



Detail from “*The Investiture of Charleston, S.C. by the English army, in 1780. With the position of each corps*” showing Grenadier Battalions to the left near Headquarters and the Lt. Infantry Battalions to the right.

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

## **42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Lt. Infantry and Grenadier Companies at the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina, Jan. 19 – Apr. 18, 1780**

**Excerpts of Letter No. 56 from Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Urging Prompt Action to Take Charleston, South Carolina, Jan. 19, 1780**

(N<sup>o</sup>. 56)

Whitehall 19<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1780.

Sir Henry Clinton...

The Letters I have received from the Governor & other Civil Officers in Georgia, contain accounts of the great change which the failure of the high expectations they had entertained of success had wrought in the minds of the Carolinians, & convey the most flattering hopes that the conquest of Charles Town would not be difficult, & would speedily be followed by the Submission of the Province. Possessed with such hopes you will readily suppose how extremely anxious I am to hear of the Embarkations having sailed from New York, especially as we have authentic Intelligence, that the whole of [French Adm. Charles Hector] D’Estaing’s Fleet had quitted the Coast of North America before November. The King is however fully assured, neither yourself, or the Admiral, will lose a moment in carrying on those very important Services you have resolved on: and it has given His Majesty the greatest satisfaction to find by your Correspondence, that you are so intirely persuaded of the vast importance of recovering the Southern Provinces & of the practicability of effecting it. His Majesty therefore looks forward to the arrival of the next accounts from you, with the most pleasing, tho’ anxious Expectations...

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 5, pp. 608-612 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1779-1780* at CO 5/99, pp. 1-4.



Detail from "A sketch of the environs of Charlestown in South Carolina," 1780, by Geo. F. Sproule, showing the landing and march across Simond's (Seabrook) Island and Headquarters at Simond's House.

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

**General Orders Issued for Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Troops to Disembark  
Near Charleston, South Carolina, Feb. 11, 1780**

On Board the John North Edisto, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1780...

The 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the Army to Land today in two Debarkations as follows:

Light Infantry	} first Debarkation
British Grenad <sup>rs</sup>	}
Hessian Grenadiers	}
Yagers	} second Debarkation
33 <sup>d</sup> Regiment	}

The above Troops will take on Shore with them three days provisions to the 14<sup>th</sup> Inclusive. The rest of the army will be in readiness to Land on signal in one Debarkation with three days provisions to the 14<sup>th</sup> Inclusive.

The Army is Brigaded as follows till further orders.

Brigade of Light Infantry	}	Maj <sup>r</sup> Gen <sup>l</sup> [Hon. Alexander] Leslie
Brigade of British Grenadiers	}	
Brigade of Hessian Grenadiers:		Maj <sup>r</sup> Gen <sup>l</sup> [Henrich Julius von] Kospoth

		Lieu <sup>t</sup> General Earl Cornwallis
7 <sup>th</sup>	}	under the inspection of Lieu <sup>t</sup> Colo [Alured] Clarke [7 <sup>th</sup> Regt.]
23 <sup>d</sup>	}	
33 <sup>d</sup>	}	
71 <sup>st</sup>	}	d <sup>o</sup> of Lieu <sup>t</sup> Colo [James] Webster [33 <sup>rd</sup> Regt.]
Yagers	}	
63 <sup>d</sup>	}	
64 <sup>th</sup>	}	d <sup>o</sup> of Maj <sup>r</sup> Gen <sup>l</sup> [Johann Christoph von] Huyne
[Hessian] Huyne	}	

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. Clinton's narrative indicates he landed on "*Simmons Island*" (now Seabrook Island).

**Journal Entry of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Describes Initial Landing on Simond's (Now Seabrook) Island, South Carolina, Feb. 11-12, 1780**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>. Febr<sup>y</sup>. The fleet came to anchor by signal before one o'clock this morn<sup>g</sup>. in 10 fathom water, at daylight we see the land to the N.W<sup>d</sup>. weighed about six & stood in with a light breeze from the N.E about 9 see a Lighthouse to the northward which we take to be that of Charles Town bar, we stand in for an opening we see about 5 leagues to the So<sup>wd</sup>. [southward] off the Lighthouse, the John leads The Adm<sup>l</sup>. [Mariot Arbuthnot] tack'd & stood off. about 11 the headmost ships got over the Bar ¼ less 3 fathom [2 ¾ fathom or 16 ½ feet] steering N.W. and by noon the whole got into this harbour which we take to be N<sup>o</sup>: Edisto [25 miles southwest of Charleston]... the fleet came to anchor about a mile within the entrance in 7 fathom [42 feet], about 50 sail a signal from the Agents ship for all Adjutants & masters – orders for landing in two debarkations, the first this afternoon the second tomorrow morn<sup>g</sup>. The Army Brigade as follows viz<sup>t</sup>. Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.] & Gren<sup>s</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.] under M G<sup>l</sup> [Hon. Alexander] Leslie (not yet come from Savannah)... the whole under the command of L<sup>t</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Charles] Earl Cornwallis...

Lord Cornwallis's division or The first debarkation got ashore in the Even<sup>g</sup>. on the North side & march'd in the dark thro' very deep road & rain 3 or 4 miles, the head of the Column at Simons some went astray in the night 2 Comp<sup>ys</sup>. of Light Infantry & 4 of Gren<sup>rs</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Company] lost their way with the Com<sup>r</sup> in chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton] & L<sup>d</sup>. Cornwallis, & after splashing thro' the mud & rain till near 10 o'clock we halted in a wood & made fires & staid there all night Johns Island So: Carolina

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. we march'd with the Gen<sup>l</sup>. & Lord Cornwallis in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & join'd the Column at Simmons's where they had been all night living on plenty – The Light Infantry march'd forward about 8 miles, the Gren<sup>s</sup>. about 2 miles to [George] Rivers's [Plantation, James Island] the Rest of the Army landed and came up to Simmon's [House, Simond's Island] which is HeadQ<sup>rs</sup>.

Source: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entries Feb. 12-13, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 338-339.

**Description of Light Infantry (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Infantry Company) in the Siege by Lt. Colin Campbell, 74<sup>th</sup> Lt. Infantry Company, Charleston, South Carolina, Feb. 11-June 17, 1780**

New York, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1780.

... The embarkation for South Carolina occasioned the first movement of our troops. I got well in time enough to accompany them, and not much sooner. I never was better than during that very fatiguing expedition, and till about the end of the siege of Charlestown; but in traversing the woods of that country for six or eight weeks, without bed, tent, or any other cover than a great-coat against the cold dew and sometimes frosts of the nights, or against the excessive rains or scorching heat of the days in that climate; and for near six weeks more at the siege lying in the open air, except the last fortnight only, at which time we got tents, and then, as well as before, twenty-four hours on duty in the trenches for every forty-eight hours we were off duty, whether cold, hot, wet, or dry, all of which we frequently experienced in the extreme before we were relieved – this was too much for most constitutions to bear unhurt: mine I confess, was not proof against it, as I have already informed you. I may also declare that for ten weeks after landing in South Carolina the 11<sup>th</sup> February last, I had neither my clothes or side-arms off, except while shifting, or never lay down to sleep without my fuzee [light musket] stretched alongside of me, or within my arms, ready to start up with it to the first sound of the bugle horn, which the Light Infantry used instead of a drum. It resembled a huntsman's horn, and by different notes, easily distinguished, loudly expresses the different words of command, to be heard at two miles distance; twelve or fifteen of them together make the most lofty warlike music in the world. With these I have known the whole Light Infantry roused at one o'clock in the morning on a sudden alarm, formed, and ready for action within the short space of three minutes from the time of their being in a profound sleep after a fatiguing march; and to the honour of these brave fellows be it told, not one man of a company in the whole battalion missing...

Source and Note: *The Story of the Highland Brigade in the Crimea*, by Lt. Col. Anthony Stirling, John MacQueen, London, 1897, Google Books, pp. xvi- xvii. The author of the stated source explains the above letter as follows "I... will here print some extracts from an interesting old letter in my possession, dated New York, 20th November, 1780, written by Lieutenant Colin Campbell, of the 74th Highlanders, who was afterwards killed by the Red Indians. He had been engaged to my grandmother; and his letter has thus been preserved." Sir Henry Clinton reported he arrived at New York on June 17, 1780 after sailing from Charleston, S.C.

**Excerpts of Letter No. 84 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting Arrival of the Expedition at Charleston, South Carolina, Feb. 11, 1780**

James Island, South Carolina 19 March 1780

My Lord,

My last dispatch (N<sup>o</sup>. 83) will have informed your Lordship that the Admiral [Mariot Arbuthnot] and I only waited positive information concerning [French Adm. Charles Hector] Count d'Estaign's fleet to put to sea. Intelligence of their having quitted the coast arrived late in December and, the troops having been some time embarked, the Admiral was enabled to sail the 26<sup>th</sup>.

I will trouble your Lordship with no other particulars of a very tedious voyage in uncommon bad weather than to Mention that in our losses of transports the lives of the crews have been saved; that only one ship is missing having on board a Detachment of Hessians and supposed to have bore away for the

West Indies; but that we have to regret the total loss of an ordnance ship which foundered at sea and of much the greater part of the horses brought for cavalry or other public uses.

It was judged best to proceed by a second navigation from Tybee to North Edisto and from thence to pass to John's and next to James Island by a bridge over Wappoo Cut. We have from this last gained the banks of Ashley River.

My intention is to pass to the neck of Charleston as soon as possible. The Enemy I find have collected their whole force to that place. This is said not to exceed 5000 Men at present but reinforcements are daily expected. If Detachments from the northward have been considerable, [Hessian] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen will not fail to send me succours from New York as he has my directions to regulate himself in that particular on the motions of the Enemy.

In the meantime, as the rebels have made the defence of Charleston their principal object, I have determined on my part to assemble in greater strength before it and with this view have called immediately to this Army a Corps I had left in Georgia with orders by a march to Augusta to try the temper of the back settlements and draw off some opposition from this point. They will pass the Savannah River and join me by land...

Although our long voyage and unavoidable delays since have given the rebels time to fortify Charleston towards the land, a labour their numbers in Negroes has greatly facilitated, yet confiding in the merit of the troops I have the honour to command, in the great assistance I have from [Lt. Gen. Charles] Earl Cornwallis and the further cooperation of the navy, I entertain great hopes of success...

I cannot close my letter without expressing how much I am obliged hitherto to Admiral [Mariot] Arbuthnot for the assistance given me through Captain [George Keith] Elphinstone who as yet has been chiefly employed in the naval transactions immediately relative to the Army. This gentleman's unremitting attention to us from his so ably and successfully conducting the transports into North Edisto to this hour, with the great benefit I have derived from his knowledge of the inland navigation of this part of the coast, merit my warmest thanks.

Your lordship will receive with this a state of the troops immediately under my command.

*Signed.*

PS. Since the above, a reinforcement is arrived in Charleston said to consist of 2000 Men from the northern Army. H.C.

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XVIII, Transcripts 1780*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1978, pp. 53-55 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1779-1780* at CO 5/99, f. 50.



Detail of Portrait of George Keith Elphinstone, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Keith

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *The Life of Nelson*, Vol. I, Alfred Thayer Mahan

**Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald's Account of the Army's Landing on Simond's (now Seabrook) Island, South Carolina, Feb. 11 – 12, 1780**

Early on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> the fleet set sail. The wind was so favorable that about noon we reached the mouth of the North Edisto, and toward evening the harbor, which forms a circular basin in which over one hundred ships can ride at anchor. Although the mouth of this harbor is so narrow that only two ships at a time can wind through the sandbars, Captain [George] Elphinstone guided the entire fleet through safely. We dropped anchor near Simmons [now Seabrook] Island, the coastline of which surrounds a part of the basin.

Towards evening a signal was given to lower the flatboats in the water, and to provide the troops with provisions for four days. At the same time another signal was given for the commanders of troops to go on board the [44-gun *HMS*] Roebuck, where the Commanding General [Sir Henry Clinton] issued the following orders for disembarkation.

#### First Disembarkation

[1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bns.] English Grenadiers [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.] and the [1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bns.] light infantry [with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.] under [Maj.] General [Hon. Alexander] Leslie, with whom were the Commanding General and [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis...

In the 12<sup>th</sup> at daybreak all the troops disembarked without the guns (except the four amusettes of the light infantry, which the men themselves had to remove) or any of the baggage, not even a horse for the Commander in Chief...

Towards ten o'clock the troops set out through a pathless and marshy wood, which continued with the greatest difficulty until five o'clock in the evening...

Source: *Diary of the American War, A Hessian Journal, Captain Johann Ewald, Field Jäger Corps*, Trans. and Ed. Justin P. Tustin, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1979, pp. 195-196.



Fenwick Hall, John's Island, South Carolina

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

### **Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Records the Army's Approach March to the Ashley River, Near Charleston South Carolina, Feb. 14 – Mar. 28, 1780**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. cool & cloudy The army march'd 'tween 6 & 7 o'clock in the order prescrib'd about 5 or 6 miles the Gr<sup>ps</sup>. in front of the column the Light Infantry about 3 or 5 miles on the right... the Light Infantry have taken some sloops in Stono River with rice at Gibbs

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. a good deal of rain last night which continues, in showers against which we have no shelter but wigwams of pine bushes... a walk to the 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. L. Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.] 3 miles they are lodged at Fenwick a large modern house with offices which holds them all & from which they can see the Spires of Cha<sup>s</sup> Town about 8 or 9 miles off to the northeastward...

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. fine w<sup>r</sup>. The Light Infantry moved to Stono ferry, the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. to Fenwick & Gibbs, the latter [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis's Q<sup>rs</sup>. a good house on the bank of Stono River, the family at home...

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. clear & warm The 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry 33<sup>d</sup>. & Yagers have pass'd at Stono Ferry & taken post on the other side...

The Commander in Chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton] & his family [staff officers] come to Fenwicks & fix'd his Q<sup>rs</sup>...

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> the 2d. Battn. Light Infantry moved from their ground last night and arriv'd here at Fenwicks about 2 o'clock in the morn<sup>g</sup>.

the 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. [Lt. Infantry] have repass'd Stono ferry & march'd to Fenwicks ...some Boats came to Fenwicks landing to carry us across the River

Wednesday 23<sup>d</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. it blew hard last night at Westerly & very cold which continues – orders in the morn<sup>g</sup>. to march at 6. The 1<sup>st</sup> Light Inf<sup>y</sup>. march'd about 7, the 2<sup>d</sup>. about 2 hours after, to the River side where they embarked to cross, but it blows so hard that it is not yet practicable; we the Gr<sup>s</sup>. are desir'd to pitch our tents again, & send for Provisions to Gibbs.

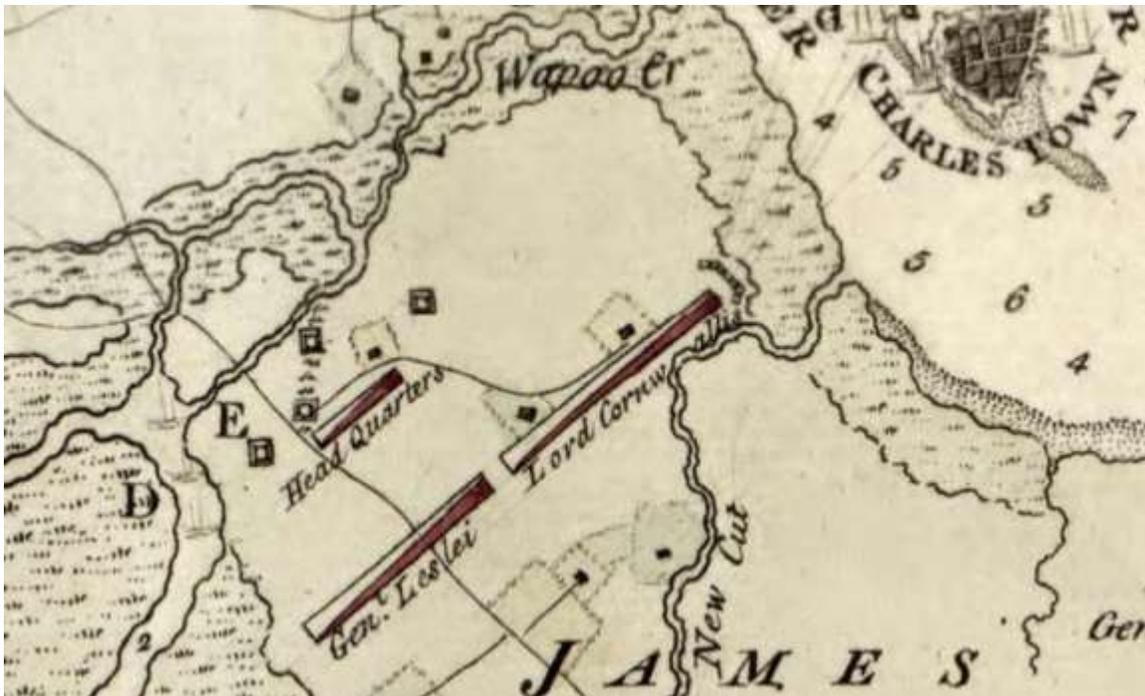
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. it blew so hard yesterday that the Light Infantry could not cross over to James Island, but his morn<sup>g</sup>. being more moderate the 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt have got over & the 2<sup>d</sup>. are following, we were put in motion about 8 to go down to the landing place but had not gone a ¼ mile when we were turn'd back to our ground, there being no boats – hiss... the two Batt<sup>ns</sup>. Gr<sup>rs</sup>. march'd to Mathew's landing & embark'd in boats as they arrived & cross'd over to Hamiltons on James Island, the scarcity of boats made it night before they were all over, the 1<sup>st</sup> [Gren.] Batt<sup>n</sup>. moved on to Scots, where they found the Light Infantry...

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. James Island So: Caro<sup>a</sup> cold last night & a strong frost...the 1<sup>st</sup>. Light Infantry 3 miles on, towards wapoo [Cut]...

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. fine mild weathers. [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Hon Alexander] Leslie come over to his Command of Light Infantry & Gr<sup>rs</sup>. the Reg<sup>ts</sup>. at Stono ferry remain there under the Com<sup>d</sup>. of [Lt. Col. James] Webster [33<sup>rd</sup> Regt.]; all our provisions & c<sup>a</sup>. come round that way yet, & land now at Mr<sup>s</sup>. Pierynaux near Waupoo Cut which is H<sup>d</sup>.Q<sup>rs</sup>... the Light Infantry Picquets in view of the Town [Charleston] about two miles off. we had orders to move but counter<sup>d</sup>.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>. warm for y<sup>e</sup>. season... The Hessian Gr<sup>rs</sup>. moved this morn<sup>g</sup>. to near Fort Johnston to which place I took a ride to see what was to be seen there. 1<sup>st</sup>. a fine view of the Town about 3 miles off which looks well & something like New York several Batteries & Colours flying...

Monday 28<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. warm w<sup>f</sup>... a walk to the Light Infantry both Batt<sup>ns</sup>. at Perryneaux covering H<sup>d</sup>.Q<sup>rs</sup>...



Detail showing Head Quarters at Mrs. Perryneaux' and Stono River redoubts on James Island from of "A sketch of the environs of Charlestown in South Carolina" June 1780, by Capt. George Sproule, Asst. Engineer

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

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>. March warm day... a Redoubt making round Perryno's house & two others on Waupoo for the defense of that post when the army moves. The Light Infantry Gren<sup>rs</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup>. & 23<sup>d</sup>. give a working party of 500...

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>. close & sultry w<sup>r</sup>. The two Battalions of Light Infantry march'd last night over Waupoo Bridge to the main[land] about 10 o'clock, & were conducted into the Country thro' very bad Roads above 12 miles about N.W. in order to get behind a Party of Rebels, whilst the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Gr<sup>rs</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] march'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. at 5 o'clock & proceeded to the Bridge near Ashley ferry in order to intercept their Retreat; we arrived there 'tween 8 & 9 when two Companies pass'd the Bridge & fell in with a few straglers & fir'd in them, & took some prisoners, by whom we found the Party we were in search of had pass'd Ashley ferry yesterday & carried over great many Cattle

The Com<sup>r</sup>. in chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton] [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis & [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Hon. Alexander] Leslie were with the advanced Companies & went near the River side to reconoitre when the rebels fir'd a 3 po<sup>r</sup> [pound cannon] from the other side several rounds but miss'd. we halted & mended the Bridge at the Church which had been broke down yesterday by the Rebels, & here the Light Inf<sup>y</sup>. join'd us after a long & fatiguing march & having miss'd the Enemy...

I escorted the Gen<sup>ls</sup>. home thro' by ways near the River where they got a good view of the Town & works from the nearest ground on this side Ashley Rive, not less than a mile; din'd at HeadQ<sup>rs</sup>.

The Country as far as we went has the same uniform appearance, a dead flat intersected with swamps marshes & creeks the wood mostly pine & only clear'd about the Houses, several of which we saw look'd very well, but all deserted; saw a good many Cattle, The Light Infantry drove in about 300 head...

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>. rain in the morn<sup>g</sup>. before & after daylight, we got orders at four to be ready to march at five, but for treasons best known to themselves we did not move; the day clear'd up [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [James] Robertson & his aid de Camp set off for the [74 gun HMS] Russel to proceed to New York, & I hear the 42<sup>d</sup> [Regt.] are order'd to come here.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup>. March fine w<sup>f</sup>. & warm The Light Infantry & Gr<sup>rs</sup>. & 7<sup>th</sup>. & 23<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. march in the forenoon by Wapoo bridge to the Main[land], taking the road to Ashley ferry for about 4 miles & turn'd to the right; & took up ground within 2 & 3 miles of Fenwick point on Ashley River, The flank Corps facing outwards some heavy Guns coming by Waupoo Cutt; we are encamped in a thick wood mostly pine, flat & watery as usual

Lord Cornwallis & Gen<sup>l</sup>. Leslie in houses near the River, we gave tow Companies to cover their Quarters...

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>. March fair w<sup>f</sup>. & cool a party of 300, with arms went yesterday Even<sup>g</sup>. & as many without went this morn<sup>g</sup>. at 2 o'clock to make a Battery on the Point near the Wharf at the Mouth of Waupoo ... H<sup>d</sup>.Q<sup>rs</sup>. still at Perryneaux... The Light Infantry went out foraging this morn<sup>g</sup> towards the Bridge at the Church near Ashly ferry they got some bad Hay & saw a few [Rebel] Light horse who fir'd at them & stood a return in grape shot but no hurt on either side...

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>. March cold again last night but clear & healthy weather, wind in North. A Field officers working party today finishing the work at the battery & making a round Redoubt at the houses...

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>. fine w<sup>f</sup>. wind S.W. a working party last night hauling Guns and one this morn<sup>g</sup>. of 600 making a 3 Gun Battery to the left of the former for better clearing the River, & finishing the other works...

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>. March 1780 warm w<sup>f</sup>. & southerly wind – a Working party of 400 at the 3 Gun Battery & finishing the first...

Wednesday 22<sup>d</sup>. March fine w<sup>f</sup>. warm...

The Light Infantry, 33<sup>d</sup>. Yagers march'd in the afternoon up the Country probably to meet [Brig.] Gen. [James] Patterson – they did not march till the morn<sup>g</sup>. of the 23<sup>d</sup>...

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>. March fine cool w<sup>f</sup>. wind in the east – Gen<sup>l</sup>. Patterson with his Brigade from Savannah come to Stono ferry...

Monday 27<sup>th</sup>. March fair wind S.W... about 260 Sailors from the [64 gun *HMS*] Europe & [64 gun *HMS*] Reasonable came to man the flat Boats the boats are come to landing place near this...

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>. March fine w<sup>f</sup>. wind easterly The flat Boats pass'd out of Waupoo last night into Ashley River & up the little creek where the Artillery & Eng<sup>rs</sup>. stores are collected – we have orders to be ready to march at 12 o'clock...

The British & Hessian Gr<sup>rs</sup>. & two [7<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>] Fuz<sup>rs</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. march'd about 12 o'clock by the bridge near Ashley ferry, & proceeded up the road about 3 miles further to Drayton Hall where we found the Light Infantry & took up ground near them for the night with orders to be ready to move at the shortest notice – the 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. of the 71<sup>st</sup> [Highland Regt.] who came with Gen<sup>l</sup>. Patterson took up ground in front of the Light Infantry and the [Loyalist British] legion, the rest of that division betwixt Ashley ferry & our last Camp –

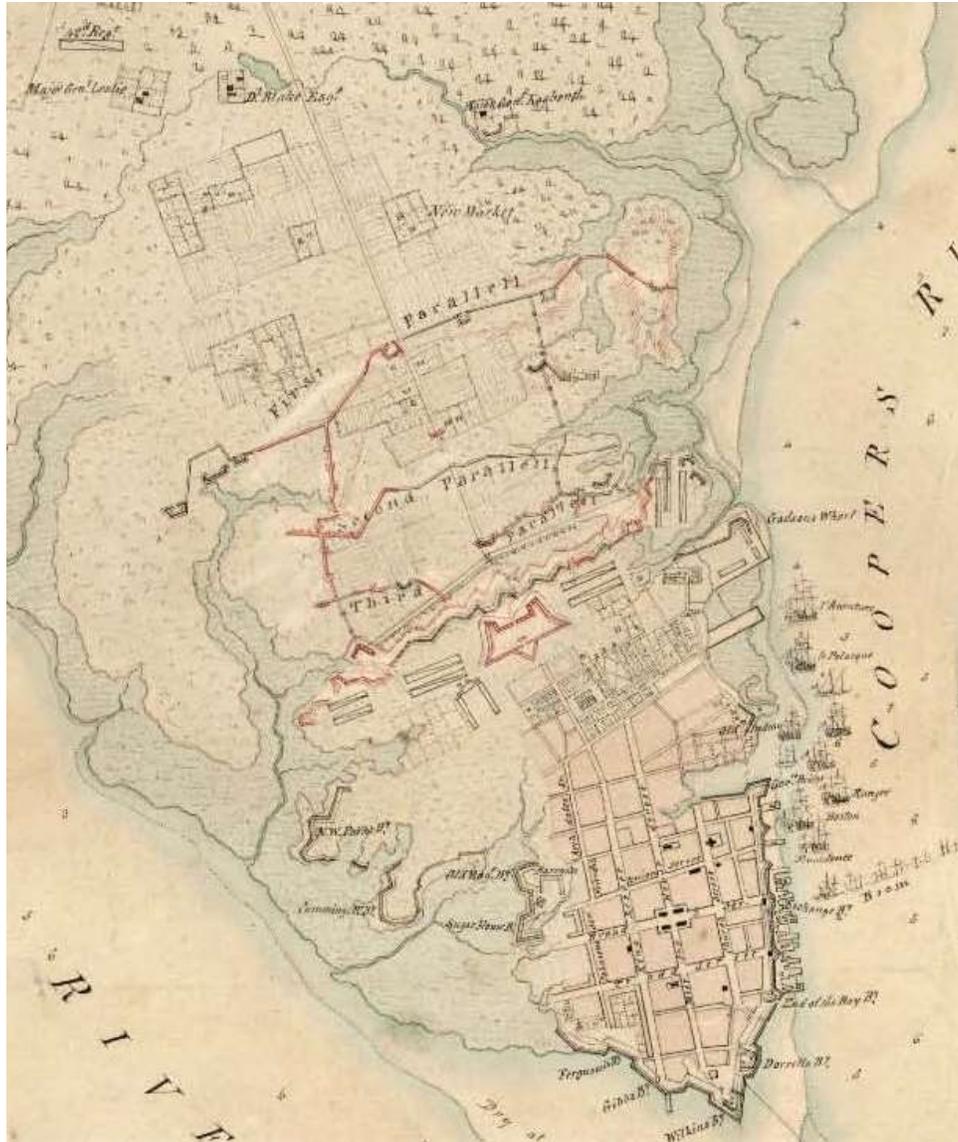


Photograph of Drayton Hall, 1890 by George LaGrange Cook

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

This Drayton Hall is on the south bank of Ashley River about 13 miles from Cha<sup>s</sup>. Town & is one of the best houses I have seen in America, with handsome improvements. M<sup>r</sup>. [John] Drayton who was a great Rebel is lately dead & left his fourth wife [Rebecca] a widow who lives in the house with her children the old rascal was very rich, had 10 plantations & about 1000 Negroes

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Feb. 14-Mar. 28, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 339-354.



Detail from "The Investiture of Charleston, S.C. by the English army, in 1780. With the position of each corps" showing and siege lines and City of Charleston, South Carolina and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. camp in upper left corner.

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

**Excerpt of Letter No. 88 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing**

## the Early Stages of Siege of Charleston, South Carolina, Mar. 29 – Apr. 18, 1780

Charleston 13 May, 1780

My Lord,

I will not trouble your lordship with a repetition of the delays and difficulties which precluded serious operation until the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, on which day the landing on Charleston Neck was effected.

By this time a depot was formed, the Admiral [Mariot Arbuthnot] had passed the bar, and I had the essential assistance of Officers and seamen of the Royal Navy for my operations. I was also strengthened with the Corps from Georgia under Brigadier-General [James] Paterson which, through a country intersected with rivers and rendered more difficult by heavy rains, had advanced not unopposed in the space of twelve days from Savannah to Ashley River.

The passage of Ashley under the conduct of Captain [Geo. Keith] Elphinstone and by the good service of the Officers and sailors of the fleet was accomplished with order and expedition and without resistance on the part of the Enemy.

The day succeeding it, the Army moved towards Charleston and on the night of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April broke ground within 800 yards of the rebel works.

By the 8<sup>th</sup> our guns were mounted in battery and I had the satisfaction to see the Admiral pass into Charleston Harbour with the success his conduct deserved, though under a very heavy fire from Sullivan's Island.

At this period we judged it advisable to send the enclosed summons to the place, which returned the answer I have the honour to transmit with it.

The batteries were opened the next day. From their effect we soon observed the fire of the Enemy's advanced works to abate considerably. The attention of the engineers and diligence of the troops but increasing as they proceeded, a second parallel was completed on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and secure approaches opened to it. We were now within 450 yards of the place.

My communications had hitherto required the greatest attention. They had been chosen from Perreneau's Landing in Stone River across the Wappoo and by small inlets, leaving only a mile of land carriage into the part of Ashley River opposite our camp.

Works for the protection of the stores and shipping in Stono, others on the communication, and several redoubts and batteries on Ashley, were the labours necessary, to give security in so important a point.

The presence of the fleet in the harbour relieving me from apprehension on that part, and the Admiral taking to himself the defence of Fort Johnson, I was able to detach fourteen hundred Men under Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel [James] Webster of the 33<sup>d</sup> Regiment to break in upon the Enemy's remaining communications with the country.

Our success, but for this measure, would have been incomplete as I had reason to fear a naval force could not be got into Cooper River or consequently the place be totally invested.

My instructions to Colonel Webster I have the honour to subjoin as they will fully explain the intent of his march. Your Lordship will observe that he had in the execution of his orders rivers to cross and other difficult operations to effect in presence of a very superior cavalry which might harass him much. It was therefore of the utmost importance to strike at this Corps and as suddenly as possible to seize the principal passes of the country.

The surprise and defeat of the collected cavalry and militia of the rebels and the possessing Biggins Bridge over Cooper [River] by Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel [Banastre] Tarleton with the horse, the [Loyalist British] Legion, and Major [Patrick] Ferguson's Detachment, gave the command of the country to Colonel Webster, threw into his hands great supplies of provision, and enabled him to take a post near the head of Wandoo River forbidding by land all further access to the town from Cooper to the inland navigation. An armed naval force which the Admiral sent into Sewee Bay and another stationed in Spencer's Inlet completed the investiture to the sea...

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XVIII, Transcripts 1780*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1978, pp. 86-89 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1779-1780* at CO 5/99, f. 181.



The Ashley River, just behind Drayton Hall, 2014

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, by Marque1313

### **Grenadier Capt. John Peebles' Account of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Flank Companies Crossing the Ashley River from James Island to the Charleston Neck, South Carolina, Mar. 29, 1780**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>. Fine fair weather orders to march early in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & baggage to be sent to Ashley ferry – flat boats & ships long boats to the N<sup>o</sup>. of 100 come up to Drayton Hall last night with some gun boats – The troops march'd about 8 oclock to the river side at the foot of Draytons Garden where they Embark'd; the jagers Light Infantry and Gr<sup>rs</sup>. [including 42<sup>nd</sup> Companies] first trip & landed on the other side about a mile higher up without any opposition near Ben: Fullers – the boats return'd & bro<sup>t</sup>: the Hess<sup>n</sup>. Gren<sup>rs</sup>. the fuz<sup>r</sup>. [7<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Fusiliers] & 33<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. the Gen<sup>ls</sup>. off<sup>rs</sup>. Horses & some field pieces, & we moved on in the afternoon on the Char<sup>s</sup> Town road about 3 or 4 miles & took up ground near Bellingers, a friend to Go<sup>t</sup>. [Government] just escap'd out of Town – This covers Ashley ferry for the passage of y<sup>e</sup>. baggage &c<sup>a</sup>.

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry for Mar. 29, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 354.



Detail from "A sketch of the operations before Charlestown, the capital of South Carolina," 1780, by Joseph F. W Des Barres.

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### **Hessian Jäger Capt. Johann Ewald's Account of the City and Defenses of Charleston, South Carolina, 1780**

#### *Remarks concerning the city and its works.*

The city is laid out in a triangle, the long sides of which are formed by the Ashley and Cooper rivers. Reckoning from hornwork to the fort which protects the harbor, the city is about one hour long, and its greatest width is a good quarter hour at the exit of the fortifications. The streets are straight and all run at right angles to each other. The houses number about eight hundred, build mostly of wood in three stories. The number of inhabitants, who consist of all nations, is said to amount to six thousand whites and mulattoes [mixed race] in peacetime, without counting the Negroes...

On the land side the works consist of a regular hornwork, called the Old Royal Work. It is mounted with eighteen guns and walled up from the ground with bricks to the strongest thickness. Its slope and scarp are faced with lime mixed with oyster shells two feet thick. It is surrounded by a muddy ditch, over which there is a stone bridge protected by a lunette [angled fortification with open back] surrounded by a double-palisaded ditch twelve feet wide and six feet deep. Within musket range of the works is an entrenchment of redans [v-shaped fortification] built in the shape of an indented crescent, whose flanks are protected by two detached bastions. The ditch around these works is good twelve feet wide and certainly six feet deep, double palisaded.

The breastwork is dressed and the ditch surrounded by a strong abatis of pointed trees. The only entrance, which was built in the center of the works, is a lunette protected by a double palisaded ditch, around which an abatis of pointed trees extended. Forty to sixty paces in front of the works they had dug an advanced ditch eighteen feet wide and seven to eight feet deep, which was protected to the scarp by an abatis. At the points where the advanced ditch extends to the Ashley and Cooper rivers, they had

constructed sluices to control the water passing from the rivers to the ditch, which had formed a morass in front of the flanking bastions.

Source: *Diary of the American War, A Hessian Journal, Captain Johann Ewald, Field Jäger Corps*, Trans. and Ed. Justin P. Tustin, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1979, pp. 240-241.



Detail showing Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Headquarters at *B*, the Brit. Grenadiers at *F* and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. at *M* from "A sketch of the operations before Charlestown, the capital of South Carolina," 1780 by Joseph F. W Des Barres

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### **Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record the Army's Advance Towards the Defenses of Charleston, South Carolina, Mar. 30 – Apr. 16, 1780**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March fair w<sup>r</sup>. wind So<sup>ly</sup>: [southerly] the Baggage horses &c<sup>a</sup>. being got over last night & this morn<sup>g</sup>. the troops were put in motion about nine & march'd on the road to town about 6 or 7 miles where the yagers & Light Infantry met with a small party of the Enemy [under Lt. Col. John Laurens], with whom they skirmish'd for hours, [Maj. John] Lord Caithness [76<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt.] while among the Com<sup>r</sup>. in Chiefs [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's] suite [staff] received a Shot in his belly, two yagers wounded a small fleche [pointed defense work] in front of their works was taken possession of & left again, the firing ceas'd in the even<sup>g</sup>. The troops took up their ground, yagers & Light Infantry in first line extending across the neck about 7 or 800 yards in their rear the rest of the troops behind then some facing outwards H<sup>d</sup>.Q<sup>rs</sup>. at W<sup>ms</sup>. [Williams house] on the right of the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. flanking today thro' very bad swampy road – the other ½ of the Co<sup>y</sup>. driving in Cattle...

Sunday 2 April cool & pleasant w<sup>r</sup>. wind in the South – The Troops in Camp were under Arms at 4 oclock morn<sup>g</sup>. the working party return'd at daylight they have made three large Redoubts within 7 & 800 yards of the Enemys works & with so much silence they were not discover'd by the Enemy. The two Batt<sup>ns</sup>. of L<sup>t</sup>. Infantry occupy these Redoubts for the day, and have made a trench of Communication betwixt them...

Monday 3<sup>d</sup>. April cloudy, wind N.E. not a shot fir'd last night... the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. occupy the Redoubts today at which the enemy fire a good many shot...

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>. April rain last night wind S.W. – was at work last night we carried out the frames from the Eng<sup>rs</sup>. park for a Battery with 9 embrasures & set them down about 500 yards to the left of the left hand Redoubt, 7 within 600 yards of the Enemys works, where we broke ground & filled them up pretty well but not sufficient to resist battering, towards morn<sup>g</sup>. it rain'd hard & the men being much fatigued we left off about 4 & came to camp... The enemy did not fire a shot during the night, & we work'd in such silence that they did not discover us. after daylight they began to fire at that & other works... our camp Equipage come up, some things lost & some left behind..

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April cool north wind The same numbers for the trenches last night as usual, finishing the 9 gun battery & the work on the right. The enemy having found the range & directions fir'd a good many shot & some shells during the night. L<sup>t</sup>. [Alexander] Grant on the Covering party was struck with a large Cannon ball on the back part of the left shoulder which made a large, but I hope not a dangerous wound... The fire increas'd in the Even<sup>g</sup>. put Grant into a room in the Gen<sup>l</sup>. Hospital

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>. April cool with the wind about N.E...

A New work made last night to the right of the two right hand redoubts, (place de arms)...

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>. April cool & pleasant wind in the N.W. q<sup>r</sup>. [quarter] The Enemy fir'd none in the night. The working party made a new Battery on the right for 12 Guns nearly finish'd, some sailors employ'd hauling up Guns for the Batteries...

Monday 10<sup>th</sup>. fine cool w<sup>r</sup>. wind NW... in the Even<sup>g</sup>. Major [William] Crosbie [7<sup>th</sup> Regt. and aide de camp to Gen. Clinton] carried in a Summons for the Town to surrender & the Garrison to become prisoners of war, they sent back an answer, declining to accept of these terms & soon after began a smart fire.

a man [Pvt. Charles Carr] of the 42<sup>d</sup>. L<sup>t</sup>. Infantry [Co.] kill'd in one of the Redoubts today...

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 1780 fine w<sup>r</sup>. wind in the S.W. q<sup>r</sup>...

our Batteries were ready this morn<sup>g</sup>. to open up in concert with some ships that were to pass up the Cooper Rover, but the wind did not answer, & we did not fire – The battery on the right with 12 Guns is mann'd with sailors, The center one in front of n<sup>o</sup>. 5 by Hessians has but 6 guns yet that on the left has 5, 24 po<sup>rs</sup>. [pounders] 1 of 12 & two 8 inch Howitzers – The working party last night made an approach from the middle Battery...

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>. April 1780. Siege of Charlestown continued After 12 days work in completing the first parallel which stands opposed the Enemy lines from six to eight hundred yards distance & which consists of six works number'd from the right, a Battery in front of N<sup>o</sup>. 5 and a line of approach advanced from thence.

The three Batteries open'd this morning between 8 & 9 o'clock with above 20 pieces of cannon (mostly 24 po<sup>rs</sup>) 2 howitzers a mortar & some cohorns & kept up a tolerable fire during the day which bro<sup>t</sup>. a warm response from the Enemy, we set the Town on fire at three different times & places with Shells carcasses or red hot shot, but they soon put it out again, & the Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Sir Henry Clinton] gave orders himself to the Artillery off<sup>rs</sup>. not to set the Town on fire again...

The working party last night advanced the approach & made a traverse on it, but the moonlight increasing makes the nights very short for working...

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April cloudy, wind S.E... the working party got nearer the abattis but the enemy hearing them fir'd from their line with small arms & made them retire for a while, but they have thrown up a work very near the abattis 200 y<sup>ds</sup>. & nobody hurt. & a Bomb battery made...

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>. April fair w<sup>r</sup>. & warm ... When it was fair day light the yagers began to fire at anybody they could see about the enemys works, which are about 300 yards distant yet...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Mar. 30-Apr. 16, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 354-361. Maj. John Sinclair, 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness survived the belly wound and the American War. Lt. Grant survived his wound and continued to serve in the army until finally retiring as a Major of the 78<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt in 1796. The "place de arms" served as an assembly point for troops assigned to protect against sallies of defenders against the trench workers.

### **General Order Assigns the Light Infantry to Cover Men Digging Siege Trenches,**

### **Outside Charleston, South Carolina, Apr. 1, 1780**

Head Quarters Williams's House 1<sup>st</sup> April 1780...

The Trenches will be opened this Evening.

The Light Infantry are to form the covering party and will be conducted to the Ground they are to Occupy by Cap<sup>t</sup> Moncrieff.

Working party is requested from the rest of the Army of 3 Field Officers 15 Captains & 1500 privates with Subalterns, and Non Commiss<sup>d</sup> officers in proport<sup>n</sup>.

A Reserve is also to be given of one field Officer five Captains and 500 privates with Likewise Sub<sup>n</sup> and Non Commiss<sup>d</sup> in proportion.

The whole to parade this Evening as follows at 6 o'Clock on the Charlestown Road, the Former with their right to the Hutts of the Light Infantry and fronting Cooper River, the Latter on the left of those...

The Commanding Engineer will give his Directions to the working parties, which will be told off by the Major of Brigade into such Detachments as may be required.

On this first and principal operation of the Siege, His Excellency the Comm<sup>r</sup> in Chief directs that the Troops will evidence their Zeal and good discipline by the strictest Silence, the utmost attention to the Directions of the Engineers and the most animated Exertions in their Works...

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

### **Description of Lt. Alexander Grant's Serious Shoulder Wound, Charleston, South Carolina, April 5, 1780**

The wound of Lieutenant [Alexander] Grant was remarkable for its apparent severity, but from which, having a good constitution, and a healthy habit of body, he soon recovered. A six pound [cannon] ball struck Mr Grant of the back in a slanting direction, near the right shoulder, carrying away the entire scapula [shoulder blade], with several other bones, and leaving the whole surrounding parts in such a state, that he was allowed to remain on the ground, the only care of the surgeons being to make him as easy as possible for the short time they believed he had to live. He was afterwards removed to his quarters, and, to the surprise of the surgeons, they found him alive the following morning, and free of fever and all bad symptoms. In a short time he recovered completely, and served many years in perfect health... He was son to Colonel [Hugh] Grant of Moy...

Source: *Sketches of the Character, Manners and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland; with Details of the Military Service of the Highland Regiments*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Vol. I, Col. David Stewart (Garth), Printed for Archibald Constable, Edinburgh, 1822, p. 396, note.



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

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

## **42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Garrison of New York, Jan. 10 - Mar. 22, 1780**

### **Letter from Stephen P. Aye to Maj. Charles Graham, Commander, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., and Others Regarding Cutting up Old Ships for Fuel, New York, Jan. 10, 1780**

New York, January 10, 1780

Sir,

The Commandant amongst his other Endeavors to have the Garrison supply'd with Fuel has directed the Barrack Master General to purchase a number of Old Ships and Hulks, to be cut up for this purpose, and I am now to signify to you, that the Regiment under your Command will, upon applying at the Barrack Office at Seven o'Clock tomorrow morning, receive one of those Ships which you will be pleased to order to be Cut up & served to the Officers and Men of the Regiment at two thirds Allowance. The other third will be paid for as before in Cash, and the Men allowed a Dollar for every Cord they Cut.

I have, &c

S. P. A. [Stephen P. Aye]

Lieut. Col. [William] Martin, Commanding Royal Artillery.

Major [Charles] Graham, Commanding 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment.

Col. [Augustus] de Voit, Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Anspach.

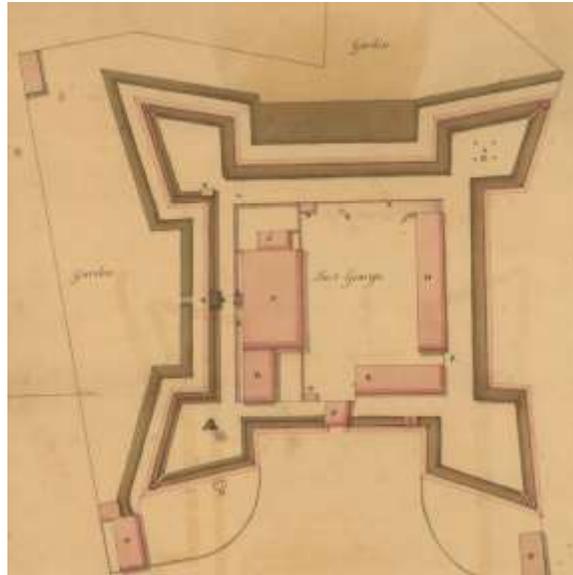
Col. [F. J. H. C. William] de Seybothen, Commanding 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Anspach

Col. [David Ephraim] de Gosen, Commanding Reg<sup>t</sup> du Donop.

Col. [Friedrich Wilhelm] de Wormb, Commanding Reg<sup>t</sup> du Corps.

Col. [Henrich Walrab] de KenydeLL, Commanding Reg<sup>t</sup> of Landgrave.

Source: "Letters of Maj. Gen. James Pattison," in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1875*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1876, p. 340.



Detail of "A plan of Fort George at the city of New-York" 1773, by Claude Joseph Sauthier

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

**Excerpt of Report of Hessian Lt. Gen. Wilhelm von Knyphausen, Commander, New York Area, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Regarding the Rebel Attack, Staten Island, New Jersey, Jan. 15, 1780**

New York 27<sup>th</sup> March 1780

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform Your Lordship, that since General [Sir Henry] Clinton's Departure from hence, on the 26<sup>th</sup>. of December last, we have had the longest and most severe Winter that was ever remembered. All was Continent, and Horse, with heavy Carriages, could go over the Ice into the Jerseys, from one Island to another; and it is only since the 20<sup>th</sup>. of February that the Rivers, and Straits have been navigable.

The Rebels thought to avail themselves of this easy Communication, and threatened an Attack upon Staten Island, where there were about 1800 Men, under the command of Brigadier General [Thomas] Sterling [also Lt. Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.], who were pretty well entrenched. For this purpose [Rebel] General [George] Washington, whose Army was huttet at Morris Town, sent a detachment of 2700 Men, with 6 Pieces of Cannon, two Mortars, and some Horse commanded by [Maj. Gen. William Alexander] Lord Sterling, who arrived on the Island early in the Morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>. of January, our advanced Posts having retired upon their Approach. They formed the Line, and having made some Movements in the course of the day, withdrew in the Night, – after having burned one House, pillaged some others, and carried off with them about 200 Head of Cattle. The day of their Arrival on the Island I embarked 600 Men [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] to attempt a Passage to support General Sterling, but the floating Ice prevented their Success, and obliged them to return. I imagine that the Appearance of these Transports, with Troops on board, which they could see toward the Close of the day, induced them to make this sudden Retreat, as they could not tell what Success they might have. Some Prisoners were made in their Retreat...

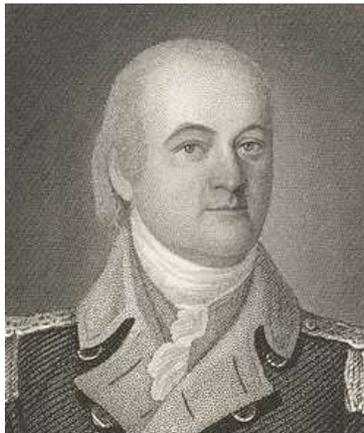
I am with the greatest Respect &c<sup>a</sup>



in front upon our right. Finding my numbers not sufficient to meet them on the field, I was forced to content myself with occupying the grounds near to and in front of the redoubts and making the best disposition I could to receive them should they offer to attack us. An armed brig which lay off the watering place was of essential service to us in covering our left flank and protecting our hay and wood magazines. About 12 o'clock the rebels began to light fires and continued in that position the whole evening and night without any alteration or attempt upon any of our advance parties. A little after daybreak I was informed a column of the enemy was advancing on our right; upon viewing them I found it consisted of about 150 men, who upon the approach of a small party I carried with me began to retire, and in half an hour after the enemy were discovered going off by Deckers Ferry. A party of 200 men were ordered immediately to follow them and 20 light dragoons. Lieutenant Stewart of the provincial light horse who commanded them and Cornet [Thomas] Tucker of the 17<sup>th</sup> [Dragoons] made a gallant charge on their rear and took a serjeant and four men prisoners, but our foot not being able to keep pace with them nothing more could be done, the rebels having broke up the bridge at Deckers Mills so soon as they crossed, and by ten this morning were all off the island. They burnt Deckers House and five woodbats that lay on the ice. We have taken a serjeant and sixteen men prisoners; by them I learn great numbers of the rebels were frostbit and sent off during the night in sleighs. The severity of the weather to which our men were exposed all night without fires, and the start of the rebels had got by going off before day undiscovered (and which they did in great hurry, having left a number of shovels and hatchets behind them) made it impossible to annoy them much in their retreat though the troops showed the greatest desire of coming up with them.

I understand from the prisoners the rebel force consisted of about 3000 men with 6 field-pieces and 2 howitzers under the command of Lord Sterling and two other generals. During their stay on the island a number of militia came over from the Jerseys and plundered the inhabitants very much, as did their troops.

Source and Note: TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches*, 1780 at CO 5/100, f. 30. Hessian Lt. Gen. Knyphausen commanded in the New York area while Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander in Chief, North America, led the expedition to seize Charleston, South Carolina.



Detail of Portrait of Maj. Gen. William Alexander, Lord Stirling

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Emmet Collection*, NY Public Lib.

**Excerpt of Letter from Brig. Gen. Thomas Stirling (Lt. Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.) to William Graham of Airth, Discussing Rebel Attack, Staten Island, Jan. 15-17, 1780**

Dear Airth

Staten Island Feb<sup>y</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1780

... I have had the Command here since end of Dec<sup>r</sup>, [Rebel Maj. Gen. William Alexander, called] Lord Stirling with 3000 men paid me a visit staid a night & so went back again, it was infernally cold, as has

been the whole winter lasted three months complete & kept us confounded alert this being no longer an Island [due to thick ice] & all [Rebel Gen. George] Washingtons force not 18 miles of me [Maj.] Archy Erskine is here w<sup>t</sup> his [22<sup>nd</sup>] Reg<sup>t</sup> we compared our Reumatick complaints every Morning... Adieu My Dear Airth

Kind Love to Annie and your family & believe me yours & theirs  
most affectionately  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Stirling

Source: *Stirlings of Ardoch and Grahams of Airth Family Letters, A Personal View of the Value of Kinship*, Transcribed and Ed. by Sarah Harrison, Dept. of Social Anthropology, Univ. of Cambridge (UK), p. 44 from NLS, *Graham of Airth Papers and additional papers* at MS.10943, ff.71-72.

### **Account of Embarkation of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to Attempt to Counteract Rebel Attacks on Staten Island, New York, Jan. 13-23, 1780**

...on Saturday the 13 jan the rebels came to Staten Island four thousand: we [the 76<sup>th</sup> Highlanders] got order to be ready at a moment warning the 42 & some Hessians embarked that day but the wind being against them and so much ice coming down the north river they could not go the 16 or the 17 all of them disembarked the night of 17 January at New York by four in the morning of the 23...

Source: NRS, *Robertson of Kindecce Note book* (likely by Capt. Charles Robertson, 76<sup>th</sup> Highland Regt.) at GD146, Box 18, item 6, pp. 11

### **Lt. Col. John Simcoe's Account of the Defense of Staten Island by Brig. Gen. Thomas Stirling (Lt. Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.), New York, Jan. 10 – 21, 1780**

...by the 10th of January, the communication with New York [from Staten Island] was totally shut up by floating ice; and General Stirling was reduced to the necessity of restraining the troops to half allowance of provisions, but with every precaution to impress the inhabitants, and soldiers, with the belief that this restriction was precautionary against the possibility of the communication being closed for several weeks; and care was taken to investigate what resources of fresh provisions might be obtained from the island. The sound, which divides Staten island from the Jersies, being totally frozen over and capable of bearing cannon, information was received that several of the rebel Generals had been openly measuring the thickness of the ice, and it was universally rumored that an attack was soon to take place upon Staten island: General Stirling commanded there, and he was with the main body at the watering place, the heights of which were occupied with several redoubts; Colonel [Francis] Lord Rawdon, with the volunteers of Ireland, was quartered near a redoubt at the point of the narrows; and Lt. Col. [John Graves] Simcoe with the [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers, at Richmond: the whole force on the island being under one thousand eight hundred effective men. On the 15th of January, early in the morning, the rebel detachment of near three thousand men, under the command of the person styled [Maj. Gen. William Alexander] Lord Stirling, crossed the ice and entered Staten Island; Lord Stirling marched immediately towards the landing place, and by his position cut off General [Thomas] Stirling's communication with the [Loyalist] Volunteers of Ireland and the Queen's Rangers...The rebels making no attempt in the day time upon the redoubts, where General Stirling was, led Lt. Col. Simcoe to conclude that they waited for cannon or more forces, and meant to storm them at night or the next morning... it was with great surprise and pleasure, that Lt. Col. Simcoe understood the enemy were retreating from the island. He immediately pursued them with the flank companies and Huzzars; and was overtaken by an order from General Stirling to effect the same purpose; but the enemy had passed to the Jersey shore before he could come up with them. While the troops in the enemy's front, on their arrival at the heights opposite to the British redoubts, halted for the rear to close up, they were permitted to make fires, which increased the power of the frost, and rendered them totally unable to proceed, and the severity of the night affecting the whole of them, many lost their limbs, and several their lives. There were vast mounds of snow drifted before the

redoubts, which Lord Stirling gave as his reason for not attempting them; and [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Kniphausen, on the first signal of Staten Island being attacked, embarked troops to support it. The enemy in the dark of the evening saw these vessels, (which, whether the passage could be effected or not, were wisely directed to be kept plying off and on,) but they did not wait to see if they could reach the island, which in fact the drifting ice prevented, but immediately determining to retreat, they effected it the next morning... The frost still continuing, there were many reports and a general expectation that the enemy would again adventure upon the island, with superior force, with sufficient provision to attempt some greater purpose; and patrols were constantly made on all the roads, by which they could possibly approach, by order of Gen. Stirling. The Queen's Rangers had formerly experienced how ready Gen. Stirling was to represent their services; and they, now in common with the other troops, had a further proof of his good inclinations, it being inserted in the general orders of the 21st of January, "Brigadier Gen. Stirling is happy to inform the troops on this island, of his Excellency Gen. Kniphausen's fullest approbation of their behaviour, and the good countenance they showed when the rebels were upon this island, which the brigadier had reported to the Commander in Chief; and his Excellency desires his thanks may be given to them."

Source: *Simcoe's Military Journal, A History of the Operations of a Partisan Corps, Called the Queen's Rangers*, by Lt. Col John Graves Simcoe, Bartlett & Welford, New York, 1844, Google Books, pp. 120 – 129.



St. Paul's Chapel, Manhattan, 2009

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, by Jim Henderson

**Circular Letter from Maj. of Brigade Edward Williams to Maj. Charles Graham, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and Others, Regarding Alarm Post at St. Paul's Chapel, New York, Jan. 19, 1780**

New York, January 19, 1780.

Sir,

I am directed by Major Gen<sup>l</sup> [James] Pattison to transmit you the enclosed Copy of Signals ordered by His Excellency [Hessian] Lieut. Gen<sup>l</sup> [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen from King's Bridge to M<sup>c</sup>Gowan's Pass, and to inform you that in order the same may be continued from thence to New York, General Pattison has established the following ones,

Viz:

Upon the Firing of one, two, or three Guns at M<sup>c</sup>Gowan's Pass, the same Number are to be repeated in succession from the Cantonment of the 37<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>, near the 5 Mile Stone, formerly Known by the name of the Dove Tavern, Murray's House on the Heights of Inklenberg, Bunker's Hill and Fort George.

And in case the Enemy Should appear in force & attempt to cross in the Rear of the Line of M<sup>c</sup>Gowan's Pass, either by the North or East River, the following Signals to be made, Viz:

If by the North River four Rounds to be fired from the Cannon posted at Major Bayard's House at Bloomingdale, or from the Alarm Gun, nearest to where the Enemy may attempt to pass, and repeated in succession to Greenwich the Star Redoubt near the Foundry and Fort George.

If by the East River, five Rounds to be fired from the Cannon posted at the Dove Tavern, or the nearest Alarm Gun, and repeated in succession from Murray's House and Bunker's Hill to Fort George.

Upon the Firing of either four or five Alarm Guns at Fort George, all Troops of the Garrison are Instantly to put themselves under Arms – The Royal Artillery at the lower Battery – The Brigade of Losberg immediately will march and form near the Provost Gaol. – The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment in Front of Saint Paul's Church. – The 43<sup>rd</sup> and the two Battalions of Anspach Brandenboroug on their Regimental Parades, when each Corps respectively will wait for further orders.

The City Companies will upon the same Alarm assemble in Queen Street, with their Right at Mr Walton's House and their Left extending towards the Fly Market, The Loyal Commissariat Companies will also on the same Occasion parade under Arms near the Provision Stores in Water Street.

If Kings Bridge is attacked in Front, one Gun to be fired from Fort Knyphausen, & (if at Night) one Rocket from Morris House to be added to the Signal.

If Kingsbridge is attacked by the North River, two Guns to be Fired from Fort Knyphausen & (if at Night) two Rockets from Morris House.

If Kingsbridge is attacked by Harlem Creek, three Guns to be Fired from Fort Knyphausen & (if at Night) three Rockets from Morris' House to be added to the Signal.

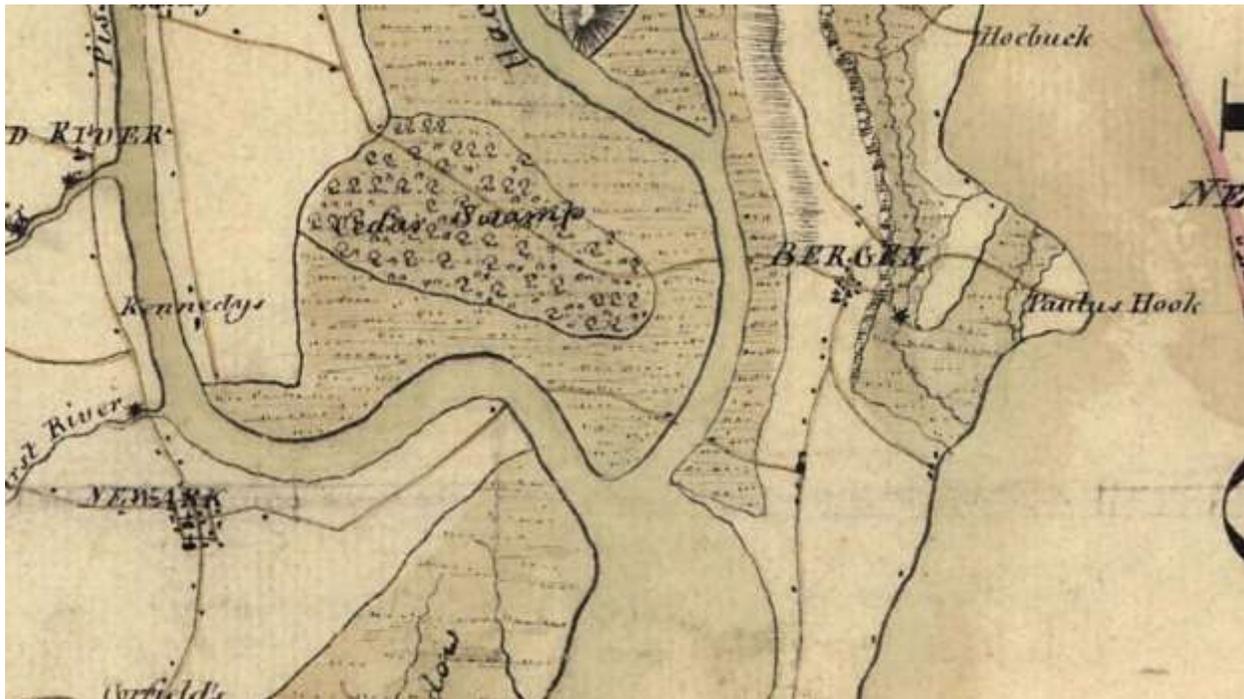
I have, &c

Edward Williams,

Major of Brigade.

*N. B.* The Posts which repeat the above signals repeat the number of Guns only.

Source: "Letters of Maj. Gen. James Pattison," in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1875*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1876, pp. 346-347.



Detail of "A sketch of the northern parts of New Jersey," showing Paulus Hook to Newark, 1781 by John Hill

**Report of Maj. Charles Lumm, 44<sup>th</sup> Regt., to Hessian Lt. Gen. Wilhelm von Knyphausen, Commander, New York Area, Regarding his Raid (with 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Detachment) on Newark, New Jersey, Jan. 25, 1780**

Paulus Hook January 26<sup>th</sup> 1780

Sir,

I have the Honor to report to your Excellency the Success of the Detachment you were pleased to intrust to my Command, consisting of the Flank Companies of the 44<sup>th</sup> – 100 of the 42<sup>d</sup> and 100 Hessians for the purpose of striking a Rebel Post at New Ark. We marched from hence about 8 O’Clock the Night of the 25<sup>th</sup> and passing the Hackinsack, Head of New Ark Bay, and Pisaick River on the Ice, at the same Time making a Detour to avoid a small Picket on the Banks of the Second River which Picket we took on our Return, arrived at half past Eleven at the Junction of two Roads leading to the Town, and about half a Mile from the Rebel Quarters. I took, with the Light & Grenadier Companies, the Road to the Right. Capt. [John] Smith of the 42<sup>nd</sup> the one to the Left, and leaving Capt. [John Jac. Vagt] Voight of the Hessian Regiment Landgrave well posted, to either support or cover our Retreat, we advanced. The Right Column having the shorter Distance to go arrived first, rushed on and surprised the Guard, some Opposition however being made the Flank Companies were obliged to make use of their Bayonets having positive Orders not to load, when about 12 of the Rebels were killed and wounded & 36 made Prisoners, which from every Information accounts for the whole Party the Officers excepted who made their Escape. Had they been in much greater Numbers, I can with Certainty assure your Excellency from the determined Resolution of the Men, and the good Conduct of all the Officers, particularly the Captains Julian and Sir Thomas Wallace of the 44<sup>th</sup>, the Business would have been equally effected. The Detachment after setting fire to the Academy in which the Enemy were lodged returned with their Prisoners to the Hook at half past three in the Morning after having completed your Excellency’s Instructions. The Loss on this occasion was five Men missing, four of whom were British, who from the Celerity and length of the March which was upwards of 20 Miles, tired, and fell behind, two of them I since find perished on the Ice; to halt in order to bring them up would have been attended with still worse Consequences, for I am convinced, Sir, had we stopped for ever so short a Time, the Majority must have suffered from the intense Cold. A part of the original Command of 50 Anspachs, and a few Hessians, intended to possess one of the Avenues leading into the Town, lost the Line of March, and returned here about 10 but moved out again, with a Captain and 50 of the [German] Anspachers belonging to this Garrison, whom I had previously ordered to march at twelve, and take Post on Bergen Heights, in order to secure the Road by which we were to return.

I have the Honor to be with perfect Respect

Your Excellency’s [illegible] &c

Cha<sup>s</sup>. Lumm

His Excellency

Baron de Knyphausen

Major 44<sup>th</sup> Regt.

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, pp.230-241 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches*, 1780 at CO 5/100, pp. 70-74.

**News Account of Maj. Charles Lumm’s Raid on Newark, New Jersey, Jan. 25, 1780**

New-York, January 29.

On Tuesday night the 25th instant, the Rebel Posts at Elizabeth Town & Newark were completely surprized and carried off, by different detachments of the King’s Troops...Maj. Lumm, of the 44th regiment, marched from Powles Hook about 8 at night, having under his command the flank companies of that regiment, with detachments from the 42d, Anspach and Hessian corps, in garrison in this city, and

passing the Rebel Patroles upon the banks of the Passaic, reached the town of Newark unperceived by the enemy, about an hour later than [Lt.] Col. [Abraham van] Buskirk's [4<sup>th</sup> Bn., New Jersey Volunteers] arrival at Elizabeth-town. Small parties were instantly posted to *masque* the principal avenues to the town, and Maj. Lumm seized possession of the academy, which the rebels had converted into a barrack, a momentary defence being attempted, 7 or 8 of the enemy were killed; the remainder, consisting of thirty-four non-commissioned officers and private men, were taken prisoners, as were likewise a rebel magistrate, remarkable for his persecuting spirit, and another inhabitant.

The Captain who commanded in Newark made his escape; the Lieutenant is said to be killed. These services were performed without loss...

Source: *Royal Gazette* (New York), Jan. 29, 1780.

### **News Account of Winter Supply Mission, Commanded by Lt. Gavin Drummond, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Across the Ice from Manhattan to Staten Island, New York, Feb. 6, 1780**

New-York, February 9...

On Sunday last the Commissary General sent upwards of eighty sleighs loaded with provisions for the use of the troops on Staten-Island, where they arrived that afternoon, and returned to the city next day, the escort was under the command of Lieut. Drummond of the 42d regiment, consisting of 40 British, and 60 of the Loyal Commissariat Volunteers.

Source: *Royal Gazette* (New York), Feb. 9, 1780, p. 3.

### **Commissary's Account of Lt. Gavin Drummond's Expedition Across the Ice to Escort Food Sleds from Manhattan to Staten Island, New York, Feb. 6, 1780**

To the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury &ca &ca &ca  
The Memorial of Samuel Jarvis, a native of North America

Most respectfully Shews

That your Memorialist at the Commencement of the late Troubles in North America lived in the (then Province, now) State of New York...

That in the Winter of 1779, when the Communication for Vessels was entirely cut off by the Ice between, Staten Island & New York, and no relief could be afforded to the Troops on that Island then in the Utmost want of Provisions; Your Memorialist did with other Officers, under the Authority of the Commander in Chief, Impress, and Load with Pork & Flour near one hundred two Horse Slays, --from the Kings Stores at New York, & had the Honor to Command fifty of the Commissariat Volunteers, with a few British Troops under the Command of Lt. [Gavin] Drummond of the 42nd Regiment as an Escort, the Commander in Chief not thinking proper to trust many of his Troops on so Dangerous a Service, near twelve Miles over the Ice, passing through a part in possession of the Enemy, where they were fired on by some Dragoons but to no effect by this means several Regiments were saved from the Enemy being so Contiguous to a very Considerable body of them then at Elisabeth Town.

Source: TNA, Excerpt of Memorial of Loyalist Samuel Jarvis dated Nov. 3, 1785, at *Audit Office, American Loyalists Claims* at AO 13/114, ff. 536-539 as posted on The Loyalist Institute Website at [www.royalprovincial.com](http://www.royalprovincial.com).

### **Excerpt of Letter from Hessian Lt. Gen. Wilhelm von Knyphausen, Commander, New York Area, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Orders to Send the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders and Other Troops to Reinforce the Siege of Charleston; New York, Mar. 21, 1780**

New York 27<sup>th</sup> March 1780

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform Your Lordship, that since General [Sir Henry] Clinton's Departure from hence, on the 26<sup>th</sup>. of December last, we have had the longest and most severe Winter that was ever remembered...

[Maj.] General [James] Robertson, who is come from General Clinton's Army, arrived here the 21<sup>st</sup> of this Month Agreeable to the Commander in Chief's orders I shall embark the 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. the [Loyalist] Irish Volunteers the [Loyalist] Queen's Rangers, exclusive of the Horse, the Hessian Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Ditforth, and the [Loyalist] Prince of Wales's American Reg<sup>t</sup>. with a Transport laden with Ammunition for Charles Town. The Number of the Above Regiments with the Convalescents and Artillery will amount to about 2000 Men As to the Sick, their number is decreased for some Months in the Spring. According to the latest Reports there remained about 2000 Men on the different Islands.

I am with the greatest Respect &c<sup>a</sup>

Knyphausen

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

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784* (hereafter *RBCO*)  
Ed. by Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 9, pp. 548-551 from CO5/182, pp. 495-499.



Detail from "A map containing part of the Provinces of New York and New Jersey," 1781 by Andrew Skinner.

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

### **British Raid on Hackensack, New Jersey, by Detachment Commanded by Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Pherson, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Mar. 22-23, 1780**

**Excerpt of Letter from Hessian Lt. Gen. Wilhelm von Knyphausen, Commander, New York Area,  
to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Raid on  
Hackensack, New Jersey, Mar. 22-23, 1780**

New York 27<sup>th</sup> March 1780

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform Your Lordship, that since General [Sir Henry] Clinton's Departure from hence, on the 26<sup>th</sup>. of December last, we have had the longest and most severe Winter that was ever remembered...

In the night of the 22<sup>d</sup>. of this Month we partly surprized and took a rebel Post in the Jerseys, consisting of 250 Men, of whom we made only 65 Prisoners, owing to two Embarkations, one from hence under [Brevet] L<sup>t</sup>. Col. [Duncan] Macpherson [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.], & another from Kingsbridge under [Capt. and] L<sup>t</sup>. Col. [John] Howard [1<sup>st</sup> Regt. Guards] not arriving at the appointed time. Our Loss upon this occasion was very inconsiderable. Captain [David Anstruther] Armstrong of the 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. is wounded. By these little Enterprizes during the Winter, as far as we can ascertain we have made 320 Prisoners, and killed about 65 of the Enemy...

I am with the greatest Respect &c<sup>a</sup>  
Knyphausen

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

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784* (hereafter *RBCO*)  
Ed. by Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 9, pp. 548-551 from CO 5/182, pp. 495-499.

**Report of Raid by Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Pherson, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Hackensack, New Jersey,  
Mar. 22-23, 1780**

New York 24<sup>th</sup> March 1780

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint your Excellency that the Detachment of 300 Men under my Command embarked on board the Boats at the Hay Wharf by 7 o'Clock of the Evening of the 22<sup>d</sup> Instant [March], and landed at Weyhake [Weehawken] a little before Ten; from thence we marched, and got to the little Ferry on Hackensack River by 12 o'Clock; over which the Detachment was transported in a small Whale Boat and one Canoe by three o'Clock in the Morning; here I made the Disposition for surprising Hackensack, to effectuate which I ordered a Subaltern and 25 Men of the 43<sup>d</sup>. Regiment to push on briskly until they got to the End of the Town, next to Newbridge, there to halt, and intercept every Person who might attempt to make their Escape; the remaining Part of the Detachment of the 43<sup>d</sup>. Regiment, with the 50 [German] Anspachs, under the Command of Captain [William] Thorne of the 43<sup>d</sup>. I ordered to follow and to attack every House that should be pointed out to them by the Guides and Refugees, and to apprehend every Man they found and bring them to Sobrisky's Mill, there to remain until the Detachment returned from Paramus; and I have the Pleasure to inform your Excellency, that the Plan had the desired Effect, the Militia and Inhabitants being caught in their Beds.

At half an Hour after 5 o'Clock I marched with the Detachment from Hackensack, leaving Capt<sup>n</sup>. Thorne with One hundred Men there, for the Purpose I have mentioned, and proceeded to Sobrisky's Mills, where I arrived at a quarter of an hour after 6 o'Clock, from thence I continued marching towards Paramus, without any Opposition: And about a Quarter of an hour after 7 o'Clock in the Morning; we heard a scattering Fire in our Front, on this we pushed and got with a quarter of a Mile of Paramus Church, when we observed the Enemy run, and [Capt. and Lt.] Colonel [John] Howard [1<sup>st</sup> Regt., Guards] with the Guards in pursuit of them. Saddles River prevented my intercepting the Fugitives; here 13 Deserters joined us, and here I halted and sent to Colonel Howard for Orders, who sent me Word, that he with his Detachment would join us immediately, which he accordingly did. What happened on our Return while Colonel Howard commanded, your Excellency will be informed of by him. We parted from the Guards opposite to Fort Lee and arrived at Weyhake about Sunset, where we embarked on board the Flat-Boats, and landed at the Hay Wharf 'twixt Seven & Eight o'Clock in the Evening of the 23<sup>d</sup>. Instant, after a Circuit of above forty Miles. Sixty four Prisoners were brought to this City.

A Return of the Killed, Wounded and Missing, I have the honor of sending you inclosed.

It is with much Satisfaction I inform your Excellency, that the Officers and Men, British and Foreigners, on this very fatiguing Service, behaved with the greatest Regularity and Spirit.

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect, Sir

Your most obedient and most humble Servant

Signed. Dun. McPherson 42<sup>d</sup>.

Lieut<sup>t</sup>. Colonel

His Excellency

Lieu<sup>t</sup>. General Knyphausen &c &c &c

Source and Note: Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, pp. 230-241 enclosed in Sir Henry Clinton to Lord George Germain, 4 July 1780, TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches*, 1780 at CO 5/100, f. 93-95. Although a Brevet-Lt. Colonel in the army, McPherson served as a Captain in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.

### **Account of Brevet-Lt. Col. McPherson's Hackensack Raid by Ens. George Eld, Coldstream Regt. of Foot Guards, New Jersey, Mar. 23-24, 1780**

March 23<sup>d</sup>. – At six in the evening a detachm<sup>t</sup> of 600 commanded by [Capt. and] L<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>l</sup>. [John] Howard [1<sup>st</sup> Foot Guards], marched to Spithim [Spuyten] Devil creek, from whence at about ten they embarked on flat bottomed boats, and landed at ½ past twelve at Kloster lock in the Jerseys – having marched till seven in the morning I was sent forward with 60 Light Infantry [of the Guards] to attack a rebel Picquet, on the right of the main body of the rebels who were advantageously posted & fortified in a Church Yard at a place called Paramus... On our return, which was by a different route, we were joined by a detachment of the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. & Hessians & 43<sup>d</sup>. –

The Rebels now collected & began to harass our rear – I had the Command of the rear Guard; [Lt. and] Cap<sup>n</sup>. [Francis] Dundass [1<sup>st</sup> Foot Guards] flanked – the road in which we marched was wide and walled on each side – the road being a continuation of sudden hills – the main body was little annoyed – & afforded me an opportunity of disputing each height – the rebels made three charges & each time were repulsed – their loss was as ten to one – Col<sup>l</sup>. Howards retreat was so precipitate that he never once detached a party to my support; fortunately for me, the rebels now changed their attack to the left of our line of march – they now flanked from behind trees, &ca with the greatest security – the road on that side being open & a narrow & impassable swamp immediately adjoining it; thus we retreated, annoyed by a constant fire, with great loss – which produced general confusion, Col<sup>l</sup>. Howard neglecting to give any orders – till we arrived at a Bridge [over the Hackensack River]; so great was Howards confusion that, as the rear Guard was crossing the Bridge, he was threatening the trembling Owner of the adjacent house, with death & destruction if he did not take up the planks of the Bridge – as this was impossible, our army not choosing to make the attempt & the Owner of the house from inclination not intending to do it, I volunteered the duty & promised Col<sup>l</sup>. Howard to destroy the Bridge. I never professed myself a volunteer for any duty, but on this occasion I had two reasons for my Conduct.

The first reason arose from my having perceived that the Enemy were bringing Cannon & horse – the whole weight of which must have been sustained by the rear guard, the other was vanity; the vanity of attempting that danger, which a whole army had avoided – I now called the Light Infantry, which composed the rear Guard to assist me, but so great was the panic, *that only* FOUR remained. – Cap<sup>n</sup>. Dundass hearing my voice joined me, as did Cap<sup>ns</sup>. [David] Anstruther [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] & [Ens. George] Dennis [43<sup>rd</sup> Regt.] with one private of the 43<sup>d</sup> & two privates of the 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. The Hessian detachment, perceiving our intentions, formed on a small rise & covered our attempt – Under a very heavy fire, we effected our design, by dislodging the planks – which effectually prevented the horse & field pieces from following our line of March. As this was done in the full view of the whole army, my vanity once more got ascendancy over my reason, inducing me to remain the last on the Bridge – In our retreating from the Bridge – three of the light infantry were killed, one of the 42 and 43. Cap<sup>n</sup>. A: was wounded – L<sup>t</sup>. Dennis slightly – Dundass and myself escaped –

For having thus destroyed the Bridge, which rendered the rest of the retreat safe & easy – Cap<sup>n</sup>. Dundass & myself rec<sup>d</sup>. in public orders the thanks of [Brig.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Edward] Mathew, the Commanding Officer at Kings Bridge – as also [Hessian Lt.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen’s thanks Comm<sup>r</sup>. in Chief at New York. We now (March 24<sup>th</sup>. 5 o’clock even’g) recrossed the North river, after a march of 40 miles thro’ the enemys country – We took 1 Cap<sup>n</sup>. & 100 privates – our loss must have been nearly 300 –

Source and Notes “Memoranda of Lieutenant-Colonel [George] Eld, of the Coldstream Guards, During his Service in America in the Years 1779 and 1780,” Ed. George B. Chase in *Bulletin Showing Titles of Books Added to the Boston Public Library, January 1892*, Published by the Trustees, Boston, 1892, Google Books, pp. 314-315. The casualty report of the action does not list and soldiers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. killed, but does list one man as missing. Contrary to Ens. Eld’s account the official total reported loss was “1 Rank & File Killed; 1 Officer, 17 Rank & File Wounded; 1 Drummer, 12 Rank & File Missing,” See below.

### **Excerpt of Report of Raids on Hackensack and Paramus Church, by Capt. and Lt. Col. John Howard, 1<sup>st</sup> Regt. of Foot Guards, New Jersey, Mar. 23-24, 1780**

Kings Bridge March 24<sup>th</sup> 1780

Sir

... the Detachment of Guards under my Command consisting of 300 Men marched to Spoken Devil Creek ready to be embarked at 7 O’clock Wednesday Evening; the Boats from the Obstructions met with us at Kings Bridge, did not arrive till half past 10, which occasioned our not reaching Closter Landing till 12 O’clock at Night. The Distance from thence to Peramus Church was at least 17 Miles... from the Detour we were obliged to make to come in the Rear of the Enemies Pickets, and to prevent our being discovered. As it was two Hours after Day break before we could possibly arrive at Peramus, and the Surprise of the Rebel Posts could by no means be compleated, according to the Plan first adopted, I took the Liberty of ordering our Men to load, and to make an Alteration in the Numbers detach’d under [Capts. and] L<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>s</sup>. [James] Stuart and [Francis] Hall, as I had then learned their principal Force was collected at Peramus Church...

After the Detachments of the Guards had joined, I took the Road to New Bridge, and fell in with the [300 man detachment] Corps under [Brevet] Lt. Col<sup>l</sup>. [Duncan] McPherson [42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.]. We suffered some Loss in our Retreat, which the Rebels who had collected in Force harrassed till we had passed New Bridge. Capt. [David] Anstruther of the 42<sup>nd</sup> was unfortunately wounded.

After crossing the River Hackensack, I ordered the Bridge to be broke down to prevent the Rebels passing it; in this Service Capts. [Lt. and Capt. Francis] Dundass [1<sup>st</sup> Foot Guards] and [Ens. George] Elde [Coldstream Guards] of the Light Infantry were particularly active themselves taking up the Boards under the Enemy’s Fire.

We continued our March after with little Molestation, and embarked the Detachment of Guards at Moore’s Landing near Fort Lee agreeable to the Commands of His Excellency Lieut. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Knyphausen.

I beg leave to mention the great Assistance I received from all the Officers under my Command, particularly Lt. Col<sup>l</sup>. McPherson, as also the spirited Behaviour of the British and German Troops. Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Cranston of the Navy was like wise very active in his Department.

J. Howard Cap<sup>t</sup>. & L<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>l</sup>.  
1<sup>st</sup> R<sup>t</sup>. Guards

The inclosed [not found] is a Return of the Killed and Wounded of the Detachment of Guards. Serjt. Smith and the two Private Men missing were left on the Road on Account of Illness some Time before the Detachment reached Peramus.

Source: “So much for a Scotch Prize,” Paramus, New Jersey, 23 March 1780, John U. Rees, *The Continental Line Newsletter*, Summer, 2005.

### **British Dep. Adj. General Frederick MacKenzie’s Casualty Report, Hackensack and**

## Paramus Church Raids, New Jersey, Mar. 23-24, 1780

Return of the Killed, Wounded & Missing, at the attack of the Rebel Troops at Paramus, in Jersey the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1780.

### British

Guards: 1 Rank & File Killed; 9 Rank & File Wounded; 2 Rank & File Missing.

42<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Officer, 4 Rank & File Wounded; 1 Rank & File Missing.

43<sup>rd</sup>: 2 Rank & File Wounded.

### German

Regiment du Corps (Leib Regiment): 2 Rank & File Wounded; 1 Drummer Missing.

Landgrave: 2 Rank & File Missing.

Donop: 4 Rank & File Missing.

1<sup>st</sup> Anspach: 2 Rank & File Missing.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anspach (Bayreuth): 1 Rank & File Missing.

1 Rank & File Killed; 1 Officer, 17 Rank & File Wounded; 1 Drummer, 12 Rank & File Missing, Cap<sup>t</sup>. [David] Anstruther 42<sup>nd</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. Wounded

Sources "Return of the Killed, Wounded & Missing, at the attack of the Rebel Troops at Paramus, in Jersey the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1780," Frederick MacKenzie, Sir Henry Clinton Papers, 89:31, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan and "So much for a Scotch Prize." Paramus, New Jersey, 23 March 1780, John U. Rees, footnote 18, quoting *Regiment von Mirbach Order Book*, Morristown NHP. The article appeared in the Summer 2005, *Continental Line Newsletter*.

## Hessian Lt. Gen. Wilhelm von Knyphausen's General Orders, Praising Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Pherson and the Detachment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. for the Raid on Hackensack, New York, Mar. 23-24, 1780

Head Quarters New York 25 March 1780...

His Excellency Lieutenant General von Knyphausen requests that his approbation be made known in published orders to [Capt. and] Lieutenant Colonel [John] Howard of the Guards, Lieutenant Colonel McPherson of the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment, and the officers and men under their command for the good conduct on the morning of the 23<sup>d</sup> of this month during the fatiguing expedition to Paramus and Hackensack and, although it was not as successful as might be wished, due to unavoidable circumstances, it still provided honor to the troops. His Excellency is appreciative of the dedication to duty of Lieutenants Cranton and Peery of the Navy who commanded the division of flatboats, and also of Lieutenant Hatfield of the Royal Volunteer Militia for his bravery during this opportunity.

Source: "So much for a Scotch Prize," Paramus, New Jersey, 23 March 1780, John U. Rees, footnote 18, quoting *Regiment von Mirbach Order Book*, Morristown NHP. The article appeared in the Summer 2005, *Continental Line Newsletter*.

## News Account of Raid Led by Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Pherson, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Hackensack, New Jersey, Mar. 22-23, 1780

### MARCH 24

DAY before yesterday, two detachments of the British army were passed over the Hudson River into Jersey -one from King's Bridge, consisting of three hundred men from the brigade of guards, under the command of [Capt. and] Lieutenant-Colonel [John] Howard, the other from New York, of equal force, composed of the British and German troops in garrison, under the command of [Brevet] Lieutenant-Colonel [Duncan] Macpherson, of the forty-second regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Howard's detachment landed at Kloster, several miles above Fort Lee -- the troops from the city at Weehawk, (Weehawken.)

The former were to penetrate into the country to the northward of Hopperstown, and destined to attack the rear of the rebel cantonments at that place; the latter (taking their route by the Little Ferry upon the Hackensack, where boats were sent to transport them across) were to have surprised the town of Hackensack, in which a company of militia were quartered, and, pushing forwards, to have fallen upon the front of the Paramus cantonments. These services were not effected, owing to unavoidable delays, till several hours later than was intended. Lieutenant-Colonel Howard arrived near Hoppers town, two hours after daybreak yesterday morning, and continuing his march, surprised two pickets, and pressed one of their cantonments so closely as to oblige the officer and his command to leave their arms behind them, which, to the amount of about thirty stand, were destroyed. Their main body, consisting of between two and three hundred men, made a show of defense at the church; but, finding they would be instantly attacked, they retired with precipitation -- were pursued for about a mile, and several prisoners taken. Lieutenant-Colonel Macpherson's detachment, at this time on its march through the cantonments, which were found abandoned, made its appearance upon the road near the church, having taken a few prisoners.

Every further attempt to come up with the enemy being impracticable, both detachments returned to Zabriskie's Mills, where, being joined by the party left at Hackensack, which had taken several prisoners, the troops retired by New Bridge, and the English Neighborhood; Lieutenant -Colonel Macpherson's, with the prisoners, continuing their march to Weehawk, where boats were waiting to receive them.

One man of the British [Guards] was killed, Captain [David] Anstruther of the forty-second regiment, and a few men were wounded upon the march towards the English Neighborhood, the rebels, in loose parties, keeping up an irregular fire upon the rear, and some men dropped behind from fatigue. In the course of the march, a clergyman, with another inoffensive inhabitant, (taken prisoner by mistake,) were dismissed, and are reported to have been accidentally shot by the rebels. Sixty-four prisoners were brought from Jersey; of these twenty-four belonged to the Continental troops, and a captain and twenty-three were militia-men. Thirteen deserters, also, who were a part of the Paramus command, came off with their arms. The loss of the rebels in killed and wounded cannot be ascertained.

Source: *Gaine's Mercury*, Apr. 3, 1780 in *Diary of the American Revolution: From Newspapers and Original Documents*. Volume: 2, Frank Moore, Charles Scribner, New York, 1860. pp. 262-263.

### **Rebel News Account of Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Pherson's Raid on Hackensack, New Jersey, Mar. 22-23, 1780**

*Extract of a letter from Hackinsack, dated March 24.*

"Yesterday morning at 4 o'clock, a detachment of the enemy of about 200 men, commanded by Lt. Col. M<sup>c</sup>Pherson, of the 42d regt. made a descent upon this place by way of the Little Ferry. Soon after they entered the town they burnt the Courthouse, and also Messrs Boyd's and Chapple's dwelling-houses, and then proceeded to Paramus, with intention to surprize the detachment of continental troops under the command of Major [Christopher] Stuart [5<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regt.]. At that place the enemy were joined by another party of equal force, which landed at Closter and marched by Weirmiss, and would probably have effected their purpose had not Major Stuart, received information of their approach. In their rout they plundered and abused the inhabitants indiscriminately, in a most pitiable manner; and carried off between 20 and 30 of the inhabitants prisoners. Capt. [John] Outwater of our militia, and Hendrick Van Geison, were slightly wounded, but not taken off. In this excursion the enemy had a number killed and wounded, and near 20 of them were made prisoners by our troops, who behaved exceedingly well; and hung upon their rear as they retreated from Paramus to Fort Lee, where they embarked."

Source: *New Jersey Gazette* (Trenton) Mar. 29, 1780, p. 3.

### **News Account of the Wounding of Brig. Gen. Thomas Stirling, Connecticut Farms, New Jersey, June 6, 1780.**

*Extract of a letter from Brooklyne, Long Island dated June 19...*

On the 6th of June a detachment of the royal army landed in New Jersey. The rebel militia and troops collected together, and, upon the 8th, advanced to Elizabeth-town, where they made an attack upon the 22d regiment, which was ordered to fall back...Another letter says, the Skirmish in the Jersies was pretty hot. General Stirling of the 42d regiment was wounded in the thigh.

Source and Note: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, July 28, 1780. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. had embarked to return to New York from the successful Siege of Charleston, South Carolina at this time.



Detail from "The Investiture of Charleston, S.C. by the English army, in 1780. With the position of each corps" showing 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. near Gibb's landing by Maj. Gen. Hon. Leslie's Headquarters.

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

## **42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Reinforces the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina, Mar. 29-May 29, 1780**

### **Edinburgh Newspaper Account of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Reinforcement of Charleston, South Carolina Siege, New York, Mar. 29, 1780**

Several letters are received at Edinburgh from New York and James's Island, by the last mail. From the letters we have extracted the following particulars, which have not yet appeared. – [Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton had ordered a reinforcement of 4000 men immediately, from New York. These troops were ready to embark the 29th of March: the 42d was the only British regiment among them...

Source: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, May 5, 1780, p. 285.

### **Journal Account of the Arrival of 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. by Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Charleston, South Carolina, Apr. 18 – 23, 1780**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>. cold w<sup>r</sup>. wind westerly The working party last night employ'd in improving the lines of approach & making traverses in the 2<sup>d</sup> parallel as we find some of the Enemys Guns fairly infilade [fire lengthwise down] that intrenchment... this parallel we are now on runs along the front of y<sup>r</sup>. [their] middle works and I suppose about 200 yards distance from the Abbatis...

I hear the reinforcement from New York is arrived at Stono Bar & that the 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. is there – arrived yesterday...

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>. April cool westerly wind – The working party last night push'd the sap a little further, made a Mortar Battery & improved the parallel...

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. April pleasant w<sup>t</sup>. & very little wind. The Ships from NYork have got up to Perryno's – There is the 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. Hessian Reg<sup>t</sup> of Ditforth, the [Loyalist] Queens Rangers, the [Loyalist] Vol<sup>s</sup>. of Ireland & [Loyalist] Browns Corps & some Artillery –

There were two explosions in the Rebel works yesterday which is thought to be two small magazines of powder blown up with our Shells.

The Working party last night made a Barbette Battery with epaulments for two field pieces on the road leading to the Gate & about 300 yards distance, enlarg'd the Mortar battery & better'd the trench...

The Sap going forward to a 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel About noon the Enemy sent out a flag of truce with a letter to the Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Sir Henry Clinton] & Adm<sup>l</sup>. [Mariot Arbuthnot] to signify that they were ready to treat upon honourable terms... but the terms they demanded were too much to be granted & a refusal was sent out about nine & hostilities recommenced...

Saturday 22<sup>d</sup>. April 1780 warm...

The Queens Rangers, Vol<sup>s</sup>. of Ireland & the 42<sup>d</sup>. coming across Ashley River, they land at Gibbs landing, – but little firing all day

Sunday 23<sup>d</sup>. April 1780 warm – at work in the trenches last night where we were employed in carrying a sap forward from the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel, on the left we got very near the wet ditch or canal...

The 42<sup>d</sup>. are encamp'd at present near the Engineers house...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Apr. 19-23, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 362-364.

### **General Order for Work Detail Shows 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders Arrival at the Siege, Charleston, South Carolina, Apr. 23, 1780**

Head Quarters Williams House 23<sup>d</sup> April 1780...

	Detail For the Trenches		For the Works	
	Cap <sup>t</sup>	P	Cap <sup>t</sup>	P
L <sup>t</sup> Infantry	3	216	1	82
Major Graham's		40	1	15
Britt Grenadiers	2	193	1	75
Hess <sup>n</sup> D <sup>o</sup>	3	285	1	108
Line	1	148		79
42 Regiment	1	118		41
	<u>10</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>400</u>

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



Detail of "The Investiture of Charleston, S.C. by the English army, in 1780. With the position of each corps."

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

**Excerpt of Letter No. 88 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing the Siege of Charleston Following the Arrival of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., South Carolina, Apr. 18 – May 12, 1780**

Charleston 13 May, 1780

My Lord...

A considerable reinforcement [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] joining me from New York the 18<sup>th</sup> April, I immediately strengthened the Corps beyond Cooper River, which thus augmented I requested Lieu<sup>t</sup>. General [Charles] Earl Cornwallis to take under his command.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> May the third parallel was completed close to the edge of the rebel canal and a sap carried to the dam which contained its water on the right, by which means a great part was drained to the bottom.

We could now form juster opinions of the defences of the town towards the land which extended in a chain of redoubts, lines, and batteries from Ashley to Cooper; in front of either flank of the works, swamps which the canal connects ooze to each river. Betwixt these impediments and the place are two rows of abbatiss, various other obstructions, and a double picketed ditch. A hornwork of masonry, which during the siege the Enemy closed as a kind of citadel, strengthened the centre of the line and the gate where the same natural defences were not found as near the water. Eighty pieces of cannon or mortars were mounted in the extent of these lines.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> May our batteries were ready in the third parallel.

New and very forcible motives now prevailed to induce the place to capitulate. Admiral [Mariot] Arbuthnot had landed a force of seamen and marines on Sullivan's Island under Captain [Charles] Hudson, to whom on the threat that ships should batter the fort the garrison delivered themselves upon terms.

Lieutenant General Earl Cornwallis had been no less successful in the country. The [Loyalist British Legion] cavalry under Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel [Banastre] Tarleton had again the good fortune which conduct and gallantry deserve, and overtook at the Santee a body of horse the Enemy had with infinite

difficulty collected together. They were most spiritedly charged and defeated, most of the riders fled to the morasses or threw themselves into the river from whence few can have extricated themselves, fifty or sixty Men were killed or taken, and every horse of the Corps with the arms and appointments fell into our hands.

Although in a second correspondence which the Enemy solicited they had shown in their proposals for a surrender far too extensive pretensions, the Admiral and myself could not refrain from attempting once more to avert the cruel extremity of a storm. In this renewal of treaty, however, we did not find their indiscretion much abated.

The batteries of the third parallel were therefore opened and a manifest superiority of fire soon obtained. The Corps of Yagers acting as marksmen were on this occasion extremely useful.

Under this fire we gained the counterscarp of the outwork which flanked the canal, the canal itself was passed, and work carried on towards the ditch of the place.

The 11<sup>th</sup> [Rebel Maj.] General [Benjamin] Lincoln sent to us his acquiescence in the terms he had two days before objected to. Whatever severe justice might dictate on such an occasion, were solved not to press to unconditional submission a reduced Army whom we hoped clemency might yet reconcile to us. The articles of capitulation were therefore signed such as (with every relative paper) I have the honour to enclose them.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> Major General [Hon. Alexander] Leslie took possession of the town.

There are taken seven general Officers, a commodore, ten continental Regiments, and three Battalions of artillery, together with town and country militia, French and seamen, making about six thousand Men in arms. The titular deputy governor, Council, and civil Officers are also prisoners.

Four frigates and several armed vessels with a great number of boats have fallen likewise into our possession and about four hundred pieces of cannon.

Of the garrison artillery and stores your Lordship will have as perfect returns as I shall be able to collect.

I have yet, my Lord, to add to this letter the expressions of gratitude I owe to the Army whose courage and toil have given me success.

I have most warmly to thank Lieu<sup>t</sup>. General Earl Cornwallis, Major Generals Leslie, [Hessian Johann Christoph von] Huyme and [Heinrich Julius von] Kospoth, and Brigadier General [James] Paterson for their animated assistance.

I trust I do not flatter myself vainly that the good services during the siege of the Officers and soldiers of the Royal Artillery, of Captain [Geo. Keith] Elphinstone and the Officers and seamen of the Royal Navy serving with us on shore, of the Corps of engineers, of the Officers and soldiers of every Corps, British and Hessian, and particularly the Yager Detachment, will receive His Majesty's gracious approbation.

I have especially to express my obligations to Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel [James] Webster [33<sup>rd</sup> Regt.] and the Corps which acted under him, and I have to give the greatest praise to Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel Tarleton and the cavalry for their conduct, bravery, and eminent services.

But to Major [James] Moncrieff, the commanding engineer, who planned and with the assistance of such capable Officers under him conducted the siege with so much judgment, intrepidity and laborious attention, I wish to render a tribute of the very highest applause and most permanent gratitude, persuaded that far more flattering commendations than I can bestow will not fail to crown such rare merit.

Your Lordship has seen how great a share Admiral Arbuthnot and the fleet have had in every measure. I can add that, had we been necessitated to make an assault, I am persuaded a very conspicuous part would have been taken by the ships to favour us at that important crisis.

I have the honour to send your lordship returns of our loss.

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XVIII, Transcripts 1780*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1978, pp. 86-89 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1779-1780* at CO 5/99, f. 181.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record the  
Final Phase of the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina, Apr. 24 – May 12, 1780**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. April very warm wind about west – The Working party last night employed in improving the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel & forwarding the sap...

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>. April warm w<sup>r</sup>. wind W about one o'clock this morn<sup>g</sup>. the rebels firing small arms on the working party they took it for a Sally [charge out of the Rebel lines] & ran to their arms, when a smart or rather heavy firing commenced which lasted above 20 minutes

Ens<sup>n</sup>. [Duncan] M<sup>c</sup>Gregor 71<sup>st</sup> [Highland Regt.] kill'd Cap<sup>t</sup>. [Lt.] N[ormand] M<sup>c</sup>Leod [71<sup>st</sup>, recently promoted from Lt., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] & L<sup>t</sup>. [John] Wilson wounded & tween 20 & 30 men in all kill'd & wounded.

The lines of Camp turn'd out & moved up a little way when by that time it was found the enemy had not come out, & the field officers at length got the firing put a stop to, which had been improperly carried to such a height without any real cause of alarm. The working party got the length of the first ditch & near the barrier Gate...

The advance line of intrenchm<sup>t</sup>. makes now the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel which extends from just opposite to the Enemys Barrier Gate on their right to that in their center, from our left of which we are pushing a sap toward their Batter. d'eau [probably "*battery a fleur d'eau*" or battery at the level of the sea.]

The rebels light up two fires out side their large Abbatis wh<sup>h</sup>. [which] burn all night & illuminate the Space betwixt us & them every night...

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>. April cool & cloudy wind in the east, & a little rain

on Guard on the left of the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel with 118 the working party carried the trench a little further to the left, & the sap a little nearer the Batter d'eau, & open'd two Embrazures of a Battery about the middle of this parallel, the platform not laid till the Morning...

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>. April cool wind north...

The working party employ'd last night in thickening the parapet on the right of the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel & sapping onwards to the dam on the left & carrying down stuff for platforms. the two Gun Battery mounted with twelves [pounders]...

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>. Moderate. wind S.W. & more to the S<sup>o</sup>...

The working party last night were making a Battery for 5 Guns on the right of the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel which is close to their wet ditch & center barrier gate & still Sapping towards the dam & Barrier gate on their right...

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>. April a Strong wind at S.W. The working party going on with the battery for 5 Guns very near the Ditch & opposite the gate. there are likewise two others for two Guns each in the left part of the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel – Sapping towards the Dam...

Monday 1<sup>st</sup>. May warm & a strong wind from S.W. which makes it very disagreeable in the trenches which are all sand. The Working party last night going on with the batteries & the sap towards the Dam and bringing up Guns & platform stuff.

The Enemy fir'd a great deal last night, above 300 rounds, & threw some shells. 6 Gren<sup>rs</sup>. kill'd & wounded, one yager kill'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. & one lost his arm, all in the left of 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel

The Sappers being at last come to the Dam or Batter d'eau open'd it this afternoon & the water runs off freely, & will soon leave their wet ditch dry... I find that the 1<sup>st</sup> parallel is now to be occupied by Picquets & the other two strengthen'd

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>. May warm w<sup>r</sup>. & the wind continues in the S.W. Q<sup>r</sup>. [quarter] tho' not so strong The Batteries in 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel nearly finish'd & suppos'd to be ready tonight for 9 Guns...

Wednesday 3<sup>d</sup>. May 1780 very warm several kill'd & wounded last night & this morn<sup>g</sup>. – the Batteries not ready yet, a piece of Sap work making in front of the left of the 3<sup>d</sup>. Parallel for small arms...

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>. May a Cloudy morn<sup>g</sup>. a great deal of firing last night of both Cannon & small arms, but I hear of nobody hurt – The Working party employ'd in widening the trench & thickening the parapet of some parts of the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel & doing something towards making more Batteries in that line...

Rain with Lightning & thunder for about 4 hours in the middle of the day. & two in the Even<sup>g</sup>...  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup>. May very cold last night & this morn<sup>g</sup>., wind from the N<sup>o</sup>. & NW found the trenches full of water & some parts fallen in from the excessive hard rain yesterday the working party did little or nothing last night, but some come in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & repair'd the trenches...

The Enemy kept up a brisk fire of canon & small arms all night long but to very little purpose...

The water is still running off out of the ditch but it is not near dry yet...

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>. May cool & pleasant The working party hauling more Guns down to the batterys in the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel last night. there are two field pieces 6 po<sup>rs</sup>. in the 2<sup>d</sup>. parallel to be mounted in a little battery on the left of that trench. a good deal of firing last night as usual

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May pleasant w<sup>f</sup>. wind from S<sup>o</sup>: & S.W. the rebels kept up a warm fire of Canon & Musketry last night again, & beat to arms about an hour before day...

our Miners are still working at the dam & draining the ditch...

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. May warm & pleasant wind in the South...

The batteries in the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel being ready the working party last night were mostly employ'd in carrying ammuniton to them

The Enemy fir'd less last night than for some night before.

Things being in this State of readiness for a close attack the Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Sir Henry Clinton] sent [his aide de camp] Major [William] Crosbie [7<sup>th</sup> Regt.] early this morn<sup>g</sup>. with a flag to Summons the place to surrender & caution them against the consequence of an assault, on which they ask'd till 12 o'clock to consider of it, at which time they return'd an answer agreeing to the first & most important articles & stipulating for terms & circumstances regarding property & individuals, for which purpose the truce continued till evening, & again prolong'd till the morn<sup>g</sup>. at 8 o'clock. The Admiral [Mariot Arbuthnot] sent for...

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>. May 1780 warm with a pleasant breeze from the S.E. The truce continues, & the treaty going on; which spun out till 8 o'clock in the even<sup>g</sup>. by these rascals increasing their demands untill they were no longer Allowable & hostilities began about 9 with great violence on bith sides & kept up a warm fire all night –

& today the 10<sup>th</sup> the fire continues pretty brisk, we have dismounted & silenced some of their Gums on their left, & one of our 12 po<sup>rs</sup>. [pounders] is hurt 10 or 12 men kill'd & wounded & 3 officers wo<sup>d</sup>.

The working party or rather Miners first, are pushing forward by sap from two places on the Right of the 3<sup>d</sup>. parallel...

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>. May 1780 warm we kept up a superior fire last night of both Canon & small arms and this morn<sup>g</sup>. before day the Town was set on fire in two or three places wh<sup>h</sup>. [which] still continues to burn – but little firing in the day... a flag from the Enemy about 2 o'clock P:M: which I believe offers to surrender the Place upon the terms the Gen<sup>l</sup>. granted before in the mean time there is a cessation of hostilities –

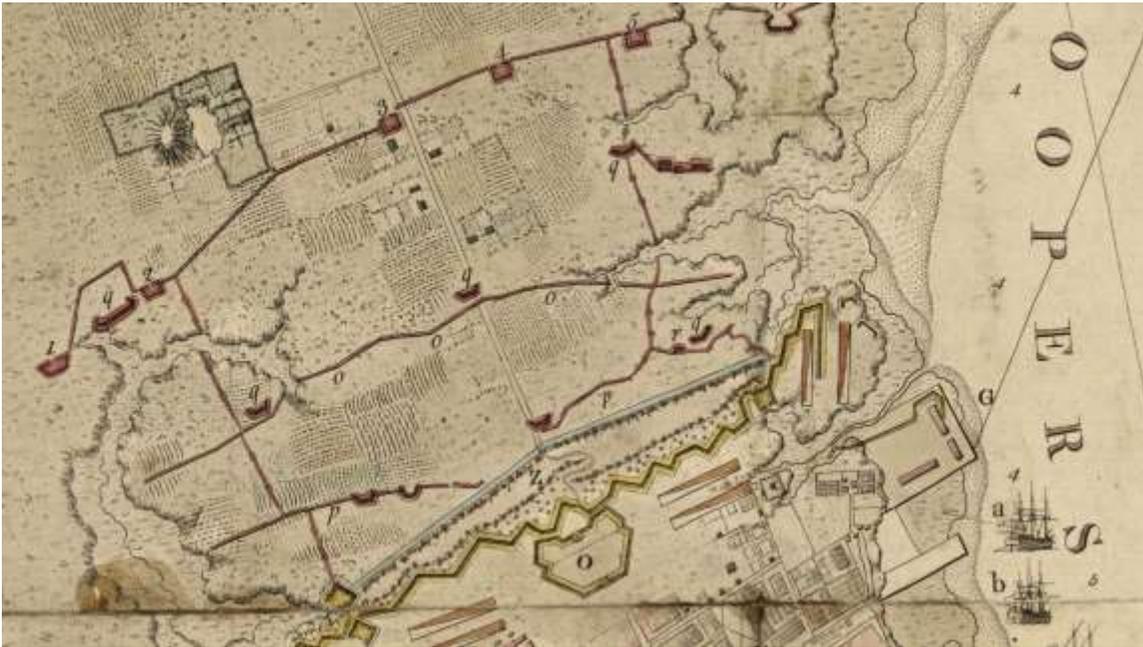
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 1780 warm & windy from the eastw<sup>d</sup>.

The terms of Capitulation being settled last night, the Army were under Arms this morn<sup>g</sup>. agreeable to the after orders but several delays on the part of the Enemy made it past 2 o'clock before the two Comp<sup>ys</sup>. of Gr<sup>rs</sup>. took possession of the Gate & Horn Work when soon after the [Rebel] Continental troops & some of their militia march'd out & drew up in the ground betwixt the two abbatis where they laid down their Arms & Colours, the British flag was immediately hoisted at the Gate as the rebels march'd out & fire'd a salute of 21 Guns The [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Hon. Alexander] Leslie with three British Reg<sup>ts</sup>. took possession of the Town & the prisoners were put into the Barracks & other places under a Guard, the off<sup>rs</sup>. at liberty to walk about with their side arms

They are a ragged dirty looking set of People as usual, but more appearance of discipline than what we have seen formerly & some of their officers decent looking men

most of the Army were drawn up near the wet ditch during the ceremony which lasted till Even<sup>g</sup>. The 7<sup>th</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. & 63<sup>d</sup>. went into Town the rest return'd to Camp

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Apr. 24-May 12, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 365-373.



Detail showing the British siege works from "A sketch of the operations before Charlestown, the capital of South Carolina," 1780 by Joseph F. W Des Barres

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### **General After Order Directs Process for Surrender of Rebel Troops, Occupation of the City Defenses, and Gen. Sir Henry Clinton's Thanks to the Troops, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., for the Successful Siege, Charleston, South Carolina, May 11 and 13, 1780**

Head Quarters Williams's House 11<sup>th</sup> May 1780...

After Orders.

The Army is to be under arms tomorrow Morning at 9 o'Clock.

A Company from the British and one from the Hessian Grenadiers with two Fieldpieces f<sup>m</sup> each service, will parade tomorrow at Nine o'clock on the Charlestown Road, near the Redoubt N<sup>o</sup> 3 in order to march into the town and take possession of the Horn Work.

The several departments will send proper persons into the Town with their detachments to receive from the Officers corresponding departments of the Enemy all Artillery, public stores, Forage, and provisions, but they are to take possession of no other articles except that will be delivered to their Charge...

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 63<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>ts</sup> are destined to be part of the Garrison of Charlestown and are to form tomorrow at 11 o'Clock between the 2<sup>d</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> Parallel. Major Gen<sup>l</sup> [Hon. Alexander] Leslie will give all further orders to the detachments of Grenadiers and to these regiments and will occupy the Town...

Head Quar<sup>rs</sup> Charlestown Neck 13<sup>th</sup> May 1780...

The Commander in Chief receives the highest pleasure in giving the Army, by whose courage and Toil he has reduced this important place, the Tribute of praise and of gratitude they so well deserve.

His Excellency presents his warmest thanks to Lieu<sup>t</sup> General [Charles] Earl Cornwallis, Major Generals Leslie and [Johann Christoph von] Huyne, [Henrich Julius von] Kospoth and Brig<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> [James] Paterson for their animated Services during the Siege. To the officers and Soldiers of the Royal Artillery, and of every Corps British and Hessian of the Yagers and to Cap<sup>t</sup> [George Keith] Elphinstone and the Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy who have acted with us on shore, his Excellency also addresses

the assurance that he holds himself under the most permanent obligation to them, for having so well seconded in their Spirited efforts, all his Operations.

His Excellency further expresses his great Obligation to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colonel [James] Webster [33<sup>rd</sup> Regt.], and the Corps he broke in upon the most essential of the Rebel communications and particularly to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colonel [Banastre] Tarleton and Corps of Cavalry, to the infantry of the British Legion, for the Soldierly conduct and Gallantry what gave them such Brilliant Advantage over the Enemy.

To Major [Patrick] Ferguson the General declares himself much Indebted for his great activity and good Services, and particularly for the useful application made of his Talents in Field Fortification.

But to Major [James] Moncreiff, who plann'd and conducted the Siege, with great Judgment, such unrelaxed Assiduity, and so much intrepidity, and to the very capable officers under him, as well as to every other person in his department, His Excellency could wish to convey Impressions of his gratitude, greater than he is able to Express.

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. The Rebel army under Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln defending Charleston surrendered, and this order provides direction to the British army to take possession of Charleston.

### Excerpts of Casualty Report for the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina, May 12, 1780

Return of the Killed and Wounded of the Troops under the Command of His Excellency General Sir Henry Clinton from their debarkation in S <sup>o</sup> . Carolina the 11 <sup>th</sup> February to the Surrender of Charles town 12 <sup>th</sup> May 1780				
Nation	Regim <sup>s</sup> or Corps...	Killed...	Wounded ...	Officer Names
British	1 <sup>st</sup> Batt <sup>n</sup> L <sup>t</sup> Infantry	8 [Rank & file]	1 [Serjeant] 17 [Rank & file]	71 <sup>st</sup> Regim <sup>t</sup> {Ens <sup>n</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Gregor { Ens <sup>n</sup> Cameron
	2 <sup>nd</sup> d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup> ...	11 [Rank & file]	1 [Lieutenant] 12 [Rank & file]	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Batt <sup>n</sup> Grenadiers	1 [Serjeant] 4 [Rank & file]	2 [Lieutenants] 1 [Serjeant] 13 [Rank & file]	42 <sup>nd</sup> d <sup>o</sup> [Regim <sup>t</sup> ] Lieu <sup>t</sup> [Alexander] Grant... 71 <sup>st</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> {Capt <sup>n</sup> [Normand] M <sup>c</sup> Leod {Lieu <sup>t</sup> Wilson...
	2 <sup>nd</sup> d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup> ...	10 [Rank & file]	1 [Lieutenant] 11 [Rank & file]	
	42 <sup>d</sup> ...	2 [Rank & file]	-	
	71 <sup>st</sup> ...	2 [Ensigns] 6 [Rank & file]	1 [Captain] 1 [Lieutenant] 14 [Rank & file]	
	Total	2 [Ensigns] 1 [Serjeant] 51 [Rank & file]	1 [Captain] 5 [Lieutenants] 2 [Serjeant] 94 [Rank & file]...	

H. Clinton

Source and Note: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 6, p. 125 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1779-1780* at CO5/99, f. 246. The wounded Capt. Lt. Normand MacLeod, 71<sup>st</sup> Highland Regt. (Fraser's), had recently been promoted from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Pvt. Charles Carr, 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co., killed Apr. 10, was one of the casualties in the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn. Corp. Donald M<sup>c</sup>Pherson, Brevet-Lt. Col. Duncan M<sup>c</sup>Pherson's Co., was listed as killed on May 15. The following 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. soldiers died during the period of Mar. 29-May 29, but it cannot be determined from the muster reports which of them was the other soldier killed in action: Privates Peter M<sup>c</sup>Donald, Thomas Stewart, Robert Caldwhite, James Watson, Donald M<sup>c</sup>Cuman, James Rodger and Alexander Ross



Detail of Portrait of Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, 1784, by Charles Willson Peale

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

**Journal of Dep. Quarter Master Gen. Capt. Archibald Robertson Notes Rebel Surrender and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Town Duties, Charleston, South Carolina, May 11-12, 1780**

11<sup>th</sup> [Rebel Maj.] General [Benjamin] Lincoln sent out a flag expressing that by a recent Application from the Militia and Citizens wishing to Accept of the terms offered, He complied. All hostilities ceased.

12<sup>th</sup> At two Afternoon the Two Companys of our Grenadiers, the 7<sup>th</sup>, and One Hessian Life Guard with Colonels Hope and Linsing took possession of the Gate. The Rebel Continentals march'd immediately out of the Gate and Lodged their Arms. The Militia the same within the Works. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 63<sup>d</sup> Regiments and afterwards 42<sup>d</sup> took the Town Duties. I attended with [Maj.] General [Hon. Alexander] Leslie at taking Possession.

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. 228-229

**Excerpts of Secret Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting Plans Following the Capture of Charleston, South Carolina, May 14, 1780**

Charleston 14 May, 1780

My Lord...

I now purpose immediately to march a Corps under Lieu<sup>t</sup>. General [Charles] Earl Cornwallis into the interior part of the country whose countenance will give the fairest opening for the operation of those loyal dispositions which are believed to inspire so great a number of its inhabitants.

With much regret I fear that the prosecution of my projected expedition into Chesapeak must be suspended until something more determinate is known as to the intentions of the French. Yet as I still, receive such earnest assurances of the loyalty of a great body of Men in Pennsylvania and Maryland, should Admiral [Mariot] Arbuthnot be able to give a small force for that purpose, even before serious operations can take place in that country I shall probably assume a post at Norfolk in Elizabeth River to curb the rebel trade, to watch the temper of the people, and to favour what shall be carrying on in the Carolinas...

I propose after this to return to New York where I shall watch the moment for acting up to the powers I have in troops for the best of the King's service.

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XVIII, Transcripts 1780*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1978, pp. 90-91 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1779-1780* at CO 5/99, f. 255.

**General After Order Issues Directions for Collection and Storage of Rebel  
Small Arms in the Magazine Which Blew Up Killing Three Royal Highlanders,  
Charleston, South Carolina, May 14, 1780**

Head Quarters Williams's House 14<sup>th</sup> May 1780...

After Orders.

As several of the Arms taken in Charlestown have been brought into Camp, The General desires the Commanding Officers of Corps will cause a strict Search to be made for them and return them to the Artillery Store in Charlestown, several of the Engineers tools have been taken away during the Siege, these are also to be collected and sent to the Engineer Encampment. The commanding Officers of Corps are to send a written report to the General of their having inforced this order. His Excellency requests that the commanding Officers of Corps will endeavor to prevent Stragglers and followers of the army from firing small arms near the Encampm<sup>t</sup> and confine any body found guilty of such Irregularity.

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," *Sir Henry Clinton Papers*, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. The next day as the muskets were being loaded into the magazine, a major explosion occurred, killing Lt. Alexander M<sup>c</sup>Leod, Corp. Donald M<sup>c</sup>Pherson and Pvt. Donald M<sup>c</sup>Cuman of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.

**Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Describes the Explosion  
of the Arms Magazine, Killing Lt. Alexander M<sup>c</sup>Leod, Corp. Donald M<sup>c</sup>Pherson and  
Pvt. Donald M<sup>c</sup>Cuman, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Charleston, South Carolina, May 15, 1780**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. May rain last night wind in the east...

A melancholly accident happened between one & 2 o'clock by the blowing up of a Magazine in Town, which the Artillery were examining & storing up arms in Cap<sup>t</sup>. [Robert] Collins & L<sup>t</sup>. [John William] Gordon of the Art<sup>y</sup>. kill'd L<sup>t</sup>. [Alexander] M<sup>c</sup>Leod 42<sup>d</sup>. & others kill'd & wounded in a shocking manner, the Town set on fire & continues burning & another magazine in danger, being near the fire The fire was got out by the activity of the Militia inhabitants & Negroes before evening, having burnt a Barrack, the goal, & house of Correction, in which were good many people, The principal Magazine was not far off with about 500 barrels of powder in it. The occasion of the blast was suppos'd to be owing to some of the firelocks (which were all loaded) going off by accident near some powder.

Very Strange Management to Store up loaded Arms in a Magazine, of Powder

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entry for May 15, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 373-374.

**Excerpts of Letter No. 91 from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to  
Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Promotion  
of Several Colonels to Local Brigadier General, Including Col. Thomas Stirling, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.,  
Charleston, South Carolina, May 15, 1780**

N<sup>o</sup>. 91

Charles Town 15<sup>th</sup> May 1780

My Lord;

I have the Honor to notify to your Lordship that in Consequence of so few General Officers being present with this Army, I found it necessary to appoint Colonels [Thomas] Stirling and [James] Paterson, & Lieutenant Colonel [John] Leland, Brigadier General. Colonel [William] Dalrymple on his Arrival received also that Appointment...

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect. Your Lordships

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

Most humble Servant  
H. Clinton

Source and Notes: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 6, p. 144 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1779-1780* at CO5/99, p. 52. Although he held the position of Lt. Colonel in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., on Feb. 19, 1779 Stirling had been promoted to Aid-de-Camp to the King which ranked as a Colonel "in the Army."

**Extract of Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander in Chief, North America to Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis, Offering Assignment of the Lt. Infantry and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders to His Command, Charleston, South Carolina, May 17, 1780**

Charles Town, May 17, 1780.

(Extract.)

Your Lordship has already with you (*in the field*) two thousand five hundred and forty-two rank and file; but if you have the least reason to suppose the enemy to be in great number, you shall be reinforced with the forty-second, the light infantry and any other corps you choose. As your move is important, it must not be stinted. I will give you all you wish of every sort. Let me but know what it is as soon as possible. In the mean time, I shall order the light infantry and forty-second regiment to prepare, depending upon it that as soon as you can spare them you will return them to me, for all operations to the Northward must be cramped without them. If you choose to keep the seventeenth dragoons, you are heartily welcome to them during this move.

Source: *State Records of North Carolina, Vol. XV, 1780-'81*, Ed. Walter Clark, Nash Bros., Goldsboro (NC), 1898, Google Books, p. 242.



Detail of Portrait of Maj. Gen. William Moultrie, 1782, by Charles Willson Peale

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *National Portrait Gallery*, Smithsonian Institution

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Describe the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment's Temporary Departure from Charleston, South Carolina, May 18 – 20, 1780**

Thursday Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. May, warm weather & easterly winds... I din'd at H<sup>d</sup>.Q<sup>rs</sup>. which is still at William's [House]. The Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.], 42<sup>d</sup>. & [Loyalist] Queens Rangers have got orders of readiness to march at the shortest notice –

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>. the same kind of w<sup>f</sup>. I went into Town to see it more particularly & took a look from the top of high Steeple which gives a very fine view of the Town the Rivers, & the Country, see a great many very good Houses & all of them very elegantly furnish'd, wh<sup>h</sup>. [which] gives an idea of style of living & luxury –

din'd with the [42<sup>nd</sup>] Reg<sup>t</sup>. who hold their [officers'] mess at a handsome house belonging to [Brig.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [William] Moultrie they expect to march in the Morn<sup>g</sup>...

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. May 1780...

The Light Infantry march'd in the Evening, & the 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>; out to the northward...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries for May 18-20, 1780* and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 375-376.

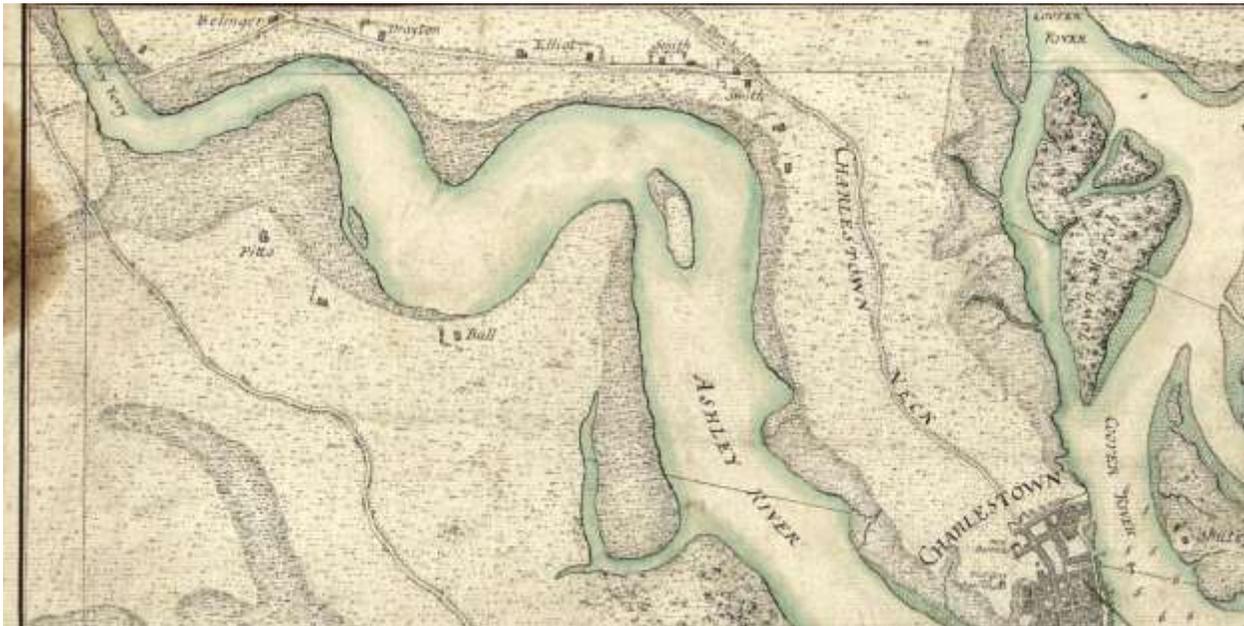
### **Maj. Gen. Hon. Alexander Leslie's Commendation of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Orders, Charleston, South Carolina, May 20, 1780**

Charlestown, 20<sup>th</sup> May 1780

Major-General Leslie's Orders

Major-General Leslie begs Major [Charles] Graham will make it known to the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment, how much he holds himself indebted to them for their good conduct at so critical a period as the taking of Charlestown. He embraces this opportunity to return Major Graham and the regiment his sincerest thanks, for that regularity and soldierly behaviour which has ever distinguished the Royal Highlanders, and which has been so conspicuous on this occasion.

Source: *Historical Record of the Forty-Second, or, The Royal Highland Regiment of Foot* (Historical Records of the British Army) Richard Cannon, Parker, Furnivall, and Parker, London, 1845, footnote p. 79.



Detail showing Bellinger's and Ashley Ferry in upper left corner from "A plan of the town, bar, harbour, and environs of Charlestown in South Carolina: with all the channels, soundings, sailing-marks &c. from the surveys made in the colony," 1780, by William Faden

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### **Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles Describe the Initial Preparations for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment and 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company's Departure from Charleston, South Carolina, May 20 – 28, 1780**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. May 1780. warm with the wind in S.W. q<sup>r</sup>. [quarter] the transports getting over the Bar and up to Town...

We have orders to be in readiness to Embark at the shortest notice...

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>. May 1780 very warm with a little wind in the South... a great many ships come up to Town, The Transports to water immediately Those allotted for the 1<sup>st</sup>. [British Grenadier] Batt<sup>n</sup>. are

The Nestor 348 tons. 17<sup>th</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. & 76<sup>th</sup>. Comp<sup>ys</sup>.

The Thames 306 tons. 7<sup>th</sup>. 23<sup>d</sup>. & 33<sup>d</sup>. & Surg<sup>n</sup>.

The Houston 250 tons. 43<sup>d</sup>. & 38<sup>th</sup>.

The Jn<sup>o</sup>. & Jane 150 tons 42<sup>d</sup>. field officers. & M[ajor]: of B[rigade]

an Agents ship of 378 tons.

put on our new trouzers today...

Monday 22<sup>d</sup>. May very warm, & little wind we have orders to be ready to march in the Even<sup>g</sup>. & leave our tents heavy baggage behind...

The British & Hessian Gren<sup>rs</sup>. & yagers with [Hessian Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Heinrich von] Kospoth march'd in the Even<sup>g</sup>. about 8 & halted in the wood near Bellingers about 11 o'clock having march'd I suppose about 7 miles

Tuesday 23<sup>d</sup>. May, was a very hot day we mov'd early in the morn<sup>g</sup>. & took up ground with our right just above Bellingers house, our rear to Ashley River, facing about N.E. made shades & rested, & we hear we are to remain here for some days; 9 miles from Town The Light Infantry & 42<sup>d</sup>. about Monks Corner, Queens Rangers somewhere betwixt this & that – the purpose of all these movements, we suppose, is to Collect Stores, fresh provisins, & open the Country communications with the Town (& kept idlers out of Town – while the Ships are getting ready)...

Camp at Bellingers near Ashley ferry Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>. May 1780 British & Hessian Gren<sup>rs</sup>. & Yagers under Gen<sup>l</sup>. Kospoth...

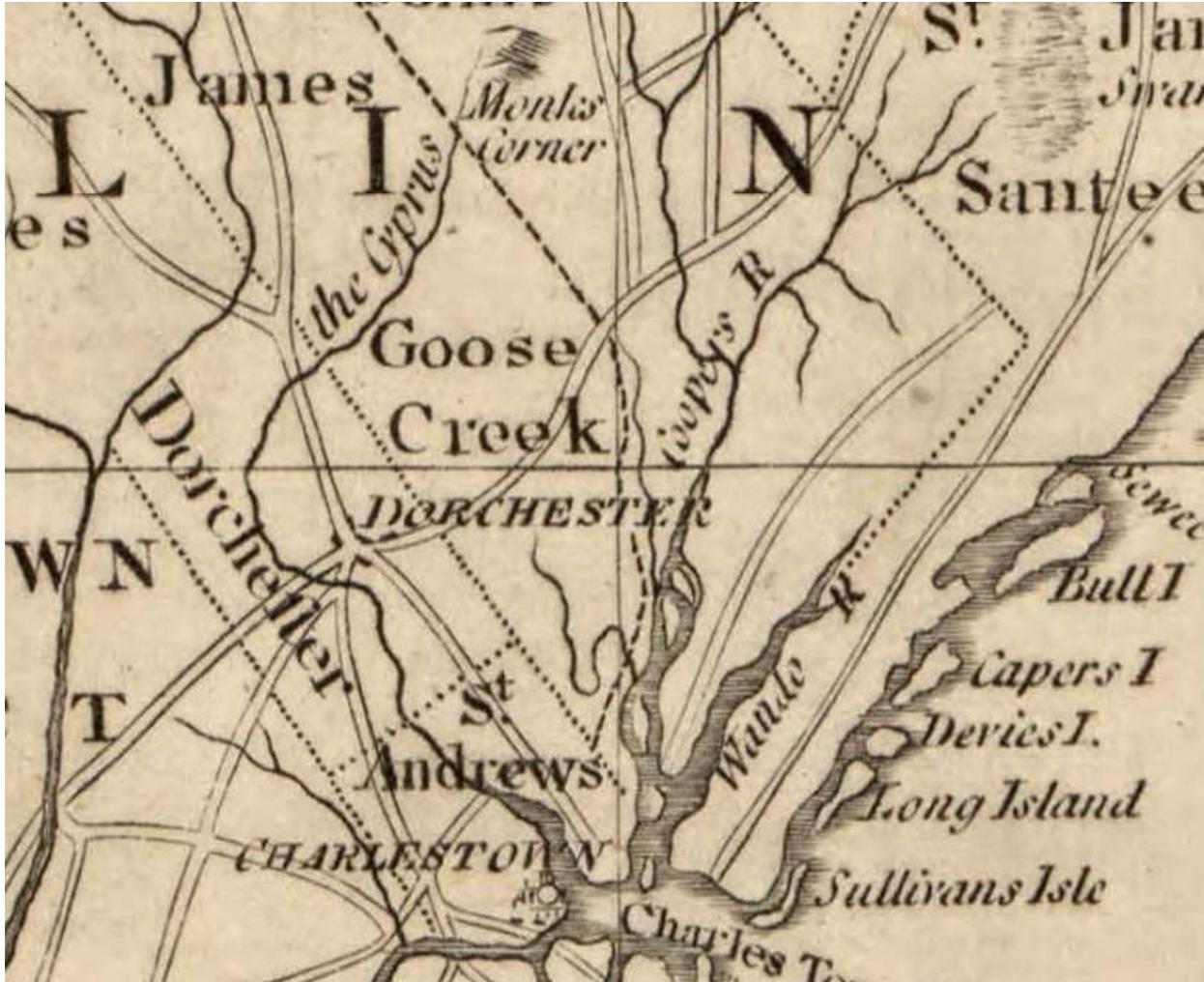
The Queens Rangers come to Dorchester. The Light Infantry & 42<sup>d</sup>. continue at Monks Corner...

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>. May 1780 warm The two Batt<sup>ns</sup>. B[ritish]. Gr<sup>rs</sup>. march'd this morn<sup>g</sup> about 4 o'clock & took their former ground near H<sup>d</sup>.Q<sup>rs</sup>. near W<sup>ms</sup>. [Williams] without tents.

The Hess<sup>ns</sup>. in their old ground also. The Light Infantry & 42<sup>d</sup>. march this Even<sup>g</sup>. on their return, having nothing to do but to receive submission & give paroles a plentiful Country about Monks Corner...

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 1780 warm...Went to Town & got a packet of letters bro<sup>l</sup>. by Cap<sup>t</sup>. [David] Anstruther 42<sup>d</sup>...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for May 20-28, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 375-378. Capt. Anstruther had not sailed with the regiment due to wound received during raid on Hackensack, Mar. 23, 1780.



Detail from "A new and accurate map of the province of South Carolina in North America," 1779

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

**Extract of Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander in Chief, North America to Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis Forwarding the Lt. Infantry and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. to Goose Creek and Monks Corner, South Carolina, May 20, 1780 and Lord Cornwallis' Response, May 21, 1780**

Charles Town, May 20, 1780.

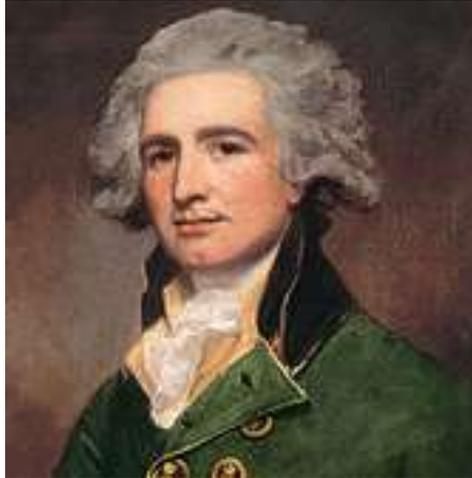
The light infantry and forty-second regiment march this evening to Goose-creek, and thence to Monk's-corner, where they will remain at your Lordship's call, in readiness either to join you or to return and embark, as shall become expedient.

[Response]

Camp at Lenews, East Side of Santee, May 21, 1780

The march of the light infantry and forty-second to Monk's-corner will be of use to those corps, and will help to spread alarm through the country; but from what I hear, I do not believe that there can be any necessity for detaining any part of the first embarkation a moment after the ships are ready for them.

Source: *State Records of North Carolina, Vol. XV, 1780-'81*, Ed by Walter Clark, Nash Bros., Goldsboro (NC), 1898, Google Books, pp. 244-245.



Detail of Portrait of Robert Abercromby, 1788 by George Romney

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

**Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby's Orders for Detachment of the Light Infantry and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.,  
Goose Creek, South Carolina, May 21, 28 and 30, 1780**

21<sup>th</sup> May 1780 Goos Creed

Orders

Collonal Abercromby [37<sup>th</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf.] is Determined that this Detachment on this Excursion Shall Leve well wen Rebels Provisions are to be Found

But Plundring, Marading and other Aregularitys by nomens [no means] will be Suffered and he relies on Commanding officers of Corps bringing all a Fenders [offenders] to Emedit [immediate] Punnishment in order that Cattle or other provisions Can be Collected in a regular manner –

Propper Partes will be Sent out for this Porposs, Quarter Marster Sutherland as Commassary, will Receive all Provisions and will Issue the Same to the Corps –

Lu<sup>t</sup>. Collonal Abercromby is Confidt the Commanding officers will bring to Immedate Punnashment aney man that Shall befound guilty of Plundring – Marading, or aney aregularitys –

the 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment is to join the Light infantry by 10 OClock this Night – at wich hour the woll [whole] are to march –

the 2<sup>d</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>: of Light Infantry give the rear Guard

Monks Corner 28<sup>th</sup> May 1780

orders

No Niggros Excpeting them who came with the Deferent corps to be permitted to Go with the Detachment –

[1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Infantry] Battlion Orders 30<sup>th</sup> May 1780

The 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Will Embark on board the following Ships, Viz Favourite, 37<sup>th</sup> Comp<sup>y</sup>, Staff, a Serj<sup>t</sup>.. Corp<sup>l</sup>, & 28 Men of the 42<sup>d</sup>.. Company –

Dianna, 22<sup>d</sup>.. 33<sup>d</sup>.. & 54<sup>th</sup>.. 1 Serj<sup>t</sup> 1 Corp<sup>l</sup> & 12 Men From the 22<sup>nd</sup> [illegible] D<sup>o</sup>.. from the 33<sup>d</sup>, to go on board the Cristian

Minervia 7<sup>th</sup>.. & 42<sup>d</sup> [Company] Deducting a Serj<sup>t</sup> Corp<sup>l</sup> and 28 to go on the Favourite

Neptuin 70<sup>th</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup>.. – a Sub<sup>s</sup> Serj<sup>t</sup> Corp<sup>l</sup> and 38 of the 74<sup>th</sup> Comp<sup>y</sup> to Go on board the Christain

Cristain 63<sup>d</sup> Comp<sup>y</sup> – With the Several detachments –

Officers Commanding the Different Ships Will Send proper people Earley to Morrow Morning to remove the Baggage to their own Ships

Source and Note: "Capt. Eyre Coote's 37<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Company Order Book, 1778 – 1781," *Eyre Coote Papers*, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby, 37<sup>th</sup> Regt. and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn. Commander was ordered to take a separate command consisting of both battalions of light infantry and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders to Goose Creek, S.C., located about 18 miles north of Charleston.

**Directions for Embarking the British and Hessian Grenadiers, Light Infantry, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and Jägers for Return Voyage to New York with Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Charleston, S. C., May 29, 1780**

Dear Sir

Charles Town May 29<sup>th</sup> 1780

Since I had the honor of Seeing the General yesterday afternoon, I find the two Ships for the Yagers are in Such readiness that I could wish they would Embark early to morrow morning, & tho this is doing but little, yet it is making a begining – The Granadiers can certainly Embark on Wednesday Early, & the rest of the Troops on Thursday & as Dratons wharf Seems to be in the Center, I could wish the Troops to be orderd there, & to the Warves to the right & left of it: you know the Sooner in the morning the better for doing business –

The wounded & Convalescents both British & Hessians, to go onboard the Ships appointed for them, on Thursday, the Ships will be hauld to Such warves as they can conveniently get to – The Horses to be Embarked at Gastons wharf as Soon as the Infantry Ships are dropt [sic] down, or the day before the General means to take Ship, you know the weather is hot, & but little air in a hold when at anchor, however I hope to hear from you time enough to order Boats over night, for the Service intended in the morning following

I am at Townsends

I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir  
Yours Sincerely  
*Tho<sup>s</sup> Tonken*

Source and Note: *Sir Henry Clinton Papers* 101:46, William L. Clements Lib., Univ. of Mich. Naval Capt. Thomas Tonken served as an Agent for Transport in connection with the vessels employed by the Quarter Master General's Department.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles Describe the Final Preparations for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment and 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company's Departure from Charleston, South Carolina, May 29 – June 21, 1780**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup>. May 1780 Rain last night and almost all day, very bad for the men who have no shelter – the Gren<sup>ts</sup>. get leave to go in & see the Town by parties –

Orders for Embarkation: The Yagers tomorrow morn<sup>g</sup>. the Br: & Hess<sup>n</sup>. Gr<sup>ts</sup>. on Wednesday morn<sup>g</sup>. the remainder for this embarkation on Thursday – The Light Infantry & 42 came in even<sup>g</sup>. to their old ground, tents They have got something to eat & drink & c<sup>a</sup>. and a little indeed...

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>. May 1780 warm & clear The B: & Hess<sup>n</sup>. Gren<sup>ts</sup>. Embark'd this morn<sup>g</sup>...

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>. June warm weather but generally a breeze from the sea some part of the day – The Light Infantry & 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. & [Loyalist] Queens Rangers embark'd this morning, which I believe makes nearly the whole of this Embarkation....

Friday 2<sup>d</sup>. June warm as usual. getting everything on board, The transports being compleated with water & provision for 70 days are ordered to drop down tom<sup>w</sup> [tomorrow]... I hear [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis remains here The Com<sup>r</sup>. on Chief [Gen. Sir Henry Clinton] goes with us suppos'd for New York –

Saturday 3<sup>d</sup>. June a breeze from the So: The Transports got under way in the morn<sup>g</sup>. but the wind being contrary they did not get far down...

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>. June... The Transports & c<sup>a</sup>. got under way about the turn of the tide about 8 o'clock & moved down to 5 fathom hole...

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>. warmer at night than in the day – a light breeze from S.W. in the morn<sup>g</sup>. made the transports get under way from 5 fat<sup>m</sup>. hole & by noon about half of them got over the bar when the wind failing the rest came to anchor ... above 50 sail without & above 40 sail within...

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>. June 1780 a fine breeze about S.W. brought the rest of the ships over the Bar this morn<sup>g</sup>. about 9 or 10 Clock When the Adm<sup>l</sup>. [Mariot Arbuthnot] made a Signal to get under way... The masters call'd & acquainted of the order of sailing in their stations as last voyage - & if the men of war should meet with & engage the Enemy the Transports are to disperse & take care of themselves. we steer E.B. N. [east by north] 4 & 5 knots –

	[64 gun <i>HMS</i> ] Europe]	
[44 gun <i>HMS</i> ] Roebuck [British] Grenad <sup>rs</sup> .		[44 gun <i>HMS</i> ] Romulus Light Infantry
[32 gun <i>HMS</i> ] Richmond	Yagers and Hessian Gr <sup>rs</sup> .	[32 gun <i>HMS</i> ] Blonde
[20 gun <i>HMS</i> ] Camilla	42 <sup>d</sup> . Reg <sup>t</sup> .	[14 gun <i>HMS</i> <i>Bonetta</i> ] Bonita
[64 gun <i>HMS</i> ] Reasonable	Queens Rangers	[50 gun <i>HMS</i> ] Renown...

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 1780, cloudy morn<sup>g</sup>. & rain...we went 6 & 7 knots which brought us in with the [Sandy] Hook between 4 & 5 when it was foggy; we got a clear blink of the Light House... in the evening it clear'd up when the Ships got under way & came up to anchor at the watering place [Staten Island]...

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 1780 a Strong wind about S.W...

B<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Thomas] Stirling [Lt. Col., 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] was wounded near Elizabeth Town at their first going over by some skulking rascal from behind a house; his thigh broke, & very ill Orders for Landing on Staten Island but it blows so hard that we can't get ashore today...

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>. June Strong westerly wind & cold. The Troops Landed this Morning on Staten Island, & march'd into Cantonm<sup>ts</sup>. The Light Infantry about Deckers ferry British Gren<sup>rs</sup>. at & near Richmond Hessian Gren<sup>rs</sup>. on the South road, 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. from Coles to Deckers, Queens Rangers in the Fort at Richmond...

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. June some warm showers...

Gen<sup>l</sup>. orders for the Troops on Staten Island to be under the Command of [Hessian Lt.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for May 29-June 19, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 378-388. Brig. Gen. Stirling was wounded on June 7.

**Journal of Capt. Archibald Robertson, Dep. Quarter Master Gen. Notes the Arrival of the Light Infantry and Embarkation of the Lt. Infantry, Grenadiers and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. for the Return to New York; Charleston, South Carolina, May 29-June 1, 1780**

29<sup>th</sup> morning the Light Infantry returned to Camp...

31<sup>st</sup> The Grenadiers British and Hessian embark'd.

June 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry, 42<sup>d</sup>, Queens Rangers, and Pioneers embark'd.

Source: *Archibald Robertson, Lieutenant-General Royal Engineers, His Diaries and Sketches in America*, Ed. Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, New York, 1930, p. 230.



Detail from "A sketch of the operations before Charlestown, the capital of South Carolina," 1780 by Joseph F. W. Des Barres

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**General Orders for the Transports Carrying the Army, Including the Royal Highlanders, to Prepare to Return to New York; Charleston, South Carolina, June 2, 1780**

Head Quarters Charles Town 2<sup>d</sup> June 1780...

When the Transports shall have fallen down from the Town a Signal will be made for all Masters to come On board the Agents Ship John. The several Officers commanding in the Transports will be pleased to send the Deputy Adjutant General a Report that every necessary search has been made and they believe no Negroes are kept on Board each ship except according to the Comm<sup>r</sup> in Chiefs regulation in the order of the 1<sup>st</sup> June...

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

**Excerpts of Separate Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting His Arrival in New York and the Status of the Campaign, June 17- July 4, 1780**

Separate

Head Quarters, Philipsburg  
July 4<sup>th</sup> 1780

My Lord

I closed my last Dispatches from Carolina on board the [44 gun *HMS*] *Romulus* and entrusted them to Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel [Andrew] Bruce [54<sup>th</sup> Regt.], my Aide de Camp, who has I hope had the honor to present them to your Lordship and to give you full information in everything to the time of my departure from thence.

By very favorable Passage of Ten days I arrived at New York on the 17<sup>th</sup>. of June with the Light Infantry, Grenadiers British and Hessian, 42<sup>d</sup>. Regiment, and detachment of Chasseurs.

His Excellency [Hessian] Lieu<sup>t</sup>. General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen had I found, on the 7<sup>th</sup> made a Movement into Jersey [where Brig. Gen. Stirling was wounded], and on the same day withdrawn the Troops back to a position between Elizabeth Town Creek and Newark Meadows where they were at my Arrival.

[Rebel Gen. George] Washington's Army was, I was informed, at Chatham with an advanced Corps at Connecticut Farms but on the 18<sup>th</sup> retired towards the Clove.

I have the honor to refer your Lordship to his Excellency General Knyphausen's report of his Operations, and of the Motives which induced him to enter Jersey.

I cannot judge what strong colour of truth the Intelligence on which this Movement was founded might have had previous to its being undertaken; but whether I considered how illusive that Intelligence had proved both with respect to the temper of Washington's Army and of the Militia. – Whether I reflected that time had been given to the Rebels to collect their force & procure Horses for removing their Artillery & Stores, & that the measure could no longer be prosecuted in its original Spirit (a rapid Movement against a disaffected Army in a supine and enfeebled state), or whether lastly I doubted the good tendency of any Movement in Jersey which had not the total destruction of Washington's Army in hope, on no account could I think of keeping the Field in that Province.

General Washington by his Retreat left me little time for these deliberations. To avail myself, however, as much as I could of our Situation I ordered, previous to quitting Jersey, a strong Detachment under [Maj.] General [Edward] Mathew well supported by his Excellency General Knyphausen to move to the last Division of the Rebel Army and press it if possible, whilst I put the Troops just arrived from Carolina and already landed on Staten Island, afloat again and repaired in person to Haverstraw Bay, the Transports following me to Philipsburg.

I was thus in readiness to take advantage of any unguarded March the Enemy might make to Succour the Corps attacked, or finding no Enemy for Offence (as was the Event) to land the Troops and give a Camp of rest to an Army, of which many Corps had had an uninterrupted Campaign of Fourteen Months.

The Attack of the rear of Washington's Army was conducted with Judgment and Spirit. The Rebels were forced from Two Strong Positions, and the Troops after remaining some hours in Springfield retired according to my Orders and that Evening without molestation evacuated Jersey, bringing off the Bridge of Boats which had been thrown across the Staten Island Sound.

I have drawn all the force I could take from New York and its depending posts to this Camp, and as your Lordship will naturally conclude am waiting with impatience some Accounts of the French Armament You did me the honor to inform me was coming to this Coast, the expectation of which may probably keep me inactive.

Should its destination prove such as to leave these Seas unthreatened, and my Reports concerning North Carolina be such as I flatter myself they will appear, I shall seriously prosecute the Operations in Chesapeak Bay which your Lordship knows my anxiety to undertake. These must not be carried on without a considerable Force both in Troops and Ships. I trust [Lt. Gen. Charles] Earl Cornwallis will be able to spare 3,000 Men from Carolina, but even with this Supply my numbers for the Field will not exceed 8,000 when the Force of 10,000, exclusive of Militia, is assigned to New York and its posts, without which Numbers I can never think them Secure when the rest of the Army is distantly detached.

But, my Lord, were Success to attend my efforts in Chesapeak, it must be recollected that the Garrisons required there during the War would so much farther enfeeble my fighting Army that unless I am to be considerably reinforced I can have no view of any subsequent Vigorous Operations.

I submit these considerations to Your Lordship, not doubting but it will appear a very mortifying Prospect to be reduced to inaction at the hour (should Success bring us to it) when an addition of 10,000 Men might put a Period to the War as far as the Hudson's River. How far the being arrived at that point would operate towards the final reduction of the Colonies your Lordship is best able to judge.

In the meantime, as Your Lordship gives me such strong reasons to suppose that the first French armament is destined for Canada and its Force in Ships less formidable than originally intended, I shall propose to Admiral [Mariot] Arbuthnot the taking possession of Elizabeth River with a small Corps, if having the same information the Admiral can now spare a sufficient Naval Force. To sound the temper of the Inhabitants, to check Expedition against the Southern Provinces, and to deter the French if possible from entering the Bay, would be the Objects of this Enterprise.

But should the French nevertheless send a strong Force into that part of the Coast, an Attempt with my present Numbers would become utterly inexpedient, not only from the increased Strength Washington's Army would derive from it, but from the influence so powerful a Support would have on the minds of the Inhabitants.

I must sum up the Opinions and Prospects I have had the honor to lay before your Lordship in observing that, whilst a powerful foreign force gives me apprehensions, I cannot dismember my own; and that tho' these Apprehensions should subside and Success should crown every Measure I have concerted, there would yet remain a task which the Army I now Command is absolutely unequal to.

I have the honor to be With the greatest Respect

Your Lordship's Most obedient and Most humble Servant  
H Clinton

PS. The detached situation of some Corps is the reason of my being unable to transmit a state of the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month. I beg your Lordship will do me the favour to accept of the enclosed recapitulation in lieu of it, H.C.

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 6, pp. 261-266 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches*, 1780 at CO 5/100, pp. 97-103 (f. 49).



Detail showing 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. Archibald Robertson, Dep. Quarter Master Gen. Notes the Return of Gen Sir Henry Clinton with the Lt. Infantry, Grenadiers and 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Staten Island, New York, June 19, 1780**

19<sup>th</sup> [Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton Landed on Staten Island. Having been in New York I joind him at Cole's Ferry at 8 Morning. All our Troops from the Southward landed and cantooned on Staten Island. the 42d from Ferry to Decker's, the Light Infantry from thence to Richmond, the Queen's Rangers heights of Richmond, British

Grenadiers Richmond. Hessian Grenadiers along the Road from Cole's Ferry to Richmond. Head Quarters along the Road from Cole's Ferry to Richmond. Yagers near Elizabeth Point.

Source and Note: *Archibald Robertson, Lieutenant-General Royal Engineers, His Diaries and Sketches in America*, Ed. Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, New York, 1930, p. 230. Decker's was a fortified Stone house on the north side of Staten Island on the Kill Van Kull.

### **Rebel Intelligence Report from 'A Strangere' to Col. Elias Dayton, 3<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Regt., Identifies Landing of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. (from Charleston) and Location of Camp, New York, June 19, 1780**

Dear Sir

twelve o'clock June 19<sup>th</sup> 1780...

As to the movements of the [British] are no One Can at present tell anything of the Army's Intention admiral [Mariot] arberthnot was heard Day Before yesterday and held a Conference with [Hessian Lt. Wilhelm von Knyphausen] Niphousen and [Gen.] Sir Henry [Clinton] is to be heard this day at two o'clock and to Review the Line which are to be perched at that time I am told by M<sup>r</sup> Bole who this minute from the Island that the forty second Regiment and the [Loyalist] Queens Rangers landed at the Island this morning I suppose that something will be done as soon as Sir H<sup>c</sup> C: and Niphousen consult together...

Sir the forty second Seventy first and Queens rangers are now between here and M<sup>r</sup> Bankers Sir H- C- Quarters is to be at M<sup>r</sup> Bankers and [Brig.] General [Hon. Alexander] Leslie at M<sup>r</sup> Bonells.

Source and Note: "From Pseudonym 'A Strangere' to Elias Dayton, 19 June 1780" *Papers of George Washington*, Founders Early Access, Univ. of Va. Press. Sir Henry Clinton's July 4<sup>th</sup> letter above indicates "...I arrived at New York on the 17<sup>th</sup>. of June with the Light Infantry, Grenadiers British and Hessian, 42<sup>d</sup>. Regiment, and detachment of Chasseurs."



Detail of "A topographical map of Hudsons River, with the channels depth of water, rocks, shoals &c. and the country adjacent, from Sandy-Hook, New York and bay to Fort Edward, also the communication with Canada by Lake George and Lake Champlain, as high as Fort Chambly on Sorel River. 1776." by Claude Joseph Sauthier and William Faden.

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

### **Excerpt of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Records the Movements of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in the Area of New York, June 22 – 27, 1780**

Thursday 22. very warm...while at dinner we got orders to march at 5 o'clock to Coles ferry & Embark, all the Troops from So: Carolina

1<sup>st</sup>. Gr<sup>rs</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] march'd at six & arrived at Coles in 2 ½ hours after, where we found that most of the transports were gone up to Town but were order'd down again to take us in; those Embark'd whose ships were there, the rest lay on the ground for the night –

Friday 23<sup>d</sup>. June the remainder of the Cha<sup>s</sup>. Town Troops [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf. Bn. and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.] (except the [Loyalist] Queens Rangers who are gone to the Jerseys) Embark'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. & when the tide serv<sup>d</sup> about noon they got under way & stood up the North River with a light breeze from the Southward, which carried us up to, & near to Phillips's where we came to anchor...

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>. June 1780 very warm The Troops landed this morn<sup>g</sup>. from their transports & Vessels with 3 days provision and when all ashore they march'd & took up the ground the Army occupied last year, the right at East Chester the left at Phillips's; The Camp Equipage & field Baggage to be sent after us when Waggon's come to carry it...

Camp near east Chester Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>. June 1780... [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Hon. Alexander] Leslie at east Chester. Commanding the Light Infantry & Gr<sup>rs</sup>. The line to be under the Command of [Hessian Lt.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen who takes up his Quarters at Phillips's...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for June 22-27, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 389-391.

**Journal of Dep. Quarter Master Gen. Capt. Archibald Robertson  
Describes the Actions of the Troops from Charleston (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.),  
Springfield, New Jersey and Phillipsburg, New York, June 22-25, 1780**

22<sup>d</sup> [Gen.] Sir Henry [Clinton] left York early, went to Staten Island, had information that [Rebel Gen. George] Washington with all but two Brigades of his Army had moved in Divisions ( the first the 18<sup>th</sup>) to pass the (Smith's) Clove by Sovereigns (*I. e.* Suffran's) to West Point, upon which Sir Henry gave orders for all the Troops on Staten Island that came from the southward to reembark on Board their Several Transports with Intention to Land at or Near N[y]ack and so Endeavour to cut part of the Rebels on their march. At One o'clock I left York with [Quarter Master] General [William] Dalrymple. Were surprized to find all the troops in motion at 4 when we landed...

23<sup>d</sup> This Morning a Strong Patrole Was push'd forwards from Elizabeth Town in two Divisions, one led by [Maj.] General [Edward] Mathew the other by [Hessian Lt.] General [Wilhelm von] Knyphausen. They Attack'd and drove [Rebel Brig. Gen. William] Maxwell and [Brig. Gen. John] Stark's Brigade of Militia from Springfield and after remaining for some time return'd and were fired upon all the way Back. We had near 100 men Killed and Wounded. Yagers suffed a good deal. I left Staten Island this morning to join [Maj.] General [Alexander] Leslie who commanded the Troops going up the North River. The Transports went all past York with a fine Breeze. In the Night Sir Henry join'd us from Staten Island. The Fleet anchored off Phillips's. Sir Henry, The [14-gun *HMS*] Vulture Sloop of War and [Vice Adm. Molyneux] Shuldham proceeded to Tellers point to Endeavour to get some good intelligence but found none.

24<sup>th</sup> In the Night we return'd to Philipsburgh, where we found Great Part of General Knyphausen's Army who had all left the Jerseys.

25<sup>th</sup> at 10 all the Troops landed and were Encamp'd with their Right to East Chester Creek and Left to the North River, in the Following order

Two Battalions Light Infantry	} Between the
Two Battalions, British Grenadiers	} Brunx and East
Flank Companys Guards	} Chester Creek

Two Battalions Guards	} Valentine's
-----------------------	---------------



Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 6, pp. 279-282 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches*, 1780 at CO 5/100, pp. 133-140.



Detail showing Phillipsburg in the upper left and Huntington Bay in the lower center from “Province de New-York en 4 feuilles,” 1777, by John Montrésor

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Journal of Dep. Quarter Master Gen. Capt. Archibald Robertson Records the Embarkation of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. for Relief of Rhode Island; Phillipsburg and Whitestone, New York, July 21-Aug. 3, 1780**

21<sup>st</sup> ... 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment, 3 Battalions Hessian Grenadiers, and a Detachment of Yagers embark'd in Transports at Philipsburgh...

[July] 25<sup>th</sup> ... Transports all endeavouring to get to Whitestone, Contrary winds...

26<sup>th</sup> Most of the Transports pass'd Hell gate. [Gen.] Sir Henry [Clinton] went to Whitestone. A Letter from Admiral [Mariot] Arbuthnot Arrived to Sir Henry which had left the Admiral the 22<sup>d</sup>.

27<sup>th</sup> Went to Whitestone with [Quarter Master] General [William] Dalrymple by land. Between 6 and 7 in the Evening all the Fleet got under way, The Men of War having joint from New York about 1 o'clock. The [20-gun *HMS*] *Camilla* and [24-gun *HMS*] *Amphytrite* Came to an anchor in Huntington Bay. The Army Embark'd are

- |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Yagers Detachment                                     | } |                                      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Light Infantry                        | } | Major General [Alexander] Leslie     |
| 2 <sup>d</sup> Light Infantry                         | } |                                      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>d</sup> Grenadiers         | } |                                      |
| Hessian Grenadiers, 4 Battalions                      | } | Major General [Heinrich von] Kospoth |
| 37 <sup>th</sup> , 38 <sup>th</sup> , 43 <sup>d</sup> | } | Brigadier [John] General Leland }    |
|   | } |                                      |
| 42 <sup>d</sup> and Flank Companys Guards             | } | Colonel [John] Howard }              |
| 22 <sup>d</sup>                                       | } | [Maj.] General [Edward] Mathew }     |
|   | } |                                      |

[Hessian] Regiment du Corps	}	Colonel [Ludwig] deWormb	}
[Hessian] Landgrave	}		}

28<sup>th</sup> Transports ordered to Complete Water...

30<sup>th</sup> [20-gun *HMS*] Galatea Frigate arrived from Rhode Island. Captain Savage reported to Sir Henry that the Admiral wish'd he could Alter Sir Henry's intention of going to Rhode Island, etc., etc.

31<sup>st</sup> Early Galatea returned to the Admiral with Captain Savage and Major DeLancy. At the same time Sir Henry with all the Fleet return'd to Whitestone Bay, got there at 1 o'clock. Sir Henry immediately set out for New York.

[Aug.] 2<sup>d</sup> The Yagers, Light Infantry and British Grenadiers disembark'd and were encamp'd at Flushing. Very hot.

3<sup>d</sup> This day The Rest of the troops landed and were encamp'd at Whitestone. All ordered to be ready to cross over to Frog's Neck at a moments Warning, as [Rebel] General [George] Washington with the Rebel Army were at Verplank's Point at 1 Yesterday Afternoon prepared to march at 3 towards Kingsbridge, Plot thickens. This is one of the hottest days I ever felt.

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. 236-239.



Map detail showing Whitestone, Flushing and Jamaica from "Plan of New York and Staten Islands with part of Long Island, survey'd in the years 1781, & 82."

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

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company,  
Record the Aborted Expedition Against the French and Rebels at Rhode Island  
and Entry to Winter Quarters, New York, July 21-Sept. 29 and Oct. 11 1780**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. July moderately warm...

The 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. the [German] Anspach troops & some Hessian Corps Embark'd at Phillips...

Sunday 23<sup>d</sup> July 1780 The Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.] & Gr<sup>rs</sup>. of the Line & those of the Guards march'd this morn<sup>g</sup>. at five to frogs neck, & the 37<sup>th</sup>. & 38<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>ts</sup>. & Hess<sup>n</sup>. Gr<sup>rs</sup>. in order to Embark but the ships are not come to Whitestone yet.

The 1<sup>st</sup>. Gr<sup>rs</sup>. embark as follows viz<sup>t</sup>...

The Union 17<sup>th</sup>., 42<sup>d</sup>. Cap<sup>t</sup>. Peebles, Artillery & a Surgeon

These troops take up ground on frogs Neck according to the line of march & make Shades...

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. July very warm...

The troops were put in motion at 10 o'clock & the Light Infantry & British & Hessian Gren<sup>rs</sup>. Embark'd...

We hear that Admiral [Mariot] Arbuthnot has arrived off Rhode Island & block'd up the french fleet there...

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>. July warm wind S.W...the rest of the ships & Vessels being come up the remainder of the troops Embark'd... A Signal at six P.M. to get underway

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>. July wind westerly The fleet got under way yesterday Even<sup>g</sup>. with a fair breeze, consisting of above 70 Sail, with two or three of the small men of war, we sail'd to the Eastward as far as Huntington Bay where we came to Anchor in the Morn<sup>g</sup>.

Monday 31<sup>st</sup>. July 1780 a Signal in the Morn<sup>g</sup>. to get under way, on which Ships got up their anchors & made sail to the westward, with a fine breeze from the S.E. which brought us up to Whitestone by noon where the fleet came to anchor again

Orders to send for the Camp Equipage & the troops to land when it arrives...

We hear that the reason for our Returning was, in consequence of information from the Adm<sup>l</sup>. that Rhode Island was in too strong a state of defence for us to attempt anything there, the rebels having reinforced the french with a great number of men from the continent...

Wednesday 2<sup>d</sup>. Aug<sup>t</sup>. very warm The Light Inf<sup>ty</sup>. B: Gren<sup>rs</sup>. & Yagers landed this Mn<sup>ing</sup>. with 3 days provision on Long Island, & took up ground about a mile S.E of Flushing near where the 57<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. built Hutts last winter...

Thursday 3<sup>d</sup>. Aug<sup>t</sup>. warm very warm wind about S<sup>o</sup>: ...

We hear M<sup>r</sup>. [Rebel Gen. George] Washington has cross'd the north River with his Army, at Verplanks point, with an intention to look at Kingsbridge... The Guards & 42<sup>d</sup>. [Regt.] Encamp'd at Whitestone...

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. Aug<sup>t</sup>. Very hot thunder & rain in the afternoon – the Gren<sup>rs</sup>. march'd this Morn<sup>g</sup>. at Revielle beating & march'd about a mile S.E. & took up ground where water is more plenty: the Light Inf<sup>ty</sup>. & Gr<sup>rs</sup>. Batt<sup>ns</sup>. are set down in different spots as most convenient for wood & water, about 3 miles from Jamaica & near 2 from Flushing

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>. Aug<sup>t</sup>. Camp in Widow Fields orchard who won't make much Cyder this year.

The Light Infantry march'd yesterday Even<sup>g</sup>. to the Eastward, they got to Smith Town...

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>. Still very warm The flank [Lt. Inf. and Gren.] Companies of the Guards & 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. march'd this Morn<sup>g</sup>. from Whitestone to go by hell gate to Horns hook... the L<sup>t</sup>. Inf<sup>y</sup>. at Smith Town still...

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>. Aug<sup>t</sup>. cool after the rain last night... The 42<sup>d</sup>. [Regt.] Encamped at Greenwich...

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. cool w<sup>r</sup>. ...The [1<sup>st</sup> British Grenadier] Batt<sup>n</sup>. to march tomorrow into Cantonements in & about Newtown...

Friday 29<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1780 – pleasant w<sup>r</sup>. for the season – The Gren<sup>rs</sup>. march'd this Morning at 7 from their Encampments at the fresh Meadows, to Newtown, where they went into Cantonements, the Men into Barns the officers in houses. I drew John Leveridge & Jn<sup>o</sup>. Moore Sen<sup>r</sup>. two large barns for the [42<sup>nd</sup> Gren.] Comp<sup>y</sup>. but not good Q<sup>rs</sup>. for the Off<sup>rs</sup>...

Wednesday Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>. [Oct.] fine weather & warm for the season We hear that we are to Hutt for the Winter at our present Quarters The Light Infantry come to Bedford the 42<sup>d</sup>. [Regt.] into Town –

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for July 21-Sept. 29 and Oct. 11 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 395-409, 412.

**Excerpts of Troop Listing for Attempted Rhode Island Expedition, Whitestone, New York, July 27, 1780**

Embarkation Return of the following Corps, Whitestone 27 <sup>th</sup> July 1780						
Corps...	[Officers]	[Staff]	Serjeants	Drummers	Rank & File	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> . Batt <sup>n</sup> Light Infantry... [Including 42 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.]	1 [Lt. Col.], 9 [Captains], 14 [Lts.], 2 [Ens.]	1 [Adj.], 1 [QM], 2 [Surg.]	30	11	498	549
1 <sup>st</sup> . Batt <sup>n</sup> Grenadiers ... [Including 42 <sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.]	1 [Lt. Col.], 8 [Captains], 16 [Lts.]	1 [Adj.], 1 [QM], 2 [Surg.]	25	20	481	555
42 <sup>d</sup>	1 [Maj.], 5 [Captains], 11 [Lts.], 7 [Ens.]	2 [Adj.], 1 [QM], 1 [Surg.], 1 [Mate]	33	16	484	...
...Total	2 [Cols.], 10 [Lt. Col.], 6 [Maj.], 82 [Captains], 151 [Lts.], 32 [Ens.]	1 [Chap.], 13 [Adj.], 7 [QM], 15 [Surg.], 22 [Mates]	531	229	6263	7364

*H. Clinton*

Source and Note: Enclosure to Sir Henry Clinton's letter to Lord George Germain, Jul. 27, 1780 in *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-178*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972, Reel 6, pp. 296-301 from TNA, *Original, Correspondence, Secretary of State, Military Dispatches*, 1780 at CO 5/100, pp. 173-179. On the raising of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in Scotland, the additional or recruiting company of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was turned over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. This may account for the low number of troops in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. in America which was authorized 800 privates in the eight line companies.



Map detail showing Whitestone opposite Throg's Neck from "Plan of New York and Staten Islands with part of Long Island, survey'd in the years 1781, & 82."

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

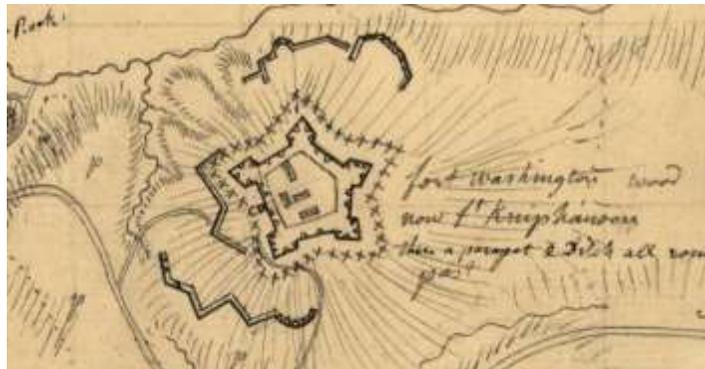
**General Orders Issued for Brigade Assignments for Rhode Island Expedition, "On Board the Grand Duke," Off Whitestone, Long Island, July 27, 1780**

On Board the Grand Duke at the White Stone 27<sup>th</sup> July 80  
 The Army for the present Expedition is Brigaded as follows

Yagers	} Inspected by	}
1 <sup>st</sup> Light Infantry	} L <sup>t</sup> Col [Robert] Abercrombie [1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Inf.]	} Commanded by
2 <sup>d</sup> Light Infantry	}	} Maj General
		} [Hon. Alexander] Leslie
British Grenadiers		}
Hessian Grenadiers	Maj <sup>r</sup> Gen [Heinrich Von] Kospoth [Regt. Landgrave]	
37 <sup>th</sup>	}	
38 <sup>th</sup>	} Brig <sup>r</sup> Gen [John] Leland [1 <sup>st</sup> Guards Regt.]	
43 <sup>d</sup>	}	
22 <sup>d</sup> Regiment	}	}
[Hessian] Du Corps	} Col Wurmb	}
[Hessian] Landgrave	}	} Under the Command of
		} Major Gen [Edward] Mathew
42 <sup>d</sup> Regiment	} [Capt and] L <sup>t</sup> Col [John]	} [Brig. of Guards]
Flank Comp <sup>y</sup> Guards	} Howard [1 <sup>st</sup> Guards Regt.]	} ...

Embarkation returns are expected as speedily as possible. When the Troops Land they will take 2 days prov<sup>s</sup> ready dress'd with them.

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. Gen. Clinton had learned that seven French ships of the line and 36 transports had sailed into Rhode Island harbor. Adm. Mariot Arbuthnot and Gen. Sir Henry Clinton agreed to a joint expedition to Rhode Island to attack the French. Commanders of companies in the Foot Guards Regiments were ranked as "Captain and Lt. Colonel" giving Capt. and Lt. Colonel John Howard seniority over Maj. Charles Graham, commander of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt.



Detail showing Fort Knyphausen from "A tracing relating to Fort Washington or Knyphausen," 1776, by Claude Joseph Sauthier

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Advertisement for Lost Horse Belonging to an Officer of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company  
 Manhattan Island, New York, Aug. 9, 1780.**

STOLEN or strayed on the 29th ult. [July] from near Fort Knyphausen, a bright Bay Mare, four years old, about 14 hands high, a flowing mane and switch tale, nearly black, a very small star on her

forehead, a few white hairs in her face, and both her hind feet white. Whoever will bring the said Mare to the Paymaster of the 42d regiment, to the Printer hereof, or to the 42d Grenadiers, will be handsomely rewarded and expences paid.

Source and Note: *Royal Gazette* (New York), August 9, 1780. "Fort Knyphausen" was the name given to Fort Washington on the northern part of Manhattan Island following the British capture of the fort on Nov. 16, 1776. This advertisement indicates the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, in the 1<sup>st</sup> British Grenadier Battalion, was posted in the area of the fort. The officers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company at this period were Capt. John Peebles, Lt. Alexander Grant, and Lt. Robert Rollo.



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

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

**Journal of Capt. Archibald Robertson, Dep. Quarter Master Gen., Records  
Movement of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Horn's Hook, Manhattan, New York, Aug. 26, 1780**

26<sup>th</sup>... 42<sup>d</sup> came from Flushing to Horn's hook, and the flank Companys, Guards to Kingsbridge.

Source: *Archibald Robertson, Lieutenant-General Royal Engineers, His Diaries and Sketches in America*, Ed. Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, New York, 1930, p. 240.

**Letter from Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, to his Father,  
John Peebles, Providing a Status of the War, New York, Aug. 30, 1780**

New York 30<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1780

Dear Father

I take the opportunity of Cap<sup>t</sup> Muir's going home to write you a few lines, tho since I wrote you last about three weeks ago there has nothing happened worth mentioning. we are Still Encamp'd on Long Island about 15 Miles from this place, I am to Town yesterday about a little business & will return to Camp again tomorrow. The Admiral [Mariot Arbuthnot] is still watching the French fleet at Rhode Island, & we are ready to go whenever occasion may require. [Rebel Gen. George] M<sup>r</sup> Washington is on

the other side of the North River within a few Miles, & has a Stronger Army in the field than he has had this two years, which obliges us to take care of the small territories in our possession, least he should make an Attempt on some weak quarter, if part of our Army was Detach'd to any great distance –

Your old Acquaintance Cap<sup>t</sup> Muir has made a great deal of Money this war, & if he is lucky enough to get home safe he may ly by in plenty the rest of his life, he is a very civil & obliging man, & I dare say deserves his good fortune –

The June Pacquet is taken & carried into Philadelphia so that if you wrote by her the letters are lost which is a great disappointment to us, we expect another Pacquet soon when I hope to have the pleasure to hear that you are well –

Please give my Compliments to Doctor Fleming & M<sup>r</sup> Arthur & tell them I would write to them by this opportunity but having nothing particular to say I hope they will take the will for the deed, and I refer them to Cap<sup>t</sup> Muir for all the News & politicks of this place –

My kind love to Bess & the Bairns [children] and compl<sup>ts</sup> to all friends as usual and I am D<sup>r</sup> Father

Cap<sup>t</sup> [John] Rutherford desires to }  
be remember'd to you }

Your Affectionate Son  
*JPeebles*

Source: NRS, *Papers of the Cuninghame Family of Thornton*, Letter No. 3 at GD21/489.



*George Germain, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Sackville, 1766 by Nathan Hone the Elder*

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from U.K. *National Portrait Gallery*

### **General Order Issued to Forward King George III's Compliments to the Army for the Capture of Charleston; New York, Sept. 3, 1780**

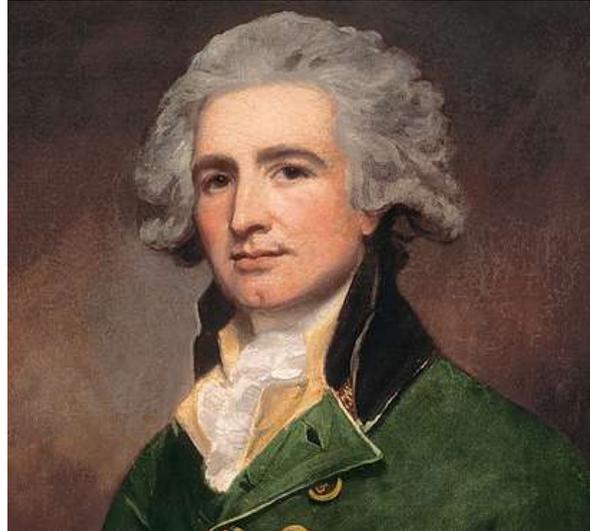
Head Qrs New York 3<sup>d</sup> Sep 1780...

Extract of a letter from Lord George Germain, to S<sup>r</sup> Hen: Clinton K.B. dated Whitehall 4 July 1780

“The Honourable Testimony you give of the distinguished merit of the Officers who executed your orders, and of the Fortitude and Alacrity of the Troops that served under them was particularly pleasing to the King; and it is his Majesty's Royal pleasure that you do acquaint both Officers and Soldiers, British, Foreign, and Provincial, that their intrepid and gallant behavior is highly approved of by his Majesty; But although in third general praise, every Officer & Soldier is included, his Majesty commands me to desire you to express to Lieu<sup>t</sup> General Earl Cornwallis, Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>s</sup> [Alexander] Leslie, [Johann Christoph von] Huynes, [Henrich Julius von] Kospoth, Brig<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> [James] Patterson, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colo [Banastre] Tarleton, Major [Patrick] Ferguson and Major [James] Moncrieff, his Majesty's particular satisfaction in their Conduct, The merit of the Latter officers was highly distinguished in the defense and

preservation of Savannah, it has now been equally conspicuous in the attack and Reduction of Charlestown.”

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



Detail of Portrait of Robert Abercromby, 1788, by George Romney

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

**Orders from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lt. Col. Robert Abercromby, 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry Battalion (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Company), to Conduct Reconnaissance of the Delaware River and Seize Stores Near Philadelphia; New York, Sept. 1780**

You are to proceed with the Troops under your Command and into the River Delaware & proceed with the greatest expedition up as far as Chester – You will then be able to get information if the Enemy have any force collected at Billingsport or Mud Island & in Consequence if you find it advisable immediately take possession of Mudd Island w<sup>h</sup>. will enable you to land your Troops at the most Convenient place to approach the City of Philadelphia w<sup>h</sup>. is the principal object of the Expedition –

If you find it not Adviseable to take possession of Mudd I<sup>d</sup>. you will in that Case land at Chester & proceed to Gray’s Ferry on the Schuylkill with your Batteaus on Carriages & pass that River –

As from the Best information there is a very Considerable Diposit of all kinds of Publick stores collected in & near the City of Philadelphia you will immediately proceed & endeavour to take or Destroy them as likewise all the Shipping in the Delaware River Along side of the Wharffs &<sup>ca</sup>. – – If on your Entering the Town after having Summoned the principal Inhabitants, & laid before them the Intent of your Expedition you should be fired upon from the Houses or in the Streets You will then set fire to the Town & endeavour under that Cover to accomplish the end of your Expedition – Otherwise you are to use every Effort in your Power to Prevent the destruction of Private Property – But at any Rate if Some Houses should suffer – by being obliged to Destroy the publick stores by fire it must be prevented as much as your time & Circumstances will permit –

If from Contrary Winds or other unfavorable Events your proceeding with the Fleet up the River Delaware should be Tedious & if from Your Information that the Enemy are Collected in force to oppose you – in that Case the Intent of the Expedition will be Altered & you will then Endeavour to Carry off or to destroy what Stores & Magazines the Enemy may have Collected Near to Wilmington or the Head of Elk &<sup>ca</sup> – by Landing at or near Newcastle when this is effected You will then return with the Troops under your Command to this Place

[Cover page]  
H16 Delaware  
Early in Sep<sup>r</sup> 1780  
to Col. Abercrombie

Source and Note: *Sir Henry Clinton Papers* 124:39, W. L. Clements Lib., Univ. of Mich. The staff of the Clements Lib. have annotated this file "Clinton's hand J. C."



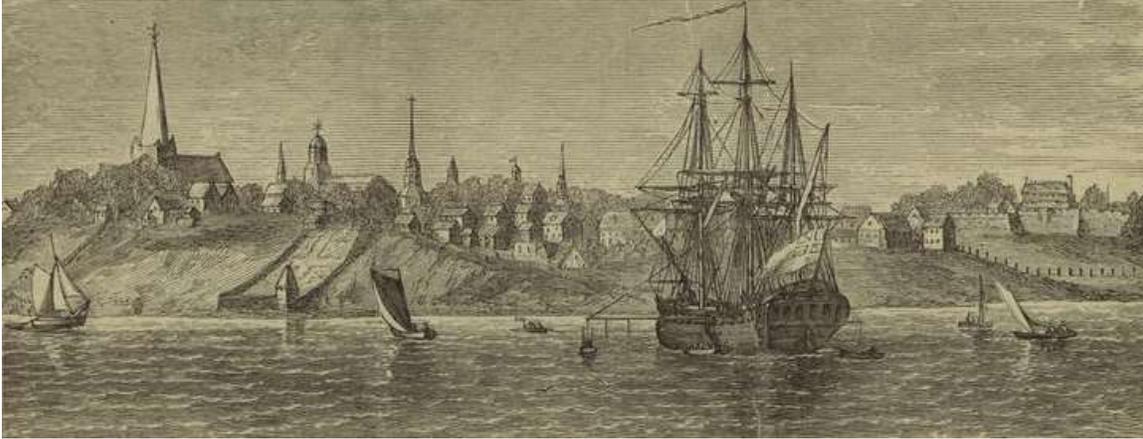
Detail from "A plan of the city of New-York & its environs to Greenwich, on the North or Hudsons River, and to Crown Point, on the East or Sound River, shewing the several streets, publick buildings, docks, fort & battery, with the true form & course of the commanding grounds, with and without the town. Survey'd in the winter, 1775 [1766]" 1775, by John Montrésor

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

**Advertisement for Lost Horses Belonging to an Officer of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Greenwich, New York, Sept. 6, 1780.**

STOLEN or strayed from the encampment of the 42d regiment, by Greenwich; Two Horses, one of them a light Chestnut, the other mouse coloured marked L.D. upon the left hip. Whoever will bring the said Horses to the 42d encampment; or give information where they can be found, shall receive one Guinea Reward.

Source and Note: *Royal Gazette* (New York), Sept. 6, 1780. This advertisement indicates the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. was encamped near Greenwich just northeast of the outskirts of New York City in 1780.



*New York in 1776*

Picture Source: Art and Picture Collection, NYPL, from *The story of the volunteer fire department of the city of New York*, George William Sheldon, (Harper, 1882)

### **General Order Assigning the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders to Winter Quarters and Garrison Duty in New York, Oct. 17, 1780**

Head Qrs N Y 17<sup>th</sup> Octo: 1780...

The 76<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and Reg<sup>t</sup> of Donop will march to King's bridge...

The 42<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> to march in to the Barracks of the 76<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> at New York...

The above Regiments will march on the 19<sup>th</sup> Instant at day break...

The Light Infantry to be at the Ship Yards new York at 12 o'clock the 19<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>, where boats will be ready to carry them over to Long Island...

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

### **General Order Issued to Level the Size of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company with the Battalion Companies, New York, Oct. 26, 1780**

Head Qrs N Y 26<sup>th</sup> Octo<sup>r</sup> 1780...

The Grenadier Companies to be completed immed<sup>y</sup> from their Battalions to 56 Rank and File; if there are any men among the recruits from Eng<sup>d</sup> for the absent regiments, that are fit for that service, the Captains of the respective companies may take them.

The Companies [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] whose Establishment is 101 are to be Leveled with those of their respective Regim<sup>s</sup> in the same manner as ordered for the L<sup>t</sup> Infantry.

Returns to be given in by each Battalion of L<sup>t</sup> Infantry & Grenadiers, of the numbers received in Consequence of the above order.

Source and Note: "Orders, 1778-1782," Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Vol. 266, William L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. strength report for Oct. 1, 1780 showed on 150 Rank & File wanting to complete for the eight battalion companies. With an establishment of 40 Corporals and 800 privates in those eight companies, the flank companies were likely leveled at around 86 men, including POWs, sick etc.



Detail of Maj. Gen. William Phillips

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

**General Order Assigning the Light Infantry, Grenadiers and Royal Highlanders to a Corps Commanded by Recently Exchanged Prisoner of War Maj. Gen. William Phillips, New York, Oct. 27, 1780**

Head Qrs N Y 27 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1780...

Major Gen<sup>l</sup> [William] Phillips [Royal Artillery] of the Troops of Convention, as also Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen [Baron Friedrich Adolph von] De Reidisel...with their respective Families [staffs] are Exchanged and in full activity of Service ...

The British Light Infantry, British Grenadiers and 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment will form a Corps under the Command of Major General Phillips...

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

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record the Assignment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders to Maj. Gen. William Phillip's Command, New York, Oct. 28 – 29, 1780**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. a rainy day... Major Gen<sup>l</sup>. Phillips & [Brunswick] Major Gen<sup>l</sup> [Friedrich Adolf] Riedesel of the [Saratoga] Convention troops are Exchanged, & in full activity of Service, & all the off<sup>rs</sup>. of this & the [Lt. Gen. John Burgoyne's] Northern Army who were on parole at New York are also exchang<sup>d</sup>

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. fair w<sup>f</sup>.... Major Gen<sup>l</sup>. Phillips appointed to Command of the Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co.], British Gren<sup>rs</sup>. [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] & 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. –

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries for Oct. 28-29, 1780* and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 415.

**Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Maj. Gen. the Marquis de Lafayette to Gen. George Washington Reporting the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Part of Garrison, New York, Nov. 13, 1780**

My dear general

Light Camp November the 13<sup>th</sup> 1780

On My Return from your quarters, I found here one of my spies from Newyork...he left Newyork Friday evening, and on Saturday was at Bergen point – The British Army lay on long island about White Stone and jamaica where they are fitting up old hutts and will take theyr winter quarters – in Newyork 1<sup>st</sup> Rg<sup>t</sup> of [German] Ansbachers, 42<sup>d</sup> Regiment call'd highlanders, one Company of hessian grenadiers, and

[Col. Beverly Robinson] Robertson's [Loyal American] Rg<sup>t</sup> of New levies – toward the North end of the island Chiefly Hessians – at Staten island, the same troops as before at the Watering place, detachments at the Flag Staff – Richmond Reinforc'd by an Hessian Regiment, sixty men at Decker's Ferry – at Bergen the Refugees. [Commander-in-Chief] Gn<sup>l</sup> [Sir Henry] Clinton is in New York, [Hessian Lt. Gen. Wilhelm von] Knyphausen on Long island. [Brig. Gen. Benedict] Arnold at Robertson's...

Source: *Founders Early Access*, Univ. of Virginia Press.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record Entering Winter Quarters and Lt. Col. John Yorke, 22<sup>nd</sup> Regt., Being Appointed Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> British Grenadier Battalion, New York, Nov. 15, 1780**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>. fine w<sup>r</sup>... The [42<sup>nd</sup> Gren.] Company went into their Hutts today & got their Barrack bedding & utensils...

Visited the Hospital & reported to L<sup>t</sup>. Col: Yorke who is appointed to the Com<sup>d</sup>. of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. 10<sup>th</sup>. Nov<sup>r</sup>. & L<sup>t</sup>. Co<sup>l</sup>. [Hon. Henry Edward] Fox [38<sup>th</sup> Regt.] to the 2<sup>d</sup>. ... the 22<sup>d</sup>. Com<sup>y</sup>. change with the 38<sup>th</sup> Comp<sup>y</sup>.

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal Entries* for Oct. 28-29, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, p. 415.

**Edinburgh News Account of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. and Flank Companies of the Army Assigned to Maj. Gen. William Phillips for a Secret Expedition, New York, Nov. 30, 1780**

General Phillips of the artillery (Upon whom the command or direction of the captives devolved on [Lt.] Gen. [John] Burgoyne's coming home on his parole) has been appointed by [Gen.] Sir Henry Clinton to the command of a secret expedition, consisting of the 42d regiment and the flank companies of the whole army.

Source and Notes: *Edinburgh Advertiser*, Dec. 8, 1780, p. 21. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Regt. (including the Light Infantry and Grenadier Companies) was assigned to Maj. Gen. Phillips on his return from his exchange from the Rebels after being taken at Saratoga in Oct. 1777. These units were initially ordered to embark about Nov. 30 but were replaced by 80<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Queen's Rangers and Robinson's Corps and some of the Hessians for (Former Rebel) Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold's expedition to Virginia.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Capt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Record St. Andrew's Day and Preparation for an Expedition, New York, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1-8, 1780**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>. mild a General Parade at 10 The [1<sup>st</sup> British Grenadier] Batt<sup>n</sup>. looks well all in new Cloathing... went to Town [New York] din'd at HeadQ<sup>rs</sup>. about 30 on Company, sat til 9 then went to the [42<sup>nd</sup> Reg<sup>ts</sup>. [Officers'] Mess & was merry till 3 o'clock in the Morn<sup>g</sup>. – The Sub<sup>s</sup>. [subalterns] had two parties & celebrated the day with claret, one party sent a deputation very ill managed...

An embarkation to take place in a few days viz<sup>t</sup>. the Light Infantry [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Inf. Co. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.] 1<sup>st</sup>. B<sup>n</sup>. Gr<sup>rs</sup>. Hessian Gr<sup>rs</sup>. 42<sup>d</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. Yaegers & [Brevet-Lt. Col. John Graves] Simcoes [Loyalist Queens Rangers] Corps...

Friday 1<sup>st</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1780 cold northerly wind...

The Batt<sup>n</sup>. under orders to hold themselves in readiness to Embark at Moments notice – with little baggage, no Women or horses...

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. fine weather no more word of moving...

Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. mild w<sup>r</sup>...

The Expedition is chang'd, & now only the 80<sup>th</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>. [Loyalist] Queens Rangers & [Col. Beverly] Robinsons [Loyal American Regt.] Corps with some Hessians the whole under the Com<sup>d</sup>. of [Former Rebel, Brig. Gen. Benedict] Arnold to Embark few days...

Source: NRS, *Peebles Journal* Entries for Nov. 30 and Dec. 1-8, 1780 and as published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira Gruber, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg (Pa), 1998, pp. 421-423.