



Maj. Gen. Sir Thomas Stirling by Benjamin Marshall

Picture Source: The Black Watch Castle & Museum

Appendix B:

Official Correspondence, Officers' Letters and Contemporary News Articles of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment in the American War for Independence and Canada, 1776 – 1789

Introduction

As discussed in the introduction to this Volume, many of the regimental records of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment from the American War for Independence were lost. The purpose of this Appendix is to collect the correspondence and period accounts of the regiment in order to tell the story of the regiment in the words of the participants or their contemporaries.

The documents in this Attachment begin with the departure of the 42nd Regt. from Greenock, Scotland on Apr. 29, 1776 and end with the departure of the regiment from New York in 1783 at the end of the American war. Taken together these documents present an unvarnished account of the service of the regiment in this difficult war. The Table in the introduction to this Volume provides a listing of the major events of the war and can be used by the reader to locate documents associated with specific 42nd Regt. events.

The events leading up to the departure of the Highlanders for America can be found in this Volume in Appendix C, Enclosure C-1: Formation and Augmentation of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment

1725-1776.

Notes are added to the documents, where appropriate, to briefly clarify the information. The reader is referred to the forthcoming *Kilts & Courage, Vol. I, The Story of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment in the American War for Independence 1776 – 1784* for a narrative account of the American War which provides context to the documents in this volume.

Reproduction Regimental Buttons courtesy of Roy and Debra Najecki's American Revolutionary War Reproductions.



By the KING,
A PROCLAMATION.
For suppressing Rebellion and Sedition.

G E O R G E R.



HEREAS many of Our Subjects in divers Parts of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, misled by dangerous and ill-designing Men, and forgetting the Allegiance which they owe to the Power that has protected and sustained them, after various disorderly Acts committed in Disturbance of the Publick Peace, to the Obstruction of lawful Commerce, and to the Oppression of Our loyal Subjects carrying on the same, have at length proceeded to an open and avowed Rebellion, by arraying themselves in hostile Manner to withstand the Execution of the Law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and levying War against Us. And whereas there is Reason to apprehend that such Rebellion hath been much promoted and encouraged by the traitorous Correspondence, Counsels, and Comfort of divers wicked and desperate Persons within this Realm: To the End therefore that none of Our Subjects may neglect or violate their Duty through Ignorance thereof, or through any Doubt of the Protection which the Law will afford to their Loyalty and Zeal; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring that not only all Our Officers Civil and Military are obliged to exert their utmost Endeavours to suppress such Rebellion, and to bring the Traitors to Justice; but that all Our Subjects of this Realm and the Dominions thereunto belonging are bound by Law to be aiding and assisting in the Suppression of such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous Conspiracies and Attempts against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; And We do accordingly strictly charge and command all Our Officers as well Civil as Military, and all other Our obedient and loyal Subjects, to use their utmost Endeavours to withstand and suppress such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all Treasons and traitorous Conspiracies which they shall know to be against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; and for that Purpose, that they transmit to One of Our Principal Secretaries of State, or other proper Officer, due and full Information of all Persons who shall be found carrying on Correspondence with, or in any Manner or Degree aiding or abetting the Persons now in open Arms and Rebellion against Our Government within any of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, in order to bring to condign Punishment the Authors, Perpetrators, and Abettors of such traitorous Designs.

Given at Our Court at St. *James's*, the Twenty-third Day of *August*, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the Fifteenth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

L O N D O N :

Printed by *Charles Eyre* and *William Strahan*, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1775.

Source: Printed copy of Proclamation, Printed by Charles Eyre and William Strahan, London 1775 at [wikimedia.org](https://www.wikimedia.org).

1776

General Officers Promoted in America, Mar. 26, 1776

War-Office, March 26, 1776...

Major-General Guy Carleton to be General in America only.
Major-General William Howe to be ditto.
Major-General Henry Clinton to be Lieutenant-General in America only.
Major-General John Burgoyne to be ditto.
Major-General Hugh Earl Percy to be ditto.
Major-General Charles Earl Cornwallis to be ditto.
Colonel Eyre Massey to be Major-General in America only.
Colonel John Vaughan to be ditto.
Colonel Robert Pigot to be ditto.
Colonel Valentine Jones to be ditto.
Colonel James Grant to be ditto.
Colonel William Phillips to be ditto.
Colonel Richard Prescott to be ditto....

Source: *London Gazette*, Mar. 23, 1776, p. 3.



Greenock, Scotland in the Eighteenth Century

Picture Source: Figure titled "Greenock and Scotts' Yard in the Eighteenth Century (from an Old Engraving)" in *Two Centuries of Shipbuilding by the Scotts at Greenock*, Partially reprinted from "Engineering," Offices of Engineering, London, 1906, Google Books, p.4.

Letter Extract Indicates 42nd Highlanders Set Sail and That "a great Number of females" Stowed Away on the Highland Transports, Greenock, Scotland, Apr. 28, 1776

Extract of a letter from Greenock, April 30.

“Sunday morning [Apr. 28] ten sail, having the 42d regiment (or Royal Highlanders) on board, fell down to Gourock road, and yesterday the whole fleet, consisting of 33 sail, under convoy of the Flora frigate, a King’s ship of 36 guns, and several of the transports, mounting from 10 to 16 guns, – sail with a fair wind, all in high, spirits, for America. They made a very fine appearance; A great number of females who were at first admitted on board were ordered to disembark, but some of a masculine spirit, by changing habit with the boatmen, easily deceived the guards, skulked, and got off with their husbands-”

Source: *London Craftsman Or Say Weekly Journal*, May 11, 1776, p. 3



Source: *Earl of Pembroke*, later the transport *Lord Sandwich*, leaving Whitby Harbour in 1768c. 1790 by Thomas Luny,

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

List of the Transports Assigned to the Companies of the 42nd Regt., Greenock, Scotland, Apr. 29, 1776

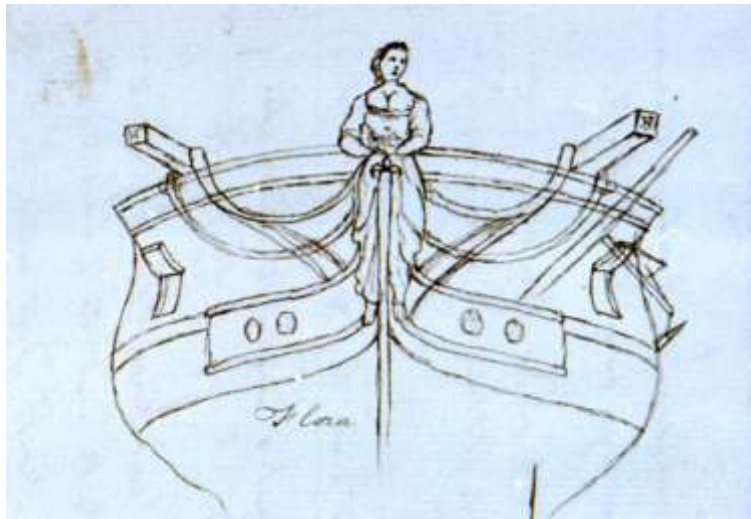
A List of the particular Transports carrying out each Company of the Royal Highland Regiment

[Lt.] Colonel [Thomas] Stirling	Brilliant
Major [William] Murray	Thomas
[Brevet-]Major [William] Grant [Grenadier Co.]	Thames
Cap ^t . [the Hon. George] M ^c Kenzie [Lt. Inf. Co.]	Houston
Cap ^t . [Charles] Graham	Peggie
Cap ^t . [Archibald] Erskine	Bowman
[Brevet-]Major [Duncan] M ^c Pherson	Minerva
Cap ^t . [John] Smith	Oxford
Cap ^t . [Lt. John] M ^c Intosh	Neptune
Cap ^t . [Charles] Grant	Glasgow
[Adj. Hugh Fraser and QM Colin Smith]	[Henry & Joseph]

Convoy the Flora Cap^t. [John] Brisbane

All sailed from Gonroch [Greenock] Harbour at Seven oclock forenoon with a fair wind for America on Monday the Twenty – ninth of April 1776 –

Source: *Gen. Sir Thomas Stirling Papers*, Item 0398/6, Black Watch Regiment Archives, Perth, Scotland.



HMS Flora Figurehead

Picture Source: Posting by Sella 22 on Game-Labs forum at <http://forum.game-labs.net>

News Account of the Sailing of the 42nd Regt. for America, Greenock, Scotland, Apr. 29, 1776

Monday last [Apr. 29], the transports, with the 42d or Royal Highlanders, together with [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser's new raised [71st] regiment of Highlanders on board, set sail from Greenock for America under convoy of the Flora frigate. – Several of the transports mounted 10 to 16 guns.

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, May 3, 1776.

Letter from Lt. Gen. Sir James Adolphus Oughton's Report to Secretary at War Viscount Barrington, Reporting the Sailing of the Highland Fleet, Edinburgh, Apr. 30, 1776

My Lord

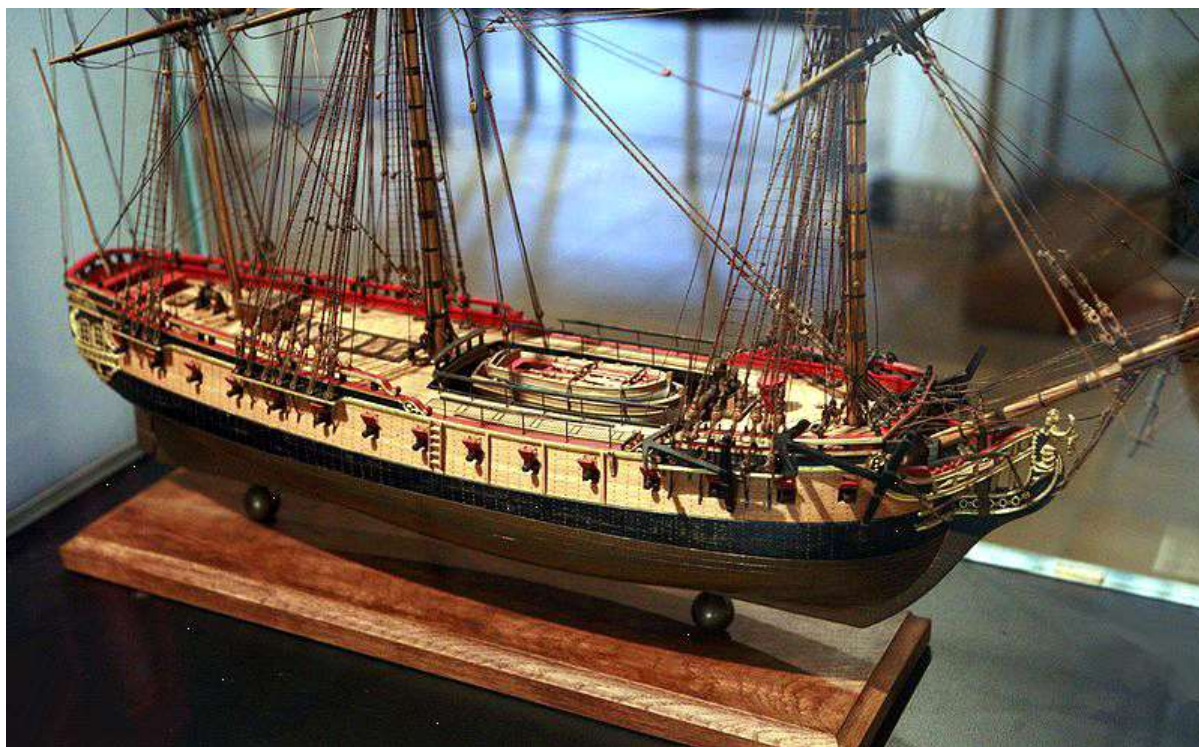
I have the Pleasure of informing your Lordship that, after the most troublesome Piece of Business we have ever had to conduct since I belonged to this Establishment, the two Highland Regiments sailed yesterday Morning with a fair Wind, compleat in Men, Cloathing, Camp necessaries &c.

I have the Honour to be My Lord, Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant

Ja^s Adol^s Oughton

Caroline Park, April 30th 1776

Source: TNA, *War Office In-Letters, Government Departments: Various Departments*, 1770 – 1776, at WO 1/865, f.487.



Model of 30-gun French Frigate *Vestale*, recommissioned in 1761 as *HMS Flora*,
Scale model on display at the *Musée de la Marine* in Toulon, France

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons by Rama, 2009

Excerpts of Capt. John Brisbane's Log of Royal Navy Frigate, 32-gun *HMS Flora*, Convoying the 42nd and 71st Regts. from Greenock, Scotland to Staten Island, New York, Apr. 15 – Aug. 5, 1776

Week Day	M ^o Day	Lat ^{de}	Lat ^{de}	Bearing at Noon	Remarks
April 1776 Monday	15 th				...Half past 4 Anchored in Greenoch Road..."
Saturday	20 th			Moor ^d in Greenoch Road River Clyde	Light Breezes with Showers at times...came on Board the Earl of Glencairn whom we Saluted with 9 Guns and soon after Lord John Murray came on Board whom we Saluted with 11 Guns."
Friday	26 th				"...pm our Boats Empl ^d assisting in Embarking the 71 st Regiment of Highlanders on Board the Transports...Fired a Gun and made the Sig ^l for Sailing."
Sunday	28 th			Moor ^d in Greenoch Road	Fresh Breezes and Cloudy...Fired a Gun and made the Signall for Unmooring between 8 and 12

					Eleven Transports of the Blue division got under way, and soon after Anchored at Geerick.”
Monday	29 th			Working down the Clyde	First Part fresh and Gales and Squally with Rain Middle and latter...clear: at 3 pm made the made the Sig ^l for the pilot...at ½ past 5 am Fired a Gun and made the Signal to weigh, ...and came to Sail, in Company 33 Transports working down the Clyde at Noon...
Tuesday	30 th			The Calf of Man SE b E about 3 or 4 Leagues	Fired a Gun and Made the Sig ^l for the Sternmost Ships to make more Sail...33 Sail of the Convoy in Sight.
May Wednesday	1			Holley head E b S 7 or 8 leagues	...33 Sail in sight...”
Thursday	2			The highland of Waxford 5 or 6 Leagues -	
Friday	3			Waxford N 13 Leagues	...all the Convoy in Sight...at 4 am bore down to the Convoy it blowing Strong...at noon all the Convoy in Sight.
Saturday	4			ditto N 20 52 E distance 33 Leagues	Most Part fresh Gales and Cloudy...33 Sail at 4 am...”
Sunday	5	49 18	01 53W	Scilly Islands the middle N ...36 Lgs	First part fresh Breezes and Cloudy, middle and latter Strong Gales and Squally at 1 pm made the Sig ^l for the Fleet to come under our Stern and Fired One Six Pound Shot at one of them for running ahead, gave Chace to a Brigg and fired 6 Poundr at her, and ordered her to bear up to the Convoy, when brought too She provi ^d to be the Experiment Brigg, hailed her; and Ordered to bear up to the Convoy, which she did and joined them...at ½ past 7

					Fired 4 Guns, a Sig ^l for the Convoy to bring too...between Midnight and 4 am, it blew very hard with a heavy Sea from the N.W. by which means the Ships Labour ^d and Strained very much, Shipping a great deal of water it occasioned her to Leak much in her upper works. The Convoy Still on our Lee been keeping Sail Notwithstanding the Sig ^l kept out for Bringing too, also Saw but 5 Sail of the Convoy it blowing Excesssive hard with hail Sleet and a very high Sea at noon 5 Sail in Sight.
Monday	6			Waxford N 27 ...dist ^{ce} 83 leagues	First Part Strong gales and Clear...at 4 am 8 Sail.”
Tuesday	7	47 16	N6 13W	Ushant n 87 34’ E 42 Lgs	...in Company 8 Sail
Wednesday	8	45 52	9 36W	Cape Ortsgall So. 74”36’ E 136 lgs	...the <i>Kelly</i> Snow from Greenoch joined Company So 9 Sail in Sight...
Thursday	9	45 02	11 39	Waxford N46” 57’ E dis ^{ce} 210 League	
Friday	10	44” 50	12 29		...9 Sail.
Saturday	11	44 59	13 40		...in Company 9 Sail.
Sunday	12	44 56’	15 54		...at 6 Brought too, and made the Sig ^l for the Fleet to come under our Stern, Spoke the Ocean and 8 Sail more in Company...in Sight 9 Sail.
Monday	13	44 43’	15 26		...in Company 9 Sail.
Tuesday	14	44 23’	N21 41	Waxford N. 60 E. dis ^{ce} 327 Lgs	...9 Sail in Company.
Wednesday	15	44 11	24 23		...9 Sail in Company.
Thursday	16	44 33	26 34		...9 Sail in Company.”
Friday	17	44 38	28 39		...in Company 9 Sail.
Saturday	18	44 21	30 56		...in Company 9 Sail.”
Sunday	19	44 06	33 49		...9 Sail in Company.”
Monday	20	44 06	36 15		...in Comp ^y 9 Sail.”

Tuesday	21	43 20	37 08		
Wednesday	22	43 15N	38 23W	Waxford N. 70 45W Dis ^{ce} 542 Leagues	...in Company 9 Sail.
Thursday	23	42 40	39 16		...9 Sail in Sight.
Friday	24	42 20	39 48		...in Company 9 Sail.
Saturday	25	41 20	40 02		...9 Sail in Company.
Sunday	26	40 04	41 33		...at 6 am Fired a Swivel at the Houston to Shorten Sail... in Company 9 Sail.
Monday	27	39 38	42 12		...in Comp ^y 9 Sail.”
Tuesday	28	40 19	43 2		...in Company 9 Sail
Wednesday	29	40 31N	44 27W	Waxford N.69 01E dis ^{ce} 661 Leagues	...in Company 9 Sail.”
Thursday	30	41 26	45 45		...in Company 9 Sail.
Friday	31 st	41 58	46 54		...9 Sail of the Convoy in Sight.
June Saturday	1 st	42 04	47 17		...Spoke the Ocean, who saw an Island of Ice [iceberg] bearing W.NW...Saw the Aforementioned Island of Ice, bearing SWW.
Sunday	2	41 30	48 07		...in Comp ^y 9 Sail.
Monday	3 ^d	44 07	50 30		...in Company 9 Sail
June 1776 Tuesday	4 th	41 48	52 16	Waxford N.73 37 E Dis ^{ce} 737 Leagues	...in Company 9 Sail.
Wednesday	5 th	41 42	53 57		...at 6 being hailed by the Glencairn, requesting the Surgeon brought too...9 Sail in Comp ^y .
Thursday	6 th	40 38	54 16		...in Company 9 Sail.
Friday	7	40 11	54 16		...Spoke the Agent in the Ocean...in Company 9 Sail.
Saturday	8	40 36	57 38		...in Company 9 Sail.
June 1776 Sunday	9	41 51N	50 00W	Waxford N.75 30 E dis ^{ce} 826 Leagues	...in Company 9 Sail.
Monday	10	41 00	59 33		...in Company 9 Sail.
Tuesday	11 th	39 48	60 06		...in Company 9 Sail.
Wednesday	12	40 23	61 32		...in Company 9 Sail.
Thursday	13 th	41 18	62 05		...in Company 9 Sail.
Friday	14	41 37	63 28		...in Company 9 Sail.
Saturday	15	42 31	64 44		...in Company 9 Sail.

June 1776 Sunday	16 th	42 31	66 34	Waxford N.77 48 E Dis ^{ce} 897 Leagues	...Sounded 68 and 60 Fath ^m Gray Sand and Small Stones...in Company 9 Sail.
Monday	17 th	42 47	67 49		...Spoke a Schooner from Jamaica ...who Reported the [28-gun <i>HMS</i>] Cerebus informed him, that they had retaken a Transport [<i>Crawford</i>] with highland troops on board...at 10 the B___[Butte?] Snow making a Sig ^l of distress...found that they had lost her Bowsprit, by falling on Board the ocean in the Night at 1 9 Sail in Sight.
Tuesday	18	42 56	69 46		...in Company 9 Sail.
Wednesday	19 th	43 02	69 46		...in Company 9 Sail.
Thursday	20 th	43 17	70 10		...at 11 AM Saw the Land from the Masthead...distance about 10 Leagues ...in Company 9 Sail.
June 1776 Friday	21 st	43 09	70 46	Waxford N.7 11 E dis ^{ce} 964 Leagues	...at 8 the Extremes of the land NbE. WNW dist ^{ce} 7 or 8 Leagues, Saw Six Strange Sail in the NW...in Company 9 Sail.
Saturday	22	42 57	71 01		...the Same Sail.
Sunday	23			Cape Ann NbE dist ^{ce} 8 or 9 Miles	...Cape Ann W. dist ^{ce} 3 or 4 Leagues...9 Sail of the Convoy in Company and Several Strange Sail in Shore.
Monday	24			The Westermost Part of Cape Codd SSE dist ^{ce} about 2 Leagues	First and Middle part Little wind and hazy, latter Light winds and clear...at 4 [pm] Boston Light House ...WSW dist ^{ce} 2 or 3 leagues, 6 Strange Sail in Sight ...at 8 Cape Ann NbW dist ^{ce} 4 leagues, 6 Sail of Sloops and Schooners in Sight Supposed to be American privateers Fired 2 Twelve pound Shot to bring them too, which one of the sloops returned...made the Sig ^l to Speak the ocean and bore down to the Convoy at 1 AM Fired a Swivel Shot at the head of Ships, to make

					them keep a Stern...at 7 Chased an American Privateer Schooner who stood in for the port on Light House...in Company 9 Sail.
June 1776 Tuesday	25 th			Boston Light House W ...S about 7 or 8 Miles	...in Company 9 Sail.
Wednesday	26			Cape Ann NNE dist ^{ce} 2 or 3 Leagues	Little wind and Clear wea ^r ...Sent the Cutter ashore to Boston Light house, it then being WbS 2 or 3 miles...at 5 the Cutter returned who found the Light House was destroyed but that an English Jack and Pendant was flying on the Island, and in the Nantasket Road, Saw a Ship and a Brigg at Anchor with a red Broad Pendant and a S ^t George's Ensign Flying ...at 9 Fired a Gun made the Sig ^l and repeated the Same for the Ocean to leave off Chase at noon in Company 9 Sail.
Thursday	27			Boston Light House SW b S 2 or 3 Miles	...At noon kept the Sig ^l for a pilot Still Flying and in Company 9 Sail.
Friday	28			Boston Light House SW 4 or 5 Miles	First and Middle part mod ^r and fair latter Light Air and calm at times...at 1 pm Saw a Sloop coming down from Boston, and pass by the Formentioned Ship and Brig that lay in Nantasket Road...and no Colours flying...at 10 Fired a Gun, and made the Sig ^l for the Boats to go on Board the Ocean... the Sig ^l for a pilot Still kept flying and in Company 9 Sail.
Saturday	29			Cape Codd SSE Dist ^{ce} 2 or 3 Leagues	First and Middle part Light breezes and Clear, middle mod ^r and cloudy...Sent the Cutter with an Officer, to

					make his Observations on Brewster's Island. Tacked Occasionally to the Ocean Standing cover and Secure the retreat of the Boats on that Service at 9 the Cutter returned hoisted in made Sail, ... in Company 9 Sail.
Sunday	30 th	42 03	1 16 E	Cape Codd N 81 01 W Dist ^{ce} 19 Leagues	...at 2 pm Fired a Gun and made the Sig ^l for all the Masters of the Transports, at 3 hoisted in the Cutter and at 6 made Sail...
July 1776 Monday	1 st	41 51	1 46		...in Company 5 Sail...
Tuesday	2	42 09	2 59		
Wednesday	3	42 15	4 50		...at 3 pm the Thully [Thilby?] Snow in Company Soon after another of the Convoy...at 7 Spoke the Glencairn, who had Seen Sail of the Convoy in the SE...in Company 2 Sail.
Week Day	M ^o Day	Lat ^d	Longt ^d	Bearing &c at Noon	Remarks &c
July Thursday	4				...at 8 in Company 2 sails...at noon in Company 2 Sails
Friday	5				...at 5 pm the Glencairn made the Sig ^l to speak with us ...at Noon in Comp ^y 2 Sails
Saturday	6				... 2 Sails in Company...
Sunday	7				...at Noon in Comp ^y 2 Sails
Monday	8				...at Noon in Company 2 Sails
July Tuesday	9 th	39 20N	2,46 E	Cape Codd N 36 ° 11 W Dist: 71 Leagues	... 2 Sails in Company...
Wednesday	10				...in Company 2 Sails...
Thursday	11				...in Company 2 Sails...
Friday	12				...at Noon in Comp ^y 2 Sails
Saturday	13				...at Noon in Comp ^y 2 Sails
July Sunday	14	38 ° 55'	00° 39'W		...at Noon in Comp ^y 2 Sails
Monday	15				...at Noon in Comp ^y 2 Sails
Tuesday	16				...Several strange sail in sight at 7 spoke the Peggy the 2 ^d who had parted Comp ^y w ^t the [50-gun <i>HMS</i>] Renown who

					had 24 sails under her Convoy from Halifax...in Comp ^y 14 sails...Made signal for the Convoy to come under our Stern 16 sails in sight at 5 ...and at Noon in sight 14 Sails
Wednesday	17				...at 6 15 sails in sight...
July Thursday	18	38°, 53'N	2°, 05'W		...in Company 15 sails...at 8 joyned Company with his majesty's Ship the Renown and 7 Transports...at Noon the Renown and 22 sails of the Convoy in Company.
Friday	19				...at Noon in Comp ^y the Renown and 22 sails.
Saturday	20				...at Noon in Company the Renown and 18 sails.
Sunday	21				...at Noon in Company 21 sails.
July Monday	22	39°, 44N	5°, 25W		...at 4 am the Renown and 19 sails in Comp ^y ...
Tuesday	23				...at 8 the Renown and 20 sails in Comp ^y ...
Wednesday	24				...at Noon the Renown & 19 Sails in Company.
Thursday	25				...at Noon the Renown and 20 sails in Comp ^y .
Friday	26	40°, 27'	8°, 46		...at 1 pm gave chase to two sails...one of which had an English Ensign in the main top mast shrouds. Fired several guns and at 3 joined them found them to be the Bristol Transport [71 st] and the [6-gun] Betty Snow the former having had an action w ^t a Rebel Privateer and beat her off, Sent the surgeon on Board the Bristol to dress some of the men who had been wounded...received on Board 2 wounded soldiers from the Bristol at 4 am...at Noon in Comp ^y the Renown & 21 sails
Saturday	27	40° 12	9° 03		...the Renown and 21 sails in sight ...at 5 am joined Company [28-gun] his Majestys Ship Liverpool who

					informed us we were off the East part of Nantucket Shoals ...the Liverpool parted...at Noon in Company the Renown and 21 sail of the Convoy.
July Sunday	28	39°, 52	10°, 23	Sandy Hook N 82°, 39 & Dist 86 Leag ^s	... at Noon the Renown and 21 sails in sight.
Monday	29				... at 8 the Renown & 21 sails in sight...took the Bristol in Tow...found the current to have carried us 14 miles to the Northw ^d ; more than Expected.
Tuesday	30				...cast off the tow...
Wednesday	31				...at noon the Bristol in Company
August Thursday	1 st	40°, 09N	14°, 36	Sandy Hook N 87°, 57 & Dist 150 Lg ^s	
Friday	2 ^d				
Saturday	3				
Sunday	4			The Light house of Sandy Hook WNW 2 or 3 miles	
Monday	5			At Single Anchor off Statten Island in the River of New York	

Source and Notes: TNA, *Records of the Admiralty, Captains' Logs, HMS Flora* at ADM 51/360, f. 223413. The key entry in this log is the dispersal of the 33 transports carrying the 42nd and 71st Regiments on May 5 due to the large storm. An article in the *New York Gazette and Weekly Mercury* on Dec. 12, 1776 indicates the overall military commander of the expedition, Lt. Col. Sir William Erskine, 71st Regt., was on the *Ocean*, a ship of 18 guns.

Journal of Pvt. Thomas Sullivan, 49th Regt., Describes the Harbor of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Apr. 18, 1776

April 18th...

A Description of the Harbour and Town of Halifax

The *Harbour* is very safe and commodious for shipping, and counted the best on the coast of *America*: It is sheltered by woody hills in each side, except about the town, It is about 5 miles ling, and about a mile broad. On the upper part of it, is a large Arm of the sea, which is called the Bason; where 300 sail may lye at Anchor, and not seen from the Harbour's mouth. One hundred sail of *French Ships* of War were hid here for some time last war...

Source: *From Redcoat to Rebel, The Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, p. 41



HMS Flora, left, from “*HMS Flora as she recaptured the HMS Fox off the coast of Newfoundland on 7 July 1777*”

Picture Source: U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command, from *Mariners Museum, Newport News Virginia*

News Account of the Sighting of 32-gun *HMS Flora*'s Highland Fleet, Off Arklow Head, Ireland, May 2, 1776

The transports, having on board General [Lord John] Murray [42nd] and [Maj.] General [Simon] Fraser's [71st] regiments of Highlanders, were spoke with off Acklowhead in Ireland, on Thursday [May 2] at 10 at night, a fair wind, N. N. W. all well. The report of their having put into Lamlash Bay, we are informed, was without foundation.

Source and Note: *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, May 8, 1776, p. 3. “*Acklowhead*” is Arklow Head, which is a cape near Arklow, Ireland, on the Irish Sea about 50 miles south of Dublin.

Excerpts of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, Record Storms Which Dispersed 32-gun *HMS Flora*'s Highland Fleet, *Transport Thames*, Near Isles of Scilly, Off the Cornish Coast of Britain, May 4 – 6, 1776

Saturday May 4th the weather hazy and a heavy sea...at six ... blowing a smart gale, the fleet in sight some far ahead – at 8 ... then blowing very hard & a cross sea. did not forget Saturday night a Strong gale under low sail at noon Cape Clear N Dist: 8 or 10 leagues [24-30 miles] from which we take our departure.

Sunday May 5th. a smart Gale double reef^d The sea running high & ship's a good deal of water the whole fleet in sight... blowing very hard & a very high sea The Troops much incommode^d with the water below when the hatches shut hot & stinking, all sick most ship'd a great deal of water – a pig

wash'd overboard, a goat (poor Betsy) drown an 14 fowls, the Thames a watery B___ the Flora out of sight & a great part of the Fleet

Monday May 6th ... the Sea running very high & cross 8 [a. m.] six sail in sight...

Source and Note: National Records of Scotland (NRS), "13 notebooks containing the journal of Lt. (latterly Capt.) John Peebles of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment, during the American War of Independence," *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun, 1776-1782* at GD 21/492/2 (hereafter *Peebles' Journal*) also published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa.), 1998, pp. 25-26. Cape Clear Island is located off the southwest Irish coast.

Account of the Voyage to America by an Officer of the 42nd Regt., Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 5 – June 20, 1776

Extract of a letter from an officer of Lord John Murray's regiment, dated Hallifax, June 20

"Soon after we left the Clyde, on the coast of Ireland, [on May 5] a violent storm separated the fleet; we lost company with our convoy, the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* frigate, and found that out of all the fleet that sailed, only five of us were remaining together. We spoke with several ships on our voyage bound from the West Indies to London, but received no news from them. Without any material accident, we arrived off Cape Cod, and ran in for Boston harbour, but were greatly surprised to find so very few shipping there; we hoisted our colours as usual, and soon after were saluted by a number of shells from the garrison; we began then to think what had really happened, and seeing a fisherman at some little distance, we fired a gun at him, which brought him speedily on board, who informed us of the fleet and army having left Boston ever since the 24th of March, and that they were gone as he supposed to Hallifax. The wind being favourable we weighed immediately and stood out, and then only spoke with the men of war, three of whom were left to protect such vessels as, not knowing of the evacuation, might put in there. The *Hope* transport ran past the men of war, as we did, without seeing them, and was taken in the harbour. We arrived safe here, but too late to join the expedition, which sailed from hence under General [Sir William] Howe on the 10th instant."

Source: *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, July 27, 1776, p. 2. The letter was also published in *The Remembrancer or Impartial Repository of Public Events, Part II, For the Year 1776*, Printed for J. Almon, London, 1776, Google Books, p. 148.

News Account of Sighting of the Transport *Oxford* at Sea, May 14, 1776

Extract of a letter from an officer at Halifax, to his father in Edinburgh, dated May 14...

The Jenny, Capt. Duncan from Barbadoes, spoke with the *Oxford* transport, Capt. Stewart, with part of the 42d regiment on board; in latitude 40, and longitude 43, with the *Flora* frigate, and transports all well from Clyde.

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, June 14, 1776, p. 384. The transport *Oxford* carried Capt. John Smith's Company of the 42nd Regt. *Oxford* was captured by the American Brig *Andrew Doria* on May 29, 1776.

Gen. Orders for Troops on Board Transports Under the Command of Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell, 2nd Bn., 71st Highland Regt., Including *Henry & Joseph*, Carrying 42nd Regt. Troops, At Sea, May 18, 1776

Orders from Lieu^t Col. Arch^d Campbell of the 2nd Battⁿ of His Majesty's 71st Reg^t of Foot on board the *George* Transport at Sea the 18th May 1776

Whereas I judge it expedient that the scattered Transports of the Fleet, who have parted with His Majesty's Convoy, should keep as close together as possible, to [sup]port each other in case of an attack from Any of the Rebel Ships of America, I have thought proper to issue the following instructions for

your future conduct [during the remainder of] the voyage; and it is my express orders you pay the strictest attention to them, till such time as you shall receive superior orders to the contrary;

When I would speak to any of the ships, I will hoist a Jack or pendant at the different Mast heads as [ex]pressed opposite to the ships names underneath, and a Red Ensign at the Mizen Shrouds

When I would have the Transports come close under my stern, I will hoist an Ensign at the Top Mast Head.

When I would have the Transports come under my stern, and prepare for action, if in the day time, I will hoist a Red Ensign at the main Top Gall[an]t Masthead, and fire one gun. If in the Night time I will hoist two lights at the ... [illeg].....and fire two guns

When I would have the Transports tack in the night I will hoist one light at the Ensign Staff and fire one gun.

- Ship's Signals-

George - A red Ensign at the Top Gall^t Mast Head

Experiment - An English Jack at the main Top Gall^t Mast Head

Annabella - An English Jack at the fore top Gall^t Mast Head

Millham - An English Jack at the Main Top Mast Head

Henry & Joseph - A white Pendant at the top Gall^t Mast Head

When any of the Transports want to speak with me, they are to hoist the George's signal as above expresses.

The Transports are at all times to stay within a mile of the George, and none to go ahead of her on any pretence whatsoever.

Such of the Masters who presume to show disobedience to this or not only be fired at, and be obliged to pay for the shot, but shall also have disobedience properly reported to the Admiral on their arrival in North America.

In case of an attack, the troops on board the several Transports are to be quartered properly to the small arms, they are to appear in their Regimental coats and vests keep up their fire till they are close alongside the Rebel Vessel at which period they are to throw in their shot and instantly board with sword in hand which I am persuaded will be executed with that spirit and intrepidity that has ever distinguished a chosen corps of Highlanders in the heat of action.

A copy of these signals and instructions are to be given to the master of your transport, that he may be acquainted with, and shew implicit obedience hereafter in the execution of them.

Arch^d. Campbell
Lieu^t Col^l 2nd Battⁿ
71st Regiment

Source: National Records of Scotland (hereafter NRS), RH2/8/80 (original in Concord Free Public Library, Mass.) transcribed by P. D. Albertson, Sept. 2009. The *Henry & Joseph* transport carried Adj. Hugh Fraser and Quartermaster Colin Smith and men from various companies of the 42nd Regt. She was separated from the fleet and joined a number of 71st Regt. Transports under the command of Lt. Col. Campbell.

News Account of Status of the Highland Fleet, Edinburgh, May 23, 1776

EDINBURGH.

Extract of a letter from London, June 28.

“This day advices were received, by the Unity, arrived in 36 days [sailing May 23], from Georgia...

“No advices are received of the arrival of [Adm.] Lord [Richard] Howe, nor of the 42d and 71st regiments of Highlanders.”

No accounts are received here of the arrival in America of the 42d and Fraser's regiments, as mentioned in some of the papers. But advice is come, that they were spoke with within three days sail of

Halifax [Nova Scotia]. They had been met at sea by some ships, who informed them that Boston was evacuated, upon which they proceeded for Halifax.

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, June 28, 1776, p. 18.



Reproduction 84th or Royal Highland Emigrants Regt. Uniform Button

**Account by Capt. Alexander M^cDonald, Royal Highland Emigrants, of Arrival of Transport
Bowman at Halifax, June 7, 1776**

Gen^l [Sir William] Howe has brought at least 6000 from this place with eight weeks Provisions on board each transport...The Day before he sail'd a transport with a hundred of the 42^d came into the harbour, we are told that 8 more transports met the fleet at the mouth of the Harbour, which we Suppose were part of the remainder of the 42^d & Gen^l Fraser's...

Source: "Letter-Book of Captain Alexander McDonald, of the Royal Highland Emigrants, 1775-1779" in the *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1882*, New-York Historical Society, New York, 1883, pp. 282-283.

**Excerpt of Letter from Capt. James M^cPherson, 42nd Additional Company, to His Nephew,
Alexander Campbell, Esq. Younger of Glenure, Reporting Arrival of Capt. Archibald Erskine at
Halifax, Glasgow, June 7, 1776**

Glasgow 18th July 1776

Dear Sandie..

M^r Skein has a letter from one of his Ships who had arrived at Halifax Cap^t [Archibald] Erskine was aboard of her the arrival of the whole is expected every Day – I hope we shall soon have good accounts of them – my best wishes to your father & mother I am

Dear Sandie yours aff^{ly}
James M^cPherson

Source and Note: NRS, *Papers of the Campbell Family of Barcaldine* at GD170/1969/1-19. Capt. Archibald Erskine and his company arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia in the transport *Bowman* about June 7, 1776.

News Account of Arrival of Part of the Highland Fleet at Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 7, 1776

By letters from Greenock we have advice, that accounts are received there from Halifax, which mention, that all the transports with the Highlanders were safely arrived, and were lying in the harbour when these accounts came away.

An officer of the 42^d foot or Royal Highlanders, writes to his friend at Edinburgh, that part of that regiment arrived at Halifax on the 7th June, after a passage of 40 days from Clyde; that on the 8th the whole fleet at Halifax (above 300 sail) was under orders to sail to the southward, the destination supposed to be New York.

Another officer mentions, that fresh provisions were so high priced at Halifax; that a very ordinary dinner with a bottle of port cost them 10S a-head.

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, July 16, 1776. Only three of 11 transports carrying troops of the 42nd Regt. arrived at Halifax prior to Gen. Sir William Howe's departure for New York on June 10, 1776.

News Account of Arrival of Part of the 42nd Regt. at Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 7, 1776

Extract of another from London, July 19.

“Captain White, just arrived from Halifax; gives the following accounts; which may be depended upon.

“All the transports with [Gen.] Lord John Murray's [42nd] and [Maj. Gen. Simon] Fraser's 71st Highlanders went to Boston harbour, excepting one ship, which had parted with the convoy at sea, and was directed by a sloop of war to proceed to Halifax; that ship arrived on the 7th [June], and sailed with General [Sir William] Howe; the rest of the transports arrived from Boston at Halifax the 20th June, with the Highlanders, where they were to take in fresh water, and immediately to follow General Howe...

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, July 23, 1776.

Excerpts of Letter No. 17 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Regarding Preparations for Expedition to Sail to New York; Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 7, 1776

Halifax 7 June 1776

My Lord...

I have suffered the most sensible mortification by being so long detained at this place, but the late arrivals of the provision ships and the repairing of those included in the number requisite for transporting the troops, a return of which was forwarded to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury in my dispatch of 8th May, have made an earlier removal impracticable. The troops, however, are a length embarked, waiting only for favourable weather to proceed to Sandy Hook. In the early operations there I shall have the closest attention to the reinforcements daily expected and not hazard any disadvantageous attacks. In this idea I at present think it will be most advisable to make a landing on Long Island in order to secure the passage of the shipping into the harbor, which can only be effected by the possession of a commanding height near Brooklyn, said to be fortified. Should the Enemy offer battle in the open field we must not decline it, and from the high order the troops are now in I have every reason to flatter myself with success...

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution* (hereafter *DOAR*), Volume XII, *Transcripts 1776*, pp. 145-147 from TNA, CO 5/93, f. 208.

News Account of Arrival of Transport Bowman with Capt. Archibald Erskine's Company, 42nd Regt., Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 5, 1776

LONDON, (SATURDAY) July 20...

The following Accounts are brought by the Three Friends, [Capt.] White, arrived at Dover, in 24 days from Halifax...

June...

___ 5, A Transport from Glasgow, with Part of the 42d Regiment.

___ 10, Sailed the Fleet and Troops from hence under the Command of Vice-Admiral [Molyneux] Shulldham and General [Sir William] Howe, but every Thing belonging to the Expedition is a Secret.

Source: *Derby Mercury*, July 19, 1776, p. 1.

News Account of Highland Fleet Reaching Halifax, Nova Scotia;

Edinburgh, June 7 – 8, 1776

EDINBURGH...

By letters from Greenock we have advice, that accounts are received there from Halifax, which mention, that all the transports with the Highlanders were lately arrived, and were lying in the harbour when these accounts came away.

An officer of the 42d foot or Royal Highlanders, writes to his friend at Edinburgh, that part of that regiment arrived at Halifax on the 7th June, after a passage of 40 days from Clyde; that on the 8th the whole fleet at Halifax (above 300 sail) was under orders to sail to the southward, the destination supposed to be New York.

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, July 16, 1776, p. 37. Gen. Sir William Howe sailed for New York on June 10, 1776.



Detail of Portrait of Adm. Molyneux Shuldham

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Excerpt of Letter from Vice Adm. Molyneux Shuldham to Secretary to the Lords of the Admiralty Philip Stephens with Account of Arrival of Highland Transports at Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 8, 1776

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 8th. June 1776.

Sir...

The Bowman Transport, one of the [*HMS*] *Flora*'s Convoy arrived here last night by which Ship I have information, that a few days after their departure from the River Clyde, they met with a Gale of Wind which occasioned a separation of the Fleet. On approaching this Coast the Bowman at different times, fell in with several others of their Convoy, which parted Company at the time she did, until Seven of them were collected together, and upon St. George's Bank they spoke the Merlin Sloop, by which Ship they were informed of the Evacuation of Boston, and had directions to proceed to this place and there are now four of them off the Harbour. I have adopted proper measures for these Ships being intercepted as they come upon this Coast, that instead of going to Boston they may be conducted to the place where the Army may be.

I am Sir
Your most Obed^t. Servant
M: Shuldham

Philip Stephens Esq^r.

Source and Note: *The Despatches of Molyneux Shuldham, Vice-Admiral of the Blue and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, January 6 – July, 1776*, Ed. Robert Wilden Neeser, Naval History Society, New York, 1913, pp. 257-258. This letter was also filed at TNA, Admiralty, *Letters from Admirals* at ADM 1/484.



Detail of Gen. Sir William Howe, 1777 by Richard Purcell

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

Excerpts of Letter No. 18 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Arrival of the First Transports of the 42nd and 71st Regts., Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 8, 1776

Nº. 18

Halifax 8th June 1776

My Lord...

The utmost Attention shall be given to the Experience and great Abilities of Sir William Erskine in the military Line and I shall with Pleasure make known to him your Lordships Commands to me in his Favor...

While writing this I have Advice that some Transports with the Highlanders are arrived at the Entrance of the Harbour, and I am not without Hopes that we shall all join under Sail tomorrow...

Your Lordships faithful and most Obedient Servant

The Right Honorable

W. Howe

Lord George Germain &ca &ca &ca

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 and CO 5/93, Pt. 2, ff. 212-213.

Account of Voyage from Greenock, Scotland by Officer of Capt. Archibald Erskine's Company, 42nd Regt., Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 8, 1776

EDINBURGH.

Extract of a letter from an officer in Lord John Murray's regiment, to his friend in Edinburgh, dated Halifax June 8th.

“Yesterday we arrived here, after a voyage of forty days, so agreeable, that, in my life, never so much time passed so short. I now have a noble view before me, no less than three hundred sail, men of war, transports, victualling ships, &c. under the command of Admiral [Molyneux] Shuldham. [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe, who is to command the whole fleet, is not yet arrived, but is daily expected. In the mean time, the fleet here is under sailing orders; where we do not know; but we have reason to believe New York is the place of our destination. You would have heard, before we did, of the British troops having evacuated Boston; from which place they were not drove by the enemy, but necessitated to leave for want of provisions, Halifax, being safer for victualling ships to come into, as all the creeks and little harbours of New England are full of privateers, and having even frigates who pick up our ships, if they are at any distance from the convoy. It was on the 29th of April we left Greenock, thirty-three sail in company, consisting of two battalions of the 71st, and our regiment, convoyed by the [32-gun *HMS*] Flora frigate. In a few days we parted with her, and the whole fleet, in a gale of wind, off the coast of Ireland. We made the best of our way for Boston; and in a fortnight, fell in with five of our transports in latitude 50, or near the Banks of Newfoundland. We sailed in company together till the 4th of June, when our ship being the foremost, we were brought to by the [16-gun *HMS*] Merlin sloop of war. She informed us, that we were forty leagues to the south-west of Halifax; that Boston was evacuated the 17th March last by our troops; and that they now lay at Halifax, under the command of General [Sir William] Howe, and were to sail in a few days on an expedition to the southward, supposed to be against New York; that the whole coast of New England was infested with a number of armed vessels and privateers of great force; and though we had a few men of war lying in the harbour of Boston, yet we ran the risk of being taken by the enemy, if we did not immediately put back for this place, which he advised us, in the strongest manner, to do: And accordingly we put back, and arrived here yesterday. I have nothing more to add, but that there are certain accounts of the Provincial army, at Quebec, being beat by General [Sir Guy] Carleton at the head of 1000 men, when [Lt.] General [John] Burgoyne’s fleet arrived in sight of the town. Notwithstanding their numbers, they allowed this victory to be reaped at a small expence. They ran in the greatest disorder that can be imagined. An account of that engagement, which I saw last night, says thus: The officers did not wait for the soldiers, or the soldiers for the officers: And, to accelerate their flight, they left their baggage, artillery, and ammunition behind them. their panic was so great, that many of them threw down their arms.”

...*Extract of a letter from an officer at Halifax, to his friend in Edinburgh, dated June 8.*

“We have this instant received orders, that the fleet with the troops get under weigh to-morrow at daybreak. The rendezvous, in case of separation, is to be Sandy Hook, about thirty miles below new York, so you may guess where we are going. One transport of [Gen.] Lord John Murray’s [42nd] regiment is arrived, and the rest of the Highlanders from the Clyde is near at hand...

Source and Note: *Caledonian Mercury* (Edinburgh), July 13, 1776, pp. 2-3. The first letter was written by an officer from Capt. Archibald Erskine’s company of the 42nd Regt. Erskine’s transport, the *Bowman*, was the only one of the Highland fleet to actually enter Halifax harbor before Gen. Howe sailed for New York. Besides Erskine the other officers of the company were: Lt. Harry Gilchrist, Lt. William Stewart and Ens. Alexander M^cLeod. The first letter was also partially published in the *Freeman’s Journal or New Hampshire Gazette*, Portsmouth, Oct. 12, 1776.

Excerpt of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, Records Link-up with 28-gun *HMS Milford* and 50-gun *HMS Renown*, Transport *Thames*, off Boston Harbor, June 10 – 11, 1776

Monday 10th. June fair weather & light winds Carrying all sail, the little fleet [*Transports Glasgow, Minerva, Bristol, Peggie and Neptune*] in sight, 3 far to leeward – at 4 P. M. See the Land from Masthead, in two hours quite plain, which we take be Cape Codd [Massachusetts], see two strange sail, the ships to leeward hauls up, – stood in under easy sail all night our little fleet got close together, at 4 AM was close in with the cape got out anchor & Bent cables & stood up the Bay, 4 of the other ships ahead the Peggy to leeward – at 10 AM. made the Light House & saw two sail standing out, which proved to be the Milford frigate 28 Guns & Arm’s Brig Hope coming out to meet us the Brig boarded

some of the headmost ships & gave them pilots, the frigate did not speak to any of us – Informed that the fleet & army left Boston about the 17th. March & went to Halifax [Nova Scotia] –

Tuesday 11th June fair weather little or no wind the little fleet ahead... pass'd the Light House, at 4 came to an Anchor in Nantasket Road where we found the Renown 50 Guns, & 2 transports of the 71st. the Mayflower & Peggy, they took the little schooner thing coming in that morning – the Commanding offrs. of ships went on board, the com^r (Cap^t [Francis] Banks), & heard the News of Boston being aban^d. likewise in the harbour a small Brig (the [14 gun Massachusetts sloop-of-war] Yanky Hero) taken by the Milford a few days after a smart engagement. a great many Yanky boats looking at us within shot at 9 AM. went on board the renown with [Brevet] Maj^r. [William] Grant [Commander, 42nd Grenadier Co.] to breakfast with Com^r. got all the news, he expects to be attacked soon with row gallys & fire rafts went ashore with the Com on an island, engaged to dine with him

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry June 10-11, 1776 also published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa.), 1998, p. 34.

Journal of Pvt. Thomas Sullivan, 49th Regt., Describes the Departure of Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe's Fleet and the Joining of Transports from the Highland Fleet, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 10, 1776

June 10th We weighed Anchor in the Harbour of *Halifax*, and when we came near the Light-house, we received orders from the *Admiral*, who was then at Anchor, to lower sail and lye to; until the whole fleet could get on their way. Our *Fleet* consisted of 150 sail, and were a long time getting to sea...At 12 o'clock next morning [11th] we directed our Course to the South; and with a strong gale, which blew fair. We met with transports from *Ireland* [incorrect, Scotland] which had troops on board, and were some Companies of the 42^d. Regiment, or Royal *Highlanders* [and from the 71st Highland Regt.]. we had a good Passage, but some calms, which detained us several days.

Source: *From Redcoat to Rebel, The Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, p. 44.

Account of Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander in Chief, North America, Sailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia for New York on June 10, 1776

Extract of a letter from London, July 5.

"This day a packet arrived to government from Gen. [Sir William] Howe. The packet left Halifax on the 10th of June, on which day Gen. Howe sailed from that place with the troops under his command amounting to 7500 men. It was supposed they were gone for New York where the principal part of the rebel army was encamped.

"The packet arrived this day from Halifax brings advice that part of the Highlanders were arrived at Halifax, and the rest daily expected."

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, July 9, 1776, p. 21.

Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sir William Howe's Embarkation Return at Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 11, 1776

Return of Troops Embarked at Halifax the 4 th , & Joined at sea the 11 th June 1776						
Commanders		Brigades	Officers	Serjeants	Drummers	Rank & file
	{ Major Musgrove	1 st Light Infantry	54	51	24	624

	{ Major Maitland	2 ^d D ^o				
	{ Lieu ^t Colonel Meadows	1 st Grenadiers	60	57	60	782
	{ Lieu ^t Colonel Monckton	2 ^d D ^o				
	{ Major Gen ^l Robertson	1 st	54	52	33	736
Embarked at Halifax....	{ Major Gen ^l Pigot	2 nd	64	66	40	754
	{ Major Gen ^l Jones	3 rd	59	62	37	695
	{ Major Gen ^l Grant	4 th	65	50	31	803
	{ Brig ^r Gen ^l Smith	5 th	62	64	30	735
	{ Brig ^r Gen ^l Agnew	6 th	54	63	31	729
	{ 46 th 3 Companies		10	5	5	106
Joined at Sea.....	{ 42 ^d Detachments		8	10	6	183
	{ 71 st Detachments		9	7	4	193
Total			499	487	301	6340

Source: TNA, *War Office: Military Headquarters, North America: Entry Books*, American Revolution, Returns, Various, Oct. 26, 1774 to Oct. 12, 1783 at WO 36/3. The strength report for the Highlanders represents two companies each for the 42nd and 71st Regts. For the these figures are consistent with one company of the 42nd Regt. (Capt. Bowman's) entering the harbor at Halifax, and three companies joining the fleet on the way to New York.



"11 June, 1776. Sailing from Halifax." by Capt. Lt. Archibald Robertson

Picture Source: From the New York Public Library

Journal of Engineer Extraordinary and Capt. Lt. Archibald Robertson Notes Transports of the 42nd and 71st Regiments Joining Adm. Lord Richard Howe's Fleet, Sailing for New York, June 11 and 29, 1776

11th 6 Sail of 42^d and 71st join'd the Fleet...

29th at 6 in the morning discovered land the heights call'd the Neversinks close by sandy hook the Entrance into new York Bay, and all the Fleet got safe to an Anchor at 3 o'clock behind the Hook. Have had calm weather for 10 days past with light Breezes from the East.

Source: *Archibald Robertson, Lieutenant-General Royal Engineers, His Diaries and Sketches in America*, Ed. Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, New York, 1930, pp. 85-86.



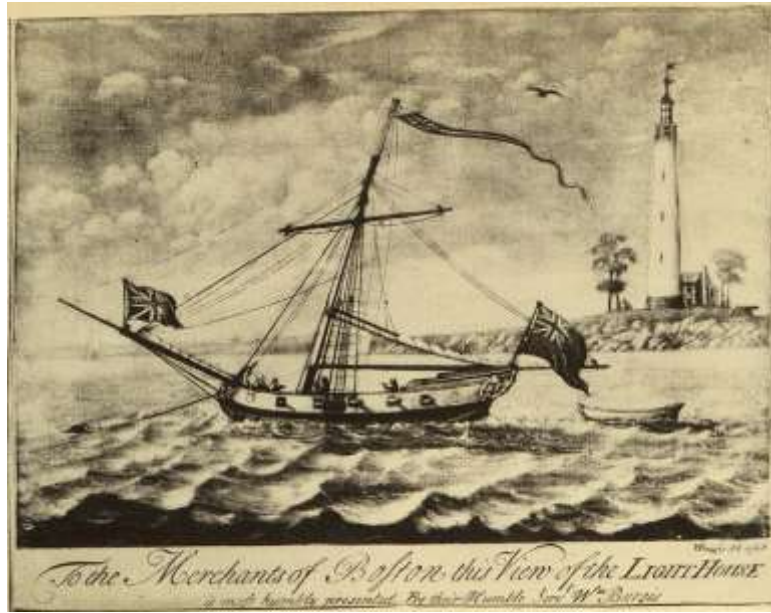
Rendering of *Andrew Doria* © 2006

Picture Source: *Andrew Doria - The First Salute, Inc.* Reproduced with Permission.

News Account of the Arrival of *Continental Brig. Andrew Doria* with Captured Highlanders (Including Two Officers of the 42nd Regt.), Newport, Rhode Island, June 14, 1776

June 20. Last Friday [June 14] arrived here from a cruise the brig *Andrew Doria*, Capt. [Nicholas] Biddle, who about 12 days before took two transport ships [*Oxford* and *Crawford*] from Greenock in Scotland, having on board each 100 Scotch troops; Capt. Biddle took out the officers, navigators and sailors, to the number of 49, with all the small arms and baggage of value, mann'd the ships with his own men and kept company with them 13 days; when being without Nantucket shoals, they were chased by five vessels one a pretty large man of war, upon which he ordered the prizes to steer different courses, and though the man of war chased him, night coming on he soon lost sight of them. We hope soon to hear of the prizes being arrived at some safe port. The prisoners brought in were landed here on Friday evening, who report that they were part of 33 sail of transports which left Greenock in company, having 3000 troops on board bound to Boston.

Source and Note: *Continental Journal and Weekly Advertiser* (Boston), July 4, 1776, p. 1. The *Oxford* transport carrying Capt. John Smith's company had been captured by *Andrew Doria*.



"To the Merchants of Boston this View of the Light House is most humbly presented By their Humble Serv' W". Burgis," 1729

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Lib. of Congress, Prints and Photographs Div.

Excerpts of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, Records Rebel Fire During Departure of Highland Transports from Boston Harbor, Massachusetts, June 14 -15, 1776

On Friday morning the 14th. June... we rec^d a message from the Com: [Commodore, Capt. Francis Banks, 50-gun *HMS Renown*] not to send any men ashore the Provincials [Rebels] being seen in numbers on the next island at work, went immediately and delev this order to the other ships, & to desire the inmost ships to move out, in about an hour after the Enemy began to fire from a battery on Long Island, on which the Transports were ordered to get under way & stand down to the light house, they continued firing on us with 3 Guns & one Mortor while in their reach, the *Renown* return'd a few shot & slip'd anchor, we fired six or eight shot (6 P^{rs} [pounders]) at Nantasket Village & the people on the heights, & *Renown* fir'd there likewise on her way but without effect also – we were not long come to at the light house when the Enemy fired upon the fleet from the opposite shore, we all got under way again, almost calm, & the Com: made a signal for masters (which was not taken notice of having receiv'd no orders) he sent for the Com^d Officer, went on board with him where we receiv'd orders to go to sea immediately & observe the same signals we had from the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora*, Halifax the rendezvous – the shot flying about – the Yankies exulting on the Hills – four sail in sight in the Bay – the Light house deserted & set on fire which soon blew up with a great explosion about noon – the 4 sail proves to be the *Milford* & 3 of our fleet, the *Henry* & *Joseph* [with the 42nd Regt. Adjutant and Quartermaster] and 2 of [Maj. Gen. Simon] *Frazers* [71st Highland Regt.], they fell in about one, & stood on with the rest of the fleet they had seen privateers

Saturday 15th June ... The Fleet standing out of the bay consisting of 17 sail viz 2 men of war 2 armed Brigs 11 transports & 2 Schooners, at 6 PM. took our departure from Light house island, bearing from us NWBN [northwest by north] ½ W distance 4 leagues [12 miles]...

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry June 14-15, 1776 also published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa.), 1998, pp. 35-36.



Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward to Gen. George Washington, Describing Highland Transports, Boston, June 16, 1776

Boston 16 June 1776

Sir...

The thirteenth Instant at evening I ordered five hundred men with proper officers, a detachment of the Train with a thirteen inch Mortar, two eighteen pounders, and some small Cannon, under the Command of Col Whitcomb, to take post on Long Island to annoy the Enemy's Ships; the necessary works were thrown up in the night and the next morning our Cannon and Mortar began to play upon the Pirates, which soon drove them all out of the Harbour: The Fleet consisted of thirteen in number, the [HMS] Renown of fifty Guns, several smaller ships of war and some transports with Highlanders on board, as near as we could judge there were about eight hundred troops on board the transports. They blew up the Light House as they went off, and then put to sea with their fleet. I think it probable they will leave some Frigates to cruize in the Bay.

A number of the Colony troops and militia were to have thrown up a Battery the same night on Petticks Island and Nantasket head, but by some unfortunate obstructions they did not get their Cannon ready in time, however, they gave the Enemy a number of shot as the Ships passed through the Channel. Our shot cut away some of their yards and rigging, and several sent into the ships sides, but the Shells from the Mortar terrified them most; they returned a fierce shot from the Commodore's Ship without any effect and got under sail with all expedition...

I am, Your Excellency's Obedient Humble Servant

Artemas Ward

General Washington

Source: "Artemas Ward to George Washington, June 16, 1776" *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, Images 768-769.

Excerpt of Letter from William Gordon to Rebel Gen. George Washington Referring to the 42nd Regt. as "*the old highland regiment*," Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, June 19-20, 1776

My Dear Sir...

The Major [Robert Menzies, 2nd Bn., 71st Highland Regt.] killed on the Lords day was buried yesterday in military pomp attended by the whole brigade & the [captured] highland officers as mourners. have been told he was a member of parliament , the same as Col or Lieut Col [Archibald] Campbell who

was taken, & followed as chief mourner. [Maj. Gen. Simon] Fraser [Col., 71st Highland Regt.] it is said is not coming over...

The Major deceased was not a member of Parliament, but the Lieut. Col. Campbell represents the royal boroughs in the shire of Stirling. was among the prisoners, they are in general young, healthy & well build, a fine corps, but newly raised. They tell that the old highland regiment is coming over...

W.G.

Source and Note: Lib. of Congress, *George Washington Papers*, Series 4, General Correspondence. Jamaica Plain, now part of Boston, Massachusetts was originally part of the town of Roxbury.



Detail of *Sketch of Harbour & Town of Halifax with our fleet turning up*, 1776, by Archibald Robertson

Picture Source: From the New York Public Library

**Extract of a Letter from an Officer of the 42nd Regt. Describing Voyage from Scotland;
Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 20, 1776**

Extract of a Letter from an Officer of the Regiment dated Halifax June 20

Soon after we left the [River] Clyde [at Greenock] a violent storm separated the fleet we lost Company with our Convoy the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* Frigate and found that out of all the Fleet that Sailed only 5 of us remained together without any material accident we arrived at ~~Cape Cod~~ Cape Cod [Massachusetts] and ran in for Boston Harbour but were greatly surprized to find so very few Shipping there we hoisted our Colour as usual, and soon after were saluted by a number of Shells from the Garrison we began then to think what had really happened and seeing a fisherman at some little distance we fired a gun at him, which brought him speedily on board who informed us of the fleet and Army having left Boston 24 March and that they were gone as he supposed to Halifax the wind being favourable we weighed immediately and stood out and then only spoke with the Men of War three of whom were left to protect such Vessels as not knowing of the evacuation might put in there We arrived safe here but too late to join the Expedition which sailed from hence under [Commander-in-Chief] Gen^l [Sir William] Howe on the 10th ins^t [June].

Source and Note: *Excerpt of Leather bound Digest of Services of the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment, The Black Watch, 1724-1819*; deposited by the Regiment at the Royal United Services Institution, 1914 at the National Army Museum (UK) Archives No. 1968-07-158, p. 152. This reference is described in detail in this Volume in App. A, Enc. 1.



Detail of Engraving of Capt. Henry Duncan, circa 1800

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *North British Soc.*

The Journal of Captain Henry Duncan, 64-gun *HMS Eagle*, Records Arrival of 32-gun *HMS Flora* with Eight or Nine Highland Transports, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 21-23, 1776

Journal of Captain Henry Duncan, R.N.

[On board H. M. S. Eagle]

21st [June] - Off Halifax, with little wind and fog; fell in with the [50-gun *HMS*] *Renown*., Captain [Francis] Banks, from Boston, with a convoy of eight or nine sail, part of the [HMS] *Flora*'s convoy with [42nd Regt. and] Fraser's Highlanders.

22nd - Foggy weather. Off Halifax, fell in with the [8-gun *HMS*] *Despatch* schooner, Lieutenant [John] Goodridge, who informed us that the fleet and army were sailed from Halifax, and that [Lt.] General [John] Burgoyne was arrived at Quebec; that the rebels had left it, and that General [Sir Guy] Carleton was in pursuit of them. The Admiral dispatched the schooner for Halifax.

23rd Sunday. — Stood close into the harbour. The Commissioner, [Mariot] Arbuthnot, and Captain [George] Montagu [24-gun *HMS Fowey*], and [Lt. Henry] Mowat [*HM Armed Sloop Albany*] came on board. Captain Banks and his convoy got into the harbour. A transport sailed for England, by whom the admiral sent despatches. The Yankee here [*Hero*], a big privateer taken by the [28-gun *HMS*] *Milford*, went into the harbour. The same evening [we] made sail from Halifax, and stood to the southward, the wind at WSW.

Source: *The Journals of Captain Henry Duncan*, Navy Records Society (London, 1902), XX, 115-16 as published in *NDAR* v.5, p. 691

Excerpts of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, Records Link-up with Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe's Fleet, *Transport Thames*, Off Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 22- 24, 1776

Saturday 22^d. June clear'd up a little see most of the fleet, the land in sight near us little wind & foggy a large sail standing out towards us – about 3 PM. the Com: [Commodore, Capt. Francis Banks, 50-gun *HMS Renown*] saluted him with 13 Guns which was return'd by the other with 11 – a double Decker – our Com: hauled down his broad Pendant & hoisted a long one, at 6 PM. spoke the [transport] Henry and

Joseph [with 42nd Regt. Adjutant and Quartermaster] all well... they informed us the ship saluted was the [64-gun *HMS*] *Eagle* Lord Howe from England...

Monday 24th. June the weather clear & a fine breeze standing in for the harbour, the *Renown* went up to the *Eagle* who was lying to, & then stood off. The Transports entered the harbour about 3 PM. & stood up leaving the men of war in the offing: about 4 came to anchor opposite the Town: the Comm^d. off^r. [Brevet Maj. William Grant] went ashore to report...

again surpriz'd to find the fleet & army gone from Halifax & no body here knows where the Admiral gone to sea again

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry June 22-24, 1776 also published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa.), 1998, pp. 35-36.

News Account of Transports from the Highland Fleet Arriving, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 21, 1776

HALIFAX, June 25...

Friday [June 21] arrived several Transports from Nantasket Road, near Boston, having on board a number of *Frasier's Highlanders*, about 1000 of whom had arrived here some time since.

By the above Vessels we are informed, That some days before they left Nantasket, the Rebels began some works and erected a battery opposite where the [50-gun *HMS*] *Renown*, Commodore [Francis] Banks lay – The day before they sailed the enemy opened the battery and began to fire on the *Renown* and threw several shells. – The day they sail'd they observed the enemy carrying a number of cannon toward Point Alderton, it was supposed, to erect a battery there, to stop the shipping going out; upon which Commodore Banks tho't it advisable to leave Nantasket Road immediately, with the transports there, which he did, after destroying the Light House.

Source: *Continental Journal and Weekly Advertiser* (Boston), Aug. 15, 1776, p. 3.

News Account of a Number of Transports from the Highland Fleet Sited Off Boston Harbor, Boston, June 23, 1776

BOSTON, June 27...

Tuesday last [June 18] arriv'd at Newbury-Port in about 10 Days from Halifax, Capt. Clarkson, who informs that General [Sir William] Howe with the Troops left that Place the 10th of June, their Destination kept a Secret; that no Vessel was suffer'd to sail from thence till 4 Days after...

Sunday Morning [June 23] were discover'd standing in for this Harbour, 12 or 13 Sail of Vessels, who have been plying on and off in a strange Manner ever since. We hope in our next to be able to give a good Account of them.

Source and Note: *Continental Journal and Weekly Advertiser* (Boston), June 27, 1776, p. 3. The fleet of 12 or 13 vessels were transports of the Highland fleet with a few men-of-war.

News Account of Capture and Re-capture of Highland Transport *Crawford*, New York, June 27, 1776

NEW-YORK, June 27...

The transport ship [*Crawford*] from Greenock, (having on board a company of the 42d [actually 71st] regiment) which was taken by one of [Rebel] Commodore [Esek] Hopkin's fleet [14-gun *Brig. Andrew Doria*], who after taking out the soldiers, except the officers and their wives, ordered her for New Port [Rhode Island], but was soon after re-taken by the [28-gun *HMS*] *Cerberus*, and under convoy of an armed sloop tender, sent for Sandy-Hook; on their way, (back of Long-Island) met with the Continental armed sloop, Schuyler, which took both the tender and ship, and bro't them into a place of safety. – The

ship had on board, when last taken, 80 butts of porter, &c. with five commissioned officers, two ladies, and four privates, who were brought to town on Tuesday last.

Source and Note: *Continental Journal and Weekly Advertiser* (Boston), July 4, 1776, p. 2. This article is partially incorrect in that the transport *Crawford* originally carried Capt. Norman MacLeod's company of the 71st Highlanders, not a company of the 42nd Regt. At the time it was taken the second time, it did carry officers of both regiments.

News Account of Status of Arrival of the Highland Fleet, New York, June – Aug. 1776

ACCOUNT of the EMBARKATION from CLYDE in April last.				
	<i>Ship's names</i>	<i>Captains</i>	<i>Commanders of the military on board</i>	<i>Last accounts</i>
42d reg.	Brilliant	M ^c Pherson	Col. [Thomas] Stirling	Arrived
	Thomas	Robertson	Maj. [William] Murray	Ditto
	Thames	Moodie	- [William] Grant	Ditto
	Minerva	Dunlop	- [Duncan] M ^c Pherson	Ditto
	Peggy, No. I,	Eason	Capt. [Charles] Grahame	Ditto
	Houston	M ^c Liesh	- [George] Mackenzie	No account
	Bowman	Taylor	- [Archibald] Erskine	Arrived
	Neptune	MacGurdie	- [John] M ^c Intosh	Ditto
	Oxford	Stewart	- [John] Smith	Taken
	Henry and Joseph	Tickell	Adjutant [Hugh Fraser] and Quartermaster [Colin Smith]	No account
	Globe	Harrison	Hospital	Ditto
	Columbus	Bell	Sir William Erskine	Ditto...
71 st reg.	Ann	Dennison	-Hamilton Maxwell	Taken...
	Ocean	Ewing	-J. Campbell's Company	No account
	Crawford	Maclean	-Norman MacLeod	Taken
	George	Bog	Col. Archibald Campbell	Ditto...
	Glasgow	Smith	Hospital	[No account]

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Sept. 6-10, 1776, p.1. Of the 42nd Regt. transports, only the *Oxford* was taken by the Rebel forces. This listing has one significant error. The transport *Glasgow* was not a hospital ship, but rather carried Capt. Charles Grant's company of the 42nd Regt. and arrived safely at Staten Island.



Detail of *The Honble Major General Charles Stuart*, 1794, J. Grozer, after George Romney

Picture Source: Courtesy of *Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection*, Brown University Lib.

Excerpts of Letter from Maj. Hon. Charles Stuart, 43rd Regt., to his Father the 3rd Earl of Bute, Reporting Passage to New York and Arrival of Only Six Transports from the Highland Fleet, Staten Island, New York, June 10-July 9, 1776

Staten Island, New York, July 9th, 1776

We left Halifax on the 10th June, and alter a very tedious passage arrived at Sandy Hook on the 29th June.

Preparations were immediately made for landing on Long Island and taking possession of a Hill which the enemy had strongly fortified – with judgment, as it commanded Brooklyn's Ferry and the town of New York.

As we knew there were a number of the Rebel Troops upon this Island, and that in all probability they would oppose our landing, it was thought necessary to land the army in three divisions, the first consisting of our Corps of Grenadiers, the Lt. Infantry, and First Brigade under the command of [Lt. Gen. Hugh] Ld. Percy, [Maj.] Gen. [James] Robertson, and Brigadier Gen. [Hon. Alexander] Leslie, with 8 pieces of cannon; the other Brigades were to land in the same order under their respective Generals.

Owing to representations made by General Robertson the plans were changed. We received orders to sail on the 1st July for this Island (instead of Long Island). Sandy Hook is just 6 miles from New York, and is itself a small sandy peninsula, very low, which forms a harbour in the Jerseys; in order to go to the town you must pass through a passage about a mile in breadth, formed by Long Island on the right and Staten Island on the left, on both sides very commanding ground, which we supposed they had fortified. This they call the Narrows.

On the 2nd July we passed them, convoyed by [44-gun HMS] Phoenix, [20-gun HMS] Rose, and [28-gun HMS] Greyhound Men of War. Fortunately we were deceived, the enemy had no cannon upon these posts; had they, we must have been annoyed most prodigiously, for the wind, not being favourable, we were three hours passing them. We were ordered to land at the Watering-place, which the Grenadiers and Lt. Infantry did without opposition, and remained the whole night under arms.

The next morning we were cantooned in the Villages, and the inhabitants received us with the greatest joy, seeing well the difference between anarchy and a regular mild government; it is supposed we shall stay here, making frequent excursions into the plains.

Our situation is by no means despicable; we are in the most beautiful Island that nature could form or art improve, we have everything we want, and six or seven deserters come every day either from Long Island or the Jerseys who bring intelligence that the rebels are very discontented, but there is no believing these poor deluded wretches.

They likewise say that [Lt. Gen. Sir Guy] Carleton's army is at Fort Edward, which is only 50 miles away from New York.

Only six Companies of the Highlanders are arrived, and from the manner they separated at sea we fear much for them; of those transports that were taken off Boston, one made resistance till Major [Robert] Menzies was killed and [Lt.] Col. [Archibald] Campbell and several officers of the 71st made prisoners...

The heat here is insufferable, and I fancy it is that that gives me violent pains in my stomach, which distresses me exceedingly. An active campaign will, I hope, cure me of it...

Source: *New Records of the American Revolution*, Sir Charles Stuart, L. K. Ashnor, London, 1927, pp. 9-10



Detail showing *Bomb Vessel Carcass* on the right from "View of the Racehorse and Carcass August 7th 1773, when inclosed in the ice in Lat. 80° 37'.N.," before 1800, after John Cleveley

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from UK *Nat. Maritime Museum*

News Account of the Last of the 42nd Regt. Transports Arriving Under Convoy of 8-gun *HMS Bomb Vessel Carcass*, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 15-18, 1776

"*London, Aug. 14* By an officer arrived in twenty-three days from Halifax, we are favoured with the following particulars...Between the 15th and 18th [of June] [Hessian Maj.] General [Johann Daniel Stirn] Stiern, with many other vessels, having on board the Hessians, the 42d and 71st regiments, under convoy of the Carcass bomb, put into Halifax for water. On the 19th Commodore [William] Hotham, with the greatest part of the fleet, was seen off the harbour, bearing down for Port Metreis; who sent in the same day the Brune frigate, to convoy thither all the ships ready for sea; which accordingly sailed the day following...This account includes every ship that sailed under convoy of Com. Hotham and the Glasgow fleet, except the Highlanders which joined [Adm.] Lord [Molyneux] Shuldham on the passage, and those taken prisoners."

Source: *Scots Magazine*, August 1776, pp. 424-425.



Detail showing *HMS Renown* from "The ship of the line, the "*Languedoc*" with masts broken by the storm the night of the 12th, attacked by an English warship the afternoon of Aug. 13, 1778," by Pierre Ozanne, 1778.

Picture Source: Lib. of Congress, Prints and Photographs Div.

Journal of Capt. Henry Duncan, 64-gun *HMS Eagle*, Records Link-up with 50-gun *HMS Renown* and a Part of 32-gun *HMS Flora*'s Convoy, Off Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 21, 1776

21st. – Off Halifax, with little wind and fog; fell in with the [*HMS*] *Renown*, Captain [Francis] Banks, from Boston, with a convoy of eight or nine sail, part of the [*HMS*] *Flora*'s convoy with [42nd Regt. and] Fraser's Highlanders.

Source: "Journals of Henry Duncan, Captain, Royal Navy, 1776-1782" in *Naval Miscellany*, Vol. I, Ed. John Knox Laughton, Printed for the Navy Records Society, 902, p. 115.

Excerpts of Journal of Ambrose Serle, Sec. to Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe, 64-gun *HMS Eagle*, Notes Linking up with 64-gun *HMS Renown* with Highland Transports from Boston and Entering Halifax Harbor, Nova Scotia, June 21-23, 1776

Friday, 21st. [June]

The calm still continued. About 3 P.M. fell in with the [50-gun *HMS*] *Renown*, Capt. [Francis] Banks, with 10 Sail of her Convoy, consisting of [42nd and 71st] Highlanders from Scotland. They parted with the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* Frigate, their proper Convoy, off [Isles of] Scilly, and came into Boston harbor, ignorant of the Evacuation of Boston by the King's Troops. From which Port Capt. Banks, when we fell in with the, about 5 or 6 Leagues [15-18 miles] from Cape Samborough [Sambro], was conveying them to Halifax to the Army under Gen^l. [Sir William] Howe...

Saturday, 22^d...

Off of Halifax, but the Weather being foggy, we dared not approach the Coast to get in. About 3 in the Afternoon we fell in with a Schooner [8-gun *HMS Dispatch*] off Chebucto Head. The Commander, a Lieutenant [Goodridge] in the navy, informed us, that Gen^l. Howe, with the Fleet & Army, had left Halifax several Day, and gone to N. York...

Sunday, 23^d. June.

The Fog clearing up, we advanced pretty far into the Mouth of Halifax harbor, where we lay all Day. The *Renown*, Capt. Banks, with her Convoy, also came in to get Water, &c... The Town is very irregularly & poorly built, and depends upon the Fleet & Arm for its principal Support. So large a Fleet & Army, as were lately there, drained the province of Provisions, & even the farmers' breeding Stocks... The harbor is certainly capacious, & said to be one of the finest & best in the World. We sailed out of the Harbor in a fine Evening...

Source and Notes: *The American Journal of Ambrose Serle Secretary to Lord Howe 1776-1778*, Ed. Edward H. Tatum, Jr., Huntington Lib., San Marino (Ca.), 1940, pp. 18-20. Gen. Sir William Howe had evacuated Boston on Mar. 17, 1776. "Scilly" refers to the Isles of Scilly, about 28 miles west of the coast of Cornwall, England.

Capt. John Skimmer, 6-gun Rebel Schooner *Franklin*, Reports Sighting of 32-gun *HMS Flora* and Highland Transports to Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward, East of Cape Ann, Massachusetts, June 22, 1776

on board the Schooner Franklin
Saturday Evening 6 Clock June 22^d 1776

Hon^d S^r

I have the pleasure to acquaint your Honnour that I gave Chase to three Sail of Topsail Vessels When after a very Short time Seven Sail more appeard Nine of them I take to be Transports the other a Frigatt as She has but her Topsails & Stay sails out, the others all the Sail they Can Carry am Now about 5 miles ESE from Cape Ann thought it my Duty to Send an Express to the agent to forward this to your honnour –

I Remain your honnours [&c.]
John Skimmer

P S / I Shall Keep as Near to them as possible I Can - The Frigatt Bearing from me NE Distance Two or three miles

Source: *Ward Papers*, Mass Historical Society in NDAR v.5, pp. 675-6.

Excerpts of Letter from Capt. Yoward, *Transport Mermaid* Carrying Company of the 71st Regt., Highland Fleet, Halifax, June 24, 1776

Extract of a letter from Capt. Yoward of the Mermaid transport, to his owners, dated Halifax, June 24, 1776.

‘We left Greenock the 29th of April, and having bad weather, parted with the fleet off Scilly the 4th of May; as my orders from the captain of the *Flora* frigate were, in case of a separation, to sail for Boston, I made the greatest dispatch in my power for that port. On my passage I picked up several transports, but by some accident or other parted with them all... On the 13th inst. we fell in with his Majesty’s ship *Milford*, from whence we learned that Boston was in the hands of the Provincials, and that General [Sir William] Howe had sailed for Halifax; but as a few of our transports were then lying at Boston bay under the protection of his majesty’s ship the *Renown*, Capt.[Francis] Banks, the *Milford* escorted us thither, where we arrived, or rather came within sight of it on the 14th of June, for the Provincials the night before had erected a battery on Long Island, and in the morning began playing on men of war and transports, whom they forced out to sea; we joined them, and arrived safe here yesterday evening... On the 22d of June we fell in with the *Lord Howe* (a single ship) who saw us safe into Halifax, as we parted with the *Renown*, and then, without entering the port of Halifax, stood out to sea, as we supposed to the southward.’

Source: *Remembrancer; or Impartial Repository of Public Events, Part II. For the year 1776*, Printed for J. Almon, London, 1776, Google Books, pp. 230-231.

News Report of Arrival of Transports from the Highland Fleet, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 25-July 6, 1776

Halifax, June 25, 1776. By some transports arrived from Nantasket road, we are informed, That some days before they left Nantasket, the rebels began some works, and erected a battery opposite to where the [50-gun *HMS*] *Renown*, Commodore [Francis] Banks, lay. The day before they sailed the enemy opened the said battery, and began to fire upon the *Renown*, and threw several shells. The day they sailed they observed the enemy carrying a number of cannon toward Port Alderton, it was supposed

to erect a battery there, to stop the shipping going out; upon which Commodore Banks thought it advisable to leave Nantasket road immediately, with the transports there, which he did, after destroying the light house...

Same place, July 8. on the 6th instant arrived at this port the following men of war, viz. the *renown*, the *Milford*, the *Tamar*, Capt. Mason, and the [8-gun *HMS*] *Carcass Bomb*, with 12 transports, all under convoy, who have met with heavy gales on their passage, and thick foggy weather; but mostly being stout ships, met with little or no damage. They all sailed to the southward this day.

Source: *Remembrancer; or Impartial Repository of Public Events, Part II. For the year 1776*, Printed for J. Almon, London, 1776, Google Books, pp. 235.

News Account of Arrival of 64-gun *HMS Renown* with Highland Transports from Boston, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 23, 1776

Extract of a letter from Capt. Wm. Rogers of the Ship Jelin, to his Owners, in this city, dated Halifax, July [June] 29.

“On Sunday last (the 23d inst.) arrived here the Yankee-Hero privateer...which was taken, after a smart engagement, by the [28-gun *HMS*] *Milford* frigate... The same day arrived the [*HMS*] *Renown* man of war, Commodore [Francis] Banks, who was stationed at the entrance of Boston harbour, in order to give notice to any transports, destined for that port, of it being in the hands of the Americans, from which place he brought, under convoy, several transports, with part of the regiment of Highlanders. One of the transports of the said regiment, was taken in the harbour, with two companies of the said regiment, was taken in the harbour, and carried to Boston.”

Source: *Chester Chronicle Or, Commercial Intelligencer*, Aug. 1, 1776, p.3.

Account of the Arrival of 64-gun *HMS Renown*'s Convoy from Boston, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 23, 1776

Extract of a letter from Plymouth, Aug. 2. “A letter was this day received by a gentleman of this place, from an officer on board his majesty's ship the *Reknown*, dated Halifax harbour, June 26, which mentions their being spoke with off that harbour the 23d, by [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe in the [64-gun *HMS*] *Eagle*, who, upon hearing that General [Sir William] Howe was gone to the southward, staid off the harbour's mouth till Commissioner Arbuthnot went off to him, and informed his Lordship of the General's destination, when he immediately made sail to join him, and ordered the *Reknown* into Halifax, to complete their provisions, &c. to four months, and then to join him immediately. General Howe's expedition is either against Rhode-island or Long-island, which they were not certain.

Source and Notes: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, August 9-13, 1776. Several transports of the 42nd Regt. were part of *HMS Renown*'s convoy.

Account of Arrival of 64-gun *HMS Renown*'s Convoy, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 23, 1776

Extract of a letter from Capt. Rogers, of the Ship John, dated Halifax, June 29.

On Sunday the 23d instant was brought in here the Yankee Hero American privateer of 18 carriage guns, and 10 swivels...by the [28-gun *HMS*] *Milford* frigate... The same day arrived the *Reknown* frigate which was left at Boston to protect such ships as might put in there, not knowing of the evacuation. Several transports came hither under her convoy, particularly with the Highlanders, one transport, with two companies, which were taken in Boston harbour.

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Aug. 9-13, 1776.

News Account of Arrival of Highland Transports, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 24, 1776

Extract of a letter from an officer at Hallifax to his friend at Edinburgh, June 24.

“In my last, of the 15th June, I acquainted you, that several of the transports, with the Highlanders from Clyde, were arrived, and that many were still missing, which it was greatly feared had fallen into the hands of the provincials. Since my last, however, they have mostly all arrived...”

Source: *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, Aug. 20, 1776, p. 4.

News Account of Last Group of 42nd and 71st Regts.’ Transports arriving at Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 25, 1776

“Halifax, June 25...”

Same day arrived several transports from Nantasket road, near Boston, having on board a number of Fraser’s [71st] highlanders [and 42nd], about 1000 of whom arrived here some time ago. – By the above vessels we are informed, that some days before they left Nantasket, the rebels began some works, and created a battery opposite to where the [50-gun *HMS*] *Renown*, Com. [Francis] Banks, lay. The day before they sailed, the enemy opened the said battery, and began to fire upon the *Renown*, and threw several shells. The day they sailed they observed the enemy carrying a number of cannon toward Point Alderton, it was supposed to erect a battery there, to stop the shipping going out; upon which Com. Banks thought it advisable to leave Nantasket road immediately, with the transports there; which he did after having destroyed the light-house.

Sources: *Scots Magazine*, August 1776, p. 425. The first portion of this report was also published in *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Aug. 20, 1776, p. 114.



Royal Governor of Virginia, John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore, 1765, by Sir Joshua Reynolds

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Scottish National Gallery

Excerpt of Letter from Royal Governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore to Lord George Germaine. Regarding the Capture of the *Transport Oxford*, Gywnn’s Island Harbor, Virginia, June 26, 1776

Ship Dunmore, in Gwin’s Island Harbour,
Virginia, June 26, 1776.

My Lord...

By the Virginia Gazette, which I have just now received, I am sorry to see that the Oxford transport from Glasgow, having on board two hundred and seventeen Highlanders, was taken by two of the Rebel armed vessels on their way here; they had been taken before to the northward, by one of the Rebel vessels, who disarmed them and took the officers from on board, and put eight of their own people on board to carry her into port, but the carpenter of the vessel formed a party and retook her from these eight, and was bringing her in here to me, when they were again most unfortunately retaken; of what service would they not have been to me here!

...I am, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,
Dunmore

To Lord George Germaine.

Source: *American Archives*, Series 5, Vol. 2, p. 162.

**Journal of Corp. Thomas Sullivan, 49th Regt., Describes the Arrival of
Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe's Fleet off New York, June 29 – July 4, 1776**

June 29th About 12 o'clock we saw land to the South West of us, and in a few hours came to Anchor at *Sandy-Hook* Bay, at the inside of the *Light-house*.

July 3^d. We sailed from the *Light-house* to Prince's Bay, above the *Narras* [Narrows], and landed on Staten-Island; y^e. *Rebels* were firing at the transports during the time they were passing the *Narras*, from the shore of *Long Island*...

July 4th...

A Short Description of Staten-Island

This island is 18 miles long and 12 miles broad; it is very fertile and abounds with great quantity of Fruit, especially *Apples*. The Inhabitants are mostly *Dutch* and *French* Families, whose *Ancestors* first settled here in the reign of *Queen Elizabeth* [1588-1603, New Amsterdam actually first settled in 1624]. There is no town of any Note on the island: It is well supplied with Wood; and produces great quantities of *Flax seed*... It lies to the Southard of New-York, about 7 miles distant by water. A River of a quarter of a mile broad, separates it from the Jerseys.

Source: *From Redcoat to Rebel, The Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 45-46.

**Letter from Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, to his Father, John Peebles,
Describing His Passage, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 29, 1776**

Halifax Harbour 29th June 1776

Dear Father

You will probably hear from M^r Arthur of our being here before you receive this, as I wrote him two days ago by a Ship for London about some business - We had upon the whole a very good Passage out being 6 weeks from Greenock to Boston Bay & pretty good weather except one hard Gale of Wind we had just in the Mouth of the Channel which lasted for two days & separated the whole fleet most of whom we have seen since - five sail of us kept together the whole passage & we picked up another about ten days before we made the land with these Six Sail we enter'd Boston Bay the 10th. We saw several Privateers about Cape Codd but they did not venture to come near us, When we came up near the Light House we met a frigate & Arm'd Brig coming out to meet us, and it was from them we had the first Accounts that the Fleet & Army had left Boston about the Middle of March & gone to Halifax, at which we were a good deal Supriz'd. We came to an anchor in Nantasket Road where we found the Renown a 50 gun ship on that Station and two transports of our fleet that came in that Morning & who were the first that arrived, we waited then some days waiting for more of our fleet to arrive, but on the 14th the

Provincials who had made a Battery on an island near hand us, began to fire on the Ships On which the Commodore order'd us to move out from the Shore & go further down, he fired a few of his lower Deck Guns at the Enemy & soon follow'd us – They then got some Guns mounted on another point of land opposite the Light House and fire at us from thence as long as we were within their reach, but it being a good distance off they did us no damage – The Commodore then order'd us to put to sea immediately under his Convoy for Halifax, we met three more of our fleet as we were coming out, who had engaged some privateers & beat them off, & the [28-gun *HMS*] Milford Man of war came time enough to their assistance to prevent any further Attacks - We Arrived here the 23^d inst^t and were again surprized to find the fleet & army were gone from this about a fortnight before & left a Garrison & some Ships here to Guard the place – no body knows for certain when the Army is gone to but all suppose they are gone to New York & we are making ready to follow them as fast as possible, we are to sail tomorrow under convoy of the [50-gun *HMS*] Renown & an Arm'd Brig, we are now 12 Sail of them that left the Clyde; One of the Hessian Transports arriv'd here yesterday who was parted from a fleet of 100 Sail about the 27th May bound for Rhode Island, where I suppose an expedition was intended - The inhabitants of this Province are ready to join the others if they don't and probably will if they get any Assistance – Several of the Provinces have drawn off all Dependence on Great Britain, taken down the flag & bid us all defiance, but I hope we will make them change their tune before long -

I am in very good health thank God & was not the least Sick all the Passage. Cap^t Dunlop is here and all well on board, I saw David the other day – There are no more of our ____ Captains here of our fleet but we imagine that most of them have fallen in with General [Sir William] How's fleet, we know some of them have already, but we hear very probable accounts that one or more of our Ships are taken by the Provincials. I hope ye are all well give my love to Bess & her Boys & compl^{ts} to all friends and I ever am Dear Father

Your Affectionate Son

J Peebles

Sunday 30th the Signal is made for weighing and we are just getting under sail. I leave this here to be sent by a Ship that is to go for England about a week longer hence – Bess my dear be so good as send the inclosed to the Post Office.

Source: NRS, Letter No. 1, John Peebles to his father, John Peebles, June 29, 1776, *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun* at GD 21/491.

Excerpt of Letter from Vice Adm. Molyneux Shulldham to Phillip Stephens, Secretary to the Lords of the Admiralty Reporting His Arrival and the Loss of Highland Fleet Transports and Enclosing the Rebel Log of Prize Ship *Crawford*; 50-gun *HMS Chatham*, Off Staten Island, New York, July 3, 1776

Chatham off Staten Island near
New York the 8th. July 1776.

Sir,

I am to acquaint you of my Arrival at this place with His Majesty's Ships under my Command and the whole Fleet of Transports, Victuallers, and Storeships, under their Convoy, fortunately without any loss or separation the 3rd. Instant, and that His Majesty's Troops under the command of General [Sir William] Howe were landed on that and the next day on Staten Island without any Opposition or interruption, the Inhabitants having immediately on our landing surrendered and put themselves under the protection of His Majesty's Arms...

I am sorry to find myself under the necessity of sending you the disagreeable Intelligence I received from Captain [John] Symons of His Majesty's Ship *Cerberus* whom I joined in my passage to this place, that Four Transports, part of the [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora*'s Convoy (two of them the *Crawford* and *Oxford*) had been taken in their passage by the Rebels, one of which was retaken by Captain Symons, but after the Troops had been removed out of her into one of the others; and in this Ship he found a Journal of the Prize Master [James Josiah], who was a Lieutenant of one of the Rebel Vessels [*Brig. Andrew Doria*]

which attack'd the Glasgow, and as an Account of that Action is mentioned in it, in justice to Captain Howe I transmit it to you for their Lordships and Your information...

I am Sir
Your most Obedient Servant,
M: Shuldham

Philip Stephens Esq^r.

Enclosure A

A Journal of a Cruse In the [14-gun] Brig Andrew Doria Nicholas Biddle Esq^r Commander from y^e Port of Philadelphia Began January 4th, 1776 ...

Week Days	Month Days		Course	Distance	Latitude In	Longitude In...	Remark's &c – 1776 – ...
Wednesday	29		N 42 E	103	41 .. 19	57 ..12	Fresh Breezes and Squally with Rain, At 4 A M Saw two Ships to y ^e . North'd, Made Sail and Haul'd, our Wind to y ^e . North'd, At 6 D ^o . Brought the Northermost too, a Ship from, Glasgow, bound to Boston with 100 Highland troops on Board & Officers, made her hoist her Boat out & the Cap ^t came on board, detain'd the Boat, till we Brought the other too, from Glasgow with y ^e . same number of troops, went on board and sent y ^e . Cap ^t . and four Men on board y ^e . Brig, receiv'd orders for sending, all the troops, on board y ^e . other ship and sent Prise master with Eleven Hands Sent all the Arms on board y ^e . Brig from both Ships, two Hundred & odd –
[Log of prize ship <i>Crawford</i>] Friday	31 st		S 77 W	113	40..35	59..56	Light airs & Calm all this 24 Hours, At 6 P M. gott all the Troops out on board y ^e . other Transport [<i>Oxford</i>], and made sail to y ^e . S W, The Brig & ship in Company, Thick foggy Weather-
Saturday June	1 st		S 68 W	80	40..05	61..33	Fresh Breezes & thick heazy Weather, attended with rain, all sail Convenient Sett, The Brig & ship in Company –
Sunday	2		N 44 W	70	40..56	62..35	Fresh Breezes and Clear Weather, the first part of this 24 Hours the Middle & Latter Moderate and Clear, all sail sett, the Brig & ship In Company –
Week Days	Month D	Winds	Courses	Distance	Lattitude In	Longitude In...	Remark's &c – 1776 –
Monday	3	S West	N 56 W	77	41..41	63..59	Light Breezes & Pleasent Weather the first Part of this 24 Hours the Middle & Latter fresh Breezes & Heazy, Hoisted y ^e . Yaul out & sent 1 Box of musket Carterages fild 1 Barrel Powder, ½ Barrel Ditto 1 Bell on board y ^e . Brig at 9 P M, Hoisted y ^e . Yaul in, and made Sail in Company with y ^e .

							Brig & Ship, at 4 A. M. H ^d . T G Sails
Tuesday	4	Variable	N 58 W	68	42..17	65..17	Fresh Breezes & Heazy Weather with a Long Swell from y ^e . Westward, At 6 A M. Sett Top gallant sails, & staysails, The Brig & ship in Company
Wednesday	5 th	Northerly	S 25 W	131	40..18	66..30	Fresh Breezes & dark Weather the first part of this 24 Hours the Middle & latter Moderate Breezes & Squally Weather, at Meridian Single reef'd y ^e . Top sails, and Tack'd to y ^e . South ^d , y ^e . Brig and Ship in Company –
Thursday	6	Northerly	West	70	40..19	68..02	Fresh Breezes & thick foggy Weather the first Part of this 24 Hours the Middle & latter Fresh gales & Clear. At 12 M Night, Shorten ^d sail & Hove to under Double reef'd Topsails with our head to y ^e . Eastward, at 4 A M made sail with y ^e . Brig and ship
Friday	7	S West	N 36 W	38	40..49	68..31	Moderate Breezes & Clear Weather, at 6 P M. sent a new M T G Yard up and sett the sail, find a Strong Current setting to y ^e . North ^d . and East ^d .
Saturday	8	Variable from S W to N W	West	24	40..49	69..02	Light airs and Clear the first part of this 24 Hours the Middle & Latter Fresh Breezes and Squally with rain, at 9 A M Handed T G Sails at 10 D°. Single Reef'd y ^e . Topsails, the Brigg & Ship in Company –
Sunday	9	N West	S 66 W	81	40..17	70..37	Fresh Breezes & Squally with heavy rain the first part of this 24 Hours. y ^e . Latter fresh Breezes and Clear at 8 P M Wore Ship to y ^e . South ^d .. At 2 A M Sounded no Bottom with a Hundred fathom of Line, at 10 D°. out reefs & sett Jibb & Staysails the Brig & ship in Company –
Monday	10	N W	South	100	38..37	70..37	Fresh Breezes & Squally With rain the first part of this 24 Hours the Latter Light airs & Calm, At 8 P M sett y ^e . Topsails, At 12 M N, Sett Jibb & stay sails, At 4 A M, out all reefs of y ^e . Topsails –
Tuesday	11	Variable	N 29 W	52	39..22	71..00	Moderate Breezes & heazy Weather the first part of this 24 Hours the Fresh Breezes & Squally At 4 A M saw five Sail to y ^e . N West of us Bore down to y ^e . Brig & spoke her she advis'd me to stand to ye. South'd & Westward y ^e . other Ship [<i>Oxford</i>] to y ^e . Westward at 8 D°. finding They did not come up with us hauld our Wind to y ^e . W S W at 11 D°. bore Down to y ^e . Brig the

							ships hauld there Wind to y ^e . Westward and the Brig to y ^e . Eastward, the Oxford stood in to y ^e . Westward & lost sight of her.
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Source: *The Despatches of Molyneux Shuldham, Vice-Admiral of the Blue and Commander-in-Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Ships in North America, January 6 – July 1776*, Ed. Robert Wilden Neeser, Naval History Society, New York, 1913, pp. 272- 305. The author of the log uses the word “y^e” for the word “the” by utilizing the old English letter “thorn” which looks like a modern “y” and gives the sound “th.”

News Account of Vice Adm. Molyneux Shuldham's Arrival with Companies of the 42nd Regt., Staten Island, New York, July 3, 1776

“Admiralty-Office, Aug. 10. By a letter received this day from Vice-Adm. Lord Shuldham, dated Staten island near New York, the 8th of July last, it appears that his Lordship arrived there on the 3d of that month, with his Majesty's ships under his command, and the whole fleet of transports, victuallers, and storeships under his convoy, without any loss or separation; that his Majesty's troops under the command of Gen. [Sir William] Howe were landed, on that day and the next, upon Staten Island, without any opposition or interruption, the inhabitants having immediately on the troops landing, surrendered, and put themselves under the protection of his Majesty's arms...”

Source: *Scots Magazine*, Aug. 1776, p. 424.



Detail of Portrait of Gen. George Washington, 1776, by Charles Willson Peale

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from the Brooklyn Museum

Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Gen. George Washington to Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward, Reporting Arrival of Halifax Fleet and Requesting Shipment of Captured Muskets from the Highland Transports, New York, July 1, 1776

Sir

New York, July 1st 1776

...A Fleet has arrived at the Hook which we suppose to be Gen^l [Sir William] Howe's, having rec^d authentic Intelligence of his sailing from Hallifax on the 9th Ult^o. [June], with 132 sail. One hundred & Ten came in on Saturday, more were in the Offing and a few had got in two or three days before. We expect he will make an Attack, as soon as possible, and I am making every Preparation to receive him – As we are extremely deficient in Arms here, and in great distress for want of them I shall be glad if you will send all of those taken from the Highlanders which you conceive can be possibly spared. Let them be

sent immediately to Norwich to the persons there who were Entrusted with the Others, with directions to forward them without delay by Water, if there shall be no Risk; if there is, by Land...

I am, &c GW...

P.S... I have heard nothing more of the other Three Hundred Carbines – they are not yet arrived.
Gen^l Ward:

Source and Note: George Washington to Artemas Ward, July 1, 1776, *The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799*. Series 2 Letterbooks, Images 210-211. The “Carbines” mentioned in the note are actually the .75 Cal., 42-inch barrel Short Land Model flintlock muskets issued to the Highland Regiments and not .65 Cal. British carbines.



Detail showing 50-gun *HMS Renown* from “*The ship of the line, the “Languedoc” with masts broken by the storm the night of the 12th, attacked by an English warship the afternoon of Aug. 13, 1778*” by Pierre Ozanne, 1778.

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from Lib. of Congress, *Prints and Photographs division*

Letter from Capt. Francis Banks, 50-gun *HMS Renown*, to Vice Adm. Molyneux Shuldham, Explaining Reasons for Departing with Highland Transports, Nantasket Road, Near Boston, July 2, 1776

My Lord

Renown in Gravesend Bay 27th Novem^r 1776.

I have received your Lordship’s Letter of the 25th Instant, inclosing an Extract of a Letter from [Adm. Richard] Lord Viscount Howe (in consequence of a Letter from Lord George Germain to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty) Noting that he is directed by their Lordships to inquire into the Cause of the Capture of Two Transports with part of the Highland Troops onboard, which were carried into Boston without any interruption by any of His Majesty’s Ships, and that the late advices from Halifax mentioned the Arrival there of the Renown and [28-gun *HMS*] Milford, two of the Ships Stationed in the Bay of Boston under my Orders; and your Lordship directing me to furnish you with the Copies of all the Orders I have issued to the Captains of His Majesty’s Ships and Vessels put under my Command while upon that Service, together with the cause of the Renown and Milford proceeding to Halifax, as well as all other necessary information which has fallen under my knowledge on the above Subject. In answer thereto, I herewith inclose to Your Lordship Copies of all the Orders I have given to the Captains you left under my Command, which I hope will meet your Approbation; and with respect to my proceeding to Halifax, I must beg leave to inform your Lordship that I left Nantasket Road principally for want of

Provisions, having onboard not above one Months for my Ships Company, and the Troops at the Light House which I was obliged to support, and having with me to the Amount of about Thirty Sail of Transports with Highland Troops, and Stores, in a similar Condition, and not knowing when I should have a Supply; I thought it right, for the good of the Service, to take them under Convoy, and with the Hope which was likewise in the same Condition to proceed to Halifax, leaving the Milford which I had completed with Provisions for one Month, under Orders to Cruize in the Bay as long as it would admit her to do so with propriety. The Rebels having been employed after the Arrival of the Highland Troops, in Erecting Works on every spot from which they could annoy us, and in all probability of itself would have soon obliged me to evacuate that place, as I found from the high situation of their works, my Shot against them could do no execution; I must likewise beg leave to remark to your Lordship that during the time the Renown lay at Nantasket she was so exceedingly sickly that for some time I had but two Men to a Gun, and never had less than Sixty or Seventy Men on shore at the Hospital on George's Island which I was obliged to protect, And that in the whole time was never joined by any of the Ships and Vessels put under my Command but the Milford and Hope, and the Lively for some little time which Ships were constantly employed Cruizing in the Bay, and saved a Number of Victuallers and other Vessels from falling into the hands of the Rebels. The two Transports which your Lordship mentions with Highland Troops were taken after I left Nantasket Road, and which I consequently knew nothing of. That there was a Ship carried into Boston there is no doubt, but she was taken a great distance from me, and I never saw her till she came thro' the Sound, which your Lordship is sensible must be totally out of my power to prevent, as none of the Ships then under my Command were near me at that time. I am [&c.]

F: Banks.

Source and Notes: TNA, *Admiralty: Letters from Commander-in-Chief, North America* at ADM 1/487 from NDAR, Vol. 7, pp. 305-306. The captured transports were *George* and *Annabella* carrying companies of the 71st Highlanders.

Excerpt of Letter from Adm. Marriot Arbuthnot to Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe, Reporting the Sailing of the Remains of the Highland Fleet For New York Under Convoy of 50-gun *HMS Renown*, Halifax, July 2, 1776

Copy/
My Lord,

Halifax, 6 July 1776

Since the Letter I did myself the honor of writing to your Lordship by the *Renown*, who sailed on the 2^d Ins^t. with a Convoy of fifteen Sail of Transports, containing Highlanders, Hessians & Guards; The [32-gun *HMS*] *Brune* Cap^t [James] Ferguson arrived from Comm^o. [William] Hotham at this place on the same day...

I am &c

Lord Viscount Howe &c &c &c

M^t. Arbuthnot

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Admiralty* at CO 5/125, f. 115.

Excerpt of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, Records Departure of Twelve Highland Transports from Halifax, Nova Scotia, July 3, 1776

Wednesday 3^d. July a Wet & foggy morning so thick we could not see the Town, sent our long boats for water got one load by noon & sent her off again – the wind coming about the westward & clearing up the Como: [Commodore, Capt. Francis Banks, 50-gun *HMS Renown*] made a signal for sailing about 3 O.M. the fleet got all under way immediately & stood out to sea about 22 or 23 sail (the *Renown* & an arm'd schooner) 12 of Highlander. 4 of Guards & Hessians the rest private merch^t. men following the army with stores, &^{ca}...

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry July 3, 1776 also published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa.), 1998, p. 42.

**News Account of the Sailing of the Remaining Transports of the Highland Fleet,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, July 3, 1776**

From the NOVA SCOTIA GAZETTE...

Halifax...

July 9,. Wednesday last [July 3] sailed his Majesty's ships [50-gun *HMS*] Renown and [28-gun *HMS*] Milford, and a large number of transports with troops, &c. on board...

Source and Note: *Ipswich Journal*, Aug. 17, 1776, p. 2. Several transports sailed with Gen. Howe in June. These transports had sailed to the original destination of Boston harbor and were escorted to Halifax by the warships. Adm. Arbutnot's letter, above, indicated the fleet sailed on July 2.

**News Account of Arrival of 50-gun *HMS Renown*, 28-gun *HMS Milford*
and Highland Transports from Boston; Halifax, Nova Scotia, July 6, 1776**

Yesterday the following advice was received from Halifax, dated July 9. "On the 6th instant arrived at this port the following men of war, Viz. the Renown, the Milford, the [16-gun sloop, *HMS*] Tamar, Capt. Mason, and the [8-gun *HMS*] carcass bomb, with 12 transports, all under their convoy, who have met with very heavy gales on their passage, and thick foggy weather; but they mostly being stout ships met with little or no damage; and had orders to sail to the Southward with all expedition. We have just received advice of another large fleet being spoke with within four days sail of this place.'

Source and Note: *London Evening Post*, Aug. 13-15, 1776, p. 3. The article is slightly in error on dates as the fleet sailed for New York on July 2.

**Excerpt of Letter No. 18 from Commander-in-Chief, North America, Gen. Sir William
to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department,
Reporting Arrival of 42nd Regt. Companies, Staten Island, New York, July 7, 1776**

N^o. 18

7th July 1776

My Lord

The Mercury Packet is dispatched to inform your Lordship of the Arrival of the Halifax Fleet on the 29th June at Sandy Hook, where I had arrived four Days sooner in the Grey Hound Frigate... passing the Narrows with three Ships of war and the first Division of transports, landed the grenadiers and Light Infantry as the Ships came up to the great Joy of a most loyal People, long suffering on that Account under the Oppression of the Rebels...

Vice Admiral [Molyneux] Shuldham was joined on his Voyage by six Transports belonging to the Highland Corps, having three Companies of the 42^d and three of the 71st on board. There is no other Intelligence of this Embarkation, excepting an Account published in the New York Papers, that two Transports of the Fleet were taken by the Enemy's Privateers and carried into Boston, that Major [Robert] Menzies was killed in the Engagement, and Lieu^t Col^o. [Archibald] Campbell of the 71st made Prisoner, with fifteen other officers and about 450 Men. Sir William Erskine is among those that are absent.

...and I have the Honor to be,

Your Lordships faithful and most obedient Servant

W. Howe

The Right Hon^{ble} Lord George Germain

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches* at CO 5/93, ff. 214-216. The Halifax fleet carried Gen. Howe's army that had evacuated Boston in Mar. 1776 along with new troops arriving from Great Britain.



Reproduction 71st (Fraser's) Highland Regt. Officer's Uniform Button

Letter from Officer of the 71st (Fraser's) Highland Regt. Describes Voyages from Greenock, Scotland, and Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Arrival of Three 42nd Regt. Transports, Staten Island, New York, July 3, 1776

Extract of a letter from an officer of the 71st regiment to his friend in Edinburgh, dated Staten Island July the 8th, 1776.

"We have at last landed in this country. After sailing from Greenock, the fleet parted from the convoy in eight days. The transports, having on board Major [John] M'Donald, capt. [Lt. Charles] Cameron, [Duncan] Chisholm, of our regiment, and col. [Thomas] Stirling, Major [William] Murray, and capt. [Archibald] Erskine, of the royal Highlanders, were, on the 4th of June, within 60 miles of Boston, where a ship of war informed us of the evacuation of Boston, by the king's troops, and that they sailed for Halifax; upon which we sailed after them, and arrived there just as general [Sir William] Howe was setting out for New York. We joined them with 150 sail, and on the third of July landed within eight miles of New York, where we are all stationed in different parts of the island. New York is very strongly fortified, and from what we can learn, there are 30,000 men there and at Long Island together. I am appointed a quartermaster by major M'Donald, and we are chiefly employed in getting ammunition and stores for the army. A brother of capt. Small is made brigadier major, and is held in great esteem here."

Source: *Saunders's News-Letter* (Dublin), Aug. 26-28, 1776, p. 1.



"A depiction of the Second Continental Congress voting on the United States Declaration of Independence," circa 1784 to 1801,

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Historical Society of Pennsylvania*

Rebel Congress Declares Independence from Great Britain; Philadelphia, July 4, 1776

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION *by the* REPRESENTATIVES *of the* UNITED STATES *of* AMERICA
in GENERAL CONGRESS assembled

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great-Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our Legislatures.
He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power.
He has combined with others, to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock trial from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our consent:

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefit of trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighbouring province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable laws and altering fundamentally the forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be FREE and INDEPENDENT STATES, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE and INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

Signed by order and behalf of Congress.

JOHN HANCOCK, President

Attest: CHARLES THOMPSON, Secretary

Source: *Pennsylvania Packet* (Philadelphia), July 8, 1776, p. 1.



View of the Narrows between Long Island & Staaten Island with our fleet at anchor & Lord Howe coming in-taken from the height above the Water^s. Place Staaten Island. 12th July 1776, by Archibald Robertson

Picture Source: Digital Collection, *New York Public Library*.

News Account of Arrival of Highland Fleet Transports, Staten Island, New York, July 9, 1776

EDINBURGH...

Extract of a letter from Staten Island, dated 9th July, to a gentleman in Liverpool.

“We took possession of this island, three or four days since, without firing a shot: The rebels immediately quitted it, or rather before we landed. We only wait for the arrival of [Adm. Richard] Lord Howe, to proceed to conquer the rebels. Thank God, both the army and fleet join hand in hand, and no forces were ever better inclined to attack them... We have plenty of fresh provisions. The island is about 18 miles long, and the broadest part about 8 miles.”

In our paper of Saturday last, we mentioned, that [Commander in Chief] General [Sir William] Howe had received certain advice of [Lt.] General [John] Burgoyne’s having crossed all the Lakes, and penetrated as far on his route to New-York as Fort Edward. We are happy to inform our readers, that this account is now confirmed by letters dated 7th and 8th of July, from Brigadier Sir William Erskine of Fraser’s [71st] Highlanders, and Lieutenant-Colonel [Thomas] Stirling and Captain Archibald Erskine of the 42d, who have all joined General Howe at Staten Island. Fort Edward is within one hundred miles of New York; and it was expected, that by the time General Howe should be joined by the fleet under Lord Howe, which was daily looked for, they had no doubt but general Burgoyne would be on the back of New York.

These letters, and a dozen others, mention the wanton insolence of the rebels to their prisoners: That they use the private men very ill, and carry the officers round in procession to the tune of the rogue's march. Every dog has his day; theirs, we hope, is near over.

Source: *Caledonian Mercury* (Edinburgh), Aug. 20, 1776, p. 4.

**Letter from Officer Reporting Arrival of Officers of the 42nd Regt., Staten Island,
New York, July 8, 1776**

Extract of a letter from an officer at Staten Island, to his friend in Edinburgh, dated July 8.

"We arrived here safe, and very agreeably situated. The number we have is about 8000 men, all in good health and high spirits. The only officers of the 42d. that are arrived [Lt.] Col. [Thomas] Stirling, Major [William] Murray, and Capt. [Archibald] Erskine. Three transports of [Maj. Gen. Simon] Fraser's [71st Highland Regt.] are arrived here. Some transports of Fraser's have been unluckily been taken by the rebels; and we are sorry to learn, the men are ill used, being sent through towns as a show, amidst the insults of the populace."

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Aug. 16, 1776, p. 108.

**News Account of the Arrival of Three Transports of the 42nd Regt., Staten Island, New York,
July 8-9, 1776**

EDINBURGH...

By letters from Staten island dated 8th and 9th July, we learn the following six transports from Clyde, with part of the 42d and 71st regiments are arrived, there, viz. The Clementina, [Capt.] Crawford; Thomas, [Capt.] Robertson; Bowman, [Capt.] Taylor; Brilliant, [Capt.] M^cPherson; Jeanie, [Capt.] Muir; and the Milham, [Capt.] Johnston.

Source and Notes: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Aug. 23, 1776, p. 125. The report was also carried in *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, Aug. 23, 1776, p. 4. The second name shown after the transport is the captain of the transport. The transports carried the following companies: Clementina – Maj. John MacDonnell, 71st; Thomas – Maj. William Murray, 42nd; Bowman – Capt. Archibald Erskine, 42nd; Brilliant – Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42nd; Jeanie – Capt. Duncan Chisholm, 71st; Milham – Lt. Charles Cameron, 71st.

Scots Magazine Account of Staten Island, July 8-9, 1776

Staten island is... about nine miles northwest of New York city. It is about eighteen miles long, and at a medium, six or seven in breadth. On the south side is a considerable tract of good level land; but the island is in general rough and the hills high. The inhabitants are principally Dutch and French...

Source: *Scots Magazine*, Aug. 1776, pp. 424.



Reproduction 44th Regt. Uniform Button

**Letter from Volunteer in 44th Regt. with Account of Arrival of 42nd Regt. Transports,
Staten Island, July 15, 1776**

The following copy of a letter we were favoured with from Ireland, but leave our readers to form their own opinion on its authenticity...The Nancy victualler...has just arrived here in twenty-four days from New York, and brought many letters for this place: the following I received from my cousin German who went a volunteer in the 44th regiment last year... “Dear Jack...On the eleventh [July 1776] we were joined by [Adm. Lord [Richard] Howe, in the [64-gun *HMS*] Eagle; on the fifteenth, by the [32-gun *HMS*] Flora frigate, and nineteen transports from Glasgow, with the remainder of the 42d and 71st regiments of Highlanders; six companies having joined us before, and five companies being as we here carried into Boston...the whole army was put in motion on the 24th, when we encamped on the north end of Staten Island, where we had a full view of New-York, and the rebel entrenchments which appeared very formidable and lined with cannon, as we could plainly see with our glasses.

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Sept. 13, 1776, p. 107. There were a total of 33 transports in *HMS Flora*'s fleet. This letter account for only 30 of the transports. The last three would arrive at Staten Island in early Aug. 1776. A “cousin German” means a legitimate cousin.

**News Account of Transports of 42nd and 71st Regiments at Boston Harbor and Halifax;
Edinburgh, July 19, 1776**

EDINBURGH...

Extract of another letter from London, July 19.

“Captain White, just arrived from Halifax; gives the following accounts; which may be depended upon.

“All the transports with [Gen.] Lord John Murray's [42nd] and [Maj. Gen. Simon] Fraser's [71st] Highlanders went to Boston harbour, excepting one ship, which had parted with the convoy at sea, and was directed by a sloop of war to proceed to Halifax; that ship arrived on the 7th, and sailed with General [Sir William] Howe; the rest of the transports arrived from Boston at Halifax, where they were to take in fresh water, and immediately follow General Howe.

Source and Notes: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, July 23, 1776, p. 53. Capt. White was only partially correct. Besides the 42nd Regt. transport *Bowman*, which arrived early as described, six transports of the 33 ships with the Highlanders joined Gen. Howe on the way to New York. A number of transports were captured at sea and at Boston, and the remainder arrived at Halifax after the departure of Gen. Howe. These transports later arrived at Staten Island on Aug. 6. Only one transport of the 42nd Regt. was taken, the *Oxford*, carrying Capt. John Smith's Company.

**Excerpt of the Journal of Ambrose Serle, Sec. to Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe, Records
Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe's Arrival in *HMS Eagle* with Ten Highland Transports
Off Staten Island, New York, July 12, 1776**

Friday, 12th.

...We passed Sandy Hook in the Afternoon, and about 6 o'Clock arrived safe off the east Side of Staten Island. The Country on both Sides was highly picturesque and agreeable. We were saluted by all the Ships of war in the harbour, by the Cheers of the Sailors all along the Ships, and by those of the Soldiers on the Shore...

Source: *The American Journal of Ambrose Serle Secretary to Lord Howe 1776-1778*, Ed. Edward H. Tatum, Jr., Huntington Lib., San Marino (Ca.), 1940, p. 28.

**Excerpt of the Journal of Ambrose Serle, Sec. to Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe, Records
Arrival of Additional Highland Transports, Staten Island, New York, July 21, 1776**

Sunday, 21st.

No divine Service this Morning, because of watering the Ship [64-gun *HMS Eagle*]. I first espied the Signal Flag at the Light house for more than 5 Ships; and, in a few Hours, 7 Transports laden with

Highlanders came into the Harbor. About 900 were on board. The [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* Frigate, w^{ch} should have conveyed them, and another Transport, parted Company from them off Boston a Fortnight since. A Lieutenant [Henry], on board one of the Transports, had great Merit in bringing them in. They had a Passage of 12 Weeks from Greenock.

Source: *The American Journal of Ambrose Serle Secretary to Lord Howe 1776-1778*, Ed. Edward H. Tatum, Jr., Huntington Lib., San Marino (Ca.), 1940, p. 39.



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

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

Journal of Capt. Henry Duncan, 64-gun *HMS Eagle*, Reports Arrival of Part of 32-gun *HMS Flora*'s Highland Fleet, Off the Watering Place, Staten Island, New York, July 21, 1776

21st, Sunday. – This afternoon Lieutenant Henry arrived here with seven sail of transports, part of the *Flora*'s convoy. They lost her three weeks since in Boston Bay. Four or five sail of this convoy arrived in Boston the day after Captain Banks, in the [50-gun *HMS*] *Renown*, left it, and not knowing that Boston was evacuated by the King's troops, they fell into the hands of the rebels after an obstinate engagement.

Source: "The Journals of Henry Duncan, Captain, Royal Navy, 1776-1782" in *Naval Miscellany*, Vol. I, Ed. John Knox Laughton, Navy Records Society, London, 1902, p. 119.



Detail of Lt. Gen. Sir William Erskine, Early 1800's, by Samuel William Reynolds, after Richard Cosway

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *National Portrait Gallery*, London

42nd Grenadier Lt. John Peebles' Account of Learning Some Highland Transports had been Captured by Rebel Ships, *Transport Thames*, July 21, 1776

Sunday 21st July...The [32-gun *HMS*] Flora spoke us, [Lt. Col.] Sir W^m Erskine [71st Highland Regt.] ask'd for [Brevet] Maj^r [William] Grant [42nd Grenadiers] say they hear bad accounts of some of our Transports, but hopes it is not true.

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry July 21, 1776 also published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa.), 1998, p. 48.

Journal of Engineer Extraordinary and Capt. Lt. Archibald Robertson Notes Arrival of Transports of the 42nd and 71st Regiments, Staten Island, New York, July 23 and Aug. 4, 1776

[July] 23^d 7 Sail of highlanders Arrived, between 7 and 800 men...

[August] 4th about 20 Sail come in a few Guards, Hessians, and Highlanders...

Source: *Archibald Robertson, Lieutenant-General Royal Engineers, His Diaries and Sketches in America*, Ed. Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, New York, 1930, pp. 91-92.

Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Gen. George Washington to the Continental Congress, Reporting the Arrival of Highland Transports, New York, July 23, 1776

New York July the 23^d 1776

Sir...

The Ships mentioned in my Letter of the 21st to have been in the Offing, got in that day, and are supposed to be part of the Scotch fleet, having landed some Highlanders Yesterday...

I have &c

Hon^{ble} John Hancock

GW

Source: "George Washington to Continental Congress, July 23, 1776," *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 2 Letterbooks, Images 27-28.

Eyewitness Accounts of 42nd Regt. Camp, Staten Island, July, 1776

From a conversation with Captain Blake, March 15th, 1851: He was about 13 years old when the British landed. It was three or four days before any of them were seen where he lived...All the vacant buildings were occupied by them...The Forty-second Regiment lay in Bodine's orchard. They were Scotch and wore the Highland uniform...

Captain Blake said: Bodine's mill was the third one erected on that spot. During the war the Scotch Forty-second regiment was quartered in Dongan's orchard.

Interview with Mrs. Bird, (ninety-one years of age), November 22d, 1851: She was fifteen years old when the British landed. They landed mostly at Van Buskirk's dock. The first she saw of the British was a body of Highlanders, who came marching up into the Clove, (where she was living), from the direction of Van Duzer's Ferry, in quest of lodging. Some of them were quartered in her father's barn. She lived with her adopted father, Thomas Seaman, whose house at that time was the first one on the left, as you turn out of the Clove road into the little Clove...

Source: *Morris's Memorial History of Staten Island, New York, Volume I*, Ira K. Morris, Memorial Publishing Company, New York, 1898, Google Books, pp. 239, 248, 312-313. Bodine's orchard was located at West New Brighton on the north end of the island.



Maj. James Stirling, 42nd Regt., in detail of 1805 engraving *The Death of General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K.B.* by Francis Legat after 1802 painting by Thomas Stodhard, Republished by R. Bowyer & M. Parkes, 1828.

Source: Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, Brown Univ.

**Letter from Sgt. James Stirling, 42nd Regt., to Mr. Fagan, Describing Voyage from Scotland;
Staten Island, New York, July 30, 1776**

Copy

Staten Island 30 July

M^r Fagan

This comes to acquaint you that I am well at present blessed be God for it, I hope this will you and family in the same, we were five days sailing from Greenock [Scotland] till by a great storm of wind our Fleet was parsed [separated] from one another and our ship [*Transport Brilliant*] and other six & joined [Adm. Richard] Lord Howes fleet at Halifax [Nova Scotia] six weeks after we left Greenock, but we got an onset by a privateer before we joined Lord Howe and would fought her altho' we had nothing but small arms but she was more afraid than us for she would fain attacked us but when she came near and seeing us all under arms she sheered off again, and we saw her no more till we saw her a prize by one of our own Frigates in the harbour, when we came within sight of this Island, as soon as the Yankees saw the fleet knowing it was the Royal Highlanders that was in it they would not shag upon our landing but got off to the Jerseys that very night we landed for they would see the Devil as see us, there is two of our Frigates [20-gun *HMS Rose* and 44-gun *HMS Phoenix*] gone up the [North] river and has taken thereby prizes loaded with provisions and ammunition for the Yankees but I think it answers us as well as them, there was other ten taken and brought into the Harbour the other day and I believe they in a little will hardly leave then a fishing Canoe, when we landed we took so many of them prisoners & they are deserting the Yankees every day & coming in to us for they think nothing to swim the rivers with their arms on their back. They are very clever men of person but very naked of Cloaths so again winter comes on they will be starving both for cloathes and Victuals, our Army left Boston not thinking it worth while to stay any longer in it, and had we not by chance met with one of our own men of war that told us our fleet was gone for Halifax we would have been taken as one of our transports [*Oxford*] and two [actually five] of [Maj. Gen. Simon] Frazers [71st Highland Regt.] was which we are very sorry for, Captain [John] Smith belonging to us and his company was taken, they are taking our prisoners & drumming them through New York every day because they will not join them and learn their exercise [drill] but they will not do it they would have Cap^t: Smith to drink confusion to the King and his Armies but he drank success to and prosperity to the King and his Armies both by sea and land, 300 that was taken offered to fight 600 for their liberty and they would not, the Hessians is arrived here and is very clever men and a great many of them can catch balls as they are fired from the gun and put the balls into their pocket for they are brought up at the school of black art now when they [the rebels] see such armies coming against them they are losing heart, they have sent a flag of truce but I believe there is no regard paid to it, for I believe burning and slaying will be their fortune if they come not into our measures, it is prodigious warm here for we are not able to wear our cloaths for the heat, and the thunder & lightning is awful that if the like was to be heard in Scotland you would imagine it was the last day for there hardly a day passes without it and seldom rains with it but when is along with it you never saw any thing equal to it and it is so heavy does not last long the fruits of all kinds is very plenty however we think no on one of the apples than to make stone fights with one another for our diversion so I hope again matters be settled that I shall have a plantation of my own and be equal with some of your Glasgow Merchants

Signed James Stirling

NB this is not Collonel [Thomas] Stirling but Serjeant Stirling of the 42^d

Source: *Microfilm copies of original eighteenth century manuscripts belonging to Sir Mark Dalrymple, Bart.*, No. 506, reel M-552 (Originals in possession of National Library of Scotland.), Univ. of Virginia Alderman Library. An excerpt of this letter was published in *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Sept. 27, 1776, pp. 205-206 and *Caledonian Mercury*, Edinburgh, Sept. 28, 1776, p. 2.

Journal of Corp. Thomas Sullivan, 49th Regt., Records the Arrival of the 42nd Highlanders, Staten Island, New York, Aug. 1-6, 1776

August 1st... The 42^d. Regiment, or Royal Highlanders came also, being 1000 strong: But three [actually only one] Companies of them were taken Prisoners by the *Enemy* on the Passage. Fraziers Young Highlanders, or 71st Regiment, which were 2500 strong came in the same *Fleet*.

August 20th... The 42^d. Regiment was made into two Battalions, under the [overall] command of Lieu^t. Colonel [Thomas] *Stirling* and Major [William] *Murray*. [1st Bn. Commanded by Maj. Murray, 2nd by Brevet-Maj. William Grant]. The 71st. [Highland] Regiment commanded by Lieu^t. Colonel *Sir William Erskine*, was made into three *Battalions*.

Source and Note: *From Redcoat to Rebel, the Thomas Sullivan Journal*, Ed. Joseph Lee Boyle, Heritage Books, Bowie (Md.), 1997, pp. 46-48. Gen. Howe's Order to split the large 42nd Regt. into two provisional battalions was issued from Dyker's ferry, Staten Island on Aug. 6, 1776.

News Account of British Order of Battle, Staten Island, Aug. 1, 1776

EDINBURGH

We have been favoured with the following authentic Order of Battle, of the Troops at Staten Island, as settled by a Council of war.

Four [actually 3] Battalions Light Infantry – Brigadier [Alexander] Leslie – Musgrave – Straubenzee – Maitland – Johnstone	BRITISH ORDER OF BATTLE, STATEN-ISLAND, August 1st, 1776.		
	His Excellency GENERAL HOWE, COMMANDER in CHIEF. Four Battalions Light Infantry – Brigadier-General Leslie – Musgrave – Straubenzee - Maitland - Johnstone		
	FIRST LINE, LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CLINTON		
	<i>First Brigade</i>	<i>Second Brigade</i>	<i>Fifth Brigade</i>
	MAJOR-GENERAL PIGOT	BRIGADIER-GENERAL AGNEW	BRIGADIER-GENERAL SMITH
	27th, 45th, 15th, 4th.	5th, 49th, 35th, 28th.	54th, 43d, 63d, 22d.
		<i>Sixth Brigade</i>	
		MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERTSON	
		23d, 57th, 64th, 44th.	
	SECOND LINE, LIEUTENANT-GENERAL EARL PERCY		
	<i>Third Brigade</i>	<i>Fourth Brigade</i>	<i>Seventh Brigade</i>
	37th, 38th, 52d, 10th.	17th, 55th, 46th, 40th.	71st, 3 Batt. and Light Dragoons.
	MAJOR-GENERAL JONES	MAJOR-GENERAL GRANT	BRIGADIER-GEN. SIR WILL. ERSKINE
	CORPS DE RESERVE, LIEUTENANT-GENERAL EARL CORNWALLIS		
	MAJOR-GENERAL VAUGHAN		
	Four Battalions of Grenadiers – 33d and 42d Regiments		
	ARTILLERY		
	BRIGADIER-GENERAL CLEVELAND		

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Oct. 11, 1776. This order of battle is slightly incorrect in that there was no 4th Lt Inf. Bn.

General Orders Sentencing Pvt. John Hunter, 42nd Regt., to Death for Desertion, Staten Island, New York, Aug. 2 and 8, 1776

Head Q^{rs} Dykers ferry Staten Island, 2^d Aug^t 76...

John Hunter, private Soldier of his Majesty's 42^d Reg^t try'd by the Gen^l Court Martial of which L^t Co^l Sir Henry Calder [49th Regt.] is Presid^t for desertion The Court is of Opinion that the prisoner is guilty of the Crime laid to his charge & therefore adjudge him to suffer death.

The Com^f in Chief is pleas'd to approve of the Sentence, and to order the Court Martial to be dissolved ...

Gen^l Orders 8th Aug^t 1776...

The prisoner John Hunter of the 42^d Reg^t is to suffer death on Monday the 12th inst^t in consequence of the sentence of a Gen^l Court Martial of which L^t Col Sir Harry Calder was President. –

Source and Notes: “*Orderly Book, 4th Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}, 4th Battalion Grenadiers*” in National Records of Scotland (NRS), “13 notebooks containing the journal of Lt. [latterly Capt.] John Peebles of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment, during the American War of Independence,” *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thorntoun, 1776-1782* at GD 21/492/2 (hereafter “*Orderly Book, 4th Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}, 4th Battalion Grenadiers*.”). The record of the general court martial of Pvt. John Hunter, 42nd Regt., Aug. 1-11, 1776, is provided in this volume in Appendix B, Enclosure B-2: *Courts Martial and Legal Actions of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment During the American War for Independence*.

Regimental Orders for Clothing Requirements on Landing, Staten Island, Aug. 2, 1776

Head Q^{rs} Dykers ferry Staten Island, 2^d Aug^t 76...

R: O) [Regimental Order] When the Men disembark, they are to take nothing with them, but 3 Shirts, 2 p^{rs} of hose & their Leggings which are to be put up neatly in their packs, leaving their knapsacks & all their other necessities on board of Ship which are carefully to be laid up by the Commanding Officers of Companys in the safest manor they can contrive. A small guard to be left on board each ship and only 4 Women per Com^y to come ashore...

Source and Note: “*Orderly Book, 4th Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}, 4th Battalion Grenadiers*.” At this period the 42nd Grenadier Co. was still serving with the 42nd regt. and thus this is a regimental order.

Account of the Voyage to America and the Preparations for the New York Campaign by Chaplain James M^cLagan, 42nd Regt., Staten Island, New York, Aug. 4, 1776

Piscataway 31st May. 1777

My Lord.

Tho I was always determined to do myself the honour of writing to Your Lordship Yet when I viewed the Subject more nearly, I could Scarce find anything of importance to Say but what you could have from better authority, and better expressed then I was capable of, but least your [Lordship] should imagine that my Silence proceeds from a worse cause, I am now Set down to write you in my Tent and upon a Rough rebellious plank.

Our Fleet Sailed from the Clyde the 29 April 1776. On May the 4th we were Scattered by a Storm near the Scilly Isles, The Neptune transport in Which I was Sailed alone to the Banks of Newfoundland, where we fell in company with five more of our fleet, in company with which we entered Nantasket road [Boston Harbor approach] on the 10th of June. Here we met with the [28-gun *HMS*] Milford frigate with an Armed Brig, and farther up the [*HMS*] Renown a 50 Gun Ship, but the General [Sir William Howe] and the Army having some time before sailed for Halifax, we followed, in four days, the Enemy in the mean time throwing balls & shells at us from the Isles & main land. Before we arrived however they Sailed for Staten Island whither we followed them, and where we joined them the 4th of August.

...I have the honor to be with the highest Esteem. My Lord

Your Lops: most obe^d & most humble Servant

James M^cLagan

the R^t Hon^{ble} Lord John Murray

Source: James M^cLagan to Lord John Murray, May 31, 1777 in the *Bagshawe Muniments*, V. Lord John Murray (d. 1787) and his Wife Mary, nee Dalton (d. 1765), 5/1/1-460, Correspondence and 5/2/1-330, Papers; John Rylands Library, Univ. of Manchester, UK. (hereafter *Lord John Murray Papers*,).

**Excerpt of the Journal of Ambrose Serle, Sec. to Adm. Richard, Viscount Howe, 64-gun *HMS Eagle*, Records Arrival of the Last of the Additional Highland Transports, Staten Island, New York,
Aug. 4, 1776**

Sunday, 4th...

In the Afternoon the [*HMS*] *Renown* of 50 guns and the [*HMS*] *Flora* of 32 Guns, with 22 Sail of Convoy, came into the Harbor...

Source: *The American Journal of Ambrose Serle Secretary to Lord Howe 1776-1778*, Ed. Edward H. Tatum, Jr., Huntington Lib., San Marino (Ca.), 1940, p. 54.



Detail of "A chart of the bar of Sandy Hook the entrance of Hudson's River in the Province of New Jersey," 1782, by Lt. John Hills

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, 42nd Grenadier Company, Record
Arrival of Last Twelve Highland Transports, Staten Island, New York Aug. 4-5, 1776**

Sunday 4th. Aug^t. light winds from the NW^d. the fleet tacking and stretching along the Jersey shore, to endeavour to haul in with the [Sandy] Hook, in the Evening the Como: [Commodore, Capt. Francis Banks, 50-gun *HMS Renown*] & [32-gun *HMS*] *Flora* came to an anchor, we close by them, but as the water was pretty deep (14 or 15 fat^m [fathoms, or 84-90 feet]) we stood off & on all night but by some mismanagement found ourselves to leeward in the morning & farthest from the land. – the men of war weighed & made sail but being almost calm made little or way, they got out Boats ahead, see but few of the fleet, supposed a good many have got within the Hook – about eleven AM a breeze sprang up from the sea, which shut us in with the land, being the sternmost ship, the [33-gun *HMS*] *Niger* gave us a tow the breeze increasing went at a fine rate past the Hook

Sunday afternoon. a fine breeze from the southw^d. when within the Hook the Niger call'd to us to heave off the tow...we stood up with all sail set the Renown & Flora ahead, got up to the watering place, Staten island where the fleet lay (above 200 sail) in the Even^g. – was in a boat to go ashore for orders but met [Brevet] Maj^r. [Duncan] M^cPherson with orders for us: to land in the morning, with little baggage and 3 days provision –

Monday morning 5th. Aug^t. prepared to land. first boat about 11, being a good distance from the shore 7 a strong wind & tide, it was late in the afternoon before we all got ashore, march'd in the even^g to Quarters in the country peoples houses about 2 or 3 mile. few of the army Encamp'd almost the whole lodged in the farmers houses & barns landed the whole co^y [company] in good health after being sixteen weeks on board of ship...

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry Aug. 4- 5, 1776 also published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa.), 1998, pp. 53-54.

Excerpt of Letter from American Gen. George Washington to the Continental Congress Reporting the Arrival of Highland Transports, Aug. 4, 1776

Sir

Since closing this Letter which I had the Honor to write you this morning... That on Sunday [Aug. 4] 13 Transports part of [Adm. Richard,] L^d Howe's fleet and having on board Hessians & Highlanders, came to Staten Island – that the remainder of the Fleet which was reported to have in the whole 12000 Men had parted with these Troops off the Banks of Newf^dLand & were expected to come in every moment...

Your most Obed^t & Very Hum^{le} Serv^t
GW

Head Q^{rs} 7th Aug.
1 o'clock P.M.
To Col^o [John] Hancock

Source: *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress*, 1741-1799: Series 2 Letterbooks, Letterbook 10, Images 63-64.

Excerpt of the Journal of Ambrose Serle, Secretary to Adm. Richard, Lord Howe, Recording the Arrival of 50-gun HMS Renown with Highland Transports, 64-gun HMS Eagle, Aug. 4, 1776

“[On board H.M.S. Eagle] Sunday, 4th [August]

In the Afternoon the Renown of 50 guns and the Flora of 32 guns with 22 Sail of Convoy, came into the Harbor...”

Source: *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 6, Electronically Published by American Naval Records Society, New York, 2012, p. 50.

Excerpt of Journal of Capt. Henry Duncan, 64-gun HMS Eagle, Recording Arrival of Remaining Highland Transports, Off the Watering Place, Staten Island, Aug. 5, 1776

5th August. – Anchored here the [50-gun HMS] Renown and [32-gun HMS] Flora, with a convoy of Highlanders, last from Halifax; one ship with guards and four with Hessians.

Source: “Journals of Henry Duncan, Captain, Royal Navy, 1776-1782” in *Naval Miscellany*, Vol. I, Ed. John Knox Laughton, Naval Records Society, 1092, Google Books, p. 120.

Excerpts of Letter No. 20 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting Offensive Operations Stalled due to Lack of Camp Equipment, Staten Island, New York, Aug. 6, 1776

Staten Island 6 August 1776

My Lord, judging your Lordship will be anxious for information and having two packets on this side, I dispatch the Sandwich without waiting for further tidings of Commodore [William] Hotham and the part of his fleet not yet arrived but which from late reports may with reason be hourly expected.

The troops that have arrived to this day are expressed in my returns to the Secretary at War and Adjutant-General, whereby your Lordship will observe that we are in force sufficient to enter upon offensive operations; but I am detained by the want of camp equipage, particularly kettles and canteens so essential in the field and without which too much is to be apprehended on the score of health at a time when, sickness among the British troops was never more to be dreaded...

Source: *DOAR, Volume XII, Transcripts 1776*, pp. 177-179 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches* at CO 5/93, f. 228.



Reproduction of 42nd Highlanders' Uniform Button

General Orders for the Split of the Royal Highland Regiment into Two Provisional Battalions, Flank Battalion Assignments for 42nd Lt. Infantry and Grenadier Companies, Officer Assignments, Staten Island, Aug. 2, 6 – 9, 19, 1776

Dyker's ferry, 6th Aug^t 1776...

The Corps de Reserve consists of 4 Batt^{ns} of Grenad^{rs}, 33^d and 42^d Reg^{ts}. The 4th Battⁿ of Grenad^{rs} to be formed of the Grenadier Company of the 42^d Reg^t and two Grenad^r Companies of the 71st Reg^t under the Command of Maj. [Hon. Charles] Stuart of the 43rd Reg^t.

L^t Gen^l [Henry] Clinton will Command the 1st Line of British, L^t Gen^l [Hugh] Earl Percy the 2^d and L^t Gen^l [Charles] Earl Cornwallis with Major Gen^l [John] Vaughan the Reserve.

The 42^d Reg^t to be formed into two battalions, under the Command of L^t Col [Thomas] Stirling. – [Brevet] Major [William] Grant of that Regiment is appointed second Major to it.

The 71st Reg^t to be form'd into three Batt^{ns} under the Command of Brig^r Gen^l Sir Will^m Erskine – The Light Company of the 42^d Reg^t to join the 1st Battⁿ Light Inf^{ry}...

Dykers ferry 7th Aug^t 1781 [1776]...

R: O:) The 9 companies to parade tomorrow morn^g on the Exercising ground at Reveille beating –

Staten Island 8th Aug^t 1776

Morn^g Regimental Orders.

[Brevet] Major [William] Grant is appointed to Captⁿ [Charles] Grahams Company & Captⁿ Graham is appointed to the Grenadiers –

Lieu^t [Harry] Gilchrist is appointed to the Grenad^r Company in room of L^t [Alexander] Munro who is appointed to Cap^t [Archibald] Erskines, Lieu^t [Thomas] Lyttleton to the Light Infantry in room of Lieu^t [James] Crammond appointed to the Majors.

The Grenad^r Company to march tomorrow Morning to Richmond & join their Brigade under the Command of Major [Hon. Charles] Stuart and receive their orders from him.

The Light Infantry Comp^y to march at same time & join the 1st Battⁿ under the Command of Major ^{Brigr} Gen^l [Alexander] Leslie & receive their orders from him. Major [William] Grants & Major [Duncan] McPhersons Comp^{ys} to take up their Quarters –

Gen^l Orders 8th Aug^t 1776...

[Archibald] Erskine of the 42^d Reg^t is appointed Major of Brigade...

G: O: Dykers Ferry

Head Quarters Staten Island 19th Aug^t 1776...

L^t John Rutherford is appointed adjutant and Serj^t Ja^s Stirling to do the duty of Q^r M^r to the 2^d Battⁿ of the 42^d Reg^t.

Those Reg^{ts} that have Received Canteens, Hatchets, Camp Kettles, or any other kind of Camp Equipage, are order'd to replace them immediately into the Quarter M^r Gen^{ls} Store on board the Fanny, out of their new Camp Equipage lately arrived –

Source and Notes: NRS, “*Orderly Book, 4th Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}, 4th Battalion Grenadiers.*” The reserve was considered a position of honor. Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis was the Colonel of the 33rd Regt. which likely explains its selection for the reserve under the command of the Earl.

The organization of the two battalions of the 42nd Regt. is addressed in considerable detail in this volume in Appendix F, Enclosure F-2: 42nd Regiment Organization in America 1776-1783. In this order the 1st and 2nd Bn., 71st Regts, which lost about 500 men to the Rebel navy, are being split further into three temporary battalions for service in America. The recruits from the 26th Regt. sailed to America with the 42nd and 71st Regiments.

The rebel brig *Andrew Doria* captured the transport *Oxford* carrying Capt. John Smith's Company on the way to America. Accordingly there were only nine companies in the 42nd Regt. at this time. The 1781 date is an obvious error in the manuscript and should read 1776.

Although a Brevet-Major, William Grant still held a captain's position as a company commander when he was appointed to command the 2nd Bn. Accordingly he had to give up command of the grenadier company to Capt. Graham, and take Graham's “*battalion company*” in the 2nd Bn. The 42nd Grenadier Co. was assigned to the 4th British Grenadier Bn.

The Major of Brigade was the primary staff officer of the Brigade Commander. Initially Erskine was major of brigade to Brig. Gen. Sir William Erskine who commanded a brigade made up of three temporary battalions made up from the two official battalions of the 71st Regt.

Letter from Rebel Brig. Gen. Hugh Mercer to Gen. George Washington with British Deserter's Account of Sick Highlanders, Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Aug. 7-9, 1776

Sir,

Inclosd is some Intelligence from a Deserter who swam over to us — his account that the heavy baggage of the Troops was ordered on board shows an Intended movement of the Troops from Staten Island—By this information no foreign Troops have yet arrived—I will endeavour to procure some Intelligence tonight.

I have the honour to be

Sir your Excellencys Most obed^t. S^t.

Hugh Mercer

Perth Amboy 7 Aug^t

Aug 7. 1776

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Examination of Rich^d. Shea a Deserter,

Enlisted in Waterford 22 month ago—an Irishman—of the 40th Reg^t com^d by Lieut. Col. Ja^s. Grant. in Capt. Jn^o. Adlam's Company—was Clerk to y^e: Regiment. Has been Six Weeks on Staten Island—was at Boston last year from July to the 17th March—went from there to Halifax— remained there on Ship except now & then on shore to exercise—there are in the 40th. Regiment 336 rank & file— supposed to have 14000 on the Island—Two new highland Regiments very Sickly — the 42^d. Reg^t. of

Highlanders — Except some Hessians but none come—the 40th. Reg^t opposite the Blazing Star in Barns—stretch 2¼ miles on the right & left of the old blazing Star — had no leave to go ¼ mile from Quarters—if any soldier left Quarters severely punishd.

His reason for deserting was he had 4£ due for pay & £10 as Clerk w^{ch} he ask'd for & was refused by the paymaster—The Officers are much afraid of the Riflemen—the soldiers in Spirits—2000 men Sick — small pox—the highlanders with fluxes — poxes—not more than 4000 of the 14000 cleaver soldiers—The Lighthorse & Marines remaind at Halifax also old men & others unfit for Service...

Source: *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, Image 798 -801.

Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Gen. George Washington to the New Jersey Provincial Congress Reporting Arrival of “Scottish Troops,” New York, Aug. 7, 1776

Sir

New York, August 7th. 1776.

... from the Intelligence I have this day received, there is the greatest reason to believe that the Enemy intend to begin their Operations in a very few days, and that with a very powerful force; for not only a Considerable part of the foreign Troops, the British Guards and an additional Number of Scottish Troops, are lately arrived at Staten Island; but the Army from the Southward under [Lt.] Gen^l. [Henry] Clinton also joined them last Thursday; and the remainder of the foreign Troops have been spoke with on the Coast and are momentarily Expected; ...

I am &c^a

Provincial Congress of New Jersey

Source: “George Washington to New Jersey Provincial Congress, Aug. 7, 1776” in *The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*, Series 2 Letterbooks, Images 107-109.



New York Gov. Jonathan Trumbull

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *History of Connecticut: From the First Settlement of the Colony to the Adoption of the Present Constitution*, G. H. Hollister.

Letter from Rebel Gen. George Washington to New York Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Reporting Arrival of “Hessians & Scotch Highlanders,” New York, Aug. 7, 1776

Head Quarters, 7th Aug^t. 1776

Sir

By two Deserters this day, we have the following Intelligence, Viz that [Lt.] General [Henry] Clinton & [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis with the whole Southern Army, have arrived and Landed on Staten Island from South Carolina, in number about 3 or 4.000, that the Fleet which came in a few

days since, are the Hessians & Scotch Highlanders, part of 12000 who were left off Newf^d Land in the whole making about 30.000 Men and that it is said by Officers of the Navy & Army, they are to Attack N. Y^k. Long Island, &c. in the course of a Week... and, that you may judge of our Situation, I give you the present state of our Army:

Copy from the General Return of the Army of the United States of America, now on New York, Governors, & Long Islands & at Powles Hook, Aug^t. 3^d., 1776 Viz: Present, fit for Duty, 10,514...

Most obed^t Serv^t

Gov^r Trumbull

GW

Source and Note: "George Washington to Jonathan Trumbull, Aug. 7, 1776" in *The George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*, Series 2 Letterbooks, Image 110. Gen. Washington was incorrect referencing the fleet came from Newfoundland. The fleet sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**Letter from Adm. Richard, Lord Howe to Philip Stevens, Secretary to the Admiralty,
Regarding Arrival of 32-gun *HMS Flora*'s Transports, 64-gun *HMS Eagle*, Off Staten Island,
New York, Aug. 8, 1776**

Eagle off of Staten Island
August the 8th, 1776

I am enabled to inform You of the Arrival of a great part of the dispersed Transports from the Clyde. Some of them had been separated early from the *Flora* in bad Weather by the Misconduct of the Masters, as Captain [John] Brisbane represents...The [50-gun *HMS*] *Renown* with the Transports part of the *Flora*'s Convoy which had put into Halifax...arrived here the fifth Instant."

Source: *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 6, Ed. William James Morgan, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C., 1972, p. 122.



Maj. Gen. Sir Thomas Stirling by Benjamin Marshall

Picture Source: *The Black Watch Castle & Museum*

**Letter from Lt. Col. Thomas Stirling, 42nd Regt., to his Sister, Mrs. Anne Graham,
Reporting on the Status of Officers of the Regiment, Staten Island, New York, Aug. 9, 1776**

M^{rs} Graham of Airth
College Wynd Edin^r

An offering by Ninian Lewis offering of writing My Dear Annie w^t out costing her postage makes one embrace it of assuring her & hers of my best wishes I have wrote M^{rs} Campbell & Sir Will^m [Stirling] since my arrival and nothing more has happened since we are waiting impatiently for the arrival of the Battalion Guards & 1st division of Hessians a few of whose ships are come in, to proceed on our operations - what a difference to me from ten years ago at New York cursed ambition of a set of restless demagoguis in this contry that has destroyed so much happiness [] and content, if there is a double portion of Liquid fire in t^other World they deserve it, for it will never return –

[Brevet-Brigadier] Sir Will^m Erskine has appointed [Capt. Archibald] Archie [Erskine] Brigade Major which is ten Shil^{ls} a day to him, our Battⁿ is formed into two of which I am chief Major [William] Murray commands the first and [Brevet] Major [William] Grant the 2^d we are joined to the Grenadiers of the whole army and the 33rd Reg^t which forms the Corps de Reserve under command of L^t Gen^l [Charles] Earl Cornwallis this is passing us as honorably as Gen^l [Sir William] Howe could do, and the same for myself

All your acquaintances are well Major Bruce, Dundass, Maitland, Murray, Grant, Erskine &c &c &c I have been very well except a cramp in my stomach for two days but now pretty well, remember me kindly to all in Argyle & Browns Square and to all my friends in Cakes [nickname for Scotland] and to none more warmly than to Airth and the bairns whose welfare and happiness I have much at heart

Let me hear from you often Packets will always be sailing Adieu My Dear Annie
and believe me most affectionately yours

Staten Island Aug 9th 1776

TS

Rollo & Jack Greame Parliament Cross are well

Source: NRS, Inventory Acc.12290, *Additional papers of the family of Graham of Airth, and other related families, notably (Graham) Stirling of Ardoch and Strowan, and Stirling of Kippendavie*, Box 1, Folder 3: Sir Thomas Stirling of Ardoch and Strowan (5) 1776-1807.

**Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Gen. George Washington to Maj. Gen. Charles Lee
Reporting Arrival of the “Scottish laddies,” New York, Aug. 12, 1776**

New-York, August 12, 1776

My Dear Lee...

Some Hessians and pretty many of the Scottish laddies have got in, and the residue of the fleet parted with, off the banks of Newfoundland, hourly expected...

Your most affectionate and obedient

Gen. Lee

G. Washington

Source and Note: *Memoirs of the Life of the late Charles Lee, Esq...*, Ed. Edward Langworthy, Printed for J.S. Jordan, London, 1792, Google Books, pp. 268-272. The Scots term “laddies” means boys or young men.

**Excerpt of Letter from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America,
to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department,
Reporting the Arrival of the Camp Equipment, Staten Island, New York, Aug. 15, 1776**

Head Quarters Staten Island
15th August 1776

My Lord...

On the 12th the two fleets under the Convoy of Commodore [William] Hotham & the [HMS] Repulse met off this Harbour and came in together the Guards & Hessians on board are reported to be very healthy The Camp Equipage is also come, and no Time will be lost in proceeding upon the Operations of the Campaign...

Your Lordships faithful and most Obedient Servant

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

W. Howe

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office, Class 5 Files* (Microform), Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972 and TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches* at CO 5/93, ff. 443-444.

**Account of British Fleet off Staten Island by Hessian Jäger Lt. Johann von Hinrichs,
Off Staten Island, New York, Aug. 12, 1776**

August 12th we entered New York's Harbour or inside Sandy-hook, and cast anchor near Hendriks Point. All you could see was a fleet of over four hundred and fifty ships in the harbor...

Source: *Letters from America 1776 – 1779, Being Letters from Brunswick, Hessian, and Waldeck Officers with the British Armies During the Revolution*, Trans. Ray W. Pettengill, Ph.D., Kennikat Press, Port Washington (NY), 1924, p. 176.

**4th British Grenadier Battalion Orders and General Orders to Prepare
for the Amphibious Invasion of Long Island, New York, Aug. 19 – 21, 1776**

G: O: Dykers Ferry

Head Quarters Staten Island 19th Aug^t 1776...

Battⁿ Orders 4th Battⁿ Grenadiers...

The officers to send their heavy Baggage on board of Ship tomorrow Morn^g by the Provisⁿ Waggon

Cap^t [Patrick] Campbells [71st Regt.] Comp^y to Parade every Morn^g at 6 O'Clock, and the other 2 Comp^{ys} at Seven

for Picquet tomorrow night L^t [Patrick] Cumming [71st Regt.]

Cap^t [Charles] Grahams [42nd Regt.] & Cap^t [Francis] Skellys [71st Regt.] Compa^{ys} are to Embark on the Thames, and Cap^t Cap^t Campbells [71st Regt.] Comp^y in the Experiment Transports –

Head Quarters Dekers Ferry Staten Island 19th Aug^t 76...

The Light Infantry, Grenad^{rs}, 33^d & 42^d Reg^{ts} & Colo^l [Carl von] Dunope's Corps with the New York Comp^{ys} & Volunteers are to hold themselves in readiness to embark on the shortest notice –

Head Quarters Staten Island 20th Aug^t 1776...

The Army will Land in four Divisions, the first consisting of three Batta^{ns} Light Infantry [with the 42nd Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1st Bn.] & the Reserve [including the 42nd Regt. and 4th Brit. Gren. Bn. with the 42nd Gren. Co.] under the Command of L^t Gen^l [Henry] Clinton, L^t Gen^l [Charles] Earl Cornwallis, Maj^r Gen^l [John] Vaughan and Brig^r Gen^l [Alexander] Leslie.

The 2^d Division to consist of the 2^d & 3^d Brigades of British under the Command of Maj^r Gen^l [James] Robertson, Major Gen^l [Sir Robert] Pigot & Major Gen^l [Valentine] Jones, with a Detachm^t of Hessian troops under the Command of Colo^l [Karl von] Donop.

The 3^d Division to consist of the Brigade of Foot Guards, 4th. 5th. & 6th. Brigades, under the Command of Lieu^t Gen^l [Hugh] Earl Percy, Major Gen^l [James] Grant, Brig^r Gen^l [Edward] Mathew, Brig^r Gen^l [Francis] Smith and Brig^r Gen^l [James] Agnew –

The 4th Division to consist of the three Ba^{ns} of the 71st Reg^t under the Command of Brig^r Gen^l Sir W^m Erskine.

These Troops to have three days Provisions ready dress'd tomorrow Morn^g – [Hessian] Colonel [Carl von] Donops Corps to Embark tomorrow Morn^g at 9 O'Clock at the Hessian Head Quarters –

The Pioneers of each Brigade to form in the rear of their respective Brigades, und the Direction of an Engineer appointed by the chief Engineer –

The Corps that are Encamp'd are to stack their Tents tomorrow Morn^g and put their Camp Equipage onboard their respective Transports –

When the Troops Land, they are to carry nothing with them but their Arms, Ammunition, Blankets and three days Provisions –

The Commanding Officers of Companys will take particular care that the Canteens are properly fill'd with Rum & Water & it is most earnestly recommended to the Men to be as Saving as possible of their Grog...

G: O: Dykers ferry Head Quarters Staten Island, 8 O'Clock P.M. 21st Aug^t

The Light Infantry & Reserve to be upon the beach at Coles Ferry tomorrow Morn^g at 4 O'Clock in order to embark. 1st Battⁿ on the Right, the 2^d on the left, the 3^d in the center – The Grenad^{rs} are to form to form in front of [Maj.] Gen^l [Francis] Smiths Quarters, 1st Battⁿ on the Right, the 2^d on the left of the 1st. The 3^d on the left of the 2^d, & the 4th on the left of the Brigade – The 33^d & 42^d Reg^{ts} are to Embark at a small distance from the left of the 4th Grenad^{rs}. The 33^d on the Right & the 42^d on the left – The Volunteers & New York Companys to embark on the left, of the first Debarkation. The Whole to be under the direction of Commander [William] Hotham & the Sea Officers under his Command –

L^t Gen^l [Henry] Clinton will embark with Command^r [Commodore William] Hotham [50-gun *HMS Preston*] at Coles Ferry – Brigad^r Gen^l [Hon. Alexander] Leslie at the same place with Cap^t [George] Vanderput [64-gun *HMS Asia*]. L^t Gen^l [Charles] Earl Cornwallis & the Grenad^{rs} with Cap^t [Benjamin] Caldwell [20-gun *HMS Rose* or 32-gun *HMS Emerald*]

Maj^r Gen^l [John] Vaughan & the Division of the 33^d and 42^d Reg^{ts} with Cap^t Ogilvie –

L^t Gen^l [Hugh] Earl Percy will be pleas'd to embark with the 17th Reg^t on board Felicity where a Barge will be sent to receive his orders. The other Gen^l Officers will go on board the eldest Reg^{ts} of their respective Brigades when they come to anchor and will Disembark with the Sea Officers Superintending the Debarkation of their respective Divisions.

The Provincial Corps will receive their orders of embarkation from the Deputy Quar^r Master General on the Beach –

Source and Notes: NRS, "Orderly Book, 4th Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}, 4th Battalion Grenadiers." This order begins the preparations for the amphibious attack on Long Island on Aug. 22. "The *New York Comp^{ys}*" were two Loyalist companies commanded by Capt. Archibald Campbell and Capt. Alexander Grant.

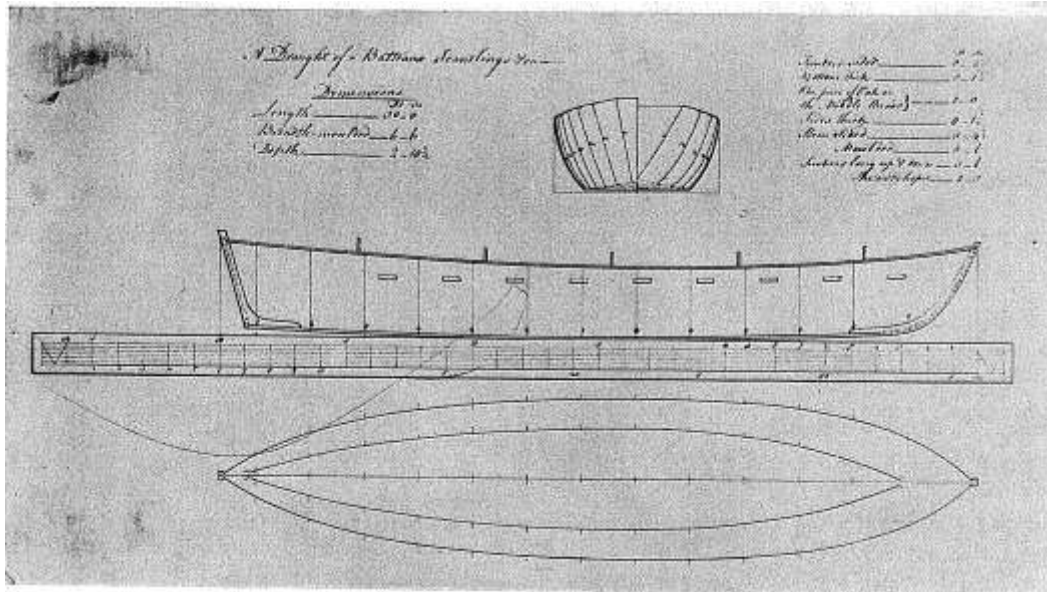
Account of Preparations for Amphibious Assault on Long Island by Ens. Henry Stirke, 10th Lt. Infantry Company, 1st Lt. Infantry Battalion (Which Included the 42nd Lt. Infantry Company), Staten Island, New York, Aug. 20-21, 1776

Aug^t

20th Yesterday, and this day; the Brigades embark'd on board they Transports; and the Hessians took up their Quarters. 2000 of them, with the broken Corps, & Convalescents, are to remain on the [Staten] Island.

21st The L^t Infantry chang'd their Quarters to near the Landing place, to be in readiness to embark on the shortest notice.

Source: "A British Officer's Revolutionary War Journal, 1776 – 1778," Ed. S. Sydney Bradford in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 56, No. 2, Baltimore, June 1961, pp. 156-157.



“A Draught of a Batteau...”

Picture Source: *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 6, p. 319.

Excerpt of Debarkation Orders for Invasion of Long Island, New York, Aug. 22, 1776

<u>Debarkation</u> <u>Divisions</u>	<u>Corps</u>	<u>Debarkation Return</u>		<u>Nº. of Men</u>	<u>Nº. of Boats</u>	<u>Men to be</u> <u>in each</u>
		<u>Companies</u>				
First Debarkation	1 st Batt ⁿ . Light Infantry	10		513	11	47
	2 ^d d ^o d ^o	10		520	11	47
	3 ^d d ^o d ^o	7		<u>296</u>	7	<u>44</u>
<u>Reserve</u>	1 st d ^o Grenadiers	10		464	10	46
	2 ^d d ^o d ^o	10		473	10	47
	3 ^d d ^o d ^o	7		311	7	44
	4 th d ^o d ^o	7		324	7	46
	33 ^d Regiment	8		381	8	48
	42 ^d d ^o	8		<u>780</u>	<u>11 Batteaux</u>	<u>71</u>
Total		4062			71 Flat Boats 11 Batteaux...	

Source and Notes: *Manuscripts of the Duke of Northumberland*, Vol. 150, Letters & Papers of the Percy Family, July 1774-Dec. 1776, American War, Alwick Castle, No. 50, 23/3. Transcribed by Todd Braisted. Although the return lists seven companies in the 4th Brit. Grenadier Bn., there were only three large Highland companies which were likely counted as seven companies for planning purposes. Likewise the 42nd Highlanders had only seven companies; Capt. Smith's Company having been captured at sea in May 1776. The only known original plan of a batteau was drawn up for the Admiralty in 1776 and shows a flat bottomed boat about three feet deep, pointed at both ends and about 30 feet long by six and a half feet wide. Ref. *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, Vol. 6, Ed. by William J. Morgan, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, 1972, p. 319.

Naval Signal Orders for British Fleet Preparing for Amphibious Landing on Long Island, New York, Aug. 1776

Aug^t. 1776
GENERAL SIGNALS
FOR THE
OFFICERS OF THE ARMY

To assemble on Board the ADMIRAL

COLOUR	PLACE	SIGNIFICATION
STANDARD	Mizen – topmast-head	For the Generals to assemble on Board the Admiral <i>at the ship where this Signal is made</i> to take Orders from the Commander in Chief of the Army
<i>Blue {pierced with } White</i>	<i>Fore-top Gallant Flag Staff}</i>	For all Colonels, or Commanding Officers of regiments to do the same. & they are to be always attended by their respective Adjutants ...
<i>Striped Blue & White</i>	<i>Fore-top Gall^t Flag Staff}</i>	<i>For the Infantry under orders to prepare for landing, to be embarked in the flat Boats & other Vessels appointed to receive them; & to assemble at the Ship in which this Signal is made.</i>
<i>D^o</i>	<i>Main-top Gall^t D^o</i>	<i>That such Service is countermanded & the Troops are thereupon to be replaced in the Transports.</i>
	<i>N.B. If it should be necessary to distinguish particular Corps, only, in either of these two last Instances, the distinguishing Pendants appropriated to such Corps will be shown therewith , & the Striped Red & White Pendant hoisted on the Main top Gallant Flag Staff as appointed in the 3^d Page ...</i>	
<i>D^o</i>	<i>Mizen-top mast Head}</i>	<i>The Boats to proceed to land the Troops...</i>
<i>Red {pierced with } White</i>	<i>Fore top Gallant Flag Staff - }</i>	<i>For the Infantry to prepare to land. or if for a particular Corps only, the Distinguishing Pendants of such Corps will be shewn therewith...</i>

SIGNALS

RESPECTING THE

Colonels, or other Commanding Officers, and Adjutants of particular Regiments.

WHEN the Colonel, or other Commanding Officer of any particular regiment is wanted on Board the Admiral to take Orders the distinguishing Pendant, as undermentioned, to specify the particular Regiment will be shewn, and a striped Red and White Pendant hoisted on the Flag-Staff at the main-top-mast Head...

A striped Red and White pendant on the Flag-Staff at the Main-top-mast Head				
Red	White	Blue	Yellow	Place.
<i>1st Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}</i>	<i>2^d Battⁿ Grenad^{rs}</i>	<i>1st Battⁿ of L^t. Inf^y</i>	<i>2^d Battⁿ of L^t. Inf^y</i>	<i>Main}... Top-mast Head...</i>
<i>10th d^o [Regiment]</i>	<i>42^d d^o</i>	<i>63^d d^o</i>	<i>- - -</i>	<i>Starboard} Main-top-sail Yard Arm...</i>
<i>22^d d^o</i>	<i>44th d^o</i>	<i>71st d^o.</i>	<i>- - -</i>	<i>Starboard} Fore-top-sail Yard Arm...</i>

Source: "Signals for officers to assemble, Aug. 1776," *Frederick Mackenzie Papers*, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan.

Edinburgh Advertiser's Description of Long Island, Aug. 1776

This important island is about an hundred and six miles in length, and about twenty-six in breadth. At sixteen miles from the west end of it, opens a large plain, near twenty-eight miles long, and four or five broad. It is remarkable there is not a single tree growing upon this part of the island, and none of the natives can remember there ever were any. In this place...the provincials have lately established a military hospital, and thrown up several entrenchments near such parts of the sea coast where an enemy can land, which are very few, as the shore in general is high, rocky, and dangerous. ..

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Oct. 11, 1776, p. 235.