 8th Oct. 1777...

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

15 th Regiment –	
Lieut.-Col. John Maxwell, from 27 th Regiment of Foot, removed to the 15 th	} 5 th Oct. 1777.
Regiment vice Bird killed	}
27 th Regiment –	
Major William Murray, from 42 ^d Regiment of Foot, to be Lieutenant-Colonel	} 5 th Oct. 1777.
vice Maxwell removed	}
42 ^d Regiment. –	
Brevet-Major William Grant, to be Major vice Murray Promoted	} 5 th Oct. 1777...

Source and Note: “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 promotion of Maj. William Murray to the 27th Regt. set off a string of promotions in the 42nd Regt. Besides Maj. Grant’s promotion, Capt. Lt. John McIntosh was promoted to Captain and Lt. John Peebles became the Capt. Lt. in the General’s Co. It is likely Maj. Grant retained command of the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Regt. after this promotion as he retained his existing company rather than taking command of Brevet-Lt. Col. William Murray’s Co.

**Maj. of Brigade John Andre’s Account of the 42nd Regt. Moving Towards Whitemarsh,
Pennsylvania, Oct. 17-18, 1777**

17th... In the night a deserter came in, who informed that he came from an advanced [Rebel] Corps of 400 men with two field pieces, which had halted at Whitemarsh Church. The General Officers were informed of it and the Commanding Officers of Regiments were warned of the probability of some alarm, but desired not to disturb the men till further reasons appeared for it.

18th [Maj.] General [Charles] Grey, with the 2^d Light Infantry, the 33^d, 64th, 44th regiments marched at about 10 o’clock in the morning toward Whitemarsh Church. [Maj.] General [James] Grant marched at the same time by the Skippack Road, with the 1st Light infantry [with the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.], 5th, 23^d, 42^d, and 55th Regiments. The two columns met at Whitemarsh and returned together. We learnt that the night before [Rebel Brig.] General [George Weedon] Wayden with 400 or 500 men had arrived there at 4 o’clock, that he had made large fires along a considerable extent of ground, and at 10 o’clock had retired again. He termed this a *maneuver*.

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. 59.

Lt. Henry Stirke's Account of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, Marching to Attack Rebels at Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania, Oct. 18, 1777

Oct^r...
18th

A Detachment from the Army at Germantown, in two columns under the Commander of [Maj.] Generals [James] Grant, and [Charles] Grey march'd by different roads to reconnoitre y^e Rebels, and met at Churchill beyond beggartown, where they had a strong post, which they abandon'd on our Approach. The Light Infantry headed each column, and return'd to their Encampments at Sun Setting, after a circuit of about 17 miles without a Shot being fired.

Source and Note: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 – 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, p. 173. Lt. Stirke was assigned to the 10th Lt. Inf. Co.



Detail showing northern row of entrenchments from "A survey of the city of Philadelphia and its environs shewing the several works constructed by His Majesty's troops, under the command of Sir William Howe, since their possession of that city 26th. September 1777, comprehending likewise the attacks against Fort Mifflin on Mud Island, and until it's reduction, 16th November 1777," by Pierre Nicole and John Montresor.

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

British Occupation of Philadelphia, Oct. 18 – Dec. 31, 1777

General Order Issued for the Army to March to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 18, 1777

Head Quarters German Town 18th Oct. 1777.

Morning Orders, Six o'Clock.

The Spare Waggon's of each Corps are to be employed this day in transporting the Straw, Thatch, Rails, &c., belonging to the present Encampment, to the rear of the redoubts near Philadelphia,

where the Quarter Master General, or his Deputy, will show them their respective grounds ; the Quarter Master and Camp Colour Men of each Corps to attend the Waggon there and to return again to this Ground, leaving only such Men as are absolutely necessary to take charge of those materials till further Orders ; the Waggon that go for the Provisions this Morning are also to be loaded with these Materials, there being none to be had in that Quarter.

Orders.

The Army is to be in readiness to move to-morrow at daybreak in two Columns from the right in the following Order:

First Column.
Brigade of Guards.
1st and 2^d Brigades, British.
28th and 27th Regiments.
1st Light Infantry.
[Loyalist] Queen's Rangers.
Second Column.
[Hessian] Brigade of Stirn.
[Hessian] Minnigerode's Grenadiers.
Yagers.
4th and 3^d Brigades British.
40th Regiment.
[16th] Queen's Dragoons.
2^d Light Infantry.

The Baggage of the whole to move off according to their respective Order of March, by break of day, and the Brigades will wait for Orders to follow.

The Artillery Park at the head of the 4th Brigade.

The Spare Ammunition Waggon and Provision Train, in the rear of the Baggage of the 2^d Column.

The several Corps will call in their Pickets when they receive Orders to move.

The Quarter Masters and Camp Colour Men will attend the Quarter Master General in the rear of the right hand Redoubt in going to Town as soon as they arrive upon the Ground.

After Orders, 7 at Night.

In order that the Troops may come more immediately to their Grounds of Encampment, they will move in three Columns from the right in the following Order:

Left Column.
Brigade of Guards.
42^d Regiment,
1st and 2^d Brigades British.
1st Light Infantry.
28th and 27th Regiments.
Queen's Rangers.

Center Column.
4th and 3^d Brigades British.
40th Regiment Queen's Dragoons.
2^d Light Infantry.

Right Column.
Brigade of Stirn.
Minnigerode's Grenadiers.
Yagers...

The 1st Light Infantry to halt at Dickinson's House, the post of 27th Regiment, for further Orders...

Source and Note: "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 moves the army from Germantown to Philadelphia.

Excerpts of Letter No. 69 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Army's Movement to Philadelphia, Oct. 19, 1777

Philadelphia 21 October 1777

My Lord...

On the 19th the Army [including the 42nd Regt.] removed from Germantown to this place as a more convenient situation for the reduction of Fort [Mud] Island, which at present is an obstruction to the passage of the river, as the upper chevaux de frize cannot be removed until we have possession of that post. The difficulty of access has rendered the reduction of it a much more tedious operation than was conceived upon our arrival here.

Considering the necessity for a strong garrison to be left in this place upon the removal of the Army for further operations after the passage of the river is free, I have desired [Lt. Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton to send immediately five Battalions from New York for this service. There will then remain with him twelve regular and ten provincial Battalions for the defense of New York and adjacent posts, in which command I have requested he will continue during the winter as I propose to fix my headquarters in Philadelphia...

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XIV, Transcripts 1777*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 237-238 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO5/94, f. 334.

Account of the March of the Army to Winter Quarters, by Gen. Sir William Howe's Aid de Camp, Hessian Capt. Friedrich von Muenchhausen, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 19, 1777

October 19. We marched in two columns to Philadelphia, where we moved into a very strong camp on the side of Philadelphia facing Germantown. The ten newly erected but not completed redoubts, which lie scattered from the Delaware to the Schuylkill, are in front of our camp...

Source: *At General Howe's Side 1776-1778, The diary of General William Howe's aide de camp, Captain Friedrich von Muenchhausen*, Trans. and Ed. Ernst Kipping and Samuel Smith, Philip Freneau Press, Monmouth Beach (N. J.), 1974, p. 40.

Lt. Henry Stirke's Account of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, Moving into Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 19, 1777

Oct^r...

19th Abandon'd Germantown, and form'd our Lines, about a half mile from Philadelphia, from the River Delaware, to the Scuykiln River.

Source and Note: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 - 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, p. 173. Lt. Stirke was assigned to the 10th Lt. Inf. Co.

Journal of Pvt. Thomas Sullivan, 2nd Lt. Infantry Battalion, Records the Army's Entry into Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 19, 1777

Oct. 19th. The Army marched from Germantown in two Divisions to Philadelphia and encamped on the Common, extending a Line from the River Delaware to Schuylkill; as a more convenient situation for the reduction of Fort-island, which was an obstruction to the passage of the River, as the Higher Chevaux de frise could not be removed until possession of it could be obtained.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, p. 147. On Oct. 10, 1777 Pvt. Sullivan joined the 49th Lt. Infantry Co.

Engineer Capt. John Montresor's Account of the Occupation of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 19, 1777

19th. A thick fog, weather very fine. The Commander-in-Chief [Gen. Sir William Howe] with the army marched from Germantown to the heights North of Philadelphia extending from the river Delaware to the Schuylkill 2 ½ miles and encamped in the rear of the 10 redoubts...

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. 51.

Rebel Account of Attack on Redbank, New Jersey on Oct. 22, 1777

WILLIAMBURGH, November 7.

Extract of a letter, dated [Rebel] Head Quarters, Germantown, Oct. 25, 1777.

I WAS a Spectator to a most glorious fight yesterday. Placed on the top of a high house in Germantown, I beheld the destruction of two of the British ships attempting to bombard Fort Mifflin [Mercer], on the Jersey shore, in order to facilitate their siege against Mud Fort; the most violent and awful cannonade that perhaps ever happened in this quarter of the world. The gondolas distinguished themselves; and so well concerted was the opposition to the attack, in the midst of confusion of smoke and fire two ships were sent down and set fire to a 64 gun ship, said to be the Eagle, and a 32 gun frigate, by some said to be the Apollo; in an instant they were in flames, even to the top gallant yards. They must have had a valuable store of ammunition on board, for when their magazines were blown up, they surpassed the most horrid conception of noise. If all nature had been crushing to atoms the sound could not have been more tremendous. During the time of this great cannonade the Hessians, in numbers about 3000, made an attack upon Fort Mifflin [Mercer], and in little time were defeated with the loss of 500 killed, wounded and prisoners; amongst the prisoners we have Count [Carl von] Donop and his Aid de camp, both wounded. The destruction of the two ships, and defeat of the Hessians, is looked upon as one of the most capitol strokes that has happened during the war. I hope a coup de main will be Mr. [Gen. Sir William] Howe's fate before long. and then for peace, freedom, and happiness."

Source and Notes: *Virginia Gazette*, Nov. 7, 1777, p. 2. The author is confused with the location of the attack. Fort Mifflin was on Mud Island in the Delaware River and Fort Mercer was at Redbank on the Jersey side. Redbank was the fortification attacked by Col. von Donop on Oct. 22, 1777.



Detail of Engraving of 64-gun *HMS Augusta* on Fire, before 1791, by William Bradford

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *An old Philadelphian, Colonel William Bradford: the patriot printer of 1776*, John William Wallace, Philadelphia: Sherman & Co., 1884, p. 186-187.

Lt. Henry Stirke's Account of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, Supporting the Hessian Retreat from Red Bank, New Jersey, Oct. 23-24, 1777

Oct^r...

23^d The 1st battalion of Light Infantry and 27th Reg^t cross'd the Delaware at 6 O'Clock in y^e morning to Cover the retreat of the Hessians, from Red-Bank, and assist in bringing off the their Wounded. This day we had the additional misfortune, of lossing the [*HMS*] *Augusta* man of War of 64 Guns; which took fire by accident, as she just got to the station before the Rebel Works; most of the Crew were sav'd...

24th The Light Infantry, and 27th Reg^t return'd to their Encampments about 4 O'Clock in y^e morning. We had some scattering shots from the militia, which wounded a man of the 27th Reg^t.

Source and Note: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 – 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, p. 174. Lt. Stirke was assigned to the 10th Lt. Inf. Co.

Lt. Henry Stirke's Account of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, To Intercept Supposed Rebel Attack, Germantown Road, Pennsylvania, Oct. 31, 1777

Oct^r...

31st This morning at 3 O'Clock, the 1st Battalion of Light Infantry, took post on y^e Germantown Road, about a mile in front of the Picquets, on a supposition that the Rebels intended attacking them; and Maj^r [Francis] Gwin with a party of [16th] Light Dragoons, went as far as the Rising Sun [Tavern] without seeing any of the Rebels. At Sun Rising we return'd to our Encampment.

Source and Note: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 – 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, p. 174. Lt. Stirke was assigned to the 10th Lt. Inf. Co.



General Order Promoting Capt. Lt. John Peebles to a Company and Lt. John M^cIntosh to the Capt. Lieutenancy in the Royal Highland Regt., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 31, 1777

Head Quarters Philadelphia 31st Oct. 1777...

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

5th Regiment...

Lieut. William Cox to be Captain Lieutenant vice [Thomas] Baker promoted } 7th Oct. 1777.
Lieut. Thomas Littleton, from 42^d, to be Lieutenant vice Cox promoted } 7th Oct. 1777...

42^d Regiment. –

Capt. Lieut. John M^cIntosh to be Captain vice [William] Grant promoted } 5th Oct. 1777 Lieut.
John Peebles to be Captain Lieutenant vice McIntosh promoted } 5th Oct. 1777 Ensign Gavin
Drummond to be Lieutenant vice Peebles promoted } 5th Oct. 1777 William M^cDonald,
Volunteer, to be Ensign vice Drummond promoted } 5th Oct. 1777
Ensign James Stuart, from 5th Regiment, to be Lieutenant, vice Littleton removed } 7th Oct. 1777
Ensign Lord William Murray to be Lieutenant by purchase vice Dougal } 27th Oct. 1777
Campbell retired }
George Campbell to be Ensign by purchase vice Lord William Murray promoted } 27th Oct. 1777...

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.

Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, Remarks on his Promotion to Capt. Lieutenant in Gen. Lord John Murray’s Company and the Death of Recently Promoted Lt. Col. William Murray, 27th (or Inniskilling) Regt. (Former Maj., 42nd Regt.), Philadelphia, Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 – 3, 1777

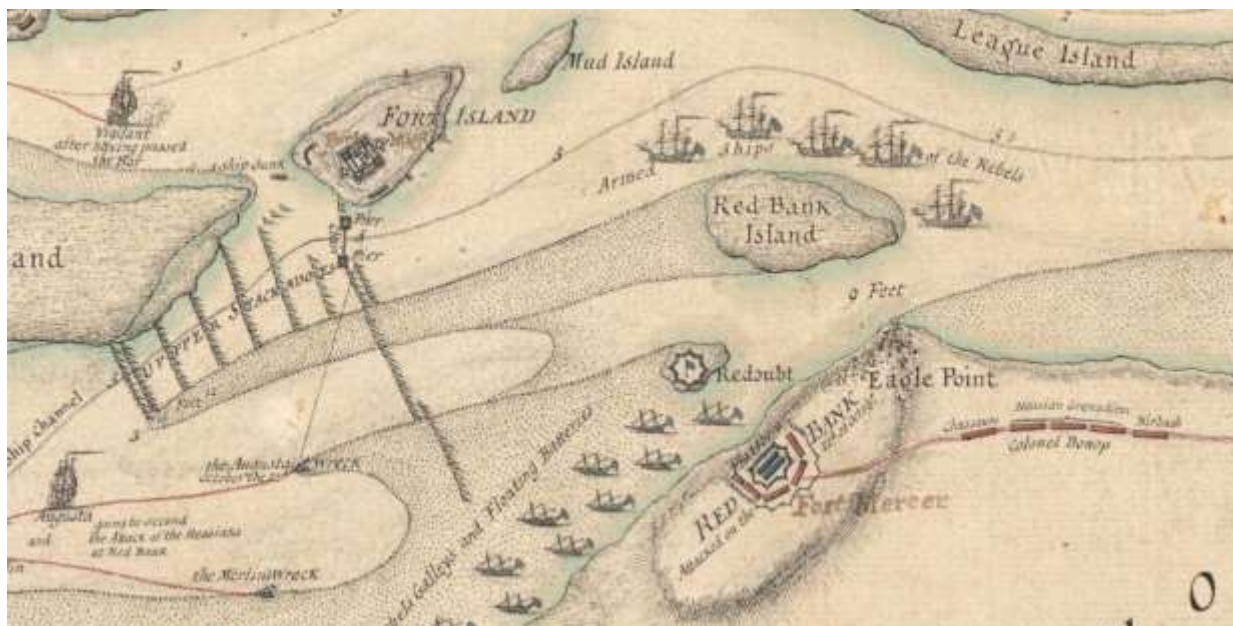
Friday 31st Oct^r. a long list of Promotions came out in wh^h. [which] J. P. [John Peebles] is mention’d as C. L^t. obtain’d with much difficulty after serving above nineteen years...

Sunday 2^d Nov^r. I took my leave of the Gren^{rs}. & joined the [1st Bn., 42nd] Reg^t. & met with a welcome reception from some of my old friends, but some folks look shy

This Even^g. to our great loss & concern Colo^l. Murray died of a Fever much lamented by all his acquaintences in general & by his friends in the 42^d. in particular, where he had served as Capt. & Major for 20 years, with much merit & esteem...

Monday 3^d... poor Colo^l. Murray buried in the Even^g. privately in Christs Church yard –

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries dated Nov. 2-3, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles’ American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 146-147. As general officers did not serve with their regiments, a captain-lieutenant was authorized to command the general’s company.



Detail showing Mud Island (noted here as Fort Island) and Redbank from “The course of Delaware River from Philadelphia to Chester, exhibiting the several works erected by the rebels to defend its passage, with the attacks made upon them by His Majesty's land & sea forces,” 1777, by William Faden

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

Excerpts of Letter No. 73 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Reduction of Mud Island Fort and Redbank, Pennsylvania, Nov. 16 - 19, 1777

Philadelphia 28 November 1777

My Lord, from a variety of difficulties attending the construction of additional batteries in a morass against the fort upon Mud Island and in the transportation of the guns and stores, they were not opened against the Enemy's defences until the 10th inst. On the 15th, the wind proving fair I the [22-gun] Vigilant armed ship carrying sixteen 24-pounders, and a hulk with three 24-pounders got up to the fort through the channel between Province and Hog Islands. These, assisted by several ships of war in the eastern channel as well as by the batteries on shore, did such execution upon the fort and collateral blockhouses that the Enemy, dreading an impending assault, evacuated the island in the night between the 15th and 16th, and it was possessed on the 16th at daybreak by the Grenadiers of the Guards...

On the 18th at night [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis marched with a Corps from camp and passed the Delaware on the 19th from Chester to Billings Port, where he was joined by Major General Sir Thomas [Spencer] Wilson [Col., 50th Regt.] with, a Corps that arrived a few days before from New York under his command, having with him Brigadier-Generals [Hon. Alexander] Leslie and [James] Pattison.

As soon as the necessary preparations were made his Lordship pursued his march to attack the Enemy entrenched at Red Bank. Upon his approach the rebels evacuated the post and retired to Mount Holly where they joined a Corps of observation detached from the main Army of the rebels encamped at White Marsh. His Lordship found in the Enemy's works cannon, ammunition and stores as per return No.2. The Entrenchment being demolished, his Corps returned by Gloucester on the 27th and joined the Army in this camp.

The Enemy's shipping having no longer any protection and not finding it advisable to attempt the passage of the river, the channel being commanded by the batteries of the town and the Delaware frigate, they were quitted without being dismantled and burnt on the night between the 20th and 21st; but

the galleys of a smaller draught of water by keeping close along the Jersey shore escaped from the great breadth of the river.

A forward Movement against the Enemy will immediately take place and I hope will be attended with the success that is due to the spirit and activity of His Majesty's troops.

The passage of the river by the reduction of the two places aforementioned has been sufficiently opened to bring up frigates and transports, but the removal of the chevaux de frize is postponed to a more favourable sea son ...

Signed

Source and Note: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XIV, Transcripts 1777*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 263-264 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1777-1778* at CO 5/95, f.1. The same night as Lord Cornwallis' movement on Redbank, Sir William Howe sent the 42nd Highlanders crossed the Delaware River at Philadelphia. The highlanders were to hold Cooper's Ferry to give the impression to the rebels that Fort Mercer would be attacked from two directions. The highlanders were also to support Cornwallis' recrossing after Fort Mercer was taken.

Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Infantry Company, on an Expedition Under Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis, Chester, Pennsylvania, Nov. 18 and 27, 1777

17th At night the 1st Grenadiers, 1st Light Infantry and 33^d received Orders to march at 2 in the morning; they crossed the Schuylkill at the bridge and marched under the command of [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis to Chester.

[Maj. Gen.] Sir Thomas [Spencer] Wilson [Col., 50th Regt.] with the Troops from New York, viz: the 7th, 26th, 63^d, two battalions of Anspach, and corps of Jägers landed on the Jersey shore at Billingsport. They were joined there by Lord Cornwallis...

27th Lord Cornwallis having sent over his baggage and cattle, crossed from Gloucester. The Rebels had assembled in his rear, and begun firing on the last troops who embarked, but the [22-gun *HM Armed Ship*] Vigilant, a galley and an armed schooner having brought their guns to bear and cross their fire upon the places where they were collecting, dispersed them; we had a seaman and a soldier wounded. The Troops marched to Philadelphia and were quartered – 1st Grenadiers, 1st Light Infantry, 7th, 33^d, and 63^d in the Rope walks, and the 26th in the town. The 27th Regiment came back to their ground in front.

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. 64 -66.

Lt. Henry Stirke's Account of the Activities of the 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, Nov. 18 – 27, 1777

Nov^r

17th At 12 O'Clock at night, the 1st battalion of Light Infantry & Grenadiers, Hessian Chasseurs [Jägers] 27th and 33^d Reg^{ts}, with Hessian Grenadiers, under the command of [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, march'd to Chester and cross'd y^e Delaware at Billings Fort, about 5 O'Clock in y^e evening, where we join'd the Troops from New-York under y^e command of [Maj. Gen.] S^r Tho^s Spencer Wilson. On our way to Chester, we surpris'd a party of y^e Rebels in a house, kill'd four, or five of them, and took about 20 prisoners...

20th The Army march'd to Sandtown here a bridge was destroy'd, which we were Oblig'd to repair. This night the Rebels were employed in destroying their works at Red-Bank, and burning their shipping, that could not get up the river, by Philadelphia; their Row Gallies which drew little water, got up under the Jersey Shore.

- 21st We took possession of Red-bank after y^e Rebels had abandon'd the Works.
- 22^d The Light Infantry arriv'd at great Timber Creek, where y^e Rebels had just broke down the bridge, the five eldest Companies pass'd over in two small boats, they found at y^e bridge, to Cover the Workmen employ'd in repairing it. In the Evening small partys of the Rebels appear'd and begun to be troublesome firing on us from a railing on the Other side of a small swamp, from which we soon drove them, but with the loss of 2 men of the 5th light Company kill'd, and a man of y^e 4th Company Wounded. The Troops are now employ'd, in demolishing the Works at Red-Bank.
- 25th The Army march'd to Gloucester [4 miles south of Camden] and began to Cross over to Philadelphia. This evening the Hessian Chasseurs, posted on y^e right flank of the army, were attack'd by a much superior number of the Rebels, which they repuls'd with the loss of 30 men kill'd and Wounded. The loss of the rebels is not known.
- 27th The battle &c being over, The Army return'd to Philadelphia. When y^e Light Infantry begun to embark in the Flat Boats, a large body of y^e Rebels threw themselves into a Wood, near y^e beech, and were very troublesome notwithstanding we were cover'd by y^e shiping, which kept up a heavy fire. We had one Officer and several men slightly wounded.

Source and Note: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 – 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, pp. 174-175. Lt. Stirke was assigned to the 10th Lt. Inf. Co.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1st Battalion, 42nd Regt., Records
Preparations for Movement, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 1 – 2, 1777**

Monday 1st Dec^r. still cold frosty w^r. [weather] preparations for a movement. pontoons rigging out on carriages &c^a. &c^a. – a pair of mitts [mittens] given out to the men & blankets to those that wanted –

Tuesday 2^d. Dec^r. nothing going on but the preparations for the intended movem^t. frost & N.W. wind...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries* Dec. 1-8, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 151-152.

General Orders to Prepare for the Battle of Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania, Dec. 3 – 4, 1777

Head Quarters Philadelphia Dec^r 3^d. 1777...

After Orders Evening Gun Firing

The following Corps to be In Readiness to March by 6 oClock to Morrow Morning in two Columns, – The Left Column under the Command of [Hessian] L^t Gen^l [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen to march by the Left, Anspach Yagers; Second L^t Infantry; One Troop- of the 17th Dragoons, Hessian Grenadiers; Two Medium Twelves Regiment Du Corps, Regiment Donop's, Third Brig^e British, Two Troops 17th Dragoons, Baggage of the Column, Provien [Provision] train, Second Battⁿ 71 Reg^t 17th Dragoons with their Dismounted

The Column on the Right Under the Command [of] L^t Gen^l [Charles] Earl Cornwallis to march by the Left .–

Hessian Yagers Mounted & Dismounted, First Squadron 16th. Dragoons, First L^t. Infantry, British Grenadiers First Brig^e British, two Light Twelve Pounders Brig^e of Guards, One troop of 16th Dragoons, Hospital Waggons, Baggage of the Column, 26th Reg^t. with two Light Three Pounders, 16th Dragoons with their Dism^t.

Queens Rangers upon the Right Flank of the Baggage.

The Convalasents, of the Differant Corps are to be Left, in their Respective Encampments or Quarters, with Positive Orders, to Allow no Baggage Stores or Hutts to be distroy'd An Officer from each Brigade

with a Carfull Non Commission Officer from Each Regm^l. to be left with them & be Answerable that these Orders be Complied With,
 Brigader Gen^l. [Hon. Alexander] Leslie s Appointed to Command the Troops that is left in Camp or Garrison here...

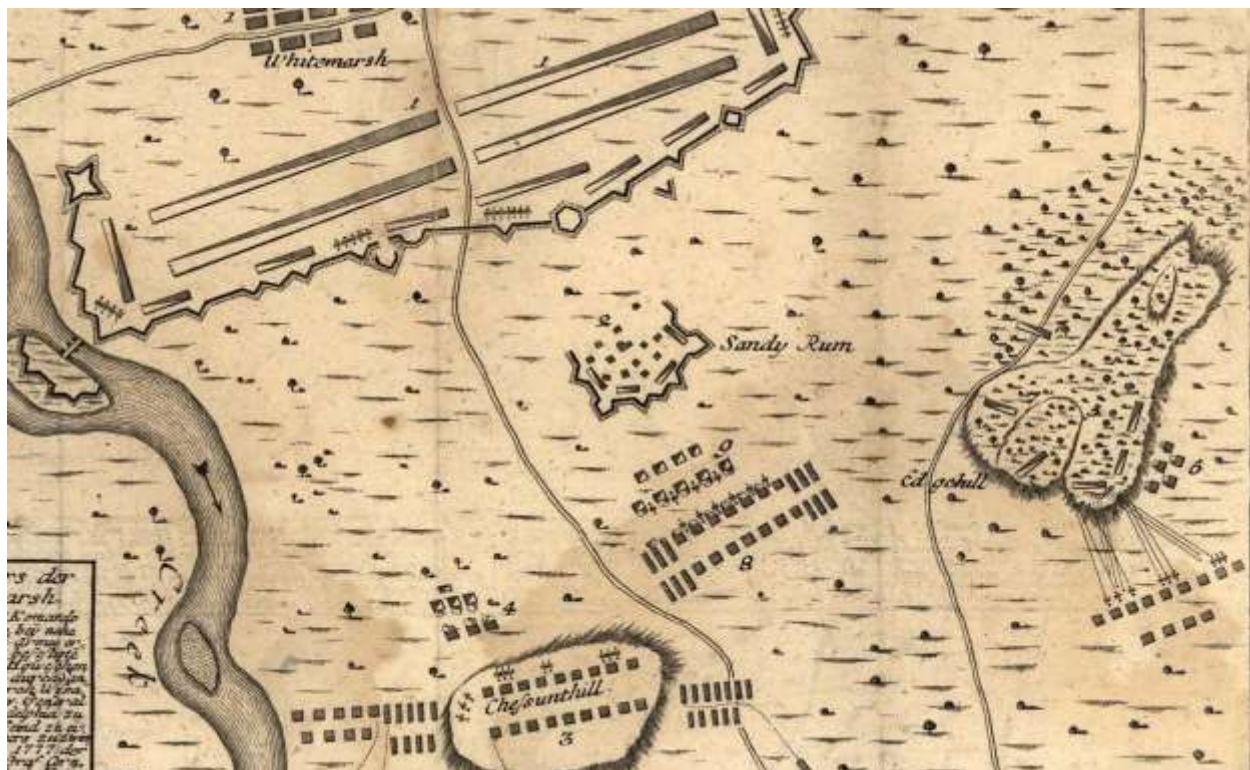
Head Quarters Philadelphia Dec^r 4th 1777

...the Several Corps are to be in Readiness to Move Upon the Shortest Notice & to March by the left in the following Order, –

Van Guard Under the Command of L^t Gen^l [Charles] Earl Cornwallis, Two Batt^{ns}. L^t. Infantry, Chasseur's [Jägers] Dismounted, British Grenadiers, Hessian Grenadiers Fourth Brig^e. British two Squadrons 16th. Dragoons two medium Twelves Two Howitzers.

Under the Command of his Excel^y L^t Gen^l Knyphausen Reg^t Du Corps, – Reg^t. of Donope – First Brig^e British – two L^t twelve Pounders – Brig^e of Guards, one squadron 16th. Dragoons – 5th & 27th Reg^{ts} two L^t twelve Pounders, 26th & 7th Reg^{ts} – Third Brig^e [including the 42nd Regt.] British, two Squadron 17th Dragoons – Hospital Waggons. – Rum Waggons – Empty Waggons, Second Battⁿ. 71st Reg^t Mounted Chasseurs [Jägers] One Squadron 17th. Dragoons. – Queens Rangers on the Right Flank of the Line of Baggage – Such Corps as may have either Cutting or Entrenching Tools belonging to the Engineers Department, will Diliver them in Immediately to the Redoubt N^o. 6 Where A Person Will be Receive them...

Source and Notes: *William Howe orderly book*, Great Britain. Army, 1776-1778, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich. These orders prepare the army for the Dec. 5-8 Battle of Whitemarsh, Pa. The 42nd Lt. Inf. Co. took part of the initial engagements near Beggarstown and the 42nd Regt. was part of the 3rd Brigade that engaged the Rebel troops at Edgehill.



Detail of Hessian Map "Plan des befestigten Lagers der Amerikaner bey Whitemarsh," by Johann Martin Will,

Picture Source: *Zehn Karten und Ansichten den Schlachtfelden des amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskrieges in den Staaten Pennsylvanien und New York*, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Div.

Battle of Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania, Dec. 4 – 8, 1777

Letter No. 76 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Battle of White Marsh, Dec. 4-8, 1777

N^o 76

Philadelphia 13th December 1777

My Lord,

[Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis having applied for Leave of Absence to attend his private Business in Europe, I take this Opportunity of sending my Dispatches by His Lordship in the Brilliant armed Ship.

Since my last, the Enemy being joined by upwards of four thousand Men with Cannon from the Northern Army assembled their whole Force in a strong Camp at Whitemarsh, covered in part by Sandy Run, fourteen Miles distant from hence, with their right to Wissahickon Creek.

Upon a Presumption that a forward Move might tempt the Enemy, after receiving such Reinforcement, to give Battle for the Recovery of this Place or that a vulnerable Part might be found to admit of an Attack upon their Camp; the Army marched on the Night of the 4th Instant, the Van commanded by Lieutenant General Earl Cornwallis, the Main Body by [Hessian] Lieut^t. General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen, and on the next Morning took Post upon Chestnut Hill in Front of the Enemy's Right. The Enemy soon after detached a Corps of one thousand Men to attack the light Infantry posted in front under the command of Lieut^t: Colonel [Robert] Abercromby, the Consequence of which was that, upon the first Onset of the 2^d Battalion of Light Infantry and Part of the 1st, they were instantly defeated with the Loss of between thirty and forty Men killed and wounded, and a Brigadier made Prisoner.

Not judging it advisable to attack the Enemy's Right, the Army having I remained in the same Position during the 6th marched at one o'clock in the Morning of the 7th, the Van and Main Body commanded as before, to take Post on Edge Hill one Mile distant from the Enemy's Left. A Corps of one thousand Men composed of Rifle Men and other Troops from the Enemy's Northern Army were found by the Vanguard posted on this Hill with Cannon – Lord Cornwallis immediately attacked with the 1st Light Infantry [including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.], supported by the 33^d Regiment, and defeated this Body with a considerable Loss of Officers and Men, their Cannon narrowly escaping. The Thickness of the Wood where the Rebels were posted, concealing them from the View of the Light Infantry, occasioned a loss of one Officer killed, three wounded, and between twenty and thirty Men killed and wounded from their first Fire.

Major General [Charles] Grey with his Brigade [including the 42nd Regt.], Light Infantry of the Guards, Queen's Rangers, Hessian and Anspach Chasseurs, took post upon the Left in front of the Enemy's Center. A Detachment to harass this Corps was immediately routed by the General's advanced Guard composed of his Light Troops, with a Loss to the Enemy of fifty Men killed and wounded.

Your Lordship will see by the enclosed Return the loss sustained by the King's Troops in the abovementioned Attacks.

The Enemy's Camp being as strong on their Center and Left as upon the Right; their seeming Determination to hold this Position; and unwilling to expose the Troops longer to the Weather in this inclement Season without Tents or Baggage of any kind for Officers or Men, I returned on the 8th to this Place – The Rear Guard under the command of Lord Cornwallis quitted Edge Hill on the Right about four o'clock in the Afternoon without the smallest Appearance of the Enemy, and Major General Grey retiring from his Post at the same Time without the least Molestation, the Army arrived in this Camp at nine o'clock in the Evening.

On the 11th at Day break Lord Cornwallis, with Major General [James] Grant under his Command, passed the Schuylkill with a strong Corps and the Waggons of the Army to collect Forage for the Winter Supply, which his Lordship accomplished and returned yesterday Evening.

The Enemy having quitted their Camp at Whitemarsh some Hours before Lord Cornwallis marched from hence, his Lordship met the head of their Army at a Bridge they had thrown over the

Schuykill near to Matson's Ford, about three Miles below Swedes Ford and fifteen Miles distant from hence, Over this Bridge the Enemy had passed eight hundred Men, who were immediately dispersed by His Lordships advanced Troops, obliging Part of them to recross it, which occasioned such an Alarm to their Army that they broke the Bridge and his Lordship proceeded to forage without meeting with any Interruption.

The Enemy's Intention seems to be to take their Winter Quarters at Carlisle, York and Lancaster, and probably they may have a Corps at Reading and another at Burlington in Jersey.

The 71st [Highland] Regiment and [Hessian] Regiment of Mirbach are immediately to embark to reinforce [Lt. Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton at New York upon his Representation of a Want of Troops for the Defence of that Post, and I propose to put the Army immediately into Winter Quarters in this Town where there is sufficient Room.

Major General Daniel Jones is arrived at New York, and Orders will be sent to him to join this Part of the Army.

With the most perfect Respect, I have the Honor to be,

Your Lordships most faithful and obedient Servant

W. Howe

Right Honorable Lord George Germain

&c^a &c^a &c^a

Return of the Killed, Wounded & Missing in the different Skirmishes from 1 st to 5 th Decem ^r 1777			
Regiments or Corps	Killed...	Wounded...	Missing...
1 st Batt ⁿ L ⁱ infantry	2 [Serjeants] 11 [Rank & file]	2 [Lieutenant] 1 [Serjeants] 25 [Rank & file]	1 [Rank & file]
Total	1 [Lieutenant] 2 [Serjeants] 16 [Rank & file]	3 [Lieutenant] 4 [Serjeants] 53 [Rank & file]	33 [Rank & file]...

W. Howe

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. 721-727 from TNA, Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, /95, f. 16.



Capt. John McIntosh of Corrybrough More

Portrait Source: *The Balfours of Pilrig*, by Barbara Balfour-Melville of Pilrig, William Brown, Edinburgh, 1907, Google Books, after p. 178.

Excerpt of Letter from Capt. John McIntosh, 42nd Regt. to Mr. John Mackintosh,

Describing the Battle of Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania, Dec. 4-8, 1777

Camp, near Philadelphia, 21st Dec, 1777

My Dear Friend, – I did not expect to have been so long without hearing from you. Not one syllable since I left Scotland [Apr. 1776]. Only from the knowledge I have of your worthy heart, and the confidence I have in that friendship and esteem which has so long and sincerely subsisted between us, I should be jealous and uneasy at your long silence. But on this occasion, I judge your sentiments from my own – that is to say, that no distance of time or place will in the least diminish that friendship and affectionate regard which I hope will ever subsist betwixt us. You see, my dear friend, how easily we forgive those we esteem. As you must long ere now be sensible of the pleasure I receive from your friendly correspondence, I need not press you to write me, though I would not have you turn too lax, from the indulgence and latitude I must always give you. Therefore, if not before you receive this, soon after I shall expect a long epistle from you. You will long ere now see the operations of last campaign from General [Sir William] Howe's letters, so that I will not trouble you with a repetition. The beginning of the month, General Howe marched his army toward Mr. [Rebel Gen. George] Washington, who was strongly posted fifteen miles from this town, in order, if possible, to bring him to a general action. But though we drove in all his outposts, and marched up within half a mile of his lines, where General Howe waited three days, changing position and offering himself at different parts of the enemy's lines. But all to no purpose: they were determined not to quit their stronghold, and the General did not think it prudent to attack them in the strong position which they occupied, and which they had fortified with much labour and pains.

Had we attacked them, I make no doubt that we should have carried their works, but then we must have lost many men, and the season of the year was so advanced that we could make but very little use of the victory. We marched back to Philadelphia, and though we retired in the face of the enemy, they did not molest our rear...

I am, though very cold outwardly, inwardly, warmly, sincerely, affectionately yours,
(Signed) John Mackintosh

Addressed – "To Mr. John Mackintosh, merchant, Inverness, Scotland."

Source: *Letters of Two Centuries, Chiefly Connected with Inverness and the Highlands, From 1616 to 1815*, Edited by Charles Fraser-Mackintosh of Drummond, M.P., F.S.A. Scot., A.&W. MacKenzie, Inverness, 1890, Google Books, pp. 291-294. Cousin Angus of the 71st referred to was Capt. Angus Mackintosh of Kyllachy.



Map of Battle of Whitemarsh from the British Position from “Zehn Karten und Ansichten den Schlachtfeldern des amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskrieges in den Staaten Pennsylvanien und New York” (Ten maps and views of the battlefields of American independence in Pennsylvania and New York), 1777, Johann Martin Will,

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1st Battalion, 42nd Regt.,
Records the Battle of Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania, Dec. 4 – 8, 1777**

Thursday 4th. Dec^r. An order came out late last night countermanding the former, & that the Troops not to march till further orders, owing it is said to a Serj^l. of Artill^y having deserted with the orders. The troops desired to be in readiness to march at the shortest notice without baggage –

Friday 5th Dec^r. orders came out last night for the march of the Troops tonight to another position [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis the Van Guard consisting of two Batt^{ns}. Light Infantry [with the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1st. Bn.], Chasseurs [Jägers] dismounted, British Gr^{rs}. [with the 42nd Gren. Co. in the 2nd Bn.], 4th. Brigade British two squad^{ns}. 16th. Dragoons 2 medium 12^s. [12-pounders] & 2 Howitzers – Under the Command of [Hessian Lt.] Gen^l. [Wilhelm von] Kniphausen Reg^t. Du Corps, Reg^t. of Donop. 1st. Brig: British 2 Light 12 po^{rs}. Brigade of Guards 1 Squadⁿ. 16th. Drag^{ns}. 5th. & 27th. Reg^{ts}. 2 Light 12^s. 26th. & 7th. Reg^{ts}., 3^d. Brig: British [with the 42nd Regt.] 2 Squad^{ns}. 17th. Dragoons, Hospital waggons, Empty waggons, 2^d. Battⁿ. 71st. Reg^t. mounted Chasseurs, 1 Squad: 16th. Draggons, [Loyalist] Queen’s rangers on the right flank of line of Baggage – no Baggage waggons allowed

The army march’d about 11 o’clock at night from the left – at Germantown the advanced Corps had some firing & dislodged some of the Rebels from thence. then moved on & arrived at Chestnut hill about day light with some popping – soon after the 2^d. Light Infantry supported by the 1st. got engaged with a body of the Rebels [Pennsylvania Militia] under the Com^d. of [Brig] Gen^l. [James] Irvine whome they routed after a smart fire for some minutes, & took their Gen^l prisoner wound’d & some kill’d a major and some men &c^a. the army halted on the grounds shewn them, & the Great folks reconoitred -

The Enemy Encamp'd on four strong hills about two miles in front, where they have some Redoubts & an abbattis –

Saturday 6th. Dec^r. very cold last night in hutts the men accoutred & their arms by them all quiet today, The Enemy seen making some movements, some think going off, but I believe its only altering position of some of their troops, much reconoitring & speculation, but nothing today...

Sunday 7th. Dec^r. Soft mild w^r. [weather] The Troops put in motion last night about 11 & march'd by the right to Germantown where they turn'd off to the left & march'd about 6 or 7 miles where they divided, [Maj.] Gen^l. [Charles] Gray with the 3^d. Brigade [including the 42nd Regt.] [Loyalist] Queen's rangers & all the Yagers struck off to the left & about a mile after came to a cross roads where they halted, the main body taking a larger sweep to the N.E^d. – about noon Gen^l. Grays division moved forwards & after advancing about a mile the Yagers had a skirmish with a body of the Rebels posted on a hill in front whole they soon routed having kill'd 8 or 10 & taken some prisoners, about this time & for a good while after heard a great deal of firing to our right which proved to be the advanced Corps of the [British] main body meeting with different parties of the Rebels & driving them as they came on, in the Even^g. the 2 divisions made a junction & encamp'd on the high ground about a mile & more from the Enemys hills, –
The troops no provision today

Monday 8th. the weather foggy & very mild for the season, – all quiet about camp, the Generals & Engineers reconnoitring the hill in front which is extensive & said to be fortified with Redoubts abbattis &c^a. and a Rivulet at the foot

About noon got orders to be in readiness to move & about 2 oclock we march'd off from the left in the face of the Enemy & return'd to our lines at Philad^a. where we arrived about 9 oclock at night & took up our old ground. a small party of the Rebels show'd themselves in the rear about sunset occasioned some firing. NB the 71st [Highlanders] had taken up our Camp burnt our wood & destroyed our boards & straw

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries Dec. 1-8, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 151-154.

Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of the 3rd Brigade (Including the 42nd Regt.) at the Battle of Whitmarsh, Pennsylvania, Dec. 4-7, 1777

4th at 10 in the Evening the Corps destined to march got under Arms and the Army began moving at 12 in one Column. The advanced Corps received a few Shot near German Town, at Beggars' Town and at Chestnut Hill, but met with no considerable body. On the Road a House was burnt, from which the Light Infantry had been fired upon. From Chestnut hill the Smoke and huts of the Rebel Camp were discernable, their position was along a Ridge of hills from Whitmarsh Church eastward in an extent of about 3 miles.

Not long after the rear of the Army had come up, a body of the [Pennsylvania Militia] Rebels under a [Brig.] General [James] Irvine attacked the advanced posts of the Light Infantry; these being supported by a few Companies, a very heavy fire insued. The Rebels were driven back with some loss and the General [Irvine] wounded and taken prisoner only 5 or 6 of the Rebel dead were found on the field, amongst these was a Major. –

of ours, Capt [and Lt. Col.]: S^r. James Murray [3rd Guards] was wounded and three or four men; one was killed. The Army lay at Chestnut Hill...

5th: The Rebels still remained on the hills, but appeared to be drawing their force towards their right, on which side we appeared to threaten them

The Commander in chief observing they were not to be attacked with advantage on this side, determined upon a movement towards their left and at 10 in the Evening The Army marched in one Column and came by Cheltenham and Jenkins Town opposite their other flank. [Maj.] Gen: [Charles] Grey, with the Chasseurs [Jägers], [Maj. John Graves] Simco's [Queens Rangers] ^{Gdr: L.I.} and the 3^d

Brigade [including the 42nd Regt.], turned off from the grand Column into the White church Road, where he halted. The grand Column proceeded as far as Abingdon and there also turned to the left and came near Edge hill, where [Gen.] S^r. W^m. Howe halted. At ½ past 11 (6th;) whilst the Men were receiving some refreshments, a note came from the Commander in Chief to Maj. Gen: Grey desiring him not to move untill he heard or Saw Signs of the main Column being in motion. Gen: Grey was then, as preconcerted to advance to Tysons Tavern on the LimeKiln road, where he was to drive in a post of the Enemy and draw up in view of their camp. Whilst from this demonstration they presumed an attack impending from that Quarter [Gen] S^r. W^m. Howe with the Elite, and the main Army was to have made the real attack, should it have been thought fit to hazard one.

Gen: Grey having waited far beyond the hour at which he had ispected Orders to advance, or to have intimation of S^r. W^m. Howe being in motion, determined to move forward. He advanced with the guns upon the road, The Chasseurs in two Columns, one on either side the Guns; the L^t. Infantry of the Guards to the right, and Simco's Corps [Queen's Rangers] on the left.

About a mile after turning into the Limekiln Road, The firing from the Enemy began from a Woody ridge to the left. The Chasseurs and Simco's formed and advanced upon them and the Light Infantry of the Guards with great Activity and ardor ran round the foot of the ridge and came upon their flank in time enough to intercept a few in their flight. Between 20 or 30 of them were killed or wounded and 15 taken prisoners. They were pursued to the Skirts of their main encampment. One Man of Simco's was killed and nine Jagers killed or wounded. The Corps took post on the ground from which the Rebels had been driven, with the Jägers in front. The L^t. Infantry of the guards advanced to the right and Simco's advanced to the left. The Light Inf^y. of the Guards were very briskly attacked about an hour after taking post, by very superior numbers, but they maintained their ground and repulsed the Enemy, with the loss on their side of only one man.

It was some time before we heard anything of the other Column excepting only a few Shot from time to time, which we knew could not be the attack expected. [Brig. Gen.] Sir W^m: Erskine at length appeared with two Battallions of Hessians, which being posted on our right filled up the interval between S^r: W^m: Howe and us...

7th: The fullest information being procured of the Enemy's position most people thought an attack upon ground of such difficult access would be a very arduous undertaking nor was it judged that any decisive Advantage could be obtained, as the Enemy had reserved the most easy and obvious retreat. Probably for these reasons, the Commander in Chief determined to return to Philadelphia.

In the afternoon the main body of the Army began retreating and gained the old York Road unmolested. The Corps under Gen: Grey after affecting to make a movement to their left, passed thro' a wood and debouche'd into the Lime Kiln Road, retreating by the same route and in the Same Order in which they had advanced, till they fell in with S^r: W^m: Howe's column at Shoemaker's Mill.

The Rebels however were soon aware of our retreat, and their light troops watched the rear of Gen: Greys Column whose march was much retarded by the insufficiency of the Horses and the badness of the roads, over which two 12 pounders he had with him were carried with some difficulty. At the cross road leading from Abingdon to German Town a Body of Horse and Foot pressed on the rearmost parties and drove them in: The Jägers who had successively formed on each height and filed off to the next, were at this time drawn up on very good ground, in posture of defence: The Rebels formed to a fence and delivered a very brisk fire, but the Light Infantry of the Guards posting themselves with great readiness returned their fire and drove them back. 2 or three shot from the Jägers cannon contributed not a little to rid us of them, not a man on our Side was hurt. The March was continued without further inconvenience, and the Troops returned to their several incampments behind the Redoubts at Philadelphia.

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

**Journal of Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 49th Lt. Infantry Company, 2nd Lt. Infantry Battalion,
Describes the Light Infantry, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, at the Beginning of Battle of
Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania, Dec. 4 – 6, 1777**

Dec. 4th. The Enemy being joined by upwards of 4000 men with Cannon, from the northern Army, assembled their whole force in a strong camp at Whitemarsh, covered on part by Sandy Run, 14 miles distant from Philadelphia, with their right on Wissahichon creek.

Upon a Presumption that a forward move might tempt the Enemy, after receiving such reinforcement, to give battle for the recovery of the City, or that a vulnerable part might be found to admit of an attack upon their camp...the Army marched at one o'clock in the morning towards Germantown; the van commanded by Lieutenant General [Charles] Earl Cornwallis, the main body by [Hessian] Lieutenant General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen.

The Enemy having strong detachments at Chestnut hill and in its neighbourhood. Our two Battalions of Light Infantry being in the front of the van-guard, the [British] riflemen and a few dragoons in the front of the 1st. Battalion [with the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.] of those Corps, were challenged by two dragoons of the Rebel picquet at Germantown, who fired their Carabines and retired to their body, which also fired a volley and ran to the next party; but being still forced, the whole retired to chestnut-hill, to their encampment

We formed a line on the Hill, being directed by the light if the Enemy's fires, and lay upon our Arms till day light. The advanced sentinels exchanging several shots with the Enemy's during the night, in front of the Enemy's right.

Dec. 5th. We made fires on Chestnut-hill, and as we locked our Arms, the Enemy having detached a corps of 1000 men [600 Pennsylvania militiamen] to attack our two Battalions, posted in front (as aforesaid) under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel [Robert] Abercromby [1st Bn.] and Major [Hon. John] Maitland [2nd Bn.]; the consequence of which was thus: The Rebels advanced at the right of the Line, exactly in front of our Battallion. *i.e.* 2^d; and Lieutenant [Thomas] Armstrong of our [49th] Company, having the command of the Rifle Company advanced in front of the Battallion, being attacked by the Enemy, who almost surrounded him, gave the alarm; and immediately the [2nd] Battallion rushed forward. On the first onset, with part of the 1st. Battallion on our left, and firing two or three Vollies, the Rebels instantly retreated with great precipitation, with the loss of about 40 men killed and wounded, and the Brigadier [James Irvine] that commanded with a few more made Prisoners.

The General [Sir William Howe] judging it unadvisable to attack the Enemy's right, the army remained in the same position during the 6th.

Source and Notes: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 157- 158. Sullivan was appointed sergeant in the 49th Lt. Inf. Co. on Oct. 22, 1777. Chestnut Hill is located about 13 miles northwest of downtown Philadelphia.

General Orders for the Army to Hold Its Position, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, Dec. 5, 1777

Head Quarters Chesnut Hill Dec^r 5th. 1777...

The troops Are to lie Upon their Arms this Night, Upon their present Ground & the Officers, Commanding Corps are to Post Such Piquets, as they Shall Judge Necessary for their Protection, & they are to be Answerable to the Commander in Chief, that no man Straggles Beyond the Advanc'd Centries

...

The Maj^{rs} of Brig^{es} & Orderly Officers to Attend for Orders to Morrow Morning at 8...

Source and Notes: *William Howe orderly book*, Great Britain. Army, 1776-1778, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich.



Portrait of Col. John Graves Simcoe, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, 1791-96

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Government of Ontario Art Collection

**Account of Maj. Gen. Charles Grey's 3rd Brigade by Maj. John Graves Simcoe,
Queen's Rangers, Battle of Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania, Dec. 5 – 8, 1777**

On [Rebel] General [George] Washington's occupying the camp at Whitemarsh, [Gen.] Sir William Howe thought proper to move towards him, and the army marched accordingly on the 5th of December... The army encamped on Chesnut-Hill and its vicinity; and the piquet of the Rangers made fires on the road that led to it, so that the approach of any parties of the enemy could easily be seen. The army remained the next day in the same position. On the 7th, at night, Major Simcoe with the [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers, and a party of dragoons under Captain [William] Lord Cathcart, took up the position of some of the troops who had retired; this post was sometime afterwards quitted in great silence, and he joined the column that was marching under [Maj.] General [Charles] Gray. The General marched all night, and on approaching the enemy's outpost, he formed his column into three divisions; the advanced guard of the centre consisted of the Hessian Yagers, who marched with their cannon up the road that led through the wood, in which the enemy's light troops were posted; the light infantry of the guards advanced upon the right, and the Queen's Rangers on the left; the enemy were outflanked on each wing, and were turned in attempting to escape by the unparalleled swiftness of the light infantry of the guards, and driven across the fire of the Yagers, and the Queen's Rangers. The loss of the rebels was computed at near an hundred, with little or none on the part of the King's troops; a mounted man of the Queen's Rangers, in the pursuit, was killed by a Yager, through mistake: he wore a helmet that had been taken from a rebel patrol a few days before. General Grey was pleased to express himself highly satisfied with the order and rapidity with which the Rangers advanced... The army returned to Philadelphia...

Source: *Simcoe's Military Journal, A History of the Operations of a Partisan Corps, Called the Queen's Rangers*, by Lt. Col John Graves Simcoe, Bartlett & Welford, New York, 1844, Google Books, pp. 30- 32. The 42nd Regt. was assigned to the 3rd Brigade during this campaign.

Rebel Officer's Account of Battle of Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania on Dec. 5 – 8, 1777.

BALTIMORE, *December 16.*

Extract of a letter from an officer at camp. Dated Dec. 10.

IT is probale that by this time you expected to have been informed of a third general battle between the royal army and that of the United States. The former marched from its lines of Thursday the 5th, leaving only its sick, and a small necessary guard; passed through Germantown, driving before it our

patrols of horse, and exchanging fire with our pickets and advance parties of infantry. The British soldiers, as they advanced through the village, forced the doors of the inhabitants with the butts of their muskets, uttering execrations against the rebels and their abettors, On the morning of the 6th we received intelligence that the enemy had encamped on Chestnut Hill, and from the enormous smoke, too large for the purpose of a camp, which appeared at different times and in different directions, we suspected they were venting their spleen in wanton conflagrations; but we found afterwards that there was no house of consequence destroyed in this quarter. Two barns, and a square tower, which had been built as a look-out, were the only sacrifices they offered to tyranny in this neighbourhood. [Col. Charles] Webb's [2nd Connecticut] regiment, and the Pennsylvania militia, which in our order of battle were destined to act in small detachments for the purpose for the purpose of galling the enemy's flank were ordered to advance and skirmish with their light troops; the militia behaved as usual, and Brigadier General [James] Irvine was wounded and taken prisoner while he was making fruitless attempts to rally them.

"In the morning of the 7th, at 5 o'clock, the enemy filed off by their right; a party of them halted near Jenkin's town; by their movements it appeared they were endeavouring to turn our left; we changed our disposition in consequence, and upon hearing that they were advancing in two columns, [Col. Daniel] Morgan's [Provisional Rifle] corps and the Maryland militia were ordered to harass their flank; there was some very smart firing in consequence, between Morgan's and the British light infantry; the latter having made an imprudent use of their extraordinary allowance of rum, suffered, and every man that appeared would have been killed or taken if the rifle-men had been armed with bayonets. We had great reason to fear a general attack, but there was nothing more than a little bickering between our pickets.

"On the 8th the enemy remained in position, and under cover of their usual stratagem, leaving great fires on their ground, decamped in the evening. It was doubted at first whether they meant to retreat, or whether they were only filing off in order to prepare for an attack on our right. [Rebel Brig. Gen.] Count [Casimir] Pulaski with a party of horse, and a few infantry which he had collected, followed them, watching their motions. – As soon as the real design of the enemy was ascertained, light parties were ordered to pursue, and a larger body to support them; but the enemy's march was too rapid to allow of their being overtaken by any other than Count Pulaski's party, who, with his handful of men, made an attack upon their rear guard. Very early yesterday morning, after burning a tavern called the Rising Sun, near Philadelphia, and stealing a few milch cows and horses, they harboured themselves. Thus an expedition, which raised expectations of every body, and from whence it was thought some great decisive stroke would arise, terminated in degrading the whole British army to a foraging party.

"The loss of Morgan's rifle-men was 27 killed and wounded, among the latter is the brave Major [Joseph] Morris; what the enemy lost in the several skirmishes is not known. Col. Morgan, who has no need of boasting to establish the reputation of his corps, says the British light infantry lost a great many in their skirmish with him. While the armies were in presence we had several deserters and prisoners from them – those taken the first day by small parties of horse in Germantown, in the rear of the enemy, were for the most part drunk. These parties of ours had been posted at Frankford, and as the enemy did not extend themselves to the right of Germantown, they fell in upon the enemy's rear, and collected stragglers with impunity.

"You will now probably ask, what account of the enemy's conduct is to be given? My idea on the matter is simply this: [Gen.] Sir William Howe imagined that on the first appearance of the British army the shivering, half-naked defenders of liberty, would have decamped and left him master of the country; that finding his parade ineffectual, he had recourse to the most trying manœuvre of encamping on our flank, but seeing us still moveable, he judged it was most prudent to retire to peaceful winter quarters, than to attack us in a position, the strength of which would probably have obliged him to retire with loss; and which, even if he had gained from us by the greatest exertions, must have cost him too great a sacrifice of his best troops; while our army, light and free of encumbrance, even in case of this improbable disaster, would have suffered more in honour than in any other point."

Source: *Virginia Gazette* (Dixon and Hunter), Dec. 26, 1777, p. 1.

Journal of Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 2nd Lt. Infantry Battalion, Describes the Light Infantry, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company, at the Battle of Whitmarsh, Pennsylvania, Dec. 7 – 8, 1777

Dec. 7th. The Army marched by Germantown about one o'clock in the morning, the van and main Commanded as before, and at day break took post on Edge-hill, on a mile distant from the Enemy's left; turning their advanced picquet at the Mason's Arms, where a troop of the Dragons surprised a party of their Light-horse. We formed a line across the Road, keeping a strong detachment in our front, which kept the Enemy, posted in the woods, in play for about two hours.

The whole Army was put in motion about one o'clock, our two Battallions (light Infantry) putting their Blankets and Necessaries in waggons, and scouring the woods about two miles, forcing the Enemy's out-scouts to their camp.

A General attack being determined upon, the Army was made into three lines, viz.

Front Line: 1st [with 42nd Lt. Inf. Co.] and 2^d. Battallions of Light Infantry, Chasseurs [Jägers] and Rifle Corps.

Second Line; 1st, 2^d [with 42nd Gren. Co.] Battallions British Grenadiers, and the Hessian Grenadiers; 7th and 26th Battallions.

Third Line, consisted of the 1st and 3^d [with the 42nd Regt.] Brigades of British, some Battallions of Hessians and the 16th and 17th Regiments of Light Dragoons.

A corps of 1000 men, composed of [Col. Daniel Morgan's] riflemen & other troops from the Enemy's northern Army, were posted on Edge-hill with cannon. The front being formed and advancing, [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis immediately attacked them with the right wing of the 1st. battallion of Light-Infantry, supported by the 33^d. Regiment, and after a hot fire which was sustained with great resolution, the rebels were repulsed with a considerable loss of Officers and men, their canon narrowly escaped. The thickness of the wood where the Rebels were posted, concealing them from view of our Battallions, occasioned the loss of one Officer killed, three wounded, and about 30 men killed and wounded on our part, from their first fire.

Major-General [Charles] Grey with his [3rd] Brigade [including the 42nd Regt.], Light Infantry of the Guards, [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers, Hessian and Anspach Chasseurs, took post on our left, in front of the Enemy's centre. And at the same time, a detachment to harass this Corps was immediately routed by the General's advanced Guard, composed of his light troops, with a loss to the Enemy of about 50 men killed and wounded.

Lieutenant-Colonel [Robert] Abercromby [1st Lt. Inf. Bn.] at the head of the front line advanced at four o'clock, with orders for us to lye upon our Arms, as soon as we reached the Creek in front of their Camp; where we could hear them felling the trees to hinder our Cannon from advancing upon them. The Grenadiers marched at an hundred yards distant in our rear; and the rear or third Line at the same distance, from the Grenadiers.

The Enemy's camp being as strong on their centre and left as upon their right, and their seeming determination to hold this position, and unwillingness to come to action; by the unanimous concurrence and approbation of the General Officers, at the head of the front line, assembled, it was judged prudent to desist from the intended attack; therefore the whole Army fell a little back, and at that ground made fires...

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 158- 161. Sullivan served in the 49th Lt. Inf. Co. Edge Hill is now a suburb of Philadelphia and located about 14 miles north of the downtown.

General Order to Prepare the Army to Return to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 7, 1777

Head Quarters Edgehill Dec^r 7th. 1777...

The troops to be In Readiness to Move on the Shortest Notice...

Source and Notes: *William Howe orderly book*, Great Britain. Army, 1776-1778, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich.

Journal of Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 2nd Lt. Infantry Battalion, Describes the Light Infantry's Return to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 8, 1777

Dec. 8th. The General being unwilling to expose the troops longer to the weather in the inclement season, without tents of baggage of any kind for the Officers or Men, returned with the Army to Philadelphia. The rear Guard, und the command of Lord Cornwallis, quitted Edge-hill on the right, about four o'clock in the Afternoon, without the least appearance of the Enemy; and Major-General Gray retired from his post at the same time, without the smallest molestation, and the Army arrived to camp at nine o'clock at night. Part of the troops were then in winter Quarters.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 158- 161. Sullivan served in the 49th Lt. Inf. Co. Edge Hill is now a suburb of Philadelphia and located about 14 miles north of the downtown.



Detail showing the camp of the 42nd Regt. in the upper right hand corner (3rd and 4th blocks from the left) and Grey's Ferry in the lower left from "*Philadelphia and neighborhood*", 1778

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of 42nd Regt. on Foraging Expedition, Grey's Ferry, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 10 - 12, 1777

10th: A Pontoon Bridge was laid across the Schuylkill at Greys Ferry...

11th: At 3 in the morning, [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis passed the Schuylkill with the Light Infantry, Grenadiers, Guards, 23^d 28th. 49th. 27th. & 33. 100 Chasseurs and Lengerke's Battⁿ: and the 16th: & 17th: Light Dragoons.

12th: The Waggons of the Army were escorted to the other Side of the Schuylkill by the 42^d Regiment and were employed in bringing in Forage. It was said that great depredations had been committed by the Soldiers on this march. The whole of the Cattle which the Troops had procured was stopped at the Bridge and delivered to the Commissary, to the great disappointment of many people: In the evening [Maj.] Gen: [Charles] Grey crossed the bridge at Middle Ferry in order to Secure the retreat of the

Waggons, but it being very soon after reported that Lord Cornwallis was returned and had brought in the Forage, Gen: Grey received Orders to retire to Camp again.

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

General Orders to Prepare for Foraging Expedition, Philadelphia, Dec. 11 – 12, 1777

Head Quarters Morning Orders 9 o'clock 11th Dec^r 77

The Troops are Immediately to Accoutre Roll up their Blankets & Remain in Readiness till further orders to turn Out on the Shortest Notice in Case of marching to take One days provisions with them. –

After orders 4 o'clock 11th. Dec^r 1777

The troops to Un accoutre this Evening at Gun firing –

the Detachment sent this day By Brig^{er} Gen^l [Hon. Alexander] Leslie to Occupy the several redoubts are at the same time to be withdrawn & the Corps in Camp to Post their Usual Piquets Attending to the Alteration made in the After order of Last night; The 71st [Highland] Reg^t. being under Orders, to Embark the 7th. Reg^t. will take the Piquet of their 2nd. Battⁿ. this Night & to take up their Ground of Encamp^t. at day break to Morrow Morning the 2nd Battⁿ of Ansbach are this Night to Occupy the redoubt No 3 with a Cap^t & 50 Men

The Cavalry to be Saddled, the Infantry Accoutred the Artillery Horses harness'd, to Morrow by break of Day – the men With their Blankets & One Days provision to be the Same Corps that has Occupied the Redoubts this Day at Day Break for which Brig^{er} Gen^l Leslie will give the Directions - The Piquets then Being to Return to Camp...

Morning Orders Dec^r 12th. 1777

The Cavalry to Un saddle the Infantry to Un Accoutre the Artillery Horses to Un harness & the Usual Business of the Camp go on – the Usual Piquets to be Posted & the Detachments in the Redoubts to be Withdrawn –

Source and Notes: *William Howe orderly book*, Great Britain. Army, 1776-1778, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich.



"An eastward view of the floating bridge at Gray's Ferry south of Philadelphia," 1816, by Joshua Rowley Watson

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Captain Watson's Travels in America: the sketchbooks and diary of Joshua Rowley Watson, 1772-1818*, Kathleen A. Foster

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1st Battalion, 42nd Regt.,
Records Foraging Near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 11 – 13, 1777**

Thursday 11th. Sharp frost & cold NW wind orders in the Even^g. for a strong body of the army by detachment to be in readiness to march at 2 oclock in the morning – but it was altered –

Friday 12th. Early this morning [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis with the Light Infantry [including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1st Bn.] Grenad^{rs}. [with the 42nd Gren. Co. in the 2nd Bn.] & other Troops to the amount of above 4000 crossed over the Schuylkill with a train of waggons for forage they bent their march up the river with an intention to break down M^r. [Rebel Gen. George] Washingtons bridge near Swedes ford, but on their way fell in [with] the [Pennsylvania Militia Brig. Gen. James] Potters Brigade whom they routed & drove over the bridge together with part of Washingtons army who had pass'd over, & who to secure their retreat broke down the bridge and saved our people that trouble. Lord Cornwallis then made a sweep to the westward & so^d. [southward] & came on by Hartford without meeting any more of the Enemy.

Saturday 13th. The [42nd] Reg^t. rec^d. orders last night to be in readiness to march before day. accordingly we march'd (the morn^g. very cold hard frost) to Grays ferry where we found about 150 Waggons which we took under our Convoy & cross'd the Schuylkill there on a Bridge of pontoons, & moved on to the Blue Bell (about 6 miles from Town) where orders came from L^d. Cornwallis to move on we join'd his Troops about 3 miles beyond Darby tow^{ds}. Hartford, the waggons dispers'd to get forage & the Troops divided along the Roads to cover y^m [them] and in the Even^g. the whole return'd with a good hawl of forage, some cattle, & plunder, but old Grizly stop'd such cows as had been pick'd by off^{rs} & sent them along w^t the public stock...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries Dec. 11-13, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 154-155.

**Journal of Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 2nd Lt. Infantry Battalion, Describes the Light Infantry,
Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company in the 1st Battalion, Foraging Near Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania, Dec. 11-12, 1777**

Dec. 11th. At daybreak [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis having with him Major General [James] Grant, passed the Schuylkill with a strong corps, composed of the 1st. and 2^d. Battallions of Light Infantry; British [with the 42nd Gren. Co. in the 2nd Bn.] and Hessian Grenadiers; mounted and dismounted Chasseurs [Jägers], a detachment of the Light Dragoons; some Battallions of British and Hessians; and the Artillery belonging to them corps; and waggons of the Army, to collect forrage for the winter supply.

Intelligence in the mean time being received, that the Enemy quitted their camp at White-marsh, some hours before Lord Cornwallis marched from Philadelphia, and were making huts near Swedes and Matson's fords for winter out-Posts for their Army, and their being encamped at the latter place.

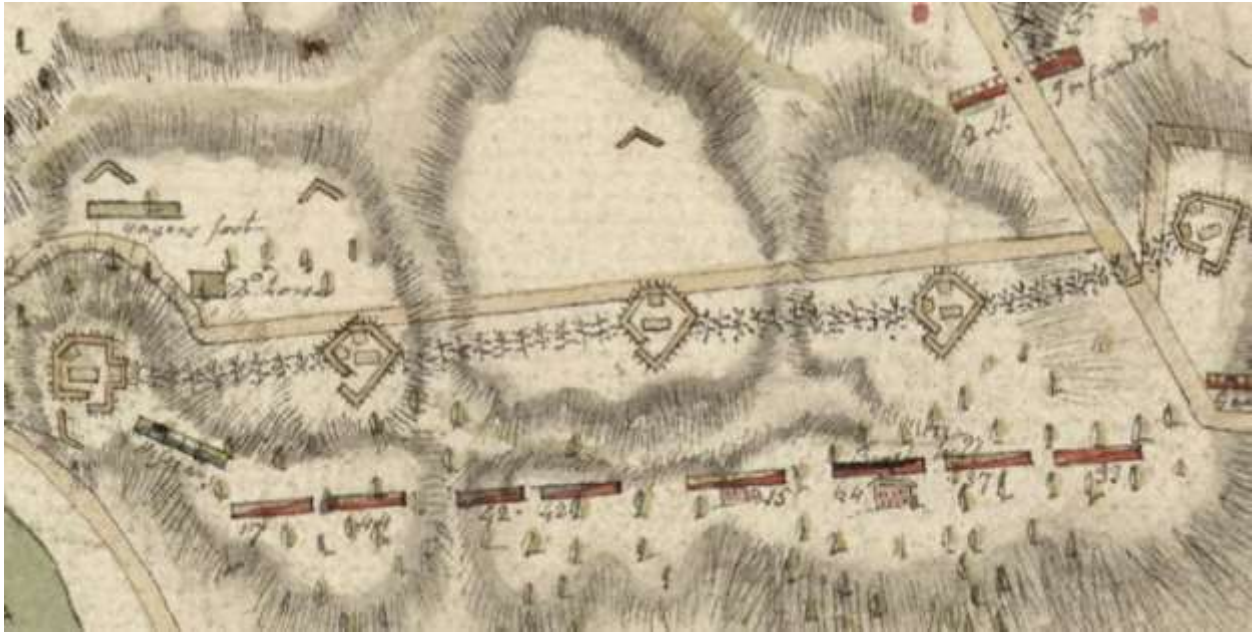
Our Battallions of Light-Infantry, whose post is the front going out, and the rear coming home, coming up with a large Picquet of the rebels, detached about four miles from their encampment, attacked them, who offered to make a stand in front of a thick wood, and after a few shots being fired from the Guns [Cannon] of the two Battallions; the Enemy retreated about half a mile, taking a second position across the road upon a high hill. We attacked them again, they soon gave way, and the mounted Chasseurs and a troop of the 17th Light Dragoons, made a most brave charge upon their rear, cut and made Prisoners about fifty of them.

We pursued them to their main body, who were at a bridge they had thrown over the Schuylkill, near Matson's ford, about three miles below Swedes ford, and 165 miles distant from Philadelphia. Over

this bridge the Rebels had passed 800 men, and were those we attacked; and obliged the most part of 'em to recross it, which occasioned such an alarm to their Army, that they drew up in three lines in pretence of giving us Battle, but in the mean time, they down the bridge and set fire to their camp.

We took post upon the hills just in their front, intending only to burn their Camp, but as the spared us that trouble, by doing it themselves, the troops turned back towards Derby, and gathered a large quantity of forrage, lying the woods that next, and returned the next day to Camp.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 161-162. Sullivan served in the 49th Lt. Inf. Co.



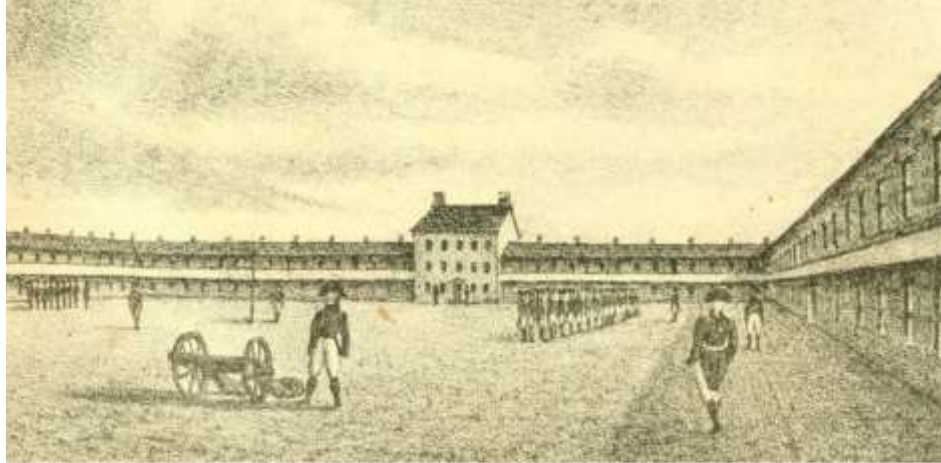
Detail showing line of redoubts and 42nd Regt. camp from "Philadelphia and neighborhood", 1778

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1st Battalion, 42nd Regt.,
Notes Winter Quarters, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 16, 1777**

Tuesday 16th soft & drizzling rain all day The Q^r. masters of the different Brigades getting Quarters for their respective Reg^{ts}. – The Light Infantry goes into the barracks, the Gren^{rs}. into the House of Employment [also Bettering House] – a Guard House building in each redoubt for a Cap^t. 2 Subs [subalterns] & 50 men

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry Dec. 16, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 155.



Detail from *British Barracks, Philadelphia*, circa 1828-30

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Annals of Philadelphia*, John Fanning Watson, (1830), opp. p. 361.

Journal of Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 2nd Lt. Infantry Battalion, Describes the Light Infantry, Including the 42nd Lt. Inf. Company in the 1st Battalion, Foraging Near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 16 - 31, 1777

Dec. 16th. A strong detachment of the Army under the command of Lieutenant General [Charles] Earl Cornwallis, marched from Philadelphia very early in the morning, having with him Major Generals [James] Grant and [Charles] Grey, all the Waggons of the Army; passed the Schuylkill [River] and in the Evening formed a line at Derby, which is seven miles [southwest] from the City, across the Road that leads to Chester and Wilmington, our two Battallions keeping the front as usual....

Dec. 31st. A Sufficient Quantity of forage and some Cattle for the use of the Hospitals being gathered, the troops returned towards Philadelphia; but before we reached the river Schuylkill a party of the Enemy was seen following us. A Detachment of the Light Dragoons which marched out with our Battallions, in a short time surrounded them, the snow being deep, and after a few shots, they took 30 of them prisoners, but their Officers (one Lieutenant excepted) escaped.

This day our two Battallions of Light Infantry, went into Barracks; the rest of the Army being Quartered in and about the City. The Barracks being the proper Quarters for us, to be ready to turn out and form in a moment, in case of an attack or an alarm from the Enemy.

Those Barracks are a strong Brick building, one story high, which forms three parts of a square. They are about half a mile round, and in the North-end of the Town...

During the Winter our two Battallions of Light-Infantry gave the covering parties for the Wood-Cutters in front of the Lines, it being the only duty we did in Garrison, together with sending scouts to harass the Enemy.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 163-164. Sullivan served in the 49th Lt. Inf. Co.

Excerpt of Letter from Capt. John M^cIntosh, 42nd Regt. to Mr. John Mackintosh, Describing the Regiment's Camp, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 21, 1777

Camp, near Philadelphia, 21st Dec, 1777

My Dear Friend...

We marched back to Philadelphia [after battle of Whitmarsh, Dec. 4-8], and though we retired in the face of the enemy, they did not molest our rear. We have since remained peaceably within our lines here, and quarters are now preparing for us in town for the remainder of the winter. I heartily wish

we were under some cover. Canvas is very poor shelter against the severe northwesterners that prevail here at this time of the year. I am now writing you in a soldier's tent, which is all the cover I have had this campaign, and I am tired enough of it. I hope powerful reinforcements will be sent us in the spring. Some vigorous measures ought to be pursued, or give them up entirely. I am sorry to say that at home the war is not looked upon of that consequence which it deserves, though I hope the misfortunes of the last campaign will open the eyes of many. I can assure you, my friend, that this country is not so easily conquered as many believe. It is wide, almost without bounds, covered with woods, and abounding with large rivers; many parts of the country naturally so strong that it is extremely difficult to make advances with an army. Take along with this the numerous inhabitants of the country, who are rebels almost to a man – the few among them that are well-inclined to Government, or rather those that are tired of the tyranny of Congress, are kept in such awe by the militia, and even by their own neighbors, that they dare not declare their sentiments, but are obliged in their turn to take arms against us. Such, and much worse than I have described, being the situation of this unhappy country, judge what measures are necessary to reduce them. What gives me pain is the vast numbers of families that must be ruined, and even starved, before this unfortunate contest is over. The leaders of the rebellion being men of desperate fortunes, leaves but little hopes of an accommodation, but by reducing them by force of arms. As I am told our letters are generally opened, I shall add no more on this subject. This, I confess to you, prevents me from writing you often, as it deprives me of the pleasure I should have of giving you such information from this country as might entertain you a little. I had a letter from my sister some time ago, wherein she gratefully mentions your friendship and kindness to her. You cannot, my dear friend, oblige me more than by taking some notice of her. I hope she will deserve it, and some people flatter me by telling me that she is a very good and agreeable girl; and, as she is not my only charge, I own to you I am much interested in her, and would do everything in my power to make her comfortable and happy. My brother, Lachlan, is in a very good way in the Commissary Department at New York. In a letter I had from him the other day, he tells me he had a letter, dated in June last, from your pupil William, who, with Angus, he says, are well and in a fair way of making money. I hope you will see them some day or other return to their own country, and give you satisfaction for the friendship and protection you afforded them in their young and needy days. I saw Mr. and Mrs. Munro last April at New York. You may, perhaps, have seen them since at Inverness. If so, make my kind compliments to them, and tell Mrs. Munro had I known where to direct for her, she would have heard from me. As she promised to let me know, I hope she will keep her word.

The 71st [Highland] Regiment went from this last week for New York, by which I lose the pleasure I should have with Cousin Angus [Capt. Angus Mackintosh of Kyllachy] this winter. Poor fellow had a narrow escape on our last expedition against Mr. Washington, but not from the enemy. He was overset by a waggon, and the wheel went over his leg. But, by a miracle, the bone is safe, though the waggon was loaded. He got a severe bruise, but will soon be quite well. He is gone with the regiment, so that his friends need be under no anxiety on his account. The laird is well, as, indeed, is all your acquaintances in that corps. Be so kind as send the enclosed to my sister, and remember me most affectionately to you sisters and the rest of our friends. Tell Cousin Charles I can only send him what he already possesses, that is, my sincere love and esteem. I am, though very cold outwardly, inwardly, warmly, sincerely, affectionately yours,

(Signed) John Mackintosh

Addressed – “To Mr. John Mackintosh, merchant, Inverness, Scotland.”

Source: *Letters of Two Centuries, Chiefly Connected with Inverness and the Highlands, From 1616 to 1815*, Edited by Charles Fraser-Mackintosh of Drummond, M.P., F.S.A. Scot., A.&W. MacKenzie, Inverness, 1890, Google Books, pp. 291-294.



Detail showing Derby in the lower left of "A map of Philadelphia and parts adjacent," by Nicholas Scull, 1753

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

General Orders Give Direction for a Large Detachment to Prepare for Extensive Foraging Expedition, Philadelphia, Dec. 21, 1777

Head Quarters Philadelphia Dec^r 21st 77...

The Following Corps to Hold them Selves in Readiness to March by the left on the Shortest Notice & in the following Order. First & Second Lⁱ Infantry – British Grenadiers. – Hessian Grenadiers, half of the Corps of Yagers Mounted & Dismounted - third Brig^e. 17th – 42nd - & 64th – Reg^{ts}. with four 6 Pounders – 4th Brig^e. 33rd 46th & 64th – Reg^{ts}. with two 6 Pounders – 5th Brig^e – 7th 26th & 63rd Reg^{ts}. with 4 – 3 Pounders, two Battⁿ. [German] Ansbach, with their Guns. – 2nd Brig^e. 5th & 27th Reg^{ts} with two Six Pounders, first Battⁿ Guards with their Guns Grenadier & Lⁱ Companies, four light Twelves from the Park at the Head of the Guards – 17th Dragoons at the Head of the British Grenadier's, 16th Dragoons in the Rear of the Guards, to take With them their Carbines & Swords Only. – An Officers & 12 from each Reg^t of Dragoons to be Left here – Each Corps to take with them the Whole of their Waggon's two of which May be Loaded with Baggage, the Others to go Empty. – the Waggon's to Follow 16th. Dragoons According to the Order of March – the Men to Carry with them three Days Provisions the Waggon's of Each Corps three Days Rum, The Men On town Duties of these Corps, are to be Reliev'd this Evening at Gun firing by the Corps that Remains Behind –

The Gen^l Officers to March with the Army Maj Generals [James] Grant & [Charles] Gray & Brig^{er} Gen^l [Hon. Alexander] Leslie. – His Excellency [Hessian] Lⁱ Gen^l [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen to take the Command of the of the Lines & Garrison...

Memorandum

The Army Probably will be out four Days Officers & Men to Provide Accordingly. – The Convalescents to be Left to take Care of the Hutts & . – the Baggage to be remov'd to town – Tents may be Carried by the Officers it they think proper. – It is Propos'd to. Deliver two Months Provisions to the troops a Store house to be got for that Purpose,

After Orders Evening Gun Firing

the troops Under Orders of March are to be In readiness to Move to Morrow Morning at day Break

The Corps that Remain Here are also to Send all their Waggon's Except One P [per] Battⁿ. or Corps All the Baggage & Empty Waggon's to be Drawn up Upon the Commons, by five in the Morning on the Right Side of the Road leading to the Bridge over Grays [Ferry]. – The Q^r Master of Each Corps to Attend their Waggon's that go on this Service & be Answerable for the Regularity of the Drivers, & Such Other Men as Shall be Sent with them...

Memorandum

It is Necessary that the Men should take Some Camp Kettles with them & some Axes

Head Quarters Sweeds Meeting House Dec^r 22nd. 77...

The Line to be in readiness to turn Out on the Shortest Notice. the Colo^l of the day & Field Officer of the Piquets are to Vissit the Advanced Posts, in the town of Darby to the Right of the Line & the Commanding Officers of Grenadiers & Light Infantry, will give the Necessary Orders for the Visitation of their Own posts,

The Object of the Movement being to Collect Forage for the Army, the Commanding Officers of Corps are to be Answerable that None be taken out but by the Order of the Quarter Master Generals Department, the Army to be Inform'd that two Men are Orderd for Immediate Execution for the Crime of Plundering, & the Comm^r in Chief being Determind to Punish with the Utmost rigour Every Man Detect'd In Depradation of Any Kind

The Commanding Officers of Corps are Required to Enforce The Reapeate'd Orders that Have been given on that Head...

Source and Notes: *William Howe orderly book*, Great Britain. Army, 1776-1778, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Mich. The above order provides instructions for a multi-day foraging expedition near Derby, Pennsylvania.

Excerpts of Letter No. 86 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting a Large Foraging Expedition to Derby, Pennsylvania and Winter Quarters in Philadelphia, Dec. 22 – 31, 1777

N^o 86

Philadelphia 19th January 1778

My Lord...

There has not any Thing more material happened since the Departure of Lord Cornwallis who I requested to be the Bearer of my last Dispatches, than the passing a considerable Detachment of the Army across the Schuylkill on the 22^d of December, to take post on the heights of derby, in order to cover the collecting and transporting by water, as well as by Land, a large Quantity of Forage, which that Country afforded. About one Thousand Ton were brought inn, a Quantity judged to be nearly Sufficient for the Winter Consumption, and the detachment returned on the 28th of December, without any further Attempts from the Enemy to Retard the Progress of the Forage, than from small Parties sculking, as is their Custom, to seize Stragglng Soldiers – One of these Parties, consisting of two Officers and thirty Men were decoyed by two Dragoons of the 17th Regiment into an Ambuscade & made Prisoners.

On the 30th & 31st of December, the Troops went into Winter Quarters in this Town, where they are well accommodated.

The Enemy Army, excepting a Detachment of 1200 Men at Wilmington, is hutted in the Woods near Valley Forge upon the Schuylkill twenty two Miles from hence, and in a very strong Position...

I have the Honor to be,

Your Lordship's faithful and most obedient Servant

W. Howe

Right Hon^{ble} Lord George Germain
&c^a &c^a &c^a

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. 793-794 from CO 5/95.

**Maj. of Brigade John Andre's Account of the 3rd Brigade, Including
the 42nd Regt., Foraging Near Derby, Pennsylvania, Dec. 22 – 30, 1777**

22^d: The pontoon Bridge having been laid over the Schuylkill, a considerable Body was appointed to the defense of the Lines, and the Army marched across the River, and huttet to an extent of 3 Miles from Derby to Greys Ferry. The Waggons were employed in the rear in collecting forage, which was conveyed to the Philadelphia side of the Schuylkill...

26th: [Maj.] Gen: [Charles] Grey marched with 6 battalions and took position about 3 miles from Derby in order to bring away some Forage. The Hessian Grenadiers, thro' whose Encampment Gen: Grey passed, joined him and took post with his Corps, & the two Battalions of Light Inf^y: moved forward and to their left, which brought them very near the right of Gen: Greys Line.

In the evening Gen: Grey returned to Camp.

27th: The remainder of the Forage within our Compass was brought in, and in the Evening the Corps on the South side of Derby Creek were withdrawn across the Bridges, and the 17th: and 42^d Regiments were brought across Cobbs Creek. The Light Infantry were posted between Derby and Cobbs Creek: It snowed very hard.

28th: At about 8 in the morning the Army marched towards Philadelphia: The Light Infantry took post about the Bridge at Greys untill it was taken up whilst the rest of the Army marched to Middleferry where they halted until the Light Infantry came up, when the whole crossed the Schuylkill and repaired to their several Encampments and Quarters. –

Source and Note: *Major Andre's Journal*, Huntington Library. Cobb's Creek is located at the Snuff Mill to the east of Derby in the above map.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. Lt. John Peebles, 1st Battalion, 42nd Regt.,
Records Major Foraging Expedition, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 22 – 31, 1777**

Monday 22^d. Dec^r. The Troops put in motion as by last nights orders & crost the Schuylkill by the bridge at Grays ferry & moved on the Chester road till the front past Darby – the Light Infantry took post on the heights to the So^{wd}. [southward] of it & the Gr^{rs}. to No^d. [northward]. The rest of the Troops posted all along the road from the ferry to Darby, while the waggons are employ'd in carrying forage to Town –

Tuesday 23^d. De^c. fine moderate weather, The Troops continue in same position, & waggons in carrying forage, all quiet in & about camp –

Wednesday 24th. This morn^g. the Rebels caught 10 or 12 of our Light dragoons, who were on a scout, & fell in with a party of the rebels, who pursued them into a swamp. on Picq^t [picket] today – all quiet, – heard firing at Philad^a. –

Thursday 25th. Xma^{ss}. [Christmas] very pleasant weather for the season – 3 days provisions come out from Town. The waggins still busy carrying home forage ... some battalions moved further down the Chester road to cover the waggons below Darby Creek – The firing yesterday, was betwixt our lines & some Row Gallies that came down the River – Xmas not entirely forgot

Friday 26th. the fine weather still continues – [Maj.] Gen^l. [Charles] Gray with 7 or 8 Batt^{ns}. [including the two battalions of the 42nd Regt.] moved down as far as the 10 mile stone to cover the foragers, we return'd in the Even^g. to our Ground near the Blue Bell [Inn]



Blue Bell Inn

Picture Source; *West Philadelphia Illustrated*, M. Laffitte Vieira, Avil Pub. Co., 1903, p. 21.

Saturday 27th. Dec^r. a good deal of rain last night but not cold, the day moderate & fair – in the Even^g. got orders to change our ground in order to shorten the line, we moved just across the Creek at the Blue Bell and went down into the wood, but for want of waggons or by some mistake we did not get to our ground till near 10 oclock at night, when it was exceeding cold, with a sharp NW wind & not a bit of shelter for the men

orders to be ready to move in the morn^g.

Sunday 28th. it snowed all last night & was very cold, – The Troops march'd in the morn^g. & after seeing all the waggons over the Pontoon Bridge at Gray's ferry, the Bridge was taken up, & the troops with their Guns came by the bridge at Middle ferry & return'd to their respective old ground at the lines – it snow'd all day & it was Even^g. before we got home – a small party of Rebels taken today Thus ended the long foraging party which continued a week, in which time it is supposed was carried into Town between 3 & 400 ton of Hay every day, which makes above 2000 ton, reckon'd to last the army four months

Monday 29th. cold NW & very keen frost – orders for the army to march into Quarters tomorrow the duty in the Redoubts taken by Brigades a Sub[altern] & 30 in each during the day & a Cap^t. 2 Subs & 50 in the night –

Tuesday 30th. Dec^r. all or most of the Troops march'd into their Q^{rs}. today – we don't go in till tomorrow The orders of yesterday respecting the duty of the redoubts altered in so far that the Cap^t. 2 Subs & 50 continue there day & night...

Wednesday 31st. we march'd into Quarters – the men employ'd all the morn^g. on carrying in the Materials of their Hutts for firing & births in their Q^{rs}. & at 2 oclock the [42nd] Reg^t. march'd in & the Company's took possession of their respective Qu^{rs}. which in general are tollerably good – the House allotted for me the worst of the while, but I got it chang'd –

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries* Dec. 22-31, 1777 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 155 -157.