

Detail of "A Plan of the city of New York," 1776

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

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in New York Garrison, Jan. 3 – Sept. 1, 1781

**Excerpt of Letter No. 115 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing Actions Taken to Take Advantage of Rebel Pennsylvania Line Mutiny, New York, Jan. 3, 1781**

New York 25 January 1781

My Lord...

On the 3<sup>d</sup> instant it was reported to me that on the 1<sup>st</sup> the Pensilvania line had revolted. The particulars as far as I have been able to ascertain them and the steps I took in consequence are contained in the journal which I have the honour to enclose. My offers reached them on the 6<sup>th</sup> together with a declaration of the Admirals and mine as commissioners. They admitted two of their generals to a conference on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Their demands were pay, arrears of pay, the depreciation of money made up to them according to the different periods, and their discharges from further service...

On the 5<sup>th</sup> notwithstanding the season was so far advanced I made a Movement with the elite of the Army [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co.] to Staten Island, in which situation with the assistance given me by the Vice-Admiral of a ship of war and a number of boats to cooperate with the Army I was ready to

act as circumstances might make necessary; but until I had some certain information respecting their intention or wishes, it would have been very imprudent for me to have done anything more than favour the revolt and offer asylum, for one step further might have reunited them to their oppressors. On the 17<sup>th</sup> I received by the return of two of my messengers the enclosed printed papers by which I plainly saw that there was an appearance of accommodation. I therefore returned from Staten Island, and the general Officer I left in the command there reporting to me that the troops suffered much from the inclemency of the weather and that their state in fact might be termed a continual picquet, I ordered them to return to their huts on Long Island ...

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XX, Transcripts 1781*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1977, pp. 43-45 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/101, f. 114.

**Order for Maj. Gen. William Phillips to Prepare the Light Infantry, Grenadiers and 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders for an Expedition to Reinforce British Forces in Virginia; New York, Jan. 3, 1781**

Head Quart<sup>s</sup>. New York 3 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1781

Sir

The 2 Batt<sup>ns</sup>. of Granadiers [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.], 2 Batt<sup>ns</sup> of Light Infantry [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.] & 42<sup>nd</sup> Regim<sup>t</sup> under your Command will hold themselves in Readiness to march at the Shortest Notice taking with them as Little Bagage as Possible. the men to carry their Blankets and a very small part of their Necessarys and two days provisions Ready dressed non but field Officers and the Staff will be allowed to carry Harsses [horses] each Corps may take two Waggons for the Convenance of the Officers, you will please to give orders that an Officer and a Sufficent Number of men be Left behind to take care of the Hutts and Cantoonments of each Corps A Field Return of each Corps to be Sent as Soon as Possible to the Adjutant Gen<sup>l</sup>. Office

Source and Notes: *Capt. Eyre Coote's 37<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Company Order Book, 1778 – 1781*. This order is more likely a specific order directed to Maj. Gen. William Phillips to prepare for the Virginia campaign and does not appear in the Sir Henry Clinton Order Book in the *Clinton Papers*. Before sailing the British Grenadiers and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. were pulled from the expedition and replace with other units.

**Journal of Capt. Frederick Mackenzie Records Light Infantry and Grenadier Companies of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Marching in Reaction to the Mutiny of the Rebel Pennsylvania Line, Staten Island, Jan. 3-20, 1781**

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> Tick damp weather. No frost. W.N.E.

Certain intelligence was received this Morning, that the Pennsylvania troops Cantoned near Morristown in Jersey... have Mutinied: that the Alarm guns were fired in order in order to assemble the Militia of the Country and suppress the revolt. – that the Mutineers having attempted to March toward Philadelphia, some skirmishing had ensued between them and the Militia...

[Commander in Chief Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton has had such good reasons for crediting this intelligence, that he has ordered a large Corps of the Army to be in readiness to march on the shortest notice, and his intention is to move immediately into Jersey with it, to favor this revolt, and encrease confusion.

The troops ordered are, The British grenadiers, and Light Infantry, Three Battalions of Hessian Grenadiers, The Jagers, 37<sup>th</sup> & 42<sup>d</sup> Regiments, and [Hessian Regt.] Prince Hereditaire; with about 20 pieces of Ordinance.

It is not yet determined whether he will enter Jersey by Paulus hook, or Elisabeth-town...

4<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>... Undoubted intelligence received that the whole Pennsylvania line have Mutinied...On Tuesday they marched on to Middlebrook, and yesterday to Brunswick. They amount to about 1200 men...

In consequence of this Information The Commander in Chief has ordered the British Grenadiers and Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. and Lt Inf. Companies], three Battalions of Hessian Grenadiers, and the Jagers, to march at day break toMorrow towards Denyces ferry, from whence if there is occasion he intends to go with them to South Amboy, in Jersey, to favor the revolt, and keep the Militia back...

5<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> Heavy rain ‘till about 4 o’Clock this Morning...

The troops mentioned yesterday, marched this Morning at day break.

The Commander in Chief went over to Long Island at 12 this day, and intends going from thence to Staten Island, where he will be on hand to give orders for such further Movements of the troops as may be necessary in consequence of the intelligence he may receive.

Major General [William] Phillips commands the British, and Major General [Heinrich von] Kospoth the German troops that have moved...

The accounts received this day from Jersey say, that the insurgents amount to about 2200 men...

6<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>...The British Grenadiers and Light Infantry, passed over from Denyces about 9 o’Clock last night to Staten Island... The Hessian Grenadiers passed over this Morning, and marched with the British towards Amboy...

7<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>... The insurgents still continue assembled in arms, and refuse to listen to any of the offers which have been made to them on the part of Congress or their Generals. They remain in the neighbourhood of Brunswick.

Our troops are cantoned at Richmond and on the roads behind it, on Staten Island. They are in readiness to move on the shortest notice, in or to seize on any favourable opportunity which any offer in the present critical situation of affairs...

8<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>... No particular accounts from Staten Island...

11<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>... The Hessian Grenadiers passed over yesterday Evening from Staten Island to Long Island, and marched last night to their former quarters at Jamaica, &c...

12<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>... The Pennsylvanians remain in their situation at Princetown...

15<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>... The British Light Infantry are cantoned at Billop’s point, and the Grenadiers at, near Richmond, Staten Island...

16<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>... The latest intelligence from Jersey is that the Pennsylvanians removed to Bordentown the 12<sup>th</sup>...

The Commander in Chief, has I believe, given up all hopes of the Pennsylvanians accepting the terms he proposed to them...

6<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>...

20<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>... The British Grenadiers, with the Mounted Light Infantry and Jagers, passed over yesterday from Staten Island to Denyces, and marched from thence towards their respective quarters on Long Island.

The Light Infantry and Foot Jagers, are to pass this day, and return also to their quarters.

‘Tis reported by some people who came in last night, that the Pennsylvanians are not yet satisfied with what has been offered them by Congress, and that they were upon the march back to Princetown.

Source and Note: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 441-458.

### **Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record Army Reaction to the Mutiny of Pennsylvania Rebel Troops, New York, Jan. 4 – 21, 1781**

...& in the Morn<sup>g</sup>. of the 4<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>ry</sup>. orders come date the 3<sup>d</sup>. for the flank [Lt. Infantry and Grenadiers] Corps & the 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. to be ready to march at the shortest notice, with 2 days provisions ready drest...

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>ry</sup>. 1781 Rec<sup>d</sup>. orders at 4 o’clock this morn<sup>g</sup> to march immediately – the [1<sup>st</sup> Gren.] Batt<sup>n</sup>. assembled at Rapalje’s tavern & march’d at day light got to Flatbush about 10 o’clock where we halted till night, when we were again put in Motion about 9 & march’d to Denys’s ferry where we cross’d

over after the Light Inf<sup>ry</sup>. to Staten Island, some Companys got under cover & some lay in the fields till morn<sup>g</sup>. – the 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. countermanded

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>ry</sup>. soft w<sup>r</sup>... march'd about noon into Cantonments the Light Infantry to the westward of Richmond, British & Hessian Grenad<sup>rs</sup>., 'twixt that & Coles ferry. the occasion of the Movement is I believe on account of a Mutiny or revolt in the rebel Army; where the Pennsylvania Line and some others insist on being paid up their arrears in hard money & discharg'd agreeable to their terms of inlistment, which being refused, they seiz'd a Magazine of prov<sup>n</sup>. spik'd some Cannon, took some with them & march'd off towards Princetown, near where they have taken post...

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>. black frost we got orders about midnight to march at half after 7 in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & assemble The Major Gen<sup>ls</sup>. [William Phillips] Orders for the Troops to march to Coles ferry, pass over to Long Island & return to their former Quarters The 2<sup>d</sup>. Battalion Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. leading – The Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. march'd about 9 o'clock & were all cross'd over to Denys's by one when they march'd from thence & got to their Quarters at Newtown by 6 o'clock. The Light Infantry did not march today they come tomorrow ...

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>ry</sup>. very fine mild weather – The Light Infantry cross'd over from Staten to Long Island & came to their Q<sup>rs</sup>. at Bedford...

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>. Jan<sup>ry</sup>. Rain last night & this morning – no more Acco<sup>t</sup>. [account] of the Revolters, 'tis supposed the Congress are making it up w<sup>t</sup>. [with] them.

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Jan. 4-21, 1781 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 423- 425.

**Letter from Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., to his Father, John Peebles,  
Irvine, Scotland, Describing Situation in New York, Jan. 27, 1781**

New Town Long Island 27<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1781

Dear Father

Since I wrote you last which is above two months ago, we have been doing little or nothing in this part of the Country, but kept in a State of readiness to Embark or march on the shortest notice; a Detachment of above 2000 sail'd from N. York about five weeks ago, under the Command of [Former Rebel] Brigadier General [Benedict] Arnold, supposed for Chesapeak Bay, but we had no certain accounts of them yet.

About three weeks ago a tumult & Revolt took place among the Rebel Army which is not quell'd or got the better of; the beginning of the year was a period of which many of their soldiers were intitled to their discharges. Those of Pennsylvania demanded to be paid off in hard money & discharged agreeable to the terms of their inlistment, which being refused them they in a body with their arms & some Cannon march'd off and took post near Princetown in the Jersey some distance from the Rebel Army, and there insisted on their demands being comply'd with when intelligence of this was brought to New York, the General [Sir Henry Clinton] with a Body of Troops went over immediately to Staten Island, to be at hand to receive them if they were inclined to come in to us, or to be in readiness to act as occasion might require, we staid there about a fortnight, but finding they made no advances, nor would receive any proposals, but removed further off, we return'd to our Quarters about a week ago; Since which another body of their troops called the Jersey Brigade have likewise revolted from the Authority of their Officers and come to Elizabeth Town, and [Lt.] General [James] Robertson is gone over to Staten Island, which is just opposite, to sound their intentions & see what is best to be done, & to make them fair offers of incouragement to come to us; but I believe the main point they have in view is only to redress their own grievances, to have their Arrears paid up, those discharged who are intitled to it, & the rest put on a better footing for the future with respect to pay & cloathing, but we are in hopes that it will not be in the Power of Congress to comply with all their demands, & that the disorder will increase.

Your last letter to me, which is now of a very old date, said you was not very well and tho' I have heard since from other hands that you were pretty well again, yet I should have been glad to have had it confirm'd from yourself, as nothing gives me more pleasure than to hear of your welfare and the family -

Inclosed is a Bill of £50 – which be so good a put out to interest as M<sup>r</sup> Arthur or the Doctor may advise, & the annual rent will mend your little [torn] and help you to live comfortably in your [torn] I am happy & thank God that it [torn] my power to contribute to it, and I hope I shall yet have the pleasure to see you pretty well & hearty when this unhappy war is over; please give my kind love to Bess & the Bairns [Children] Who I hope are all well & doing well & remember me to Charles, I hear his Brother David went home from Halifax; my kind compliments to Aunty Margaret and all friends with you, I wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Arthur & D<sup>r</sup> Fleming lately which I hope they have received – with my best wishes for your health & happiness I remain dear Father  
 Your Affectionate Son *Jn: Peebles*

Source: NRS, *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun*, Letter No. 2 at GD21/491.

**General Order to Draft Recruits of Regiments Captured at Saratoga in 1777 Results in the Royal Highlanders Receiving Twelve Recruits, New York, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, 1781**

Head Qrs N Y 29<sup>th</sup> Janu<sup>y</sup> 1781...

The privates of the regiments of the Northern Army now under the Command of Cap<sup>t</sup> [William] Campbell of the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment, to be drafted on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> February, into such Regiments of British Infantry as they may make choice of...

Head Qrs NY 5<sup>th</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 1781...

The undermentioned Corps will send proper persons to the orderly room at the main Guard on Wednesday next at 12 o'Clock, to receive the following Number of Drafts from the Regiments of the Northern Army; they will give the usual Certificates for them to Lieuten<sup>t</sup> [Edward Pearce] Willington 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment: –

Corps	N <sup>o</sup> of Drafts...
42 <sup>d</sup>	12...

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. The 21<sup>st</sup> Regt. was also known as the *Royal North British Fusilier Regiment*, another name for the Royal Scots Fusiliers.



Reproduction 42<sup>nd</sup> or Royal Highland Regt. Uniform Button

**General Order Announces the Promotion of Capt. Lt. John Rutherford to a Company and Lt. Robert Potts to the Capt. Lieutenancy, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., New York, Feb. 8, 1781**

Head Qrs NY 8<sup>th</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 1781...

His Excellency the commander in chief has been pleased to make the following Promotions...  
 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment

Capt <sup>n</sup> Lieu <sup>t</sup> [John] Rutherford, to be Captain vice [Brev-Lt. Col. Duncan]	} 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> 1780.
M <sup>c</sup> Pherson prom <sup>d</sup> [to Major] in 71 Regim <sup>t</sup>	}
Lieu <sup>t</sup> Robert Potts, to be Captain Lt vice Rutherford, promoted	} d <sup>o</sup> .
Ensign Ken <sup>th</sup> Calender to be Lieutenant vice Potts, promoted	} d <sup>o</sup> .
Volunteer Will <sup>m</sup> Edmonstone, to be Ensign vice Calender promoted	} d <sup>o</sup> ...

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. Brevet-Lt. Col. McPherson, a Captain in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., was promoted to Major, 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. (Fraser's).

**Advertisement for Sale of Horses from an Officer in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., New York, Feb. 12, 1781**

TO BE SOLD, SEPARATELY or together, two handsome bay STALLIONS, belonging to an officer going to the southward; one rising five, the other six years old; both sound, spirited and gentle; To be seen in a stable near the mess-room of the 42<sup>d</sup> regiment, Broad street, where a groom will attend from 11 till 1 o'clock. Apply to the printer. N.B. If the stallions are sold separately, the price of the oldest is 40, and the youngest 30 guineas. If sold together, 60 guineas.

Source: *New-York Gazette and Weekly Mercury*, Feb. 12, 1781. Five days after this advertisement was printed the ten companies of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. were ordered to prepare to embark as part of the Maj. Gen. William Phillips' expedition to reinforce British forces in Virginia. A few days later the troop list was modified such that only the 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Co. as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Bn. participated in the expedition. The advertisement locates the Officers' Mess near current Broadway Ave. in New York.

**General Order Issued for the Light Infantry, Grenadiers and Royal Highlanders to Prepare for Maj. Gen. William Phillip's Expedition to Virginia; New York, Feb. 17 and Mar. 6, 1781**

Head Qrs NY 17<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1781...

The British Light Infantry, the British Grenad<sup>s</sup>, the Hessian Grenadiers, the 42<sup>d</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> [Highland] Regiments, will hold themselves in readiness to Embark at the shortest notice. The above Corps are to give an Embarkation Return Immediately to the Adjutant Gen<sup>s</sup> Office.

Head Qrs NY 6<sup>th</sup> March 1781...

The Troops at present Embarked on Board the transports, will put themselves under the Command of Major Gen<sup>l</sup> [William] Phillips, Returns to be immediately given to him from the different Corps and detachments...

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. This expedition under Maj. Gen William Phillips was being prepared to reinforce Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold, now a Loyalist officer, in Virginia, based on intelligence that French forces from Rhode Island were headed to the Chesapeake. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and Grenadiers were removed from the expedition before it sailed on Mar. 20, 1781. Capt. George Dalrymple's 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt Infantry Co. was part of the expedition, and would end up being part of the troops surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia in Oct. 1781.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Records Preparations for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Battalions, Including Capt. George Dalrymple's 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, to Embark for Maj. Gen. William Phillips' Virginia Expedition, New York, Feb. 24 – Mar. 18, 1781**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>. Blowy from the West... The Light Infantry & 76<sup>th</sup> [Highland] Reg<sup>t</sup>. are said to Embark soon, their Ships lying off Brooklyn...

Friday 2<sup>d</sup>. March rain... Orders for the Light In<sup>y</sup>. 76<sup>th</sup>. & [Hessian] Reg<sup>t</sup>. Hereditaire to Embark tomorrow morn<sup>g</sup>. countermanded at night bad w<sup>r</sup>...

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>. fine mild w<sup>r</sup>. The Light Infantry Embark'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. early & the Reg<sup>t</sup>. Hereditaire, the 76<sup>th</sup>. on their march to Town to Embark...

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>. March 1781 a stormy day of wind & rain...

Major Gen<sup>l</sup>. [William] Phillips to command this Expedition, suppos'd for Virginia...

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. March 1781. rainy & blowy weather The transports to drop down to the Narrows, no Convoy yet...

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. March 1781. Very fine weather & warm for the season wind about S.W. these two days

we are told that fleet sail'd from the [Sandy] hook yesterday viz<sup>t</sup> The Light Infantry 76<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. & a Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Hessians under Convoy of [50 gun *HMS*] Chatham [44 gun *HMS*] Roebuck & 2 or 3 frigates... din'd with the 76<sup>th</sup>. – The fleet they say are put back to the hook by contrary winds...

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>. a strong gale WNW or there about – the fleet sail'd this morning, from the hook

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Feb. 24-Mar. 18, 1781 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 429-433.

### **Location and Strength of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and Flank Battalions, New York, Mar. 15, 1781**

*State and Distribution of The Army. New York. 15<sup>th</sup> March 1781*

Corps	Duty	Effec <sup>es</sup>	Station...
42 <sup>d</sup>	587	660	} New York...
1 <sup>st</sup> Grenadiers	459	473	} Newtown [Long Island]...
1 <sup>st</sup> Light Infantry	441	514	} On an Expedition, under the } Command of M. Gen. [William] } Phillips...
Total	13642	16581	

Source: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, p. 487.



Maj. Gen. William Heath

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Stephen A. Schwarzman Building / Print Collection, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, New York Public Lib.

### **Excerpt of Letters from Rebel Maj. Gen. William Heath and Capt. Jonathan Pray to Gen. George Washington, Regarding Return of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to New York, Likely from Foraging Party, West Point, New York, Apr. 14, 1781**

West point April 14. 1781.  
9 o'clock P.M

Dear General,



I have just received the inclosed from Capt. Pray, by which it seems the fleet has returned from the southward; but whether with or without troops, does not yet appear. There certainly are several movements which require critical observations. Simpson the deserter (or whatever he may be) who I sent up this afternoon, says a large number of four and two horse waggons had been brought from Long island to West Chester, as was said, for a grand forage — their numbers being upwards of one hundred. By Capt. Pray's letter the militia of West Chester county have been called in for some purpose — and if his information is true, the 42<sup>d</sup>. regiment, at least, has returned to New York. The collecting of forage may be a necessary step preparatory to the embarkation; especially if the 17<sup>th</sup>. Dragoons are to embark — and the waggons may be designed for no other purpose, or they may have another object.

I have the honor to be With the greatest respect  
Your Excellency Most obedient servant,

W. Heath

Excellency General Washington

[Enclosure]

1<sup>st</sup>

Nyork, Ap<sup>l</sup>. 13<sup>th</sup>: 1781

Dear Sir.

Sir. Henry Clinton with the 42<sup>d</sup>. Highland Regiment. Arrived at York about ten days Since, — The day before Yesterday the fleet arriv'd at the [Sandy] Hook from the southward...

Am with every Sentiment of Perfect Esteem,

Dear Sir. Your most obedient & very Humble Servant

*Jn<sup>o</sup>. Pray. Capt.*

Source and Note: *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, Images: 738, 770-771. A letter from M. G. Heath to Washington on Mar. 30, 1781 indicated he believed some sort of expedition was in the offing.

**Capt. John Peebles' 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company Put on Alert for Possible Move to Secure Fort Lee, Long Island, May 21, 1781**

21<sup>st</sup> May...

In consequence of information received by the Commander on Chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton], that the Rebels had a design against the post which the [Loyalists] Refugees have taken at Fort Lee, on the Jersey side of the North River, orders were sent at 11 o'Clock this morning for all the Jagers to march from Jericho & Westbury with all their baggage to Jamaica. The 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons and British grenadiers on Long Island, and the two Battalions of [Loyalist] New Jersey Volunteers on Staten Island, also received orders to be ready to march on the shortest notice, with two days provisions. Major Delancy was sent up to Fort Lee to examine the situation of the Refugees there, and to gain such information as he could of the intentions and force of the Rebels. Having returned and reported, that the post was in a very bad State of defence, only 200 Refugees there, and those without any order, and rather adverse to fortifying themselves, The Commander in Chief determined they should not attempt to establish themselves there; in consequence of which, they were directed to withdraw from thence, and further movement of troops stopt...

Source: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, p. 526.





Detail showing the fortifications at Horn's Hook from "A plan of the Narrows of Hell's-gate in the East River, near which batteries of cannon and mortars were erected on Long Island with a view to take off the defences and make breaches in the rebel fort on the opposite shore to facilitate a landing of troops on New York Island," 1776, by Charles Blaskowitz

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

**Excerpt of Rebel Intelligence Report from Lt. Col. Benjamin Tallmadge  
to Gen. George Washington Listing 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. at Horn's Hook, New York;  
Hartford, Connecticut, May 29, 1781**

Sir

Hartford May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1781

I have the Honor to enclose Your Excellency two letters which have just come to hand...

Benj<sup>a</sup>. Tallmadge

[Enclosure]

c. 27 May 1781

42<sup>d</sup> & 22<sup>d</sup> Do duty at Horns Hook and in and about Town...

S. G...

[Maj.] General [William] Phillips is dead and [Maj.] General [James Robertson] Robinson Commonly called Old Jemmy goes to take the Command in Virginia.

Source and Note: *George Washington Papers, Founders Early Access*, University of Va. Press and Rotunda. Maj. Gen. James Robertson did not move to command the Virginia troops. Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold briefly took command before returning to New York and turning Phillip's troops over to Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Records Lt. Col.  
James Marsh, 43<sup>rd</sup> Regt., Appointed Commander of 1<sup>st</sup> British Grenadier Battalion,  
New York, May, 22, 1781**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>. fine weather Col: [James] Marsh come to join the Battalion...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry for May 22, 1781 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 442.

**Rebel Gen. George Washington Records Location of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in His Daily Journal,  
May 31, 1781**

31<sup>st</sup> ...

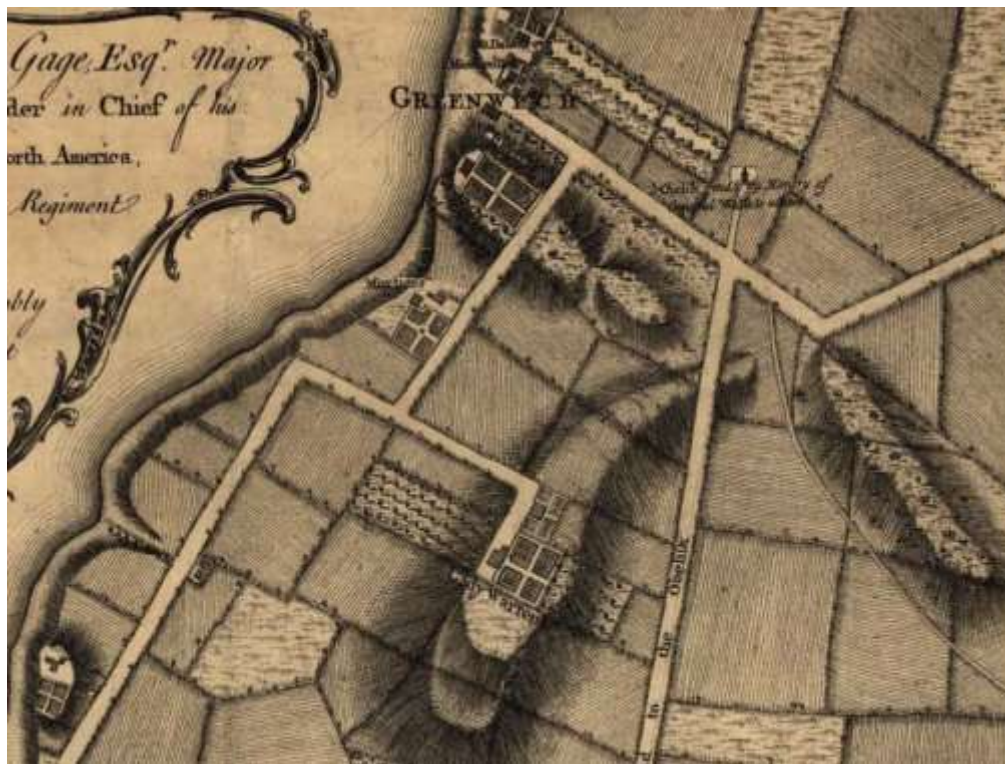
A Letter from [Maj. Benjamin] Talmage, inclosing one from C\_\_\_\_ Sen<sup>r</sup>. [Abraham Woodhull, as Samuel Culper, S<sup>r</sup>] and another from S. G [Thought to be S.C. i.e. Samuel Culper, Sr.] dated the 27<sup>th</sup>... S. G. disposes of the Enemy force as follows...

At Hornes Hook & towards the City – 22<sup>d</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. B[ritish] Regt<sup>s</sup>...

On Long Island

1<sup>st</sup> B Grenadiers. . . New Town...

Source: The Founding Era Collection, *The Papers of George Washington Digital Collection*, Diary Entry 31 May 1781, University of Virginia. The two main members of the Rebel Culper Spy Ring were Abraham Woodhull and Robert Townsend, who used "Samuel Culper, Sr." and "Samuel Culper, Jr." respectively as aliases.



Detail showing roads to Greenwich from "A plan of the city of New-York & its environs to Greenwich, on the North or Hudsons River, and to Crown Point, on the East or Sound River, shewing the several streets, publick buildings, docks, fort & battery, with the true form & course of the commanding grounds, with and without the town," 1766, by John Montrésor,

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

**General Orders Issued for the British Grenadiers, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Company, to Encamp  
at Bedford, Long Island, and the Royal Highlanders to Encamp on the Road to Greenwich,  
Manhattan Island, New York, June 10 and 12, 1781**

Head Qrs New York 10<sup>th</sup> June 1781...

The following Corps will prepare to encamp Immediately. They will deliver their Barracks Bedding and Utensils on Tuesday next, to the Barracks Masters of the respective Districts; 17<sup>th</sup> Drag<sup>s</sup>, British Grenadiers, 38<sup>th</sup> 42<sup>nd</sup>, Jagers, Hessian Grenad<sup>s</sup>, [Hessian] DuCorps, [Hessian] Losberg Jun<sup>r</sup>,

[Hessian] Combined battalions, [Loyalist] 3<sup>rd</sup> Delancey's, [Loyalist] 4<sup>th</sup> [Col. Cortland] Skinners [New Jersey Volunteers], and Loyal Americans...

Head Qrs New York 12<sup>th</sup> June 1781...

The following Regiments are to Encamp on Thursday morning the 14<sup>th</sup> Instant at the undermentioned places. The Deputy Quarter Mas<sup>r</sup> General will order proper persons to show them their ground.

The two Batt<sup>s</sup> of British Grenadiers, near Bedford, in the ground that was occupied last year by the Light Infantry.

The four Battalions of Hessian Grenad<sup>s</sup> in the Bowery near New York.

The 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment, on the middle road leading to Greenwich...

The 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment will relieve the 42<sup>nd</sup> in the Garrison of New York...

The Troops on their Arrival at their ground will apply to the Commissary, who will furnish them with Straw and Hay for the Tents.

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

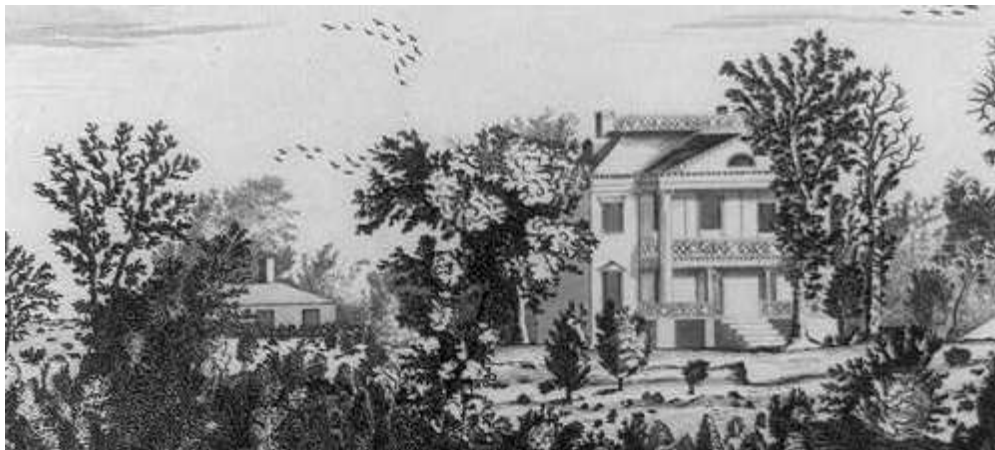
**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record  
Orders for the Grenadiers and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to Leave Their Quarters and Encamp,  
New York, June 10 and 12, 1781**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>. pleasant weather... orders for the following Corps to prepare to Encamp immediately, they will deliver their Barrack bedding & utensils on Tuesday next to the B<sup>k</sup>. masters of their respective districts – 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, British Gren<sup>rs</sup>. 38<sup>th</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. Jagers, Hessian Gren<sup>rs</sup>. [Hessian] Reg<sup>t</sup>. Du Corps, [Hessian] Losburgh jun<sup>r</sup>. [Hessian] Combin'd Batt<sup>ns</sup>. [Loyalist] 3<sup>d</sup>. Delancy's [Loyalist] 4<sup>th</sup> [Col. Cortland] Skinners [New Jersey Volunteers] & Loy<sup>l</sup> Americans...

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>. very warm...

orders for the Troops to Encamp on Thursday as follows 17<sup>th</sup>. Dragoons Jericho [Long Island] British Gren<sup>rs</sup>. Bedford [Long Island], 38<sup>th</sup>. near Harlaem, 42<sup>d</sup>. Greenwich; Hessian Gr<sup>rs</sup>. Bowery &c<sup>a</sup>...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry for June 10, 1781 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 447-448.



*Richmond Hill Mansion, Home of Abraham Mortier from "A view of the present seat of  
his Excel. the Vice President of the United States," 1790, by Cornelius Tiebout.*

Picture Source: Library of Congress from Original engraving published in the New York Magazine, June 1790.

## Location of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Companies, New York, June 14, 1781

*Distribution of the Troops. New York district. 14<sup>th</sup> June...*

42 <sup>d</sup>	[Abraham] Mortiers house	} New York Island...
2 Battalions British Grenadiers	Bedford	} Long Island

Source and Note: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, p.544. Capt. John Peebles' 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co. was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brit. Gren. Bn. and Capt. George Dalrymple's 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. was on an expedition to Virginia under Maj. Gen. William Phillips. Abraham Mortier's house was located at the intersection of Varick and Charlton Streets, Manhattan. This intersection is located four blocks east of the Hudson River and two miles north of Battery Park.

## Extract of Letter Reporting on Movement of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., New York, June 18, 1781

New-York, June 18, 1781.

Dear COLONEL...The British and Hessian grenadiers, 42d and 17th dragoons, two Hessian regiments, 38th and 4th battalion New-Jersey volunteers, 3d battalion Delancys and Yagers, have taken the field and is expected to go out, but where, I know not...JOSEPH LEE. [To:] Lieutenant-colonel [Isaac] Allen, 3d Battalion New-Jersey volunteers, Ninety-six, South-Carolina.

Source: *Pennsylvania Packet or the General Advertiser*, Sept. 27, 1781. The 42<sup>d</sup> Regt. and the other units were only being ordered to encamp in the New York area. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was to encamp "on the middle road leading to Greenwich..."



Detail showing Pleasant Valley in the upper left corner from "A map of part of the province of Jersey," 1781, by Lt. John Hill showing Shoal Harbour, Middletown, Dorset Town, Pleasant Valley, Hop Brook and Van Dorne's Mill.

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

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Noted in Expedition Report by Brig. Gen. Cortland Skinner, New Jersey Volunteers, to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Middletown and Pleasant Valley, New Jersey, June 20 – 22, 1781

Sandy Hook 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1781

Sir

As soon as the troops from Staaten Island were on board, the tide favoring the vessells fell down to the west bank: it was judged that the flood would continue Untill ten at night, but at 8 it was apparently over, and the wind failing the pace for discent, at Kearny, was rendered impracticable, the vessells then



stood for shoal harbor, but the tide of ebb being strong with little wind, they fell below it & the whole came too, as they must have drifted to Sandy Hook; the Shoales were standing farr off, the descent was not compleated Untill past 7 in the morning. In this situation I endeavored to make up for the disappoint<sup>t</sup>. by the greatest diligence to execute your orders; the troops immediately marched, and reached Middletown a little after nine, there we found a few of the Militia on the hights – after a short halt, as I found the inhabitants were driving off their stock to endeavor to prevent it or take a shore of it on the routs I knew they would take. [Brevet] Lt. Col<sup>l</sup>. [Edmund] Eyre [54<sup>th</sup> Regt.] with the detach<sup>t</sup>. of the 54<sup>th</sup> the [Loyalist] 4<sup>th</sup> Batt. of NJV<sup>s</sup>. [New Jersey Volunteers] & the Jagers marched by the way of Dorset Town on the road leading to the right from Middletown with orders to march round to the Head of Pleasant Valley. The 42<sup>nd</sup>, Loyall Americans, [Lt. William] Stewarts horse [Provincial Light Dragoons], thirty men of the [Loyalist] 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>. N:J:V & the two guns marched to the left to get round & meet at the head of the Valley. It was hoped that by this double movement. the Object might be effected, but I am sorry to tell you we were disappointed, alike both officers and men exerted themselves to Accomplish it, we only took twenty horned Cattle mostly poor, 11 Calves & 40 Sheep & Lambs, so small a number I did not think proper to send to the fleet as I judged they w<sup>d</sup>. be of little use being hardly fit to eat.

The rebel militia Appeared often in our front & flanks & tho they made a great fire yet it was Always at so great a distance that no execution was done by it. at Hopbrook husling to its wing before them, they were nearer & lost two men taken – a little after at Van Dorns Mill they came upon a hight on our left, here they were attacked by a party of the 42 & the detach<sup>t</sup>. of the 1<sup>st</sup> N:J:V and immediately quitted it. Stewart with his horse charged them killed one & took four others so wounded that their paroles were taken & they are left behind; the troops marched on & joined the 54<sup>th</sup> at the place Appointed. The Yagers soon after Advancing too farr had two men killed five missing 1 officer wounded. As the day was farr spent I thought with the Approbation of L<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>l</sup>. Eyre, & Maj. [Charles] Graham [Commander, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] that it was advisable to return. Accordingly by the rout through the centre of Pleasant Valley was thought most advisable. The enemy as usual hung upon our rear but Kept too great a distance to do us any injury or endanger themselves, As I knew if we halted at Middletown too sh<sup>d</sup>. be barged early in the morning; the troops marched & took post at Garretts hill three miles from the highlands, and this morning early marched to the hook; we soon found the militia Around us & near the highlands they ventured so near, that a detach<sup>t</sup>. from the 42<sup>nd</sup> with the Jagers & Stewarts horse attacked them, they fled & only one was taken, a few cannon Shot Kept them Afterwards at a distance, & the passage to the hook was unmolested. I have only to regret that we were disappointed by the winds & Tide, otherwise I think your Excellencys intentions would have been compleated.

I am Your Excell<sup>ys</sup>. Most Ob<sup>t</sup>. Ser<sup>t</sup>.

C Skinner

[Sir Henry Clinton]

Source and Notes: *Sir Henry Clinton Papers* 160: 12, William L. Clements Lib., Univ. of Michigan. Transcribed by Todd Braisted. Shoal Harbor is located on the coast of Raritan Bay southeast of Sandy Hook. Middletown is about five miles south of Shoal Harbor. Ens. David Sutherland was lightly wounded during this expedition.

**Diary of Maj. Frederick Mackenzie Records the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Assigned to Expedition Commanded by Loyalist Brig. Gen. Cortlandt Skinner to Forage in Pleasant Valley, New Jersey, June 19 – 22, 1781**

19<sup>th</sup> June. Clear warm weather...

An Expedition is preparing to go off toMorrow, for the purpose of carrying off a quantity of Cattle, Sheep, &c, from that part of Jersey between Middletown and Shrewsbury, but particularly from a place called Pleasant Valley, where all the Cattle belonging to the neighbouring country are pastured at this Season.

*The troops under orders for this Expedition are,*

42<sup>d</sup> Regiment  
54<sup>th</sup>

500 Men  
200

Loyal Americans	150
4 <sup>th</sup> Batt <sup>n</sup> New Jers: Vol <sup>rs</sup>	150
Jagers	100
Cavalry	<u>18</u>
Total	1118, Men, with 2, 3 pounders

The whole under the Command of [Loyalist] Brigadier General Skinner.

The troops destined for this service have received their orders, and are to be put in Motion at 6 o'Clock, tomorrow Morning; and in order to prevent any alarm by embarking troops without any apparent reason, the Signal for the Enemy having landed on Staten Island, is to be made at that hour on Staten Island, on which the troops are to embark at Paulus-hook, new York, and Denyces, and proceed immediately to Cole-ferry, where they are to remain until the Evening, and then push for Middletown point, where the landing is to be made. In order to facilitate this movement, the Jagers marched this day from Jamaica, and the Loyal Americans from Flushing, to Denyces...

20<sup>th</sup> June. Very fine weather...

The Signal agreed upon was made upon Staten Island at 6 o'Clock this Morning, but by our not looking at the proper place for it, it was not observed until 7, when the 54<sup>th</sup> embarked and put off from Paulus hook. Orders were immediately sent to the 42<sup>d</sup>, to move, but they did not embark till near 10. The other troops went off as ordered, and the whole assembled at Coles' ferry.

The troops took only two days provisions, and their blankets with them. Two days provisions more, and a quantity of spare ammunition was put on board a Sloop which attended them...

21<sup>st</sup> June. Warm day...

The Commander in Chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton] went to Sandy-hook this Morning and returned at 9 at Night. He did not go on shore... I am of opinion that the Commander in Chief went to Sandy hook this Morning in order to see how Brigadier General Skinner conducted himself, and to be in the way in case of accidents. The Brigadier is a very good man, but has no Idea of moving even so small a body of troops, and is therefore a very unfit person to be entrusted with the Command of a thousand men, where there was any chance of any material opposition...

22<sup>d</sup> June. warm day...

The Expedition under the Command of General Skinner, came up this afternoon at 7 o'Clock. the 42<sup>d</sup> landed at the hay wharf, the others went to their respective quarters.

They landed yesterday Morning near Middletown, from whence they marched to the town, and drove all the Cattle and Sheep they could find, from thence to the high land of Neversink, opposite to Sandy hook Island, from whence they embarked this Morning. They were as usual harassed by the Militia, all the time they were on shore, who kept as much as possible under Cover, and fired on the flanks and rear. The loss on our side is 2 Jagers killed, and Officer and 2 men of that Corps wounded, and 5 of the 42<sup>d</sup> Missing. Ten Rebels were taken prisoners, most of them wounded by the Cavalry. The Prisoners say two or three were killed, and a few more wounded.

This Expedition does not appear to have been attended with the desired success, not to have been worth the loss of so many men.

Source: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 548-551.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record Preparations for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to Join Loyalist Brig. Gen. Cortland Skinner's Pleasant Valley Raid, New York, June 20 – 24, 1781**

[Wednesday] Camp at the Wallabach [Wallabout] 20<sup>th</sup>. June 1781 fine weather & a pleasant Camp not much above a Mile from the [Brooklyn] ferry The 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. in consequence of orders late last night embark'd this morning & went down the narrows, 200 of the 54<sup>th</sup>. & some troops from Denys's. Suppos'd they are gone into the jerseys to destroy some Boats & craft in the Rariton River under the direction of B<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Skinner

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>. June warm w<sup>r</sup>. The Detachm<sup>t</sup>. under Skinner cross'd over Rariton Bay to the Jersey shore, pointing toward Middleton –

Friday 22<sup>d</sup>. The Detachm<sup>t</sup>. return'd from the Jerseys. They landed yestarday morning about 4 miles to the westward of Middletown & made a sweep thro' pleasant Valley in order to drive in a quantity of Cattle for the use of the navy & Hospitals, but they were so delatory in their motions that the Inhabitants had time to drive the whole away, & the Militia collected to defend & protect the Country, & hung on their rear most of the way, they return'd by Sandy hook with, a few cattle & some sheep & the loss 10 or 12 men; having had a long March in a Warm day to very little purpose...

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. June 1781 – Went to Town & walk'd out to the [42<sup>nd</sup>] Reg<sup>ts</sup>. Camp near Greenwich, very few of the Officers at home. They lost 4 or 5 men in the Jerseys either taken or deserted & Ens<sup>n</sup>. [David] Sutherland got a scratch in the thigh some way or other; a stupid affair altogether...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries June 20-24, 1781 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 453-454. The following privates were newly added to the prisoner of war lists in their respective companies at the muster of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. conducted at Greenwich, New York on July 5, 1781. General Murray's: Thomas McFarlane; Maj. Graham's: Donald Fraser; Capt. Smith's: John Fraser, Miles McMillan, James Boyle, Andrew Elder, Donald McGrigor, Hugh Taylor, Alexander Ellis; Capt. McDowall's: Archibald McDonald and James McDonald; Capt. Rutherford's: John McKinnon.

### **General Order Issued for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders to Supply an Officer, Noncommissioned Officers and Men for Duty with the Royal Artillery, New York, July 22 – Sept. 8, 1781**

Head Qrs New York 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1781...

The following Regiments are each to furnish a Subaltern, one Serjeant, one Corporal and fifteen Privates to do duty with the Artillery 'till further orders. The Officers commanding the several Districts will give the necessary directions for their being sent to New York as soon as possible when the Officer of each party will put himself under the Command of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colo [William] Martin [Royal Artillery]. 22<sup>d</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>d</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>, 54<sup>th</sup>, 57<sup>th</sup> Regiments, [Loyalist] 3 Battalion DeLancey, [Loyalist] first Batt<sup>n</sup> Skinners [New Jersey Volunteers] & 4<sup>th</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> Skinners...

Head Quarters, New York 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 1781

The Men belonging to those Corps who were ordered to the artillery as additional gunners are to join their respective Regiments immediately.

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

### **Location of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Companies, New York, July 27, 1781**

*Distribution of The troops in the District of N. York, 27<sup>th</sup> July...*

42 <sup>d</sup>	Greenwich...
1 <sup>st</sup> Grenadiers	Brooklyn...

Source and Note: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, p. 576. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. was still on the Virginia campaign.



**General Order Announces Promotion of Wounded Brig. Gen. Thomas Stirling  
(Lt. Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) to be Major General in America, New York, July 27, 1781**

Morn<sup>g</sup> Orders New York 27<sup>th</sup> July 1781

The Commander in Chief has been pleased to appoint Brig<sup>r</sup> Generals [Charles] OHara, [James] Paterson, [Paston] Gould, [William] Dalrymple, and [Thomas] Stirling to act as Major Generals 'till His Majesty's pleasure be known.

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. Maj. Gen. Stirling was still recovering from a leg wound from 1780 and was unable to perform field duty.

**42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Troops Included in Report of the Strength of the Army, Aug. 15, 1781**

Corps	Fit for Duty			Effectives			Want
	S	D	R & F	S	D	R & F	R & F
1 <sup>st</sup> Grenadiers	23	17	440	26	20	478...	
42 <sup>ed</sup>	33	16	560	40	18	640	168...
Total	999	419	11088	1118	472	13807	1398

Source and Note: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, p. 588. The above report totals include British, Hessian and Loyalists Units. The eight battalion companies of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. were authorized a combined strength of 40 Sergeants, 40 corporals, sixteen drummers and 800 privates. In the table the corporals and privates are combined under the label of rank & file. The 18 "*Effective*" drummers shown indicates the two regimental pipers were serving with the line battalions.

**Maj. Frederick Mackenzie's Account of Planned Expedition  
(Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) To Rhode Island, Aug. 26 – 29, 1781**

26<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> Cloudy morning...

The Commander in Chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton] is now determined to undertake the expedition to Rhode-Island; as the arrival of [Adm.] Sir Samuel Hood's fleet will ensure success. The transports are preparing for the reception of the troops, and Movement of the troops yesterday, was for this purpose, tho' apparently for the support of Staten Island. The Corps he intends at present to take are The British and Hessian Grenadiers, the 42<sup>ed</sup>, & 54<sup>th</sup>, Regimt<sup>s</sup> and 200 Jagers, amounting to about 3300 rank & file: with 4 Iron 24 p<sup>rs</sup>; 1. 10 Inch, & 4 smaller Mortars; 2. 8 Inch Howitzers, Grenades, Carcasses, Fire-rings, Rockets, &c, &c, and a grate for heating shot. the troops to be in transports, and to sail in Company with Admiral Grave's fleet, which is to block up the harbour by anchoring off Brenton's ledge. The troops to land at Smith's bay, in the Seconnet passage, under the cover The frigates, and to advance as soon as possible to Honeyman's hill. The French ships are placed between Brenton's point and Rose Island. There are about 800 French troops and 1000 Rebel Militia on the Island...

I think The Commander in Chief might take another Regiment with him, which should be [Hessian] Du Corps, as a very good one, and for the sake of having Major General Wurmb with him...

28<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> Very fine day...

In consequence of the Arrival of Sir Samuel Hood, The Commander on Chief has determined to undertake the Expedition to Rhode Island immediately if the Admirals approve of it...

Arrangement for the Movement, & Embarkation, 29<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>

The British Grenadiers to march from Bedford,	} so as to embark at
Hessian Grenadiers. . . . . from Yellow hook	} Denyces at 10 o'Clock
300 Jagers, to March from Kingsbridge	} So as to embark as The Hay
42 <sup>ed</sup> from Greenwich	} wharf, North River, at 6

54<sup>th</sup> from McGowans } in the Morning  
The Pioneers to embark at 2 o’Clock at the Commissary’s wharf.

The troops to take blankets, Necessaries, Camp kettles, and Canteens.  
The Officers as little baggage as possible. General Officers, 2 horses, for themselves and Aide-de-camp.  
the tents and baggage to be sent to New York...

29<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> Very fine day...

Information was received last night at 10 o’Clock, from a person who left East-Hampton on Long Island the Evening of the 26<sup>th</sup>, that the French Squadron under [Adm. Jacques-Melchior Saint-Laurent, Comte] M. de Barras, sailed from Newport on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst, and had been seen passing Block Island that Morning. A person who could be confided in has been at Montock point [Eastern tip of Long Island] for some time to give speedy notice of any movement of any part if the French Fleet from Rhode Island. In consequence of this information The Commander in Chief gave orders last night for countermanding the movement of the troops, which was all done in time to prevent any of the Corps marching...

The sailing of the French Squadron from Rhode Island, and the movement of the Rebel Army into Jersey, with several circumstances attending those movements, induces me now to be of opinion, that the Scheme of the Enemy has all along been to make their effort against the Army in Virginia under [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis. To this end they have made all possible shew of attacking New York...

Source: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 598-606.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record Preparations  
for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to Join Aborted Rhode Island Expedition, New York, Aug. 28 – 29, 1781**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>. Aug<sup>t</sup>... we got orders to be in readiness to march at the shortest notice, & in the evening orders to march at 6 in the morn<sup>g</sup>. leaving The Tents & heavy baggage behind

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>. Aug<sup>t</sup>. 1781 The [1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. British] Gren<sup>rs</sup>. were ready to march this morn<sup>g</sup>. when a Countermand came last night at 10 o’clock, on which we pitched our tents again on the same ground. The Hessian Gren<sup>rs</sup>. the 42<sup>d</sup>. 54<sup>th</sup>. & 37<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. were also under orders. ’tis supposed we were going to Rhode Island to take that & the french fleet but it seems they have got intelligence that the french fleet left Rhode Island on Thursday last...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries* Aug. 28-29, 1781 and as published in *John Peebles’ American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 468.



Detail of Portrait of Gen. Wilhelm von Knyphausen

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Print Collection, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, NY.

### **Account of Death of Lt. James Cramond, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., New York, Aug. 30, 1781**

NEW-YORK, September 1...

Died, early on Thursday morning, after an illness of eight days. Lieut. James Crammond of His Majesty's XLII<sup>d</sup> regiment, Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen. The natural and acquired talents of this Gentleman rendered him an ornament to society and an honor to his profession.

His remains were conducted the same evening to St. Paul's, attended by the Officers of the Garrison, and interred with Military Honors.

Source: *Royal Gazette*, September 1, 1781.

### **British Army Strength Report includes 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., New York, Sept. 1, 1781**

State of the Troops, New York District, 1<sup>st</sup> Sep<sup>tr</sup> –

Corps	Fit for Duty	Sick	Effectives...
1 <sup>st</sup> Grenadiers	432	47	481...
42 <sup>nd</sup>	540	96	640...

Source and Note: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, p. 609. The authorized strength for the eight battalion companies of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was 40 sergeants, 40 corporals, 16 drummers and 800 privates for a total of 896.



Maj. Gen. William Phillips

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *National Archives and Records Administration*

## **Capt. George Dalrymple's 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company in Maj. Gen. William Phillips' and Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Virginia Campaigns, Feb. 17- Aug. 31, 1781**

### **The 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company Embarks as part of the Expedition to Reinforce Loyalist Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold's Force in Virginia; Brooklyn, New York, Feb. 17-Mar. 5, 1781**

17<sup>th</sup> Feb...

Mr William Brenton a Native and Inhabitant of Rhode Island, came in at 12 o'Clock last night express from Gardner's bay. He came off from Rhode Island in a Canoe 8 days ago with very material intelligence from a confidential person there (D<sup>r</sup> Halliburton) to the Admiral [Mariot Arbuthnot] and General [Sir Henry Clinton]. 'Tis said the account he brings is, that The French have detached a ship of the line and some frigates, with 1500 troops to the Chesapeak to attack [Brig. Gen. Benedict] Arnold, and intend going with a greater force immediately.

In consequence of the intelligence he brought, transports are ordered for the following Corps, viz<sup>t</sup> The Light Infantry, The British and Hessian Grenadiers, the 42<sup>d</sup>, and the 76<sup>th</sup> [MacDonald Highlanders] Regiments, received orders this afternoon to be in readiness to embark on the shortest notice.

18<sup>th</sup> Feb...

Came in last night a Cutter with letters from Arnold mentioning that a line of Battle Ship and two Frigates, French, had anchored within the Capes...

There can be no doubt but the ships in the Chesapeak are from Rhode Island...

The Light Infantry, 76<sup>th</sup>, & [Hessian] Prince Hereditaire only are to embark amount to about 2000 men...

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb...

The Light Infantry have received orders to embark on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> Instant...

26<sup>th</sup> ...No further steps have been taken for the movement of a body of troops from hence, than ordering the troops to be in readiness to embark, and the transports to prepare to receive them...

2<sup>d</sup> March...

The Rebels have certainly a considerable body of troops in motion towards the Southward. 'Tis said they amount to 3000 men, under The Marquis de la Fayette, and M<sup>r</sup> Howe...

The Light Infantry, 76<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>, and Prince Hereditaire, are ordered to embark toMorrow Morning. Those Corps amount to about 2000 men and are to be commanded by Major General [William] Phillips.

4<sup>th</sup> March...

The troops embarked this day: The Light Infantry at 9 in the Morning at Brooklyn, the 76<sup>th</sup> at 1 o'clock at the Ship yards, and Prince Hereditaire at 8 in the morning from the wharfs in the east River. 5<sup>th</sup> March. Rain most part of the day...

The transports with the troops on board went out of the East River this Morning, and by 10 o'clock were all anchored below Governor's Island...

Source and Note: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 472 – 480.

**Excerpt of Orders from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Maj. Gen. William Phillips for Virginia Campaign, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, New York, Mar. 10, 1781**

New York 10 March 1781

Sir,

You will be pleased to proceed with the troops embarked under your command to Chesapeake Bay and there form a junction as soon as possible with [Former Rebel] Brigadier-General [Benedict] Arnold, whom and the Corps with him you will take under your orders.

Should any unforeseen accident prevent your forming an immediate junction with Brigadier-General Arnold, you will however exert every endeavour to communicate with him. And as the principal object of your expedition is the security of him, the troops at present under his orders, and the posts he occupies on Elizabeth River near the mouth of James River in Virginia, you will of course use every means to attain this very material purpose. The properest methods to be pursued on this occasion cannot be exactly pointed out to you but they must be left to your discretion,

When you shall have formed your junction with Brigadier-General Arnold, if you find that general acting under the orders of [Lt. Gen. Charles] Earl Cornwallis you will of course endeavour to fulfill those orders, if this should not be the case, after receiving every information respecting his probable situation, you will make such Movements with the Corps then under your orders as can be made consistent with the security of the post on Elizabeth River or you shall think will most effectually assist his Lordship's operations by destroying or taking any magazine the Enemy may have on James River or at Petersburg on the Appomattox [River]. After which, if it should be thought necessary, you will establish a post or posts at such stations on James River as shall appear best calculated to open the way for and secure the safety as far as possible of a rapid Movement of troops to give jealousy for Upper James River and to interrupt the course of supplies to the Carolinas.

The object of cooperation with Lord Cornwallis being fulfilled, you are at liberty to carry on such desultory expeditions for the purpose of destroying the Enemy's public stores and magazines in any part of the Chesapeake as you shall judge proper.

If the Admiral, disapproving of Portsmouth and requiring a fortified station for large ships in the Chesapeake, should propose York Town or Old Point Comfort, if possession of either can be acquired and maintained without great risk or loss you are authorized take possession thereof. But if the objections, are such as you think forcible, you must after stating those objections decline it till solid operation take place in Chesapeake...

And concerning your return to this place you will receive either my orders or Lord Cornwallis's as circumstances may make necessary.

'Tis presumed his Lordship will be able to spare troops to station at Portsmouth et<sup>c</sup>., but should that not be the case you are at liberty to leave either the [Hessian] Regiment of Prince Hereditaire or the 76<sup>th</sup> [Highland Regt.] or both for that purpose under any Officer being a general Officer Lord Cornwallis may choose to appoint; but if it should be an Officer of your Own appointing, if with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, I think Lieut. Colonel [Thomas] Dundas as being acquainted with the spot should remain.

It is probable, whenever the objects of this expedition are fulfilled and that you have strengthened the present works and added such others as you shall think necessary, that you may return to this place; in which case you must bring with you Brigadier-General Arnold, the Light Infantry, Colonel [Beverley] Robinson's Corps [Loyal American Regt.] or the 76<sup>th</sup>, and if it should be possible the Queen's Rangers.

The moment you have communicated with Lord Cornwallis and heard from his Lordship you are to consider yourself as under his Lordship's orders until he or you shall hear further from me.

In order that I may be furnished with every information necessary to be communicated to the Secretary of State to be laid before the King, I am to request that you will from time to time transmit to me such intelligence as you may think interesting to His Majesty's service.

Most heartily wishing you success,

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XX, Transcripts 1781*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1977, pp. 84-85 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/101, f. 244.

**Account by Lt. Bartholomew James, Royal Navy, of the Voyage of  
Maj. Gen. William Phillip's Expedition, Virginia, Mar. 18-28, 1781**

On March 18 we sailed from Sandy Hook with the command of the following fleet, and proceeded to the southward:— [50-gun *HMS*] Chatham, [44-gun *HMS*] Roebuck, [32-gun *HMS*] Raleigh, [14-gun sloop *HMS*] Bonetta, [14-gun sloop *HMS*] Savage, [sloop *HMS*] Halifax, [8-gun *HMS*] Vulcan fire-ship, with transports having on board two thousand troops under the command of General Philips. On the 26<sup>th</sup> we spoke the [32-gun *HMS*] Pearl and [28-gun *HMS*] Iris, who informed us of an action having been fought a few days before between the British fleet under the command of Admiral [Mariat] Arbuthnot and the French fleet from Rhode Island—an action too well known to need any comment of mine; a battle too recent in the mind of every British seaman to enable him to forget, and an engagement which will ever stain the annals of this country. On the 28<sup>th</sup> we arrived in Lynnhaven Bay in the Chesapeake, and found lying there the fleet under Mr. Arbuthnot repairing the damages of the late action...

Source and Note: *Journal of Rear-Admiral Bartholomew James, 1752-1828*, Ed. John Knox Laughton, Naval Records Society, 1896, p. 107. The naval engagement mentioned by Lt. James was the Battle of Cape Henry, Mar. 16, 1781.

**Excerpt of Letter No. 122 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief,  
North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department,  
Describing Maj. Gen. William Philips' Contact with the French Fleet, New York, Mar. 20, 1781**

Nº. 122.

New York 27<sup>th</sup> March 1781

My Lord,

I have the Honor to inform Your Lordship, that the Convoy to Major General [William] Phillips's Expedition, having been considerably reinforced by Vice Admiral [Mariat] Arbuthnot's Orders, sailed for the Chesapeak on the 20<sup>th</sup> Instant. But contrary Winds having detained the Packet for some days, I did not think it proper to send her after the Wind became fair, as I was in hourly Expectation of hearing from the Admiral something very interesting.

Having therefore received Yesterday a Letter from him informing me of his having come up with the French Fleet off the Capes of Virginia, and engaged them on the 16<sup>th</sup> Instant [Battle of Cape Henry], I have the Honor to send Your Lordship a copy of his Letter herewith.

I sincerely wish that this Action had fortunately been more decisive than it appears to be. But, if the French have been prevented by it from establishing themselves in the Chesapeak a very great Point is certainly gained.

I am in great Hopes of hearing very soon that Major General Phillips has arrived in Virginia for his Safety; as the Admiral's anchoring, & remaining so long in Lynhaven Bay might have left him exposed to the Attack of the French Squadron...

I have the Honor to be  
Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Lord George Germain

With the greatest Respect  
Your Lordship's Most Obedient & Most humble Servant –  
H Clinton

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 7, pp. 188-189 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/101, pp. 607-610.

**Extract of a Letter from Rebel Maj. Gen. William Heath to Gen. George Washington, Reporting the Return of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., New York, Apr. 14, 1781**

Dear General

West Point April 14. 1781.

9 o'clock P.M.

I have just received the inclosed from Cap<sup>t</sup>. Pray... Simpson the deserter (or whatever he may be) who I sent up this afternoon, says a large number of four and two horse waggons had been brought from Long Island to West Chester, as was said, for a grand forage – their numbers being upwards of one hundred. By Capt. Pray's letter the militia of West Chester county have been called in for some purpose – and if his information is true, the 42<sup>d</sup> regiment, at least, has returned to New York...

I have the honor to be With the greatest respect

Your Excellency Most obedient servant

*W. Heath*

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



Detail of "A plan of Portsmouth Harbour in the province of Virginia shewing the works erected by the British forces for its defence, 1781," 1782 by James Stratton

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

**Letter from Capt. Richard Barron, Virginia Navy, Reporting Arrival of Maj. Gen. William Phillip's Virginia Expedition, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, Hampton, Virginia,**



**Mar. 26, 1781**

Sir

Hampton March 26 81

This morning Came to our Bay 15 or Sixteen Sail more vessells which make thirty some odd which I suppose to be all British. They all lay at anchor Near the Cape they might have got up this morning but Lay fast. There is one Ship Coming up with a Whit flag at her Fore Top mast head but What She is I know not but Suppose her to be British. We have no accounts what they are but Conjecter them to be some from New York. My Brother has Just Gon over the Watter to the Ile White and Desierd me to acquaint your Excellency of all arrivalls of Vessells and those that might Sail from hear. I am Sir your most Ob<sup>t</sup> Ser.

Rich<sup>d</sup> Barron

Source: *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson Digital Edition*, ed. James P. McClure and J. Jefferson Looney. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda, 2008–2017.

**News Account of Arrival of 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company with Maj. Gen. William Phillips, Portsmouth, Virginia, Mar. 27, 1781**

*“Extract of a letter from an officer in America, dated Portsmouth, March 29...”*

Two days ago a fleet of transports under the command of Gen. Phillips, arrived here. The troops immediately landed, and marched to Portsmouth; but the rebels had got the start of them, and had retreated about fifty miles back. I since understand most of the militia are gone home sick of the campaign, having lain in the woods without tents all the winter...”

Source: *Scots Magazine*, May 1781, p. 250. Maj. Gen. Phillips’ command included Capt. George Dalrymple’s 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company as part of Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby’s 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Battalion.

**Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald’s Account of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalions, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, Arrival with Maj. Gen. William Phillips, Portsmouth, Virginia, Mar. 27 – Apr. 1, 1781.**

On the 31<sup>st</sup>, to our joy, a fleet of transport ships entered the Elizabeth River and anchored at Portsmouth. It had the following troops on board under the English [Maj.] General [William] Phillips, who was to take command of the entire force.

1. The English light infantry	1,000 men
2. The 76 <sup>th</sup> [MacDonalds] Regiment of Scottish Highlanders	600 men
3. The Hessian Regiment of Erb Prinz [ <i>Hereditary Prince</i> ]	500 men
4. English Artillery	<u>100 men</u>
	2,200 men

Month of April... The Troops under General Phillips were disembarked on the 1<sup>st</sup>...

Source and Note: *Diary of the American War, A Hessian Journal, Captain Johann Ewald, Field Jäger Corps*, Trans. and Ed. Justin P. Tustin, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1979, p. 294. Capt. Ewald may be slightly off on the date of this note as other sources indicated the fleet arrived Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Excerpt of Letter No. 123 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing the Reasons for Maj. Gen. William Phillip’s Expedition, New York, Apr. 5 – 20, 1781**

New York 5-20 April 1781

My Lord,

In my dispatch marked N<sup>o</sup>.121 I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the expedition under the command of Major General Phillips sailed for the Chesapeake on the 20<sup>th</sup> ultimo, and a letter I have this day received from that general Officer affords me the pleasure of acquainting you that he arrived with the troops at Portsmouth on the 26<sup>th</sup> without meeting with any accident on his voyage...

Not having been favoured with any letter from Vice-Admiral [Mariat] Arbuthnot since that of the 21<sup>st</sup> ultimo (of which I had the honour to transmit your Lordship a copy) I cannot communicate to you any other intelligence of the proceedings of the fleet under his command than that they were lying in Lynhaven Bay the 31<sup>st</sup>. That of the French (it is reported here and universally credited) returned to Rhode Island on the 26<sup>th</sup> but it has not been yet properly authenticated.

Major-General Phillips's arrival in Virginia so very opportunely after this event will most probably produce the happiest effect, especially as he reports to me that the Vice-Admiral has allotted an adequate naval force for the service of the Chesapeake which I hope will effectually enable the Major General to carry into as speedy execution as possible the operations recommended to him in my instructions, the principal and immediate object of which, in all the expeditions thither, has been the favouring those of Lord Cornwallis in Carolina...

After the reduction of Charleston [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis informed me that he thought the force I left with him fully competent to the defence of South, and most probably the reduction of North Carolina. I had therefore at that time no other intention (threatened as we were by the expected arrival of a French fleet and Army at Rhode Island) than to send an expedition into Chesapeake merely by way of making a diversion in his Lordship's favour until more solid operation might take place, which I was in hopes that adequate reinforcements from Europe would have enabled me to undertake early in the present year. Events, however, notwithstanding the very glorious exertions which were made at Camden, altered Lord Cornwallis's situation so much as to make it necessary for him to call the Corps I had sent to Chesapeake with [Maj.] General [Hon. Alexander] Leslie (and which I had put under his Lordship's orders, to a nearer cooperation. Being, therefore, still desirous to secure a post in that bay to cover the King's frigates which might be acting there, and at the same time wishing to give Lord Cornwallis every assistance in my power, I sent thither another Detachment under the orders of [Former Rebel] Brigadier-General [Benedict] Arnold which, though not so considerable as the former, met with the fullest success as I have already had the honour to inform your Lordship and will I doubt not have greatly aided the Movements of the Army in Carolina.

[Rebel Commander] General [George] Washington having detached a body of troops to the southward and the French having embarked in their fleet another from their Army at Rhode Island, with an apparent intention of interrupting our operations in Virginia and the Carolinas, I was induced to send to the Chesapeake another expedition drawn principally from the elite of my Army under Major General Phillips. All these several Detachments your Lordship will perceive are acting either with or in favour of Lord Cornwallis. But as General Washington's letter to M<sup>r</sup> Harrison, a copy of your Lordship will see amongst the intercepted letters enclosed, intimates that there will not be opposed to his Lordship above two thousand continentals more than [Rebel Maj.] General [Nathanael] Green had with him before (which I have reason to believe could not exceed 1200) I am led to hope that when his Lordship has established himself in North Carolina a very considerable portion of his Army may be spared to assist in carrying into execution such further operations as Lord Cornwallis may have to propose or the whole or such part as shall be found practicable of those I had designed and accordingly explained to Major General Phillips in some conversations I had with him before his departure...

*Signed*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. XX, *Transcripts 1781*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1977, pp. 102-106 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/102, f. 13.

**Excerpt of Letter from Maj. Gen. William Phillips to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton,**

**Commander-in-Chief, North America, Reporting the Beginning of Operations,  
Portsmouth, Virginia, Apr. 11-15, 1781**

Portsmouth in Virginia } Finding the putting this place in a proper State of Defence rather  
April 15<sup>th</sup> 1781 } beyond the Calculation in Point of Time, I made up that Deficiency by  
Numbers of Men, which reduced the State of the several redoubts and  
Lines so tolerably complete as to enable me without any probable Risk to move with 2000 troops upon  
that Expedition first directed to be undertaken; and every thing was ready for a Movement on the 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Instant – Unfortunately the Winds blew directly contrary, & very Strong on that day & every one after  
until Yesterday, when it changed in a degree to allow some transports with Troops to go down to  
Hampton Road – and I had ordered the Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] & [Loyalist]  
Queens Rangers to march from their Cantonments to embark in the Boats, prepared for them at Norfolk,  
when a most violent Storm of Wind and rain obliged me to postpone moving the Troops...

Source: Extracts from Maj. Gen. Phillips Letters to Sir Henry Clinton in Sir Henry Clinton's letter to Lord George Germain No. 124, dated 23, 30 Apr. and May 1, 1781 in *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 7, pp. 265-278 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/102, pp. 99-109.



Portion of 1776 color mezzotint Col. Benedict Arnold,

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from the *Anne S. K. Brown Collection*

**Excerpt of Letter from Former Rebel Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold, to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton,  
Commander-in-Chief, North America, Describing Maj. Gen. William Phillip's Operations,  
Virginia, Apr. 18-May 12, 1781**

Petersburgh 12<sup>th</sup> May 1781

Sir,

I am extremely sorry to inform Your Excellency that Maj<sup>r</sup> General Phillips is reduced so low by a Fever which seized him the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>: that he is incapable of Business and the Physicians are not without Fears for his Safety: In this Situation I think it my duty to transmit to your Excellency by Express a Detail of the Proceedings of the Army under the Orders of Major General Phillips since they left Portsmouth (which his Indisposition prevented him from doing as he intended), also a Copy of a Letter from [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis dated the 24<sup>th</sup> Ultimo [April].

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of April the Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Co.], part of the 76<sup>th</sup> [Highland] and 80<sup>th</sup> Regiments, The [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers, Yagers & [Loyalist] American Legion, embarked at Portsmouth & fell down to Hampton Road: On the 19<sup>th</sup>, proceeded up James River to Burwell's Ferry; On the 20<sup>th</sup> Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>l</sup> [Robert] Abercrombie, with the Light Infantry proceeded up the

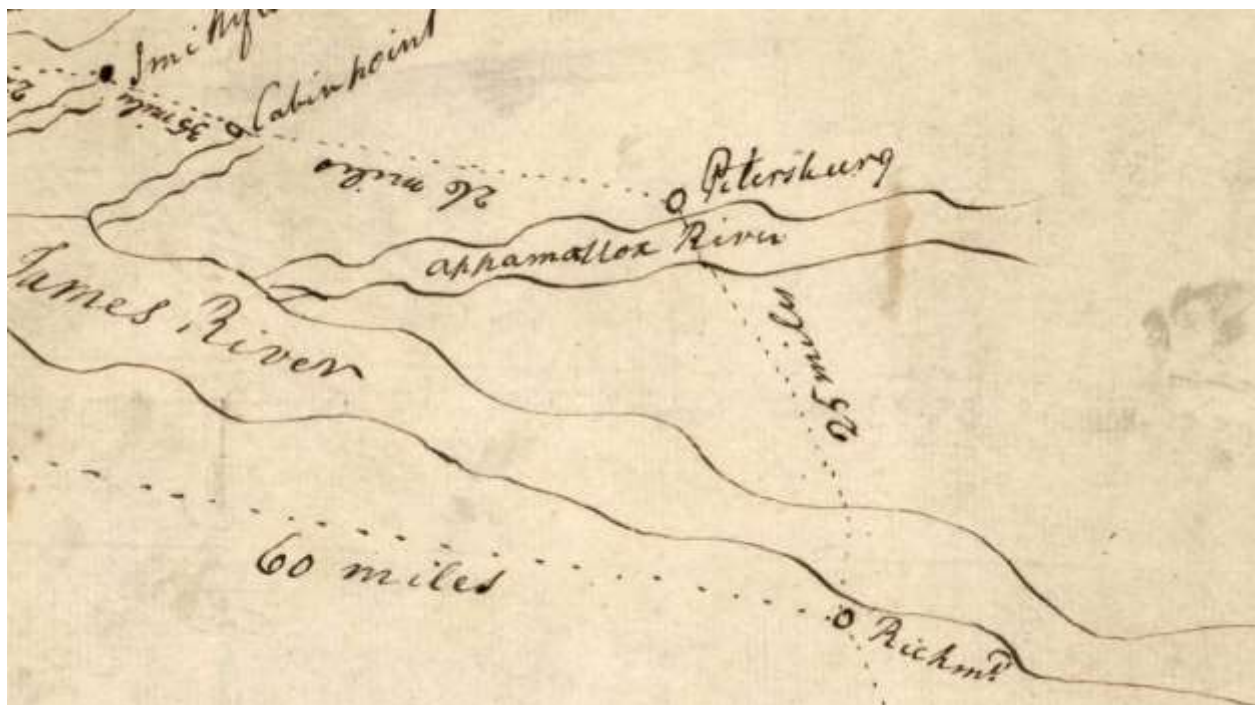
Chickahomany [River] in Boats, Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col: [John Graves] Simcoe with a Detachment to York; Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col: [Thomas] Dundas [80<sup>th</sup> Regt.] with another Detachment landed at the Mouth of the Chickahomany; and Major General Phillips & myself landed with part of the Army at Williamsburg, where about 500 Militia were posted who retired upon Our Approach; the Militia at York crossed the River before the arrival of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colo: Simcoe. who made a few Prisoners, Spiked & destroyed some Cannon, and next Day returned to Williamsburg.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> the Troops marched to Chickahomany: We were met on the Road, five Miles from the Mouth of the River by Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col: Dundass with his Detachment – This Even<sup>g</sup>, the Troops, Cavalry, Artillery, &c were re-imbarked: The next Morning we were joined by Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col: Abercrombie with the Light Infantry, who had been Ten or Twelve miles up the Chickahomany and destroyed several Armed Ships, the State Ship Yards, Warehouses &c – At 10 oClock the Fleet weighed and proceeded up James River, within four Miles of Westover. The 24<sup>th</sup> Weighed at 11 oClock and run up to City Point, where the Troops &c<sup>a</sup> were all landed at 6 oClock in the Even<sup>g</sup>... I have the Honor to be &c

(Sign'd) B: Arnold

Sir Henry Clinton K.B.

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, Reel 7, pp. 375-390 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/102, pp. 226-240.



Detail of "Sketch of the road from Fredericksburg to Norfolk in Virginia," 1781

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

**Excerpt of Letter from Former Rebel Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold, to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Describing the Battle of Petersburg, Virginia, Apr. 25-May 10, 1781**

Petersburgh 12<sup>th</sup> May 1781

Sir...

The 25<sup>th</sup> marched at 10 oClock for Petersburg, where we arrived about 5 oClock P.M. We were opposed about One Mile from Town by a Body of Militia under the orders of [Rebel] Brig<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> [Peter] Muhlenberg, supposed to be about 1000 Men, who were soon obliged to retire over the Bridge with the loss of near 100 Men Killed & Wounded, as we have since been informed – Our loss only One Man killed & Ten Wounded the Enemy took up the Bridge which prevented Our pursuing them. 26<sup>th</sup>, destroyed at Petersburg Four Thousand Hog<sup>ds</sup> of Tobacco, One Ships and a number of small Vessels on the Stocks & in the River. 27<sup>th</sup>, Maj: Gen: [William] Phillips with the Light Infantry, part of the Cavalry of the [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers & part of the Yagers marched to Chesterfield Court-House where they burnt a Range of Barracks for 2000 Men & 300 Barrels of Flour & c<sup>a</sup> The same day I marched to Osborns with the 76<sup>th</sup> & 80<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>ts</sup>, Queen's Rangers, part of the Yagers & American Legion... About 5 oClock P.M. we were joined by Maj.-General Phillips with the Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.]. 28<sup>th</sup>, the Troops remained at Osborns waiting for Boats from the Fleet, part of them were employed in securing the Prizes, & carrying them to Osborns as a place of Safety. 29<sup>th</sup>, the Boats having arrived, the Troops were put in motion. Maj: Gen: Phillips marched with the Main Body, at the same time I proceeded up the River with a Detachment in Boats and met him between Cary's Mill, and Warwick. 30<sup>th</sup> The Troops marched to Manchester and destroyed 1200 Hh<sup>ds</sup> of Tobacco. The [Rebel Maj. Gen.] Marquis de la Fayette having arrived with his Army at Richmond opposite to Manchester the Day before & being joined by the Militia drove from Petersburg and Williamsburg, they were Spectators of the Conflagration without attempting to molest Us. The same Evening we returned to Warwick, where we destroyed a Magazine of 500 Br<sup>rls</sup> of Flour, and Colonel Cary's fine Mills were destroyed in burning the Magazine of Flour. We also burnt several Warehouses with 150 Hogsheads of Tobacco, a large Ship & a Brigantine afloat, & three Vessels on the Stocks, a large Range of Public Rope Walks & Store Houses & some Tan & Bark Houses full of Hides & Bark.

May 1<sup>st</sup>, marched to Osborns and dispatched Our Prizes & Boats down the River & in the Evening marched to Bermuda Hundreds opposite City Point.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, embarked the Troops & c

“ 3<sup>rd</sup>, fell down the river to Westover.

“ 4<sup>th</sup>, proceeded down to Tappahannock.

“ 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, part of the fleet fell down to Hog Island.

“ 7<sup>th</sup>, Maj: Gen: Phillips having received a Letter from [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, a Copy of which is inclosed Orders were given for the Fleet to return up the River again, We arrived at Brandon about 5 oClock and most of the Troops, Cavalry & c<sup>a</sup> were landed this Evening tho' it blew a Gale of Wind.

May 8<sup>th</sup>, remained at Brandon. Maj: Gen: Phillips being very ill & unable to travel on Horseback, a Post Chaise was procured for him. 9<sup>th</sup>, The Light Infantry and part of the Queen's Rangers in Boats were ordered with the Formidable and Spitfire to proceed to City Point & land there; the rest of the Army were put in motion for Petersburg, where they arrived late in the Night, having marched near 30 Miles this Day.

On Our leaving Bermuda Hundred & going down the River, the Marquis de la Fayette with his Army moved towards Williamsburg and, by forced marches had crossed the Chickahomany at Long Bridge when our fleet returned to Brandon, which retrograde Motion of Ours occasioned him to return as, rapidly by forced Marches to Osborn's where he arrived the 8<sup>th</sup>, & was preparing to cross the River to Petersburg when we arrived there, which was so unexpected, that we surprized & took Two Majors (one of them Aide de Camp to [Rebel Maj. Gen. Friedrich Wilhelm] Baron Steubens, the other to [Maj.] Gen: [William] Smallwood), One Captain & three Lieutenants of Dragoons, Two Lieutenants of Foot, a Commissary & a Surgeon; Some of these Gentlemen arrived only two Hours before Us, with an Intention of collecting the Boats for the Marquis to cross his Army.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> the Marquis made his Appearance on the opposite Side of the River with a strong Escort, and having stayed some time to reconnoiter Our Army returned to his Camp at Osborns, and We are this Day informed he is marched to Richmond, where it is said Wayne with the Pennsylvania Line has arrived; this is, however, uncertain but he is certainly expected there...



As soon as it is reduced to a certainty that [Lt. Gen. Charles,] Lord Cornwallis has crossed the Roanoke, and is on his march for this Place, the Army will advance One or Two Days March from hence to meet His Lordship, and carry a Supply of Provisions for his Army.

A considerable Magazine of Flour & Bread has fallen into Our Hands near this Place and the Country abounds with Cattle...

Major General Phillips is so low and weak that it will be some considerable time before he can go through the Fatigue of Business. In this critical situation I am happy to have the Assistance of so many good and experienced Officers with me commanding Corps.

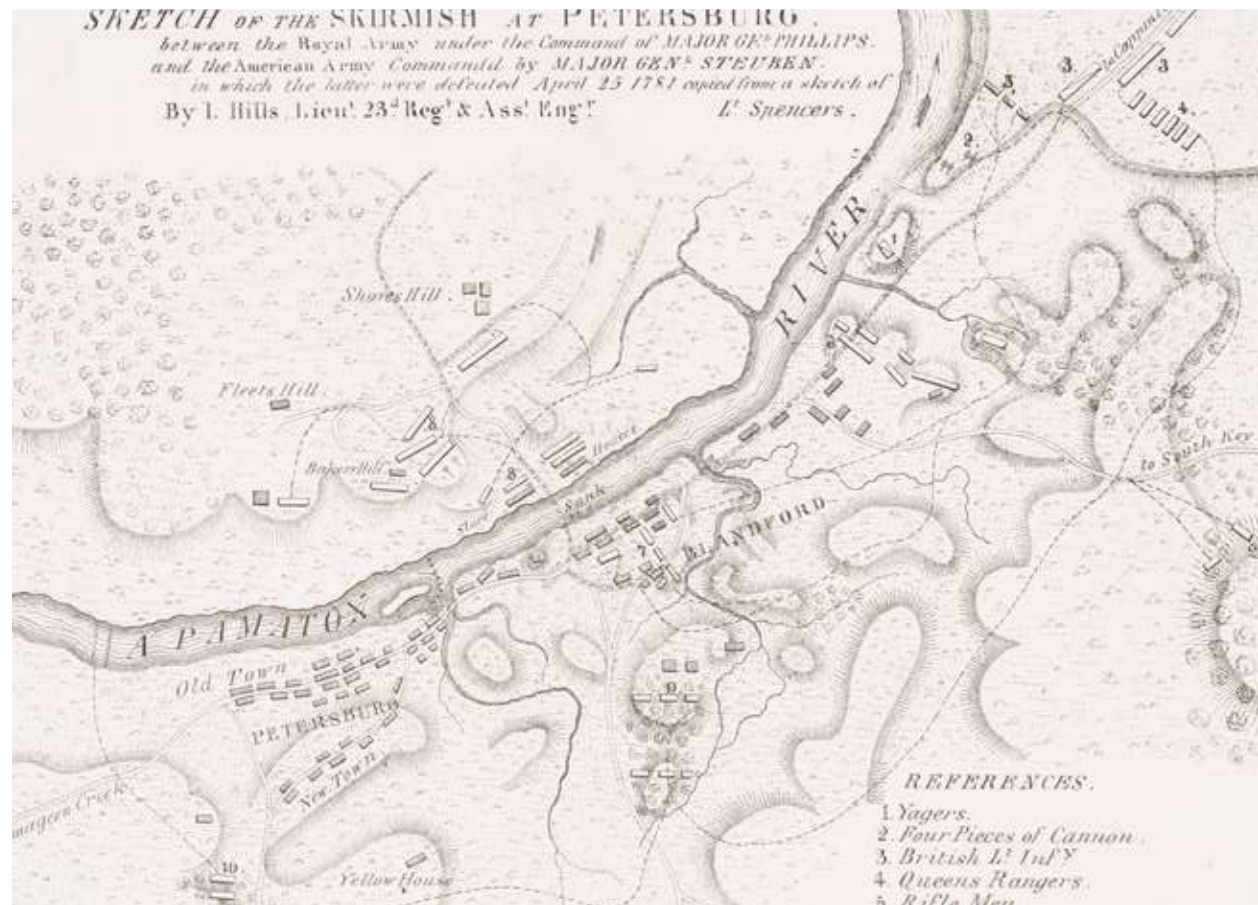
If joined by Lord Cornwallis or the Reinforcement said to be coming from New York, We shall be in Force to operate as We please in Virginia or Maryland.

I have the Honor to be &c

(Sign'd) B: Arnold

Sir Henry Clinton K.B.

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, Reel 7, pp. 375-390 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/102, pp. 226-240.



Detail showing route of the British Lt. Infantry (marked 3) from upper right corner into village of Blandford from "Sketch of the skirmish at Petersburg," Lt. John Hills

Map Source: *Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division*, the New York Public Library.

### Excerpts of Description of the Battle of Petersburg by Lt. Col. John Graves

### **Simcoe, Loyalist Queen's Rangers, Petersburg, Virginia, Apr. 25, 1781**

...On the 24<sup>th</sup> the troops landed, and passed the night at City point, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> marched towards Petersburg. The report of the forces collected at that place varied; but it was apparent, that they rather distrusted their own strength, or were miserably commanded, as no shadow of opposition was made at some passes which were very difficult, and which would have delayed or embarrassed the army. Within two miles of Petersburg, the wood ending in a plain, the army halted until the troops in the rear had closed to the front: the enemy appeared at a distance, and the troops advanced... The ground was divided by small inclosures, with houses on each side of the road, which, through a narrow pass in front, led to Petersburg; on the right of it were small eminences, terminating at the Appamatox river, and on the left, hilly ground covered with wood, at the foot of which was an old mill stream. The troops halted, and Lt. Col. Simcoe accompanied [Maj.] Gen.[William] Phillips to the right, where, at the distance of a quarter of a mile, he could see the enemy drawn up: Gen. Phillips soon selected a spot to which he ordered the artillery to be brought, and it arrived undiscovered; he then directed it to fire, and ordered Lieut. Col. [Robert] Abercrombie [1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Bn., with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] to march towards the enemy in front, Lieut. Col. Simcoe with the Rangers to pass through the wood to the left to turn the enemy's right flank, and Capt. [St. Lawrence] Boyd [38<sup>th</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] with the second battalion of light infantry to support him, as the rest of the troops did Lieut. Col. Abercrombie. Lt. Col. Simcoe, on emerging from the wood, found a high woody ridge, immediately on his left: he desired Capt. Boyd would attend to it, who sent flanking parties thither. Lieut. Col. Abercrombie pushing forward his battalion, the enemy's first line quitted their station in confusion; but it appeared to Lieut. Col. Simcoe, that they had a second line posted, probably to secure the retreat of the first, and that this party, who seemed totally occupied with what was doing in the front, had no out flankers, but that those of the first line had fallen back upon the main body. His aim was to get as much upon their flank as possible, attack them, and pass the bridge over the Appamatox with them: on the opposite side of this bridge, upon the heights, were troops and cannon, but the banks were so steep that their fire could do but little injury to an active assailant. The enemy, still pressed in front by Lieut. Col. Abercrombie, fled so rapidly that the [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers had no opportunity of closing with them, though, from their dress, they had marched a considerable way unnoticed. The enemy's cannon began to fire grape at the light infantry, who had reached the town of Blandford, and destroyed the bridge. Lt. Col. Simcoe thought it advisable to try whether there was not a ford, as was rumoured, at Bannister's mills, for the attempt at least would make the enemy draw off their cannon. A party of horsemen appeared upon the heights near Bannister's house: they galloped off on the approach of the troops, and proved to have been people of the country, who came as spectators of the encounter. The enemy now fired round shot, but ineffectually, at the Queen's Rangers: a party at the same time marched, on the opposite side of the river, towards the mills, but it was soon called off, and the whole of the enemy's corps, supposed to be commanded by [Rebel Maj. Gen. Friedrich Wilhelm] Baron Steuben, marched off. The disposition of the enemy was not such as marked any ability in those who made it: by their cannon being placed on the opposite side of the Appamatox, it was evident, that the corps which was stationed at the extremity of Blandford, was merely intended to fire and to retreat; but their very position counteracted their design, as the deep defile would of itself enforce caution in those who were to pass it; the previous skirmish had prevented their making use of an ambuscade, and their right being open, exposed them to what they narrowly escaped, the being cut off from the bridge. The plan of the ground, which Lt. Spencer took upon the spot, will show, to the military observer, many positions which might have been taken by the enemy to better effect: they were said to have lost near an hundred men killed and wounded, while that of the British was only one man killed, and ten wounded of the light infantry.

The bridge being easily repaired, Lt. Col. Abercrombie with the light infantry and Queen's Rangers, passed over the next day and occupied the heights. The army proceeded towards Osborne's on the 27<sup>th</sup>, early in the morning: the bridge at Randal's mills had been taken up, but was presently re-laid...



Source: *Simcoe's Military Journal, A History of the Operations of a Partisan Corps, The Queen's Rangers*, LT. Col. J. G. Simcoe, Bartlett & Welford, New York, 1844, pp. 196-198.

**Excerpt of Letter from Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis, to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Reporting the Death of Maj. Gen. William Phillips, May 20, 1781**

Petersburgh 20<sup>th</sup> May 1781

Sir,

You will easily conceive how sensible an Affliction it was to me, on entering this Province to receive an Account of the death of my friend General Phillips, whose Loss I cannot Sufficiently lament from personal or publick consideration.

The Copies which I brought from North Carolina, arrived here this morning. the information conveyed by Your Excellency to [Former Rebel Brig.] general [Benedict] Arnold, relative to the probable Movements of the French Armament, restrains me at present from any material offensive Operations; But as soon as I can hear any satisfactory accounts of the two Fleets, I will endeavor to make the best use in my power of the Troops under my Command...

I have the honor to be, with great respect, Sir

Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

His Excellency

(signed) Cornwallis

Sir Henry Clinton K.B. &c<sup>a</sup>. &c<sup>a</sup>. &c<sup>a</sup>.

Source: Copy of letter included as attachment in Sir Henry Clinton's Letter No. 130 to Lord George Germain, New York, June 9, 1781 in *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 7, pp. 433-435 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/102, pp. 319-322.

**Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis, Requesting the Return of the Light Infantry, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, New York, June 11, 1781**

New York 11 June 1781

My Lord,

...Comparing therefore, the force under your Lordship in Chesapeake and that of the Enemy opposed to you (and I think it clearly appears they have for the present no intention of sending thither reinforcement). I should have hoped you would have quite sufficient to carry on any operation in Virginia should that have been advisable at this advanced season.

By the intercepted letters enclosed to your Lordship in my last dispatch you will observe that I am threatened with a siege in this post. My present effective force is only 10,931. With respect to that the Enemy may collect for such an object, it is probable they may amount to at least 20,000, besides reinforcement to the French (which from pretty good authority I have reason to expect) and the numerous militia of the five neighbouring provinces... I beg leave to recommend it to you, as soon as you have finished the active operations you may be engaged in, take a defensive station in any healthy situation you choose (be it at Williamsburg or York Town). And I would wish in that case that after reserving to yourself such troops as you may judge necessary for an ample defensive and desultory Movements by water for the purpose of annoying the Enemy's communications, destroying magazines etc., the following Corps may be sent to me in succession as you can spare them.

Two Battalions of Light Infantry

43<sup>d</sup> Regiment

76<sup>th</sup> or 80<sup>th</sup>

two Battalions of [German] Anspach

Queen's Rangers, cavalry and infantry

remains of Detachment of 17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons,

and such a proportion of artillery as can be spared, particularly Men.

Until the arrival of the expected reinforcements from Europe it will be impossible for me to judge what future operations may be within my power under my present circumstances. I heartily wish I was able to spare a second Army after leaving a sufficient defensive for this important post. But your Lordship will, I hope, excuse me if I dissent from your opinion of the manner in which that Army should be employed, for experience ought to convince us that there is no possibility of reestablishing order in any rebellious province on this continent without the hearty assistance of numerous friends. These, my Lord, are not I think to be found in Virginia, nor dare I positively assert that under our present circumstances they are to be found in great numbers anywhere else, or that their exertions when found will answer our expectations. But I believe there is a greater probability of finding them in Pennsylvania than in any except the southern provinces. In these your Lordship has already made the experiment; it has there failed; they are gone from us and I fear are not to be recovered...

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XX, Transcripts 1781*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1977, pp. 157-159 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/102, f. 171.

**Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis Requesting Return of the Light Infantry, New York, June 15, 1781**

New York June 15, 1781

My Lord...

And as I am led to suppose (from Your Lordship's letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> ult.) that you may not think it expedient to adopt the operations I had recommended in the Upper Chesapeake, and will by this time probably have finished those you were engaged in, I request you will immediately embark a part of the troops stated in the letter inclosed (beginning with the Light Infantry, &c.) and send them to me with all possible dispatch; for which purpose, Captain Hudson, or officer commanding the King's ships, will I presume, upon your Lordship's application appoint a proper convoy.

I shall likewise in proper time solicit the Admiral to send some more transports to the Chesapeake, in which your Lordship will please to send hither the remaining troops you judge can be spared from the defence of the posts you may occupy; as I do not think it advisable to leave more troops in that unhealthy climate at this season of the year than what are absolutely wanted for a defensive, and desultory water excursions.

I have the honour to be, &c.

H. Clinton.

Source: *The Campaign in Virginia 1781, An exact Reprint of Six rare Pamphlets on the Clinton – Cornwallis Controversy*, Vol. II, Ed. Benjamin Franklin Stevens, London, 1888, pp. 24-25.

**Excerpt of Report from Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Describing his Campaign, Williamsburg, Virginia, June 25-26, 1781**

Extract of a letter from Earl Cornwallis to Sir Henry Clinton, dated Williamsburg June 30<sup>th</sup> 1781

'After passing James River at Westover, I moved to Hanover Court House, and crossed the South Anna. The [Rebel Maj. Gen.] Marquis de la Fayette marched to his Left, keeping above me at the Distance of about twenty Miles. By pushing my Light Troops over the North Anna, I alarmed the Enemy for Fredericksburg, & for the Junction with [Rebel Brig.] General [Anthony] Wayne who was then marching through Maryland. From what I could learn of the present State of Hunter's iron Manufactory, it did not appear of so much Importance as the Stores on the other side of the Country, and it was impossible to prevent the Junction between the Marquis & Wayne; I therefore too the Advantage of the Marquis's passing the Rappahanock, & detached Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>l</sup> [John Graves] Simcoe [Loyalist Queen's Rangers] & [Lt. Col. Banastre] Tarleton [Loyalist British Legion], to disturb the Assembly then sitting at

Charlottesville, & to destroy the Stores there, at old Albemarle Court House, and in the Point of Fork, moving with the Infantry to the Mouth of Bird creek near to the Point of Fork to receive these detachments...

I then moved by Richmond and arrived at Williamsburg on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Ins<sup>t</sup> having in addition to the Articles already mentioned destroyed on this Expedition at different Places above 2000 Hh<sup>ds</sup> of Tobacco, & a great Number of Iron Guns, & brought off 4 brass 13 Inch Mortars, 5 brass 8 Inch Howitzers, and 14 long brass 9 Pounders, all French: We found near Hanover Court House 10 French Brass 24 Pounders, which we could not carry & had not Time, or Means to destroy further than Spiking & throwing 5 or 6 of them into the Pamunky, and we found at Williamsburgh a considerable Quantity of Shot & Shells which are embarked. Gen Wayne joined the marquis above the middle of the Month, as did Baron Steuben soon after, & their Army has generally kept about 20 Miles from us, without any material Attempt by detachment except an Attack on L<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>l</sup> Simcoe on the 26<sup>th</sup> ...'

Source: Enclosure to Letter No. 135, Sir Henry Clinton to Lord George Germain, July 25, 1781, *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 7, pp. 613-616 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/103, pp.56-60.

**Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis, Again Requesting Return of Light Infantry, New York, June 28, 1781**

New York June 28, 1781

My Lord,

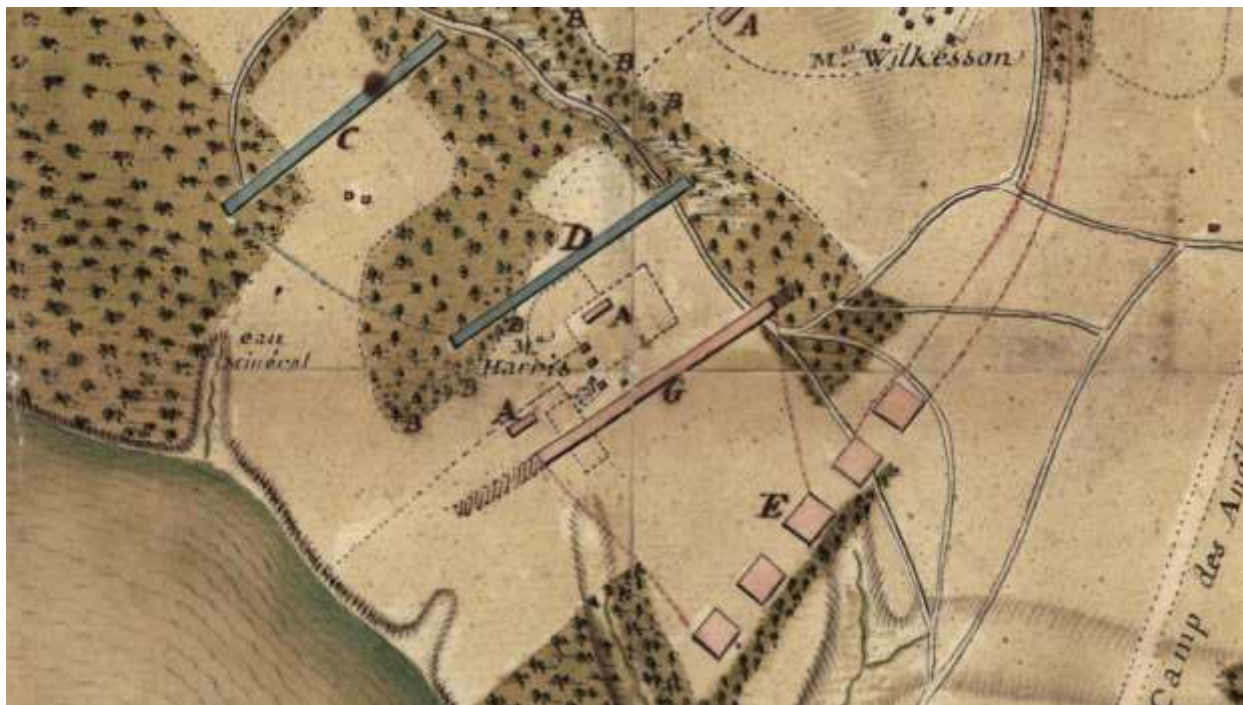
Having for very essential Reasons come to a resolution of endeavouring by a rapid Move to seize the Stores, &c. collected at Philadelphia, and afterwards to bring the Troops employed on that Service to reinforce this Post, I am to request, that if your Lordship has not already embarked the Reinforcement I called for in my letters of the 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> instant, and should not be engaged in some very important Move, either of your own, or in consequence of my Ideas respecting operation in the Upper Chesapeake, you will be pleased, as soon as possible, to order an embarkation of the Troops specified below, \* and of Stores, &c. &c. stated in the enclosed Paper; – or, in as full a Manner as your Lordship can with propriety comply; – recollecting, that whatever may have been taken too great a proportion of, will be immediately returned to you the Moment the Expedition is over...

I have the honour to be, &c,

H. Clinton

\*2<sup>d</sup> Battalion of Light Infantry; 43<sup>d</sup> Regiment; 76<sup>th</sup> or 80<sup>th</sup>; two Battalion of Anspach; Queen's Rangers, Cavalry and Infantry; and such of Proportion of Artillery as can be spared, particularly Men

Source: *The Campaign in Virginia 1781, An exact Reprint of Six rare Pamphlets on the Clinton – Cornwallis Controversy*, Vol. II, Ed. Benjamin Franklin Stevens, London, 1888, pp. 29-30. The phrase "2<sup>d</sup> Battalion of Light Infantry" in the list of units is likely to have meant two battalions to be consistent with Sir Henry's previous requests.



Detail of Map of Battle of Greensprings, Virginia ("Plan du terrain à la rive gauche de la rivière de James vis-à-vis Jamestown en Virginie ou s'est livré le combat du 6 juillet 1781 entre l'armée américaine commandée par le Mis. de La Fayette et l'armée angloise aux ordres du Lord Cornwallis," 1781, by Jean Nicolas Desandroüins. British positions are shown in red. The Lt. Infantry, including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Company were on the right of the British line.

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

### **Report from Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Describing Battle of Greensprings, Virginia, July 6, 1781**

Extract

Cobham 8<sup>th</sup> July 1781

Earl Cornwallis to Sir Henry Clinton

'I was this morning honored with your Dispatch of the 28<sup>th</sup> Ultimo [June] The Troops [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] are perfectly ready and will proceed to Portsmouth to wait the Arrival of the Transports. I will give immediate Orders about the Artillery, Stores, &c.

The Transports now at Portsmouth are sufficient to carry the Light Infantry. I had prepared them to receive that Corps, & should have sent them to you in a few Days, if your last Order had not arrived. I take for granted that [Maj.] General [James] Robertson will come with the Transports, to take the Command of the Expedition. [Maj.] General [Hon. Alexander] Leslie is still there; but as it was not my Intention to have sent him with the Troops to New York, and as he will be the properest Person to command, in case you should approve of my returning to Charlestown, I shall not send him on the Expedition unless it shall then appear to be your Excellency's desire, that he should accompany Gen<sup>l</sup> Robertson.

I must again take the liberty of calling your Excellency's serious attention to the Question of the utility of a defensive Post in this Country, which cannot have the smallest Influence on the war in Carolina, and which only gives us some Acres of an unhealthy Swamp, and is for ever liable to become a Prey to a Foreign Enemy, with a temporary superiority at Sea. Desultory Expeditions in the Chesapeake, may be undertaken from New York with as much ease and more Safety, whenever there is reason to suppose that our Naval Force is likely to be superior for two or three Months.

The Boats and Naval Assistance having been sent to me by Captain Hudson, I marched on the 4<sup>th</sup>. from Williamsburgh, to a Camp which covered a Ford into the Island of James Town. The [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers passed the River that Evening, on the 5<sup>th</sup>. I sent over all the Wheel Carriages, and on the 6<sup>th</sup> the Bat Horses & Baggage of every kind, intending to pass with the Army on the 7<sup>th</sup>. About Noon on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Information was brought to me of the Approach of the Enemy, and about 4 in the Afternoon a large Body attacked our Out Posts; Concluding that the Enemy would not bring a considerable Force within our Reach, unless they supposed that nothing was left but a Rear Guard, I took every means to convince them of my Weakness, and suffered my Picquets to be insulted & driven back; nothing, however, appeared near us, but Rifle Men & Militia till near Sunset, when a Body of Continentals with Artillery began to form in the front of our Camp. I then put the Troops under Arms and ordered the Army to advance in two Lines. The Attack was began by the first Line with great Spirit, there being nothing but Militia opposed to the Light Infantry. The Action was soon over on the Right. But Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>l</sup> [Thomas] Dundass's Brigade consisting of the 43<sup>d</sup>. 76<sup>th</sup>. & 80<sup>th</sup> Regiments, which formed the Left Wing, meeting the [Rebel] Pennsylvania Line, and a Detachment of the [Maj. Gen.] Marquis de La Fayette's Continentals, with 2 Six Pounders, a smart Action ensued for some Minutes, when the Enemy gave way, & abandoned their Cannon. The Cavalry were perfectly ready to pursue, but the Darkness of the Evening prevented my being able to make use of them. I cannot sufficiently commend the Spirit, and good Behaviour of the Officers and Soldiers of the whole Army, but the 76<sup>th</sup> [Highland] & 80<sup>th</sup> [Royal Edinburgh Volunteers] Regiments, on whom the Brunt of the Action fell, had an Opportunity of distinguishing themselves particularly, & Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>l</sup> Dundass's Conduct and Gallantry deserve the highest Praise. The Force of the Enemy in the Field was about 2000 & their Loss I believe, between 2 & 300; half an hour more of Day Light would probably have given us the greatest part of the Corps. I have inclosed a List of our killed and wounded. We finished our Passage yesterday which has been an Operation of great Labour & Difficulty, as the River is 3 Miles wide at this Place. I have great obligations to Captain Aplin & the Officers of the Navy & Seamen, for their great Exertions and Attention on this Occasion. I have not received the Letters, your Excellency alludes to, of the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, or 8<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of June.

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of the Troops under the Command of Lieutenant General Earl Cornwallis in the Action of 6 <sup>th</sup> July 1781			
Regiments or Corps	Killed	Wounded	Missing...
Brigade of Light Infantry	2 [Rank & File]	7 [Rank & File]	-...
Total	11 [Rank & File]	1 [Capt.], 5 [Lts.], 1 [Ens.], 1[Sgt.], 2 [Drum.], 56 [Rank & File]	1 [Rank & File]...

Officers Names...

Volunteer Fitzgerald, L<sup>t</sup>. Infan<sup>y</sup> d<sup>o</sup> [Wounded]...

Signed. J. Despard  
Dep<sup>y</sup>. Adj<sup>t</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Source and Note: Extract enclosed in letter No. 135, Sir Henry Clinton to Lord George Germain, New York, July 25, 1781 in *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 7, p. 607 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Jan.-June 1781* at CO 5/103, pp. 61-66, 94.



Reproduction 76<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt. (MacDonald's) Uniform Button

**76<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt. Officer's Account of Battle of Greensprings, Virginia, July 6, 1781**

*Extract of a letter from an officer in the 76th regiment, dated on board the Lord Mulgrave transport, Hampton road, Virginia, July 23...*

...on the 4th and 5th inst. crossed over the whole baggage of the army to Cobham, the opposite side of the James's River... the rest of the army waited at James's City Island ready to cross the next day, but the rebels imagining the whole had crossed except three or four hundred and a few cavalry, marched down their whole force under the command of the [Maj. Gen.] Marquis de la Fayette and [Brig.] General [Anthony] Wayne to attack this supposed handful of men...and after reciprocal volleys put them to flight...About 90 of the rebels were found killed...The 76th had killed ...a volunteer...and six privates...the 80th had three officers wounded, two of which [are] since dead, and 27 rank and file: 42d [likely 43<sup>rd</sup>] one killed. The light infantry and Hessians a few wounded...

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Oct. 5-9, 1781.

**Captured Letter from Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Pherson, 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt.  
(Former Brevet-Lt. Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.), Yorktown, Virginia, Aug. 31 – Sept. 9, 1781**

Camp Yorktown 31<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1781  
8 o'Clock at night

Dear Sir

I am this moment informed that a small Boat is this night to be dispatched for New York to acquaint the Commander in Chief [Sir Henry Clinton] of the arrival of twenty five french Ships of War in the Bay the day before yesterday – Three of them are anchored in our view – They drove in our Cruisers & took the Loyalist Sloop of War, after a most obstinate Battle with two of their Frigates for two hours, in which, the Loyalist lost her Main: Mast by the Board, & her fore & mizen top masts – Captain [Richard] Williams's gallant defense gave sufficient time to the [28-gun *HMS Guadeloupe*] Guardeloup that was on her way to Charlestown, the [14-gun sloop *HMS*] Bonetta, & three or four small vessels to get in here – The last dispatch Scooner from New York was one of them – had she been an hour later she must have fallen into the hands of the French. We have not as yet heard the loss of men on board the Loyalist – Its supposed to be very great, from the shatter'd Situation she was seen in by Captain Robinson of the Guardaloup

The most distant prospect of your receiving my acknowledgement of your agreeable favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant coming to hand I would not omit – Nothing but hard Labour goes on here at present in constructing & making Batteries toward the River, & Redoubts towards the Land – The troops are in perfect health & high Spirits & if our Enemies are polite enough to give us three day's grace, we shall be able to receive the [French Adm. François Joseph Paul] Count d' Grass & his friend the [Rebel Maj. Gen.] Marquiss [de Lafayette] in a proper manner...

Unfortunate<sup>y</sup> – The dispatch Boat I'm told sailed half an hour ago – No help for it – I shall be more attentive to the next Conveyance, by which, I shall send this, with anything else that may occur – ½ an hour past 9 o'Clock Night The 2<sup>d</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> Three french Frigates join the Ships at the entrance of the River so that the Blockade by Water is complete

The Army still hard at Work & now formed into two Lines with a Reserve, & encamp on the Ground which we are to maintain to the last – The 2<sup>d</sup> L. Infantry the 71<sup>st</sup> [Highland], 80<sup>th</sup> [Royal Edinburgh Volunteers] & 2<sup>d</sup> [German] Anspach for the first Line – 1<sup>st</sup> L. Infantry The Brigade of Guards, 76<sup>th</sup> [Highland] & 1<sup>st</sup> Anspach make the 2<sup>d</sup> Line & the 33<sup>d</sup> & The [Hessian] Reg<sup>t</sup> D' Bose compose the Reserve –



The 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>d</sup>, 43<sup>d</sup>, with some provincial Corps, Merchants & Inhabitants embodied into Companies occupy the redoubts near the Town – The Seaman all the Batteries

The [Hessian] Hereditary Prince's Reg<sup>t</sup>, the [Loyalist] Q[ueens]. Rangers, Yaugers, & some convalescents are strongly fortified at Glochester directly opposite to us –

We most heartily dispise in our present situation the united force of the Yankees & the emaciated [French] west Indiamen lately landed, our position being naturally so strong, & assisted with the greatest skill by Art, a fine train of Artillery well manned – The Enemy are incamped nine Miles from – two miles below Williamsburg – It's my own opinion they are not inforce – 6<sup>th</sup> The french Ships gon off

My best wishes attend you & yours Jalurse 'am

Yorktown Lines  
in Camp 9<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> [actually Sept.]1781

Very sincerely Yours  
*Dun M<sup>c</sup>Pherson*

Source: *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, p. 772. The document has been subsequently marked "Enclosed in 1781 Se 24, Gist to GW." That annotation refers to a letter from Gen. Mordecai Gist of Maryland to Gen. George Washington dated Sept. 24, 1781 that describes how MacPherson's letter fell into American hands. Gist wrote: "The enclosed papers were taken in a Dispatch Boat from Lord Cornwallis by the Brig Sea Nymph of Phil<sup>a</sup> the 10<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>d</sup> off Cape Charles, and were brought here last night. I have the honor to forward them to Your Excellency's information...M Gist". The enclosure to Gist's letter is marked "from General Gist – inclosing intercepted Letters from Lord Cornwallis to Gen<sup>l</sup> Clinton N.B. some of the Originals of Intercepted Letters sent to Count de Grasse" Reference: Letter from Mordecai Gist to George Washington, September 24, 1781, *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, pp 134-135. Brevet-Lt. Col. M<sup>c</sup>Pherson had served for the first five years of the war as a Capt. in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.



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

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

## **Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Attempt to Rescue Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Virginia Army, New York, Sept. 3-Nov. 14, 1781**



**General Orders Issued for the British Grenadiers, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, and the Royal Highland Regt. to be Ready to Embark to Reinforce Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Army in Virginia; New York, Sept. 3 – 4 and 19, Oct. 4, 1781**

Head Qrs New York 3<sup>d</sup> Sept 1781...

The 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, Yagers, British and Hessian Grenad<sup>rs</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>d</sup>, Reg<sup>t</sup> du Corps, Price Charles, and Bunau are to hold themselves in readiness to Embark at the shortest notice.

Head Quarters, New York 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1781

The Corps that were yesterday ordered to be in readiness to Embark on the shortest notice are to send in Embarkation Returns precisely at ten o'Clock tomorrow Morning...

Head Quarters, New York 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 1781...

The Troops Embarked for the Expedition are to Land tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock at Coles Ferry on Staten Island and encamp on such ground as the Deputy Quarter Mas<sup>r</sup> General /who will attend for that purpose/ shall point out.

Head Qrs New York 4<sup>th</sup> Octo<sup>r</sup> 1781...

Orders by the Comm<sup>r</sup> in Chief...

The 22<sup>d</sup> and 42<sup>d</sup> Regiments to be under the comm<sup>d</sup> of Brig General [Thomas] Earl of Lincoln and Maj<sup>r</sup> of Brig<sup>e</sup> [Nathaniel] Phillips [38<sup>th</sup> Regt.] to be attached to this Brigade 'till further orders...

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. This expedition was being assembled to relieve Lord Cornwallis who was besieged at Yorktown, Virginia. Due to worries about the French fleet the expedition under Gen. Sir Henry Clinton did not sail until Oct. 19, 1781, the same day Lord Cornwallis surrendered. Embarkation returns provided the strength reports of the regiments. Although the Earl of Lincoln was a company commander in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regt of Foot Guards, his rank at Capt. and Lt. Colonel in the Guards and his temporary Brig. Gen. commission in America, outranked Maj. Charles Graham, commanding the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.



90-gun HMS London

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record Preparations for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to Join Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Virginia Relief Expedition, New York, Sept. 3 – Oct. 19, 1781**

Monday 3<sup>d</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1781... 'tis Reported that the french fleet that were at Rhode Island have got into Chesapeak, & that [Rebel Commander in Chief Gen. George] Washington is going to the Southward... The 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, Jagers, British & Hessian Gren<sup>rs</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. [Hessian] Reg<sup>ts</sup>. du Corps Prince Charles & Bernau are order'd to hold themselves in readiness to Embark at the shortest notice –

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. S:W: winds... two Vessels arrived from Virginia who bring accounts that a french fleet were in the Chesapeak of 23 Sail, a 64 [gun man of war] & 2 frigates in York River the rest in Lynhaven Bay – supposed to be the french fleet from the West Indies – M<sup>r</sup>. Washington with his combin'd army reckoned above 6000 had embark'd at Trenton to go to New Castle [Delaware]& cross over to Head of Elk [Maryland] to embark'd down the Chesapeak to join & cooperate with this grand design to save Virginia

The Corps that were yesterday order'd to be readiness to Embark at the shortest notice were to send Embarkation Returns precisely at 10 o'clock tomorrow morn<sup>g</sup>. ...Batt<sup>n</sup>. orders for the Companys to Embark as formerly ordered –

Wednesday 5 Sept<sup>r</sup>.... bespoke sea stores for our [transport] ship the Apollo in which goes Col: [James] Marsh the Brigade Maj<sup>r</sup>. The 7<sup>th</sup>. 22<sup>d</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. [Grenadier] Companys, the other four Companys on board the Esther...

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1781 The Gren<sup>rs</sup>. march'd from their Camp at Bedford before 6 oclock & got to Denys's between 8 & 9 where they found the Hessian Gren<sup>rs</sup>. Embarking, & when they were all on board the Batteaux were employ'd on Embarking us, the whole on board by Noon The 37<sup>th</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. & Hessian Reg<sup>ts</sup>. Embark at New York –

Apollo [transport] off Denys's Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1781 warm w<sup>r</sup>. All the transports with the 22<sup>d</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. & the three Hessian Reg<sup>ts</sup>. are come down & ly near the watering place [Staten Island]...

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1781 cool & pleasant after the Gale ...in consequence of orders our Transports moved over to the Staten Island side & came to anchor off Coles ferry among the rest. Orders for the troops to land in the morning & Encamp on Staten Island near Coles ferry...

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. more moderate & cool The Troops disembark'd this Morning & Encamp'd in the Neighbourhood of Coles ferry the Br: Gr<sup>rs</sup>. on the high Ground behind Ryersons... the Hessian Gren<sup>rs</sup>. & Reg<sup>ts</sup>. Du Corps & Prince Charles form a line in their Rear, the 42<sup>d</sup>. [Regt.] close by the ferry, the 22<sup>d</sup>. & 37<sup>th</sup>. about ½ a mile out on the Richmond road, the jagers in their front...

Staten Island 3<sup>d</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1781 cold morn<sup>g</sup>. The [British] Gr<sup>rs</sup>. March'd in the Morn<sup>g</sup>. the shore road by the Blazing Star [tavern], & took up ground near Dessessois, which is two miles short of Billips Point...

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1781 a cold night & frost Major of Brigade Losach came to Camp last night with the distribution of the ships for the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. Viz<sup>t</sup>. The [90 gun *HMS*] London, [90 gun *HMS*] Prince George, [90 gun *HMS*] Barfleur, & [74 gun *HMS*] Bedford... Col: Marsh & Col: Fox has settled it that the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>. go on board the London & Barfleur & the 2<sup>d</sup>. on board the Prince George & Bedford. The 7<sup>th</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. & 43<sup>d</sup>. [Grenadier] Comp<sup>ys</sup>. go on board the London the 17<sup>th</sup>. 22<sup>d</sup>. 23<sup>d</sup>. & 33<sup>d</sup>. the Barfleur...

Oct<sup>r</sup>. 6<sup>th</sup>. The Fleet are busy making the necessary repairs, & compleating their water and provision, and are expected to be ready about the 12<sup>th</sup>. inst<sup>t</sup>. [instant, i.e. Oct.], when the Troops will embark on board the Ships of War agreeable to a distribution given out for that purpose, in order to make a Spirited exertion for the relief of [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis, & on which probably depends the fate of America, & the Superiority of the Sea. The french are said to have four & thirty sail of the Line in Chesapeak Bay, & we have only six & twenty here, including three fifties [50 gun ships], two are expected from the West Indies, & one more from the Northward... Orders by the Com<sup>r</sup>. in chief [Gen. Sir

Henry Clinton]. The 37<sup>th</sup>. Regt. the [Hessian] Reg<sup>t</sup>. du Corps & Prince Cha<sup>s</sup>. to be under the command of [Hessian] Major Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Ludwig von] Wurmb till further orders... The 22<sup>d</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. Regts. to be under the Command of Brigadier Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Capt. and Lt. Col. Thomas] the Earl of Lincoln [1<sup>st</sup> Guards Regt.], & Major of Brigade Phillips to be attach'd to this Brigade till further orders...

[Oct. 12] The Camp was struck at ½ after 7 oclock & the baggage loaded in waggons & sent to Coles ferry, when we were told the troops order of Embarkation were to march past the Prince [William Henry] & Salute as they went to their Boats. The Morn<sup>g</sup>. very warm & we did not march off till 'tween ten & eleven. The Prince being arriv'd he was posted near the beach on the ground where the 42<sup>d</sup>. [Regt.] were Encamp'd, and the Troops according to their order in line, march'd past by half Company's & the Officers Saluted the Young prince who was accompanied by Adm<sup>l</sup>. [Robert] Digby & the D<sup>y</sup>. Adj<sup>t</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. &c<sup>a</sup>. &c<sup>a</sup>. he seems & is said to be a very fine young man, smart & sensible for his years, & sufficiently well grown, a strong likeness of the King [George III], & a handsome Address, he was in a plain Midshipman uniform, look'd cheerful, & took off his hat with good grace. The troops then march'd to their boats & were Embark'd on board their respective Transports in a few hours... I understand we are to remain on board of Transports untill the Ships of the line are at the [Sandy] hook are over the bar according to their distribution...

Esther Transport off Staten Island 17<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. 81... about noon the Transports got underway & came down to the hook & anchor'd among the fleet, the London &c<sup>a</sup>. came down in the Evening...

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. cool at N. W. a Signal being made at 7 this morn<sup>g</sup>. for the Transports to come along side of the respective ships of war that were to take their troops on board, we got under way & came to along side the London & by means of a rope from each haul'd close to her, & the troops went on board by seniority of Companys, & were dispos'd of on the middle and lower decks, 6 to a Mess between the Guns

Appartments made for the officers on the middle deck before the Wardroom, of canvas curtains, & Cotts slung betwixt the Guns. The Com<sup>r</sup>. in Chief & his suite & Col: [James] Marsh in the Admirals appartments on the upper deck, & mess there...

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. the N. W. wind continues. The fleet got underway in the morning about 7...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries* Sept. 3-Oct. 19, 1781 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 469-484. Despite the urgency of these orders the Virginia fleet did not sail until mid-Oct. The Earl of Lincoln's father was a cousin of Sir Henry Clinton. Sixteen-year old Prince William Henry, later King William IV, served as a Midshipman on *HMS Prince George*. Although the units were assigned to men of war for the voyage because of the threat of the French fleet, they loaded first in transports which carried them to the warships, where they were transferred.

### **Advertisement for Escaped Slave by Capt. Charles Grant, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., New York, Sept. 5, 1781**

#### **FIVE DOLLARS REWARD.**

RUN away from the Subscriber, Captain Charles Grant, of the 42d, or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot, a negro man named TOM, about 27 years of age five feet five or six inches high, thick and well made, has a cut in his forehead. Whoever brings the said negro man TOM, to Captain Grant, or Mr. Hunt, at Newtown, Long-Island, or gives information where he can be found, shall have the above reward.

All Masters of vessels and others are forewarned to harbour or conceal the said negro man, as they may expect to answer for the same.

Source and Note: *Royal Gazette*, Sept. 5, 1781, p. 3. Mr. Hunt is likely Capt. Grant's father in law.

### **News Account of British Forces, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and British Grenadiers, Landing on Staten Island, New York, Sept. 20, 1781**

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Morristown, to his friend in this city, dated September 26.*

“You will doubtless be desirous of knowing what troops are now encamped on Staten-Island. I can, from pretty good authority, inform you, that they are the 1st and 2d regiments of British grenadiers; the 22d, 42d, 54th and, 57th British regiments; two regiments of Hessian grenadiers; two battalions of Hessians, and 1000 Yagers, landed last Friday week, and have four field pieces, but all their baggage on board...”

Source and Note: *Freeman's Journal or, The North-American Intelligencer*, Oct. 3, 1781. These troops had been embarked for an expedition to reinforce Lt. Gen. Charles Earl Cornwallis at Yorktown Virginia. Concerns over the location of the French Fleet caused them to be temporarily landed on Staten Island, before reembarking for Virginia on Oct. 10 and sailing Oct. 19, 1781.

**General Order for the British Grenadiers, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, and the Royal Highland Regt. to Embark Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> to Reinforce Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Army in Virginia; New York, Oct. 10, 1781**

Head Qrs New York 10<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>o</sup> 1781...

After orders.

The Troops on Staten Island who are under Embarkation Orders are on Friday Morning the 12<sup>th</sup> Instant to go on Board the several Transports they were on previous to their landing on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, for which purpose they will be under arms at half past Seven o'Clock that Morning, and wait on the ground of their Encampment 'till they receive orders to move.

The Camp Equipage, baggage and Artillery Waggon are to be put on Board one Transport according to the Distribution sent to each Corps the 30<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup>.

As no women can possibly be embarked they are to be left behind according to the Arrangement made respecting them the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

The following alterations are made in the distribution of transports for the present Embarkation viz.

42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> The Holly Victualler instead of the Empress of Russia.

Source and Note: “Orders, 1778-1782,” Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. This expedition was being assembled to relieve Lord Cornwallis who was besieged at Yorktown, Virginia. Due to worries about the French fleet the expedition under Gen. Sir Henry Clinton did not sail until Oct. 19, 1781, the same day Lord Cornwallis surrendered. Embarkation returns provided the strength reports of the regiments.

**Grenadier Capt. John Peebles' Account of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company Preparing to Sail with Gen. Sir Henry Clinton to Reinforce Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Army, New York, Sept. 3 – 15, 1781**

Monday 3<sup>d</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1781...

'tis Reported that the French fleet that were at Rhode Island have got into Chesapeak, & that [Rebel Gen. George] Washington is going to the southward.

...The 17<sup>th</sup>. Dragoons, Jagers, British & Hessian Gren<sup>rs</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. [Hessian] Reg<sup>ts</sup>. du Corps prince Charles & Bernau are order'd to hold themselves in readiness to Embark at the shortest notice –

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. ... The Corps that were yesterday order'd to be readiness to Embark at the shortest notice were to send Embarkation Returns precisely at 10 o'clock tomorrow morn<sup>g</sup>... Batt<sup>n</sup>. orders for the Companies to Embark as formerly ordered –

Wednesday 5 Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1781... bespoke sea stores for our [transport] ship the Apollo in which goes [Lt.] Col. [Francis] Marsh the Brigade Maj<sup>r</sup> The 7<sup>th</sup>. 22<sup>d</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. Companys...

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1781 The Gren<sup>ts</sup>. march'd from their Camp at Bedford before 6 o'clock & got to Denys's between 8 & 9 where they found the Hessians Gren<sup>ts</sup>. Embarking, & when they were all on board the Batteaux were employ'd in Embarking us, the whole on board by Noon The 37<sup>th</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. & Hessian Reg<sup>ts</sup>. Embark at New York...

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>... All the Transports with the 22<sup>d</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. & three Hessian Reg<sup>ts</sup>. are come down & ly near the Watering place [Staten Island].

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* entries Sept. 3-15, 1781, also printed in *John Peebles American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pennsylvania), 1998, pp. 470-476.

**Journal of Maj. Frederick Mackenzie Lists the Royal Highlanders as Part of Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Force to be sent to Link Up with Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Virginia Army to Defeat the French and Rebels, New York, Sept. 2-22, 1781**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> – Good weather, and not hot...

The Commander in Chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton] has received some authentic information respecting the object of the Enemy. A large Corps, consisting of all the French troops, The Congress Regiment, the Jersey Brigade, The New York troops, and a Corps of Light Infantry, under [French Commander Lt.] General [Jean-Baptiste] Rochambeau, [Rebel Commander Gen. George] Washington [Maj. Gen. Benjamin] Lincoln and other Generals are on the march to the Southward. Part of them were at Trenton two days ago. All the troops belonging to the Northern Colonies, amounting to about 3000 men, are left in the Highlands, West point, and some adjacent posts in Jersey.

[Maj.] General [James] Robertson & [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen had a long conference with The Commander on Chief this day, in consequence of which an arrangement was made for moving two Corps to the Southward under certain circumstances, leaving between Six and 7000 men at this post...

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> Thick weather most of the day...

The Jagers, British and Hessian Grenadiers, 37<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, [Hessians] Du Corps, Prince Charles's and Bunau, with the 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, ordered this day to be in readiness to embark on the shortest notice.

The British fleet now out consists of 19 ships of the line, 2 of 50, and 14 frigates, with a fire ship and several Sloops. A force we hope much superior to any the French can assemble on this Coast.

Should our fleet meet with the expected success, M<sup>r</sup> Washington's Army will be in a dangerous situation; for there is no doubt but The Commander on Chief will immediately, in conjunction with Lord Cornwallis's Army, make every possible effort to attack and disperse it...

4<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> Hazy morning...

The Commander in Chief is determined to be ready to act with the Army the moment anything decisive happens between the Fleets, and therefore this day gave orders for a Corps of near 4000 men to embark the 6<sup>th</sup>. I think he will assemble this Corps at Sandy hook, and in case of the defeat of the French fleet, proceed immediately either to the Chesapeake or Delaware, as circumstances may point out...

<i>Distribution of Transports</i>				
Corps	Ships		Tons	Vanes
1 <sup>st</sup> Grenadiers	{ Appollo	361 }	745	Red – Main...
	{ Esther	384 }		
42 <sup>ed</sup>	{ Empress of Russia	380 }	989	Red & blue, Main...
	{ Nestor	343 }		
	{ Betsy	266 }		

5<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> very fine day...

A Whaleboat came in last night with letters from Lord Cornwallis. She was sent back at 1 o'clock this Morning. The French fleet were in the Chesapeake, and some ships in York River. The Army under Lord Cornwallis are very busy in fortifying their posts at York and Gloucester, and are in great spirits. Admiral [Thomas] Graves's fleet had not been seen, nor had [French Adm. Jacques-Melchior Saint-Laurent, Comte de] Barras joined [Adm. François Joseph Paul] de Grasse.

*Arrangements for the Embarkation the 6<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>*

British Grenadiers, March from Bedford, & Embark at Denyces at 8 in Morn<sup>g</sup>

Hessian Grenadiers – Embark at Denyces at 8 in the Morning

37<sup>th</sup> March from McGowans } so as to embark at { at 8 in the Morning

42<sup>nd</sup> March from Greenwich } The Hay wharf, { at 6 in the Morning

Jagers, March from Kingsbridge } N. York { at 10 in the Morning

40, of 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, march from fresh meadows, So as to Emb<sup>k</sup> at Brooklyn at 10

30 Pioneers, march from Horn's hook, and Emb<sup>k</sup> at 10 Morn<sup>g</sup>, behind the burnt Church

The General Officers are, [Lt. Gen. Hon. Alexander] Lesslie, [Maj. Gen. James] Paterson, [Brig. Gen. Thomas] L<sup>d</sup> Lincoln & [Hessian Maj. Gen. Henrich Julius von] Kospoth. The troops to take Camp Equipage & light baggage. The Field Officers and Staff, take their horses on board their respective transports: To take Regimental Waggon & the horse harness on board.

Horse vessels will be provided for the horses of the generals and General Staff.

The Waggon & Artillery horses, to be given up to the Quar<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> General. No Women or heavy baggage to be embarked. A proper person to be left by each Corps to take care of them. The women to be provided for in the Neighbourhood of their respective encampment.

20 days Pork, Flour & Rum for 12,000 men to be taken; besides the 70 days provisions in the transports.

The Commander in Chief has determined to take more troops with him if he finds it necessary to leave this, and has ordered transports to be prepared for the 54<sup>th</sup> regiment and [Hessian] Prince Charles's...

6<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> Very fine day...

The troops embarked this morning agreeable to the arrangement...

14<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> very fine weather...

The transports with troops on board received orders to go down to Staten Island, but the wind being unfavourable, few of them could get down to the watering place. The rest of them anchored in different parts of the bay...

*State, and Distribution of the Army in the district of New York 15<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1781*

Corps	Fit for Duty	Sick & Wound <sup>d</sup>	Effect <sup>e</sup>	Stations...
1 <sup>st</sup> Grenadiers	461	42	480	Embarked...
42 <sup>ed</sup>	568	71	643	Embarked...

18<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> ...

Came in last night The [HMS] Fortune, 40 Guns, Captain Christian, from Admiral Graves's fleet. The accounts she brings are not very favourable...and that Admiral Graves is returning with the fleet to this port, in order to refit and wait for reinforcements.

The French fleet being now so superior as to preclude all thought of attempting a direct relief of Lord Cornwallis, it appears that nothing can be done until Admiral [Robert] Digby arrives...

Orders were given this Morning for the whole of the troops now embarked, to be landed on Staten Island toMorrow, and to encamp there...

20<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> ...

The troops did not disembark this day on account of the swell at Staten Island, and the badness of the weather...

21<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> – Cold weather...

The troops landed on Staten Island this day, and encamped in two lines on the heights above the waatering place...

22<sup>ed</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> – Very cold weather for the Season...

A striking instance of the want of discipline in the British service is now to be seen here. Altho' the troops embarked the 6<sup>th</sup> September, and transports were allotted for the reception of the Generals, no British General embarked with them; and tho' they landed yesterday on Staten Island, where there is now a body of above 6,000 men, no British General Officer is yet with them. Major General [James] Paterson tho' appointed to Command the British Grenadiers, has remained in Brooklyn ever since they embarked: [Brig. Gen. Thomas] Lord Lincoln who commands the Brigade of British Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.], has been in New York the whole time: and [Lt.] General [Hon. Alexander] Leslie is also here. None of them appear to have the least intention of going down to the troops...

Source and Note: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 610-641.



Drawing of David Forman by James Sharples.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

**Extract of Letter from Former Rebel Militia Brig. Gen. David Forman to Gen. George Washington,  
Regarding Embarkation of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to Reinforce Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Army,  
New York, Sept. 6, 1781**

Sir

Freehold 6<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1781 4 oClock P.M –



I wrote your Exc<sup>ly</sup> yesterday that my indisposition had prevented my going below for the Better Intilegence...

Immediately on your Exc<sup>lys</sup>. Moving forward from Chatham and Acc<sup>ts</sup>. got to New York of it the 42 British Reg<sup>t</sup>. and Hessian Grenidiers to Am<sup>t</sup>. of 2000 men were embarked at New York — the Next day fourteen Transports were sent to Stratin Island to Take troops on Board — Certain it is Counter orders was given and the Troops were not embarked at Stratin Island and the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. and Hessions are still on Shipboard at New York — it is said that prior to [Rear] Adm<sup>l</sup> [Sir Thomas Graves] Greives' going out, an Express Sloop Arrive with an Acc<sup>t</sup>. of [French Adm. François-Joseph Paul] Count de Grasse being on the Coast and that Occasioned the Troops Imbarked and ordered to Imbark not going out— There is Contrary to my Expectation two ships of the line now at New York but there Names and Exact force I do not know...

I have the Hon<sup>r</sup>. to be Your Exc<sup>lys</sup>. Most obd<sup>t</sup>. Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

*David Forman*

Source: *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*; Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, Image: 927.



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

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

**Cornwallis Relief Expedition Troops Ordered to Disembark, Staten Island, New York,  
Sept. 19, 1781**

Head Quarters, New York 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 1781...

The Troops Embarked for the Expedition are to Land tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock at Coles Ferry on Staten Island and encamp on such ground as the Deputy Quarter Mas<sup>r</sup> General /who will attend for that purpose/ shall point out.

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

**Grenadier Capt. John Peebles' Account of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company Preparing  
to Sail with Gen. Sir Henry Clinton to Reinforce Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Army,  
Staten Island, New York, Sept. 20-21, 1781**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1781 a blowy Morning at N. W. which prevented the Troops from landing...

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. more moderate & cool The Troops disembark'd this Morning & Encamp'd in the Neighbourhood of Coles ferry the Br: Gr<sup>rs</sup>. on the high Ground behind Ryersons...the 42<sup>d</sup>. close by the ferry...

Source: *Peebles' Journal* entries Sept. 20-21, 1781, also printed in *John Peebles American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pennsylvania), 1998, p. 476.

**Journal of Maj. Frederick Mackenzie Describes Further Preparations for Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Force to Relieve Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Virginia Army; New York, Sept. 24 – Oct. 3, 1781**

24<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> – Very fine weather...

The principal General Officers were assembled with the Commander in Chief this day. Tis supposed they were consulted respecting the part to be taken by the Army towards effecting the relief of Lord Cornwallis.

The great superiority of the French fleet, which certainly consists of 35 or 36 sail of the line, renders it almost impossible for us to undertake anything until the arrival of a considerable reinforcement...

27<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> Very fine day, but warm...

*The troops to Embark are –*

	Rank & File		
Jagers		L <sup>t</sup> Col <sup>o</sup> Wurmb	}
1 <sup>st</sup> Grenadiers	430}	Maj <sup>r</sup> Ge <sup>n</sup> Paterson	}
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grenadiers	410}		}
			}
[Hessian] Linsing	310}		}
[Hessian] Lengerke	330}	Maj <sup>r</sup> Ge <sup>n</sup> : Kospoth	}
[Hessian] Loewenstein	300}		}
[Hessian] Graff	330}		}
			}
22 <sup>ed</sup>	340}		}
37 <sup>eh</sup>	380}	Brig <sup>r</sup> Ge <sup>n</sup> : Ld Lincoln	}
42 <sup>ed</sup>	510}		}
			}
[Hessian] Du Corps	430}	Maj <sup>r</sup> Ge <sup>n</sup> : Wurmb	}
[Hessian] Prince Charles	470}		}
			}
Virginia Detach <sup>ts</sup>	400		}
Detach <sup>ts</sup> { British }	<u>200</u>		}
{ German }			}
	<u>5240</u>		}

...The respective Commanders in Chief, after having consulted with the other Generals and Admirals, have come to a resolution to embark about 5000 troops on board the Ships of war, the moment they are fit for Sea, and proceed immediately to the Chesapeake, for the purpose of relieving Lord Cornwallis...

[In Note] The Arrangement at present is –

Each Corps to be put on board two of the line of Battle ships; the order of Battle of the Army, corresponding as much as possible with the Line of Battle of the Navy.

The Generals to go on board line of battle ships, or Frigates. None but ships of war, and fire ships to go. Every thing wanted to be carried by the Ships of war. The battalion guns to be taken on board with the troops, and mens harness to be taken with them. No Camp Equipage, horses, women, or baggage to be taken....

The troops to carry 60 rounds, & 3 flints p<sup>r</sup> man. Three Months provisions for 17,000 men to be taken on board the ships of war...

3<sup>rd</sup> [Oct] – Fine weather ...

The distribution made of the troops to go on board the ships of war, was sent this day to the respective Corps and persons concerned.

*Distribution of the troops on board The Fleet*

			Off <sup>rs</sup> & Men
London	}		
Prince George	}	British Grenad <sup>rs</sup> & detach <sup>t</sup> of Light Infantry	1112
Barfleur	}		
Resolution	}	...	
Canada	}		
Robuste	}	22 <sup>ed</sup> , & 42 <sup>ed</sup>	1067
Princessa	}		
America	}	...	
Total			<u>6676</u>

Source and Note: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 645-655. It should be noted that despite the decision to sail was made on Sept. 3, the expedition did not depart until Oct. 19, 1781, the same day Lord Cornwallis surrendered.

**Excerpt of Letter No. 142 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting Council of War's Decision to Reinforce Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia, Sept. 26, 1781**

N<sup>o</sup>. 142

New York Sept<sup>r</sup>. 26<sup>th</sup>. 1781

My Lord,

In the very critical Situation of Lieutenant general [Charles] Earl Cornwallis and that part of the Army under his immediate Command, occasioned by the very unexpected Naval Superiority of the Enemy, I wish to give your Lordship the earliest and most circumstantial Information in my power, I have therefore, in my last three Letters had the honor to detail the most material transactions as they occurred...

On the 17<sup>th</sup>. I received another Letter from the Admiral dated the 15<sup>th</sup>. saying that the French Fleet had anchored within the Capes of the Chesapeak, and that the Flag Officers being of Opinion that a Shattered Fleet as Ours, should not be exposed to a Storm at the Equinox be determined to Shelter at New York – Upon which another Council of the Lieutenant Generals was immediately called, in which it was resolved that the Rear Admiral should be immediately informed that it was their unanimous Opinion it is absolutely necessary that a Reinforcement of troops and supplies of Provisions should be sent to Lord Cornwallis the first moment it is practicable, and that the Attempt should be made at all Events before the end of October. This was accordingly done without loss of time; (but our Fleet having arrived at the Hook on the 19<sup>th</sup>., a Council of War was assembled as soon as possible, the Minutes of which, (which I

have the honor to inclose) will inform your Lordship) that 5000 Men are to be Embarked on board the King's Ships as soon as they are Refitted and that the Exertions of both Fleet and Army shall be made to form a Junction with the Squadron Army in Virginia...

I have the honor to be With the greatest Respect

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

H. Clinton

Right Honorable Lord George Germain

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, Reel 8, pp. 1-7 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, July to Nov. 1781* at CO 5/103, pp. 323-330.

**Cornwallis Relief Expedition Troops Ordered to Reembark, Staten Island, New York,  
Oct. 4 - 12, 1781**

Head Qrs New York 4<sup>th</sup> Octo<sup>r</sup> 1781...

Orders by the Comm<sup>r</sup> in Chief...

The 22<sup>d</sup> and 42<sup>d</sup> Regiments to be under the comm<sup>d</sup> of Brig General [Thomas] Earl of Lincoln and Maj<sup>r</sup> of Brig<sup>e</sup> [Nathaniel] Phillips to be attached to this Brigade 'till further orders...

Head Qrs New York 10<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>o</sup> 1781...

After orders.

The Troops on Staten Island who are under Embarkation Orders are on Friday Morning the 12<sup>th</sup> Instant to go on Board the several Transports they were on previous to their landing on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, for which purpose they will be under arms at half past Seven o'Clock that Morning, and wait on the ground of their Encampment 'till they receive orders to move...

The following alterations are made in the distribution of transports for the present Embarkation viz.

42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> The Holly Victualler instead of the Empress of Russia.

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



Detail of Portrait of Prince William Henry, age 13, 1778, by Benjamin West

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

**Account of Relief Expedition Embarkation and March-By for Midshipman Prince William Henry  
(Future King William IV) by Capt Frederick Mackenzie (23<sup>rd</sup> Regt.), Adj. General Department,  
Staten Island, Oct. 12-14, 1782**

12<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> – Very fine morning...

Prince William went down to Staten island this Morning at 9 oClock. I had been sent down from The Adjutant General's department in the Morning, to assist in arranging the troops previous to their marching by the prince to the place of embarkation.

The troops marched by him near Coles ferry in Sub Divisions, two deep, in open order, and Slow time. The officers and Colours saluted, and the Drummers beat a March. On the following order, viz<sup>l</sup>, Detachment of Light Infantry, Jagers, British Grenadiers, 22<sup>d</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup>, & 42<sup>ed</sup> Regiment, [Hessian] Prince Charles, [Hessian] Du Corps, and the German Detachments. His Highness was much pleased with the appearance of so fine a body of men, and asked many questions respecting the difference Corps, and Companies, and the Officers Commanding each. After the whole had passed, he went to the beach, and was very particular in observing the manner of embarking the men, and placing them in the boats, and seemed highly pleased with the troops, (particularly the British Grenadiers) who were in high spirits. The Prince was attended by Admiral [Robert] Digby and several Officers of the navy. They went on board [90-gun *HMS*] The Barfleur about 2 oClock, and from thence to New York.

The embarkation was completed about ½ past 3 o'Clock...

13<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> very fine day, and warm till near 12 o'Clock, with the wind at S.W., at which time a very black cloud came on from the Westward, with thunder, lightning, and heavy rain, mixed with hail; the wind blew strong at W, but soon after shifted suddenly to the N. N. W, and blew with great violence...

14<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> – Clear fine weather...

[Excerpt] *Corps Embarked for the Expedition, & their Commanders*

	Men	
1 <sup>st</sup> British Grenadiers	430	Lieu <sup>t</sup> Col <sup>o</sup> [Francis] Marsh – 43 <sup>rd</sup>
2 <sup>ed</sup> D <sup>o</sup>	410	Lieu <sup>t</sup> Col <sup>o</sup> [Hon. Henry Edward] Fox – 38 <sup>th</sup> ...
42 <sup>ed</sup> [Regiment]	510	Major [Charles] Graham...
Rank & file [total]	<u>5610</u>	

15<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> Warm day. Wind S. W.

All the ships of war which lay off Staten Island ...went down through the Narrows this day to Sandy hook...

17<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>...

A Signal was made early this Morning for the ships to get under way...The transports also went down to the hook [to transfer to the War Ships].

*Distribution of the troops on board The Fleet*

		Gun	Troops
Brit: Grend <sup>rs</sup> & Detach <sup>t</sup> of L <sup>t</sup> Infantry	{ London [with 42 <sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.]	90	280
	{ P[rince] George	90	280
	{ Barfleur	90	280
	{ Bedford	74	272...
22 <sup>ed</sup> , & 42 <sup>ed</sup>	{ Robuste	74	272
	{ Canada	74	272
	{ Princessa	74	272
	{ America	64	251...

*Transports allotted to the troops, and in which they embarked at Staten Island, 12<sup>th</sup> October 1781 –*

1 <sup>st</sup> Grend <sup>rs</sup> [Including the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.]	{ Apollo
2 <sup>ed</sup> D <sup>o</sup>	{ Esther*
	{ Free Briton

42<sup>ed</sup>

{ Union...  
{ Nestor\*  
{ Betsy  
{ Molly...

\*Thus marked, have the baggage of the Corps in board ...

The Commander in Chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton] went in board the London this day, having left town about 2 o'Clock...

18<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>...

The Barfleur, Prince George, Princess, and another ship, went over the bar this Morning. 'Tis hoped that the whole of the troops will be on board, and all the ships over the bar in the course of toMorrow's tide...

19<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>...

The Fleet went all over the bar this Morning, & at 4 this afternoon were under way, stretching to the Eastward...

20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> – Good weather. Wind S. all day.

The transports came up [to New York] last night from Sandy hook, having put all the on board the fleet without any accidents.

Source and Note: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 660-668. Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army at Yorktown, Virginia on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, the same day the rescue fleet finally got underway.



*"Action of 18 October 1782 between the [French] 74-gun Scipion and the 90-gun HMS London [left],"*  
by Auguste-Louis Rossel de Crecy

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Toulon Naval Museum*, photographed by Rama

**Grenadier Capt. John Peebles' Account of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company Embarking to Sail with Gen. Sir Henry Clinton to Reinforce Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Army, After Being Reviewed by Midshipman Prince William, 90-gun *HMS Prince George*, Staten Island, New York, Oct. 12 - 19, 1781**



The Camp was struck at ½ after 7 o'clock & the baggage loaded in waggons & sent down to Coles ferry, when we were told the troops [under] order of Embarkation were to march past the prince & Salute as they went to their Boats. The Morn<sup>g</sup>. very warm & we did not march off till 'tween ten & eleven. The Prince being arriv'd he was posted near the beach on the ground where the 42<sup>d</sup>. were Encamp'd, and the Troops according to their order in line, march'd past by half Company's & the Officers Saluted the Young Prince who was accompanied by Adm<sup>l</sup> [Robert] Digby [*HMS Prince George*] & the D<sup>y</sup>. Adj<sup>t</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. &c<sup>a</sup>. &c<sup>a</sup>. he seems & is said to be a very fine young man, smart & sensible for his years [age 17], & sufficiently well grown, a strong likeness of the King [George III], & a handsome Address, he was in plain Midshipman uniform, looked chearful, & took off his hat with a good grace. The Troops then march's to their boats & were Embark'd on board their respective Transports in a few hours... I understand we are to remain onboard of Transports untill the Ships of the line are at the [Sandy] hook or over the Bar, when they [the men-of-war] are to take the troops on board according to their distribution.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>...

An express from Lord Cornwallis who finds himself hardly press'd & wants assistance, the [Rebel and French] Enemy broke ground about the 1<sup>st</sup>. inst<sup>t</sup>. [Oct.] The Navy people does not seem to be in a hurry on this occasion ...

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. cool at N. W. a Signal being made at 7 this morn<sup>g</sup>. for the Transports to come along side of the respective ships of war that were to take their troops on board, we got under way & came to along side the [90-gun *HMS*] London & by means of a rope from each haul'd close to her, & the troops went on board by seniority of Companys, & were dispos'd of on the middle and lower decks, 6 to a Mess between the Guns...

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. the N. W. wind continues. The fleet got underway in the morning about 7...

Source: *Peebles' Journal* entries Oct. 12-19, 1781, also printed in *John Peebles American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pennsylvania), 1998, pp. 481-483.

### **News Account of Preparations for Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Expedition, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., to Rescue Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Virginia Army, New York, Oct. 17, 1781**

FRIDAY, Nov. 23...

LONDON...

A letter from New York, dated October 17, says...

"A whale-boat arrived here this morning, which left the Chesapeake the 12th instant. Capt. Ross, who brought dispatches to Gen. [Sir Henry] Clinton, informed me, that the French and rebels had invested York Town, and thrown up works within 600 yards of our redoubts...

"Our fleet, which received considerable damage in their spars and rigging in the last engagement off the Chesapeake, are now perfectly refitted. Upwards of 7000 troops are embarked on board of the men of war, and wait only a fair wind to sail to the assistance of our southern hero [Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis]. General Clinton goes with them, for he always accompanies the grenadiers and 42d regiment. There are three ships of 90 guns, sixteen of 74, six of 64, and two fifties, besides frigates. The whole of these have for three weeks past been lying in our harbour."

Source and Note: *Kentish Gazette*, Nov. 24, 1781, p. 4. Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army at Yorktown to the allied French and Rebel armies on Oct. 19, 1781.



*Surrender of Lord Cornwallis, 1820 (based on smaller original 1785 painting), by John Trumbull*

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from the *Architect of the Capitol*

**Excerpt of Letter No. 145 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Surrender of Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia, Oct. 19, 1781**

Nº. 145  
Chesapeake

[90-gun *HMS*] London off

29<sup>th</sup>. October 1781

My Lord,

Agreeable to the information which I had the Honor to give your Lordship in my last Dispatch, the Fleet under the Command of Rear Admiral [Thomas] Graves sailed from Sandy Hook on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Instant and arrived off Cape Charles the 24<sup>th</sup> when we had the Mortification to hear that [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis had proposed Terms of Capitulation to the Enemy on the 17<sup>th</sup>. This Intelligence was brought us by the Pilot of the [44 gun *HMS*] Charon & some other Persons who came off from the Shore and said they had made their Escape from York on the 18<sup>th</sup> and had not heard any firing there since the day before. The [36-gun *HMS*] Nympe Frigate also arriving the next day from New York brought me a letter from his Lordship dated the 15<sup>th</sup>. the desponding Tenor of which gives me the most alarming Apprehensions of its Truth. Since then we have been plying off the Capes with variable and hard Gales of Wind to the pre sent Hour, without being able to procure any further information except from two Men taken in a Canoe whose Report exactly corresponds with the former.

Comparing therefore the Intelligence given by these People and several others since come in, with the Purport of Lord Cornwallis's Letter, (Copies of both which I have the Honor to inclose for your Lordship's information) we cannot entertain the least Doubt of his Lordship having capitulated; and that we are unfortunately too late to relieve him. Which being the only Object of the Expedition, the Admiral has determined upon returning with his Fleet to Sandy Hook.

This is a Blow, my Lord, which gives me the most serious Concern, as it will in its Consequences be exceedingly detrimental to the King's Interest in this Country; and might, I flatter myself, have

possibly been prevented could the Fleet have been able to sail at or within a few days of the Time we first expected – At least, I am persuaded we should have saved to His Majesty's Service great Part of that gallant Army together with its respectable Chief whose Loss it will be now impossible I fear to repair...

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect

Your Lordship's Most Obedient & Most humble Servant

Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Lord George Germain

H. Clinton

Source and Note: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 8, pp. 85-92 from TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, July to Nov. 1781* at CO5/103, pp. 504-510. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company was embarked on this warship along with Gen. Sir Henry Clinton.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record the Arrival of Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Rescue Fleet and News of Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis' Surrender, Yorktown, Virginia, Oct. 22 – Nov. 11, 1781**

[90 gun *HMS*] London at Sea Monday 22<sup>d</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. Moderate w<sup>r</sup>. ..The Drum beat to Quarters yesterday, when the Soldiers were Appointed to their Stations along with the Sailors at the great Guns. the 7<sup>th</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. [Grenadier Companies] on the lower deck, 7 to each Gun officers included, the 43<sup>d</sup>. to have small arms our firelocks are put down in the Breadroom...

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>... This Morning one of the Pilot Boats brought on board two people from Virginia which they found on Cape Charles [southern tip of Virginia eastern shore, One of them a Negro Pilot says he escaped from York Town on Thursday last, 18<sup>th</sup>. ins<sup>t</sup>. [instant, *i.e.* Oct.] when there had been a cessation of hostilities, for the purpose of making a Capitulation & supposes the place surrendered next day...

London off Sandy Hook Saturday 3<sup>d</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. cool & cloudy...the Transports anchor'd near their respective ships & after 12 when the men had got their dinner they began to the troops with the long boats & flat boats, towed by the Man of wars barges... we got all on board the [transport] Esther by 3 oclock PM

[Lt.] Col: [Robert] Abercromby [1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Bn.] came on board the London in the morn<sup>g</sup>. to wait on the Com<sup>r</sup>. in chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton] having come from Virginia in the [14-gun *HMS Bonetta*] Bonita Sloop of War... agreeable to an article of the capitulation which took place on the 19<sup>th</sup>... Lord Cornwallis Surrender'd on much the same terms we gave [Rebel Maj. Gen. Benjamin] Lincoln at Charlestown, the troops to be Quarter'd in Virginia, Maryland, & Pennsylvania a few officers left with them the rest get leave to come in on parole...

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1781 The Troops as they arrived at Denys's land & go into Cantonments [houses and other buildings] from that to Bedford, 9 or 10 ships not come up, our four [7<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Grenadier] Companies move on beyond New Utrecht & take up Q<sup>rs</sup>. for the night, the Baggage landed –

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. we march in the Morn<sup>g</sup>. to Bedford & go into Cantonements there, & on the road to Newtown 3 or 4 miles...

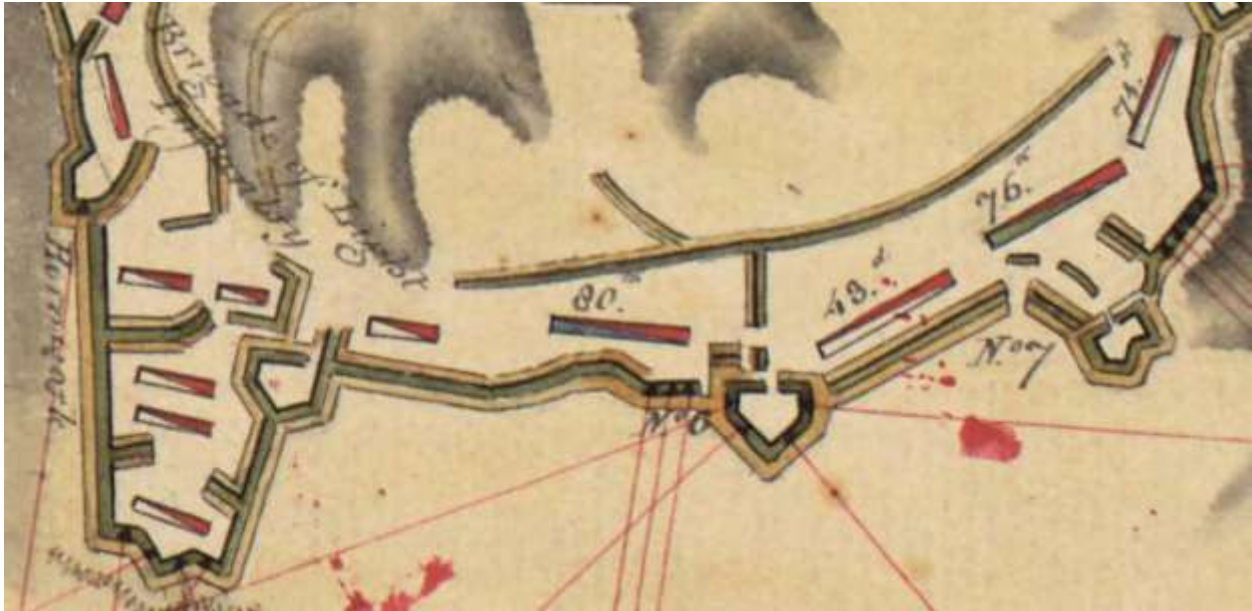
Source: *Peebles' Journal* entries Oct. 22-Nov. 11, 1781, also printed in *John Peebles American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pennsylvania), 1998, pp. 484-493.

**General Orders Announce the Arrival of Lt. John Grant with About Half of the Additional Company from Duty at Newfoundland; New York, Oct. 31, 1781**

Head Qrs New York 31<sup>st</sup> Octo<sup>r</sup> 1781

The Detachment of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment arrived under the Command of Lieut [John] Grant will be landed this day at Brooklyn; where they will be quartered and to do duty with the Corps under the Command of Major [William John] Darby [7<sup>th</sup> Regt.] ‘till further orders.

Source and Notes: “Orders, 1778-1782,” *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. Lt. John Grant (later “*of Auchendown*”), lieutenant of one of the two 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment additional companies, had taken the company of recruits to Newfoundland in 1778 with two companies of the 71<sup>st</sup> Additional to reinforce the island. The troops were later ordered to join the battalion in New York and Lt. Grant was ordered to join the “official” 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. raised in 1780 in Scotland under Lt. Col. Norman MacLeod of MacLeod.



Detail showing British Defensive Line at Yorktown with Hornwork at lower left from “*Plan of York Town and Gloucester in Virginia, shewing the works constructed for the defence of those posts by the Rt. Honble: Lieut. General Earl Cornwallis, with the attacks of the combined army of French and rebels under the command of the Generals Count de Rochambaud and Washington which capitulated October 1781,*” by Lt. John Hills

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### **Capt. George Dalrymple’s 42<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Company at the Siege of Yorktown, Virginia, Sept. 23 – Oct. 19, 1781**



**Excerpts of Siege Account by Lt. Bartholomew James, 44-gun *HMS Charon*,  
Yorktown, Virginia, Sept. 23 – Oct. 19, 1781**

[Sept] 23<sup>rd</sup> –The French got off their ships on this morning, and removed at a more respectable distance from us. Guard-boats were sent down the river, rowing all night, the duty becoming extremely severe on the garrison. The enemy began their march from Williamsburg, and on this day attacked and drove in our picket guards.

24<sup>th</sup>.–The seamen was directed to man the guns in front of the army, where they was reviewed by [Lt.] General [Charles] Lord Cornwallis...

27<sup>th</sup>.–The pickets drove in, and the enemy advancing fast in order of battle. The army without the town, his lordship being determined to give the enemy battle.

28<sup>th</sup>.–At noon the enemy appeared in front of our works, in force about twenty-six thousand, extending from right to left of our lines; and a number of them advancing to reconnoitre a ravine in front of my battery, I opened a fire on them until they were dispersed.

29<sup>th</sup>. His lordship having in vain offered the enemy battle with his little force of five thousand men on this and the preceding day, and finding them very intent on their determination of attacking him on the left flank with every advantage, he removed into the works on this night, not doubting in the least but the garrison, acting on the defensive, would be enabled to hold out till the much-expected and long-looked-for fleet and army relieved us...

30<sup>th</sup>.–The enemy broke ground and began to throw up two redoubts, moving on the same time in three columns towards our centre, and took possession of two of our redoubts we had evacuated on withdrawing into the town...

[Oct.] 6<sup>th</sup>.–The first parallel of the enemy was completed on this day, which extended from the centre to the left at a distance of six hundred yards; our fire continued as usual...

9<sup>th</sup>.–The enemy having completed their works and mounted their cannon, their batteries opened on the evening of this day; to the right, consisting of eight twenty-four pounders, and to the left, four twenty-four pounders, and two of eighteen. The cannonade continued day and night with great vigour...

11<sup>th</sup>.–I now want words to express the dreadful situation of the garrison, for it is scarcely possible to describe the calamitous condition we were in during the remainder of the siege. The enemy on this evening began their second parallel, having advanced three hundred yards nearer to us; their fire continued then incessant from heavy artillery and mortars, and we opened fresh embrasures to flank the enemy's works, keeping up a constant fire with all the howitzers and small mortars then in the garrison. Upwards of a thousand shells was thrown into the works on this night, and every spot became alike dangerous. The noise and thundering of the cannon, the distressing cries of the wounded, and the lamentable sufferings of the inhabitants, whose dwellings were chiefly in flames, added to the restless fatigues of the duty, must inevitably fill every mind with pity and compassion who are possessed of any feelings for their fellow creatures...

12<sup>th</sup>... At nine o'clock the chief officers of the artillery waited on the commodore from Lord Cornwallis with directions that the lieutenants of the navy, with their men, should move on from the right into the hornwork on the left, the transports' men having quitted their quarters and left it exposed to a very heavy fire from the batteries of the enemy, who was hourly expected to storm the works.

Desirous of recommending myself to his lordship, I immediately offered myself a volunteer to work this battery, and set off for it accordingly with a midshipman and thirty-six seamen, to be relieved in eight hours by the first lieutenant. In fifty-two minutes after my arrival in the hornwork the enemy silenced the three left guns by closing the embrasures, shortly after which they dismounted a twelve-pounder, knocked off the muzzles of two eighteens, and for the last hour and half left me with one

eighteen-pounder with a part of its muzzle also shot away, with which I kept up a fire till it was also rendered useless. At six o'clock in the evening, the first lieutenant having been sent to relieve me, a shell burst between us and gave me a contusion in my face and right leg, with which I conceived myself very fortunate, having during my stay in the works had nine men killed, twenty-seven wounded, eight of which died ere they was removed, and most of the wounded had lost an arm or leg, and some both. In short, myself and the midshipman, both wounded, were the only two that returned out of thirty-six, having stood a close cannonade with the enemy for eight hours, who had ninety-seven pieces of heavy cannon playing on us all that time. I quitted the works about a quarter after six, having received the thanks of Lord Cornwallis, who was in the redoubt during the greatest part of the time.

13<sup>th</sup>.—The besiegers having greatly increased their cannon and mortars on the works of their second parallel, and the garrison becoming every hour more defenceless from the fire thereof, it was now we began to despair of any relief capable of saving the garrison from a surrender, though all the expresses from the commander-in-chief flattered us with their speedy arrival...

14<sup>th</sup>.—Our works having become too feeble to resist the force of the enemy's heavy artillery, and as also, from the want of ammunition, we could not to any degree impede their operations, considerable breaches were made in our strongest batteries and redoubts, and the whole became so very weak and defenceless that they were scarcely tenable. On this morning they sunk another fireship and two transports, and at seven in the evening attempted to storm the flanking redoubt to the right, and was repulsed with great loss. At nine o'clock they stormed from right to left with seventeen thousand men, advancing with drums beating and loud huzzas, when the whole garrison was a scene of fire throughout the lines, which, added to the thunder of the heavy artillery and the blaze of musketry from so prodigious an army within a few yards of each other, opened to view a scene which will ever make an impression on my mind and which I cannot attempt to describe. In this storm the enemy carried two of our flanking redoubts to the left which had hitherto retarded their approaches, and most of the unhappy fellows [were] put to the bayonet, as usual in cases of storms.

15<sup>th</sup>.—The enemy lost no time in throwing up a line of communication between the two flanking redoubts, which they perfected before daylight, and from which they could now rake the whole garrison. The fire continued as usual without intermission.

16<sup>th</sup>.—At half-past four in the morning the general directed a sortie to be made from the garrison consisting of about three hundred and fifty men from the Guards, Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.], and 80<sup>th</sup> [Royal Edinburgh Volunteers] Regiment; and, having sallied out, spiked eleven of the enemy's guns and bayoneted in five minutes upwards of a hundred French troops, returned in that time to the works with the loss of twelve killed and wounded. At midnight the lines were quitted by the army, which embarked in boats [to cross] to Gloucester, leaving the navy at their batteries keeping up a heavy fire to deceive the enemy; but before the whole had effected passing the river, a violent storm of wind and rain arose and prevented his lordship getting over the remainder of his army, and driving two boats full of soldiers down the river, where they were made prisoners by the enemy. The remaining few was sent again to join us and defend the works, and the night passed as usual with a heavy cannonade, and with the addition of a dreadful storm.

17<sup>th</sup>.—It was noon on this day before we could get back the part of the army which had crossed the river; and, seeing at last that the hour was come when we were obliged to sue for terms to our enemy, a flag of truce was sent them for that purpose; which proposals being peremptorily refused us, we again commenced hostilities, and the fire on both sides increased in proportion to our abilities.

18<sup>th</sup>.—This morning the fire continued as before, and at four o'clock in the afternoon we sent a second flag with less favourable proposals, and which produced a cessation of arms for four hours, which was afterwards increased to the 19<sup>th</sup>.

19<sup>th</sup>.—Seeing that the enemy was determined to confine us to such terms as they alone chose to grant, and that we had not as yet experienced the fire of the flanking redoubts with a number of pieces of heavy artillery then ready to open on us, and finding that the garrison was reduced to about three thousand effective men in want of both provision and ammunition, his lordship thought it, as he himself expresses, necessary to save the lives of the few brave men then left in the garrison, and accordingly at noon we



surrendered prisoners of war to the United States of America, the navy only excepted, who became prisoners to the Comte de Grasse. At one o'clock a regiment of American troops, followed by another of French, took possession of the works with drums beating and colours flying; the British flag was struck, and the American one displayed on our works. At three o'clock the garrison marched out with drums beating and colours cased to the enemy's lines, where, having grounded their arms, they returned again into the town; the enemy at the same time marched in and took possession of the garrison...

Source and Notes: *Journal of Rear-Admiral Bartholomew James, 1752-1828*, Ed. John Knox Laughton, Navy Records Society (U.K.), 1896, Google Books, pp.117-127. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company served in the siege with the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Bn. and was stationed in the hornwork where Lt. James described the heavy fighting on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>.



Detail of Portrait of Robert Abercromby, 1788 by George Romney

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Art Gallery of South Australia*

### **Account of Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby's Sortie Against the French Trench Lines by Brevet-Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, British Legion, Yorktown, Oct. 16, 1781**

In order to delay the opening of the batteries upon the second parallel, his lordship [Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis] planned a sortie, to be put in execution. before daybreak on the 16th. The direction of the sally was given to Lieutenant-colonel [Robert] Abercrombie, who divided a corps of three hundred and fifty men into two parties: He appointed [Capt. and] Lieutenant-colonel [Gerard] Lake [1<sup>st</sup> Regt. of Guards] to the division, which consisted of grenadiers selected from the guards and the 80th regiment, and he placed Major [Thomas] Armstrong [1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalion] to the other, which was composed of light infantry. Before dawn, two batteries and the covering redoubts in the [French and Rebel] second parallel were gallantly attacked, and carried without any considerable loss. A large body of French troops, under the [Col. Louis-Marie] Viscount de Noailles, soon moved forward to retake the works in front, when the British retreated to their own lines, having killed and taken some officers and soldiers, and spiked eleven pieces of heavy cannon. Though this action was successful, and enhanced the reputation of the officers and troops engaged, the public service was not much benefited by it. The cannon, owing to the hurry of the British, or the ingenuity of the French, were soon unspiked, and the batteries were nearly finished before evening...

Source: *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America*, by Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton, Banastre Tarleton, Printed for Colles, Etshaw, White, H. Whitestone, Burton, Byre, Moore, Jones, and Dormin, Dublin, 1781, Google Books, p. 398.

### **Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald's Account of the Poor Condition of the**

### **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Battalions, Gloucester, Virginia, Oct. 17, 1781**

I knew the straits the army was in. [Lt.] Colonel [Robert] Abercromby [1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn.], who had safely reached the shore at Gloucester with the [1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions] light infantry during the night, came to me in the redoubt at the moment when I was struggling with the fever... I went with him out of the redoubt to his men, and found them stretched out on the ground like half-dead people. He asked me many men could be assembled here [for the planned breakout through the enemy lines]. he was startled when I told him that [Lt. Col. John Graves] Simcoe, the majority of the [Loyalist Queen's] ranger officers, and all my jäger officers were dangerously ill, and that I no longer had twelve men who could march a day.

Source: *Diary of the American War, A Hessian Journal, Captain Johann Ewald, Field Jäger Corps*, Trans. and Ed. Justin P. Tustin, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1979, p. 294.



Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis, 1783, by Thomas Gainsborough

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Nat. Portrait Gallery, London

### **Letter from Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis to Commander-in-Chief North America, Gen. Sir Henry Clinton Reporting the Surrender of his Army, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, and the Posts of Yorktown and Gloucester; Yorktown, Virginia, Oct. 19, 1781**

Yorktown, October 20, 1781

I have the mortification to inform your Excellency that I have been forced to give up the posts of York and Gloucester, and to surrender the troops under my command, by capitulation on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. as prisoners of war to the combined forces of America and France.

I never saw this post in a very favourable light, but when I found I was to be attacked in it in so unprepared a state, by so powerful an army and artillery, nothing but the hopes of relief would have induced me to attempt its defence; for I would either have endeavoured to escape to New-York, by rapid marches from the Gloucester side, immediately on the arrival of [Rebel Commander] General [George] Washington's troops at Williamsburgh, or I would notwithstanding the disparity of numbers have attacked them in the open field, where it might have been just possible that fortune would have favoured the gallantry of the handful of troops under my command. But being assured by your Excellency's letters

that every possible means would be tried by the navy and army to relieve us, I could not think myself at liberty to venture upon either of those desperate attempts; therefore, after remaining for two days in a strong position in front of this place, in hopes of being attacked, upon observing that the enemy were taking measures which could not fail of turning my left flank in a short time, and receiving on the second evening your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> of September informing that the relief would sail about the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, I withdrew within the works on the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, hoping by the labour and firmness of the soldiers to protract the defence until you could arrive. Every thing was to be expected from the spirit of the troops, but every disadvantage attended their labour, as the works were to be continued under the enemy's fire, and our stock of intrenching tools, which did not much exceed four hundred when we began to work in the latter end of August, was now much diminished.

The enemy broke ground on the night of the 30<sup>th</sup> and constructed on that night, and the two following days and nights, two redoubts, which, with some works that had belonged to our outward position, occupied a gorge between two creeks or ravines, which come from the river on each side of the town.

On the night of the 6<sup>th</sup> of October they made their first parallel, extending from its right on the river to a deep ravine on the left, nearly opposite to the center of this place and embracing our whole left at the distance of six hundred yards. Having perfected this parallel, their batteries opened on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> against our left, and other batteries fired at the same time against a redoubt advanced over the creek upon our right and defended by about one hundred and twenty men of the 23<sup>d</sup> Regiment and marines, who maintained that post with uncommon gallantry. The fire continued incessant from heavy cannon and from mortars and howitzers, throwing shells from eight to sixteen inches, until all our guns on the left were silenced, our work much damaged, and our loss of men considerable.

On the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> they began their second parallel, about three hundred yards nearer to us. The troops being much weakened by sickness as well as by the fire of the besiegers, and observing that the enemy had not only secured their flanks but proceeded in every respect with the utmost regularity and caution, I could not venture so large sorties as to hope from them any considerable effect; but otherwise I did everything in my power to interrupt this work, by opening new embrazures for guns and keeping up a constant fire with all the howitzers and small mortars that we could man.

On the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>, they assaulted and carried two redoubts that had been advanced about three hundred yards for the purpose of delaying their approaches and covering our left flank, and during the night included them in their second parallel, on which they continued to work with the utmost exertion.

Being perfectly sensible that our works could not stand many hours after the opening of the batteries of that parallel, we not only continued a constant fire with all our mortars and every gun that could be brought to bear upon it, but a little before daybreak on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> I ordered a sortie of about three hundred and fifty men under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel [Robert] Abercrombie to attack two batteries, which appeared to be in the greatest forwardness, and to spike the guns. A detachment of guards with the Eightieth Company of Grenadiers, under the command of [Capt. and] Lieutenant-Colonel [Gerard] Lake [1<sup>st</sup> Regt. of Guards] attacked the one, and one of light infantry under the command of Major [Thomas] Armstrong [1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn.] attacked the other, and both succeeded by forcing the redoubts that covered them, spiking eleven guns, and killing or wounding about one hundred of the French troops, who had the guard of that part of the trenches, and with little loss on our side. This action, though extremely honourable to the officers and soldiers who executed it, proved of little public advantage, for the cannon, having been spiked in a hurry, were soon rendered fit for service again, and before dark the whole parallel and batteries appeared to be nearly complete.

At this time we knew that there was no part of the whole front attacked on which we could show a single gun, and our shells were nearly expended; I therefore had only to chuse between preparing to surrender next day or endeavouring to get off with the greatest part of the troops, and I determined to attempt the latter, reflecting that though it should prove unsuccessful in its immediate object, it might at least delay the enemy in the prosecution of further enterprizes. Sixteen large boats were prepared, and upon other pretexts were ordered to be in readiness to receive troops precisely at ten o'clock. With these I

hoped to pass the infantry during the night, abandoning our baggage, and leaving a detachment to capitulate for the town's people and the sick and wounded; on which subject a letter was ready to be delivered to General Washington.

After making my arrangements with the utmost secrecy, the light infantry, greatest part of the Guards and part of the Twenty-Third Regiment landed at Gloucester; but at this critical moment the weather, from being moderate and calm, changed to a most violent storm of wind and rain and drove all the boats, some of which had troops on board, down the river. It was soon evident that the intended passage was impracticable, and the absence of the boats rendered it equally impossible to bring back the troops that had passed; which I had ordered about two in the morning. In this situation, with my little force divided, the enemy's batteries opened at daybreak. The passage between this place and Gloucester was much exposed, but the boats having now returned, they were ordered to bring back the troops that had passed during the night, and they joined us in the forenoon without much loss.

Our works in the mean time were going to ruin, and not having been able to strengthen them by abatis, nor in any other manner but by a slight fraizing which the enemy's artillery were demolishing wherever they fired, my opinion entirely coincided with that of the engineer and principal officers of the army, that they were in many places assailable in the forenoon, and that by the continuance of the same fire for a few hours longer, they would be in such a state as to render it desperate with our numbers to attempt to maintain them. We at that time could not fire a single gun. Only one eight-inch and little more than an hundred cohorn shells remained. A diversion by the French ships of war that lay at the mouth of York River was to be expected. Our numbers had been diminished by the enemy's fire, but particularly by sickness, and the strength and spirits of those in the works were much exhausted by the fatigue of constant watching and unremitting duty.

Under all these circumstances, I thought it would have been wanton and inhuman to the last degree to sacrifice the lives of this small body of gallant soldiers, who had ever behaved with so much fidelity and courage, by exposing them to an assault, which from the numbers and precautions of the enemy could not fail to succeed. I therefore proposed to capitulate.

Source: Website of the Constitution Society at <http://www.constitution.org/primarysources/cornwalis.html>



Maj. George Dalrymple, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., circa 1791- 1794

Picture Source: The Black Watch Castle & Museum

**Extract of Listing of Paroled British Officers on the Transport  
*Lord Mulgrave* Following the Surrender, Yorktown, Oct. 19, 1781**

Officers and Servants to go on Board the Lord Mulgrave Transport Oct. 1781

	Serv <sup>ts</sup>	Soldiers...
<u>Light Infantry</u>	Reg <sup>t</sup> ...	
Captain... [George] Dalrymple	42d	2...
Lieutenant... [James] Stewart	42d	1...
<u>71<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup></u>		
Lieu <sup>t</sup> Colonel [Duncan] Macpherson		2...
<u>Lord Mulgrave</u> 320 Tons Burthen		
Andrew Easterby Master		
50 Seamen		

Source and Note: National Archives, Revolutionary War, Miscellaneous Numbered Records, No. 31591. The Lord Mulgrave never reached New York with the listed officers. See the newspaper article below dated Dec. 12, 1781. Brevet-Lt. Col. M<sup>c</sup>Pherson had served as a company commander in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. for most of the war.

## **The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment's Return from Voyage to Yorktown until Their Departure from New York for Nova Scotia, Canada, Oct. 28, 1781-Oct. 1783**

### **Maj. Frederick Mackenzie's Journal Notes the Arrival of Lt. John Grant (later of Auchindoun) and Half of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Additional Company from Newfoundland on the 44-Gun *HMS Assurance*; New York, Oct. 28-30, 1781**

28<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> – very fine morning...

The Assurance has brought an Officer and 50 men of the 42<sup>ed</sup> Regiment from Newfoundland.

30<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>...

The Detachment of an Officer and 50 men of the 42<sup>ed</sup> Regiment, which arrived from Newfoundland, but last from Halifax, in the Assurance, came up and landed this morning.

Source and Note: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 681-682. One of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. (under Lt. Grant) and two of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. Additional Companies had been sent to reinforce the garrison of Newfoundland in 1778 in response to a possible French threat to the island.

### **Maj. Frederick Mackenzie's Journal Records the Return of the Unsuccessful Expedition of Relieve Lord Cornwallis' Virginia Army, New York, Nov. 3 – 13, 1781**

3<sup>rd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> – Good weather...

Part of our fleet came in sight of Sandy hook last night, and some of the transports went over the bar towards them.

The whole fleet came to an anchor this Morning about three leagues from Sandy hook. All the transports went out in the course of the day, and anchored near the men of war, in order to take the troops out...

4<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> – Clear weather...

The troops have all got on board the transports from the ships of war, and only wait for a fair wind to come in. The transports are to land the troops as soon as possible at Denyce's and then go back over the bar with water for the Men of war...

5<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> – Clear weather...





Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>... The Winter Quarters for the Army is out in Orders, the British Gren<sup>rs</sup>. Jamaica but I understand we are to remain here till the Hutts are repair'd by the Country people – we are at the two Duree's in Bushwick – the other troops that are come up go over to York ...

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1781 The [Grenadier] Companies assembled at their old Encampment near Bedford between 7 & 8 & march'd to Jamaica where they went into Cantonments the 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] in the east end of the village the 2<sup>d</sup>. in the west, until the Hutts are repaired & some more made...

Source: *Peebles' Journal* entries Nov. 11-13, 1781, also printed in *John Peebles American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pennsylvania), 1998, p. 493.

### **Rebel News Account of Landing of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. on Long Island, Nov. 14, 1781**

Philadelphia, Nov. 17.

A letter from Newark, dated Nov. 14, says, "The British fleet, after landing their grenadiers, light infantry, 42d regiment, with some other regiments on Long-Island, sailed last Monday, leaving a 44 gun ship and two or three smaller frigates, or more properly sloops of war..."

Source: *Pennsylvania Evening Post, and Public Advertiser*, November 17, 1781.

### **Maj. Frederick Mackenzie's Journal Notes the Movement of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to its Quarters, North River Shore, New York, Nov. 14 – 18, 1781**

14<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> – Very fine mild day...

The 42<sup>ed</sup> Regiment, and [Hessian] (late) Graff's Battalion, march'd this morning to Brooklyn, and crossed to New York; the 42<sup>ed</sup> then marched to their cantonments on the North River shore, and Graff's to their quarters in town...

18<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> – Very fine day...

State, and Distribution of The Troops in the N. York district. 18<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>

Corps	Fit for Duty	Sick	Total	Station	How Quartered...
1 <sup>st</sup> Grenadiers	506	28	536	Jamaica	Hutts...
42 <sup>ed</sup>	626	53	683	North River shore	Cantonments...

Source: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 695-697.

### **Maj. Frederick Mackenzie's Journal Records the Transport *Lord Mulgrave* is Missing, Carrying Paroled Officers from Virginia, Including Capt. George Dalrymple, Lt. James Stewart, 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, and Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Pherson, 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. (Former Brevet Lt. Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.), New York, Nov. 20 – Dec. 21, 1781**

20<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> Frost last night...

The Lord Mulgrave, one of the transports taken at Yorktown, and fitted up as a flag of truce, sailed from the Chesapeake the day before Lord Cornwallis did [Nov. 4], having on board above 100 [paroled] British Officers; besides their Servants, and Seamen, bound for this port. As there were only 28 days provisions on board, besides some stock which the Officers had put on board for their private use, the ship is very light, we are under great apprehensions for her safety.

21<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> Cold raw weather...

No account yet of The Lord Mulgrave; so that 'tis feared she has been obliged to bear away for the West Indies.

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> ...

No account of The Lord Mulgrave...

27<sup>th</sup> – Cold raw day...

The Commander in Chief has directed that One Field Officer, 2 Captains, and 6 Subalterns of each of The British Regiments taken in Virginia, including those Officers now with the men, shall remain in America. The rest are to go to Europe...

30<sup>th</sup> – Fine weather...

This being S<sup>t</sup> Andrew's day, an Entertainment was given at Head quarters by The Commander, at which The Prince [Midshipman Prince William Henry, 98-gun *HMS Prince George*], The Admiral, the principal General Officers, and a Number of Scotch Officers were present. A Captain's Guard of the 42<sup>ed</sup>, or Royal Highland Regiment, with Colours, Bagpipes, &c., received the Prince on his arrival at Head quarters...

1<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> Mild weather...

No account yet of The Lord Mulgrave, so that it is generally imagined she has bore away for Charlestown or the West Indies...

11<sup>th</sup> ...

Came in an Express vessel in 9 days from Charlestown, with dispatches from [Lt.] General [Hon. Alexander] Leslie. By this vessel we have the agreeable account of the arrival of The Lord Mulgrave, Cartel ship, at Charlestown, a few days before she sailed, all well...

21<sup>st</sup> – Frost...

The John, a Cartel ship with about 30 Officers from Charlestown, part of those who were on board The Lord Mulgrave, came in yesterday...

Source: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. II, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 698-706.

**Excerpt of Pass for Safe Passage for Flag of Truce Vessels *Cochran*, Carrying Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis and *Lord Mulgrave*, carrying Capt. George Dalrymple, Lt. James Stewart, 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, and Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Pherson, 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. (Former Brevet Lt. Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.), Yorktown, Virginia, Nov. 4, 1781**

His Excellency General Washington Commander in Chief of the Allied Army

To all Commanders of Ships of War and private Armed Vessels, belonging to the United States and their Allies, Cruizing on the High Seas –

These are to Certify, That the Ship *Cochran* of 247 Tons Burther, Captain Bolton Commander – Navigated by forty Six British Seamen, Prisoner to his Most Christian Majesty transporting The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Earl Cornwallis, with Twenty Six other Officers, & forty two British Soldiers, Prisoners of war to the United States of America, under a Flag of Truce – Hath Permission to pass from York Town in Virginia to New York and Return with an equal Number of <sup>healthy</sup> French or American Seamen in Exchange for the present Crews – That, the usages of War relative 4 Flaggs being observed on the post of the said vessels, the [illeg.] pass & repass without Interruption as aforementioned –

Given at Head Quarters near York Town

this 4<sup>th</sup> Day of November 1781 –

NB Passports granted to two other Vessels as follows Viz

Lord Mulgrave\_ 320 Tons

Andrew Easterly, Master

50 Seamen

carrying –

103 Officers

125 Soldiers, Servants...

Source: Lib. of Congress, *George Washington Papers*, Series 4, General Correspondence: George Washington, November 4, 1781, Ship Passports.



Statue of Saint Andrew, 1713-1715, by Camillo Rusconi

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record  
the Celebration of St. Andrew's day at Headquarters, New York, Nov. 29 – 30, 1781**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>. cold & blowy... borrow'd 20 guineas to give the [42<sup>nd</sup> Gren.] Com<sup>y</sup>. for S<sup>t</sup>. Andrew...

Friday 30<sup>th</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1781 fine w<sup>r</sup>... having dress'd & mounted a S<sup>t</sup>. Andrews X went to H<sup>d</sup>. Q<sup>rs</sup>. about four, found the Prince [William Henry] there, with his green Ribbon & Star in, he was rec<sup>d</sup>. by a Capt<sup>ns</sup>. Guard of the 42<sup>d</sup>. [Regt.] with Colours &c<sup>a</sup>. The [dining] Company were near an hour in collecting & it was past five before we sat down to dinner, [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [John] Campbell [of Strachur] in the Chair as St. Andrew, Major [Thomas] Murray 84<sup>th</sup> his Croupier, the Prince on the left hand of the Saint & Adm<sup>l</sup>. [Robert] Digby on his right the Com<sup>r</sup>. in chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton] next the Prince & [Lt.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [James] Robertson next to y<sup>e</sup>. Adm<sup>l</sup>. [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Thomas] Stirling & Cap<sup>t</sup>. Gayton opposite to [Post] Cap<sup>t</sup>. [George] Elphinston [Royal Navy] & Gen<sup>l</sup>. Hamilton, after that everybody sat down as they happened to come in, about 45 in number... a very good dinner with Several Scotch dishes such as Sheepshead broth, cocky licky [Cock-a-leekie soup], a Haggies &c<sup>a</sup>.

after dinner a course of General toasts were given for the occasion, & a number of sentiments, the Band of Musick & the Pipes of the 42<sup>d</sup>. [Regt.] play'd alternately, & the little Prince being highly pleas'd with the Piper gave him a bumper after every tune, & behaved himself so properly that he was admired by every body there...

Source and Note: *Peebles' Journal* entries Nov. 29-30, 1781, also printed in *John Peebles American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pennsylvania), 1998, p. 497. At this time a guinea was a coin worth 21 shillings Sterling.



Detail of Portrait of Maj. Gen. Sir Thomas Stirling after Benjamin West

Picture Source: The Black Watch Castle & Museum.

**Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander in Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department Regarding Departure of Maj. Gen. Thomas Stirling (Lt. Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.), New York, Dec. 5, 1781**

New York December 5<sup>th</sup> 1781

My Lord,

Major General [Thomas] Stirling, who will have the honor to deliver this Letter to your Lordship, being now so much recovered of the very severe Wounds he received in Jersey, previous to my return from Charlestown in June 1780, as to take Advantage of the present Opportunity of returning to Europe, in the hopes of deriving benefit from the Bath Waters, and his native Air; I cannot suffer an Officer of his Merit to leave this Country without expressing to your Lordship my entire Approbation of his Services since I have had the honor to Command this Army, and the sincere regret I feel for the Occasion which deprives me of his very able Assistance

I have the honor to be

With the greatest Respect,

Your Lordships Most obedient and Most humble Servant

H Clinton

Right Honorable  
Lord George Germain

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1781-1782* at CO 5/104. Maj. Gen. Stirling had never fully healed from his leg wound from June 1780. It had taken him considerable time to be well enough to make the sea voyage to Great Britain.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Records  
Location of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Winter Quarters, New York, Dec. 8, 1781**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. fine weather took a long walk with the Major [Charles Graham] &c<sup>a</sup>. along the Quarters of the [42<sup>nd</sup>] Reg<sup>t</sup>. which extends from Greenwich to Jones's house about 6 miles the officers very well lodged, but the men not & much scatter'd...

Source: *Peebles' Journal* Entry Dec. 8, 1781, also printed in *John Peebles American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pennsylvania), 1998, p. 499.

**News Article Reporting Status of Missing Transport *Lord Mulgrave* Carrying  
Paroled 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company Officers from Yorktown, Virginia, Dec. 12, 1781**

NEW-YORK

December 12.

Yesterday came up the Swallow Schooner, Captain Watson, which left Charleston the 2d of this month, by her we have the *heartfelt* pleasure of announcing the safe arrival at that port, in a very leaky condition, of the Ship LORD MULGRAVE, with upwards of four hundred souls, more than one hundred of them veteran officers of the Royal Army, which, on the passage hither from Virginia, had been blown off Sandy-Hook in the late hard gales...

Source and Note: *Royal Gazette*, Dec. 5, 1781. The *Lord Mulgrave* carried Capt. George Dalrymple and Lt. James Stewart, 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company and Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan McPherson, 71<sup>st</sup> Regt. (former Brevet-Lt. Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) on parole after Lord Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown in Oct. 1781.

**Incorrect Information in Letter from Rebel Col. Elias Dayton, 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Regt., to Gen. George Washington, Regarding Embarkation of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. for Charleston, Chatham, New Jersey,  
Dec. 27, 1781**

Chatham December 27<sup>th</sup> 1781

Sir...

The 37<sup>th</sup>. 40<sup>th</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. Regiments with a detachment of nearly 1000 Hessians are embarking for Charlestown, to be convoyed by the [74-gun *HMS*] Bedford & [64-gun *HMS*] Prudent—

I have the Honor to be y<sup>r</sup> Excel<sup>ys</sup> Most ob<sup>dient</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

*Elias Dayton*

Source and Note: *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress*, 1741-1799: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, Images: 668-671. The subject expedition did not take place.

...