



Detail of "A topographical chart of the bay of Narraganset in the province of New England, with all the isles contained therein, among which Rhode Island and Connonicut have been particularly surveyed, shewing the true position & bearings of the banks, shoals, rocks &c. as likewise the soundings; To which have been added the several works & batteries raised by the Americans. Taken by order of the principal farmers on Rhode Island." by Charles Blaskowitz, 1777

Picture Source and Note: *Library of Congress, Geography and Map. Div.* The 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company was assigned winter quarters in a single house on the south end of the town of Newport.

## **Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton's Capture and Occupation of Rhode Island with Capt. Charles Graham's 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Nov. 13, 1776 – Feb. 12, 1777**

### **Excerpt of a Letter from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting an Expedition to Seize Rhode Island (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company), New York, Nov. 17, 1776**

New York 30 November 1776

My Lord...

Lieutenant-Generals [Henry] Clinton and [Hugh] Lord Percy are under orders to sail with the first fair wind to take possession of Rhode Island, having a force exceeding 6000 rank and file, which I judge to be sufficient for the operation. And although the expedition may miscarry from the late season of the year, yet on account of the great importance of the object I have hazarded the consequences of a disappointment from that cause, not doubting of success if the weather proves tolerably favourable. In this opinion I am strengthened by the cheerfulness with which it is undertaken by the two generals to be employed and from the little preparation the Enemy has made to defend it by the latest intelligence received...

Source: Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XII, *Transcripts 1776*, p. 264-266 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776* at CO 5/93, f. 304.

**Journal of Maj. of Brigade and Capt. Frederick Mackenzie, 5<sup>th</sup> Brig., Describes  
Preparations for Rhode Island Expedition, New York, Nov. 13 – 19, 1776**

13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> – Clear fine weather. Slight Frost...

[Lt.] General [Henry] Clinton came to New York today from the Army. He is to have command of the troops going on the Expedition, and [Commodore] Sir Peter Parker is to Command the Fleet. Tis now generally supposed we are going to the Delaware.

The troops under orders for this Expedition are, a [3<sup>rd</sup>] Battalion of British Grenadiers [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.], one [3<sup>rd</sup> Bn.] of Light Infantry, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Brigades of British Infantry, two Brigades of Hessian, [Hessian Col. Carl von] Donop's Corps, a detachment of 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, & a detachment of Artillery.

18<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1776

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of Grenadiers, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry, and two Brigades of Hessians, marched from the army this morning, and at 2 o'Clock encamped near New York...

19<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> – Remarkable fine weather

The 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade came and encamped near the town.

The troops now encamped near New York, and which are expected to embark on the intended Expedition, are, The 3<sup>rd</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>. of Light Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Grenadiers, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Brigades of British, and [Maj. Gen. Frederick William] Losbergs's & [Maj. Gen. Martin] Schmidt's brigades of Hessian Infantry...

21<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>

The troops under orders for the Expedition, are one troop of the 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of Light Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grenadiers [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.], 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> brigades of British, Losberg's and Schmidt's brigades of Hessians, and two Companies of Artillery. Most of the two Decked Ships of warm are also under orders. [Lt.] General [Henry] Clinton is to have the Command of the Army, and [Commodore] Admiral Sir Peter Parker of The Navy. It is generally supposed that Rhode-Island is the object...

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> – Rain last night...

Part of the troops for the Expedition are to embark tomorrow...

25<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> Remarkable warm weather these two last days...

The Grenadiers and Light Infantry, and the two Hessian brigades embarked...

Source: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. I, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, p. 104 and 111-115.

**Excerpts of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier  
Battalion, on Preparations for Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton's Rhode Island Expedition,  
*Rachel & Mary Transport*, New York, Nov. 17 - 30, 1776**

Nov<sup>r</sup>.17<sup>th</sup>. fine w<sup>r</sup>. [weather] & a day if rest the 18<sup>th</sup>. we the 3<sup>d</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. march'd to New York & Encamp'd on the Plains at the North end of Town... Things getting ready for a Secret expedition. We remaine'd in this camp about a week & then Embark'd for the Lord knows where...

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>. Batt<sup>n</sup>. Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. Enbark'd on board the Rachel & Mary & The Hunter Transports at New York, being part of the Troops for an Expedition the destination of which is not yet publickly known. 4 Line of Battle Ships 2 Frigates & about six thousand land troops British & Hessian make up the Force of this secret expedition...the 42<sup>d</sup>. [Grenadier Company] (all but an officer & 20

detached on board the Rachel & Mary) the 54<sup>th</sup>. & 57<sup>th</sup>. Comp<sup>ys</sup> on board the Hunter, an old ship & somewhat leaky John Hudson Master...

Saturday Nov<sup>r</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup>. S<sup>t</sup>. Andrew's Day a Rainy morn<sup>g</sup>... towards noon it clear'd up a little made several attempts to haul out into the Current in order to get up thro' Hell gate but fail'd, we touch'd upon the point again, one ship got thro'; in the afternoon the wind came to the westward & blew pretty smartly but could not get the ships haul'd out into the stream. the kedge anchors [used for turning the ship] would not hold, so gave it up for the day – and sat down to celebrate the day which is always kept with festivity & mirth by the wandering sons of St. Andrew, we had a good dinner, pour'd a libation to the saint, and did justice to his memory, with a hearty glass; may joy & good fellowship always preside at his feasts, & banish every foe to mirth & friendship –

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles' Journal Entries* Nov. 17-30, 1776 and published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Army Record Society, Stackpole Books, 1998, pp. 64 - 65. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland.

### **Excerpt of Journal of Capt. William Haslewood, 63<sup>rd</sup> Regt., Describing Rhode Island Expedition Nov. 24-Dec. 12, 1776**

...on the 24<sup>th</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup>. the 63<sup>d</sup> Regim<sup>t</sup>. with many others under the Command of [Lt.] Gen<sup>l</sup>. [Henry] Clinton embarked on board Transports at New York sail<sup>d</sup> down the East River through Hell Gate into the Sound, came to an anchor off New London, on the 7<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup>. arrived In Rhode Island Harbour, all the Troop landed there at eight, that Night without opposition and lay on their Arms all Night, next Day pitched Tents but such a snow fall that it was with great difficulty the Troops kept themselves warm. tho' great fires were made. about five Days after landing the Troops were Quarter'd on the Inhabitance.

Source and Note: "Journal of a British Officer During the American Revolution," Ed. by Louise Phelps Kellogg, in *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. VII, No. 1, June 1920, Google Books, pp. 55-56. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company was part of the landing force.

### **General Orders Detaching the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion, Including Capt. Charles Graham's 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, for Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton's Expedition to Capture Rhode Island, Nov. 28, 1776**

Head Quarters New York Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1776...

The Detachment of the Royal Artillery, and 17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, 3<sup>d</sup> Battalion Light Infantry, 3<sup>d</sup> Battalion Grenadiers, 3<sup>d</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Brigades British, and two Brigades Hessians (Losberg's and Schmidt's), as well as all other Officers and Soldiers now embarked under the Command of Lieut.-Gen. [Henry] Clinton, will receive their Orders from him...

Source and Note: "The Kemble Papers: Vol. I, 1773-1789 in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883*, Publication Fund Series, Printed for the Society, New York, 1884, Google Books. This order prepares a large detachment under Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton to attack and seize Rhode Island. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co. took part in this expedition as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Bn.



Detail from *Lt. Col. Sir Charles Stuart*, by George Romney, 1779

Picture Source: WikiArt.org

**Excerpts of Letter from Maj. Hon. Charles Stuart, 43<sup>rd</sup> Regt. and Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co.) to his Father the Earl of Bute, Describing Preparations for the Rhode Island Expedition, New York, Nov. 29, 1776**

East River, New York, Nov. 29, 1776

...Six thousand are embarked for an expedition under the command of [Lt.] Gen. [Henry] Clinton and [Lt. Gen.] Lord [Hugh, Earl] Percy; I likewise go, with the command of the Grenadiers, we imagine to Rhode Island. I am on board a miserable transport with 30 officers, therefore you must excuse the incorrectness it is rather severe after sharing in every active part of this campaign immediately to undertake a Winter one...

Source: *New Records of the American Revolution*, Sir Charles Stuart, L. K. Ashnor, London, 1927, pp. 12-13.

**Excerpt of Letter No. 33 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting the Sailing of the Rhode Island Expedition (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company), Dec. 1, 1776**

N<sup>o</sup> 33

New York 2<sup>d</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1776

My Lord,

The Wind being fair Lieutenant General [Henry] Clinton sailed yesterday by the East River with the Frigates & most of the Transports the larger Ships of War and Transports put to Sea from Sandy Hook at the same Time to join the Fleet off of the Port of Destination...

I have the Honor to be Your Lordships faithful  
and most Obedient Servant

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

W. Howe

Source: *Records of the British Colonial Office Class 5, Part 5: The American Revolution, 1772-1784*, Ed. Randolph Boehm, University Publications Inc., Frederick, MD, 1972 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776* at CO 5/93, f. 535.

**Journal of Maj. of Brigade and Capt. Frederick Mackenzie, 5<sup>th</sup> Brig., Describes Voyage of the Rhode Island Expedition, New York, Nov. 27 – Dec. 4, 1776**

27<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>

Most of the transports with troops on board for the Expedition, went out of the N. River to day, and anchored between Governor's Island and Redhook. The large ships are gone down to Gravesend bay.

It is still uncertain where we are going; but Rhode-Island is generally supposed to be our destination; and that The Frigates and transports will go through the [Long Island] Sound, and the two decked Ships round Long Island, and rendezvous of the E. end of Long Island.

28<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>

The transports with the troops came up with the tide, and anchored in the East River between Corlaer's-hook and the town. The two decked ships, and the large transport with the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment on board, are gone down to Sandy hook. It is pretty evident now we are going to Rhode Island...

29<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> ... greatest part of the Expedition fleet in now at anchor in the E. River between Turtle bay and Bushwick point. About 60 sail are assembled. The Frigates which are Convoy us [sic], passed through Hellgate some days ago, and are waiting for us in the Sound...

Rhode Island is certainly our object, at which place there are some Rebel Frigates, and a great quantity of Goods and Stores...

1<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>

The Expedition fleet weighed anchor at daybreak, with a fine wind at S. went all safely through Hellgate, and at 3 in the afternoon anchored near Whitestone, & not far from [Throgg's] Frog's-point...

4<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> – The wind being fair this morning, the signal for weighing was made about 11 o'Clock, and at 2 in the afternoon almost the whole fleet was underway with a light wind at N...

Source: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. I, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 116-119.

### **Excerpt of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Records Change of Command for the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion, At Sea Off Rhode Island, Dec. 7, 1776**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>... [Lt.] Colo: [James] Marsh [43<sup>rd</sup> Regt.] took his leave in orders & gave up the Com<sup>d</sup>. to Major [Hon. Charles] Stuart [43<sup>rd</sup> Regt.]

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry Dec. 7, 1776 and published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Army Record Society, Stackpole Books, 1998, p. 70.

### **Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton's Orders Concerning the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company), Rhode Island, Dec. 7, 9 and 26, 1776**

Given by L<sup>t</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup> [Henry] Clinton...

On board His Majesty's ship Chatham, Rhode Island harbour 7<sup>th</sup> December 1776.

The Troops to hold themselves in readiness to disembark by day break to Morrow morning. The Light Infantry, Grenadiers and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, compose the first debarkation. The Brigade of Losberg, with the Regiment of Watginaw, form the second. The 5<sup>th</sup> brigade and the two remaining Regiments of Huynes brigade compose the third.

The Light Cavalry are not to disembark till further orders. The battalion Guns are not to be taken on shore by any Corps, as Major Innes will receive instructions for what Artillery will be necessary.

Major General [Richard] Prescott will command the first debarkation, Brigadier General [Friedrich Wilhelm von] Losberg the second, and as soon as they are landed, the whole will be under the command of Lieu<sup>t</sup> General [Hugh] Earl Percy. Brigadier General [Francis] Smith will command the third debarkation, and major General [Johann Christoph von] Huyne will accompany him...

Head quarters, Newport, 9<sup>th</sup> December 1776

The General desires to express his thanks to Major General [Richard] Prescott for the great care and attention he shewed in conducting the landing, and taking possession of the island yesterday...

26 December 1776

The Grenadiers and Light Infantry are for the future to do none but duties of honor, they will therefore always take the Generals and Lord Percy's Guards...

Source and Note: *General Orders Rhode Island December 1776 – January 1778*, Ed. Don Hagist, Heritage Books, Westminster (MD) 2007, pp. 1, 3-4, 12, 21-23, 25-26, and 29-30. This order prepares the expedition for the landing at Rhode Island.

**Excerpt of a Letter No. 38 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Enclosing Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton's Report of the Seizure of Rhode Island, Dec. 8, 1776**

New York 20 December 1776

My Lord,

I have the honour to enclose an extract of a letter from Lieutenant-General Clinton containing advice of his being in possession of Rhode Island without any loss to His Majesty's troops. The season may be found too far advanced for him to proceed to Providence, but if practicable I am confident the attempt will be made; the advantages to be derived from this acquisition are nevertheless very important, which from your Lordship's perfect knowledge of them I do not presume to enumerate...

*Signed.*

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XII, Transcripts 1776*, pp. 266-268 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776=1777* at CO 5/94, f. 15.



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

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

**Letter from Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton to Lord George Germain,  
Secretary of State for the American Department, Reporting on the Capture of Rhode Island,  
Newport, Dec. 8, 1776**

Newport Rhode Island Dec<sup>r</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup>. 1776

Having received General [Sir William] Howe's orders to embark with two Brigades of British and two Brigades of Hessian troops, and in Conjunction With Commodore S<sup>r</sup> Peter Parkers Fleet to make a descent upon this Island in the most effectual Manner for the full possession of it and for the Security of the Town and Harbour. We sailed from New York on the 1<sup>st</sup> of december Arrived at Weavers bay on the West side of this Island on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> following On the 8<sup>th</sup> at day – break the Commodore having made such a disposition of the Fleet as he thought proper to cover the landing of the troops, they disembarked at the above – mentioned Bay without the least opposition. When being informed that the Rebels had quitted the Works in and about the Town of Newport and was retiring towards Bristol Ferry I detached Major General [Richard] Prescott with the [3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion British] Grenadiers [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.] and light Infantry to intercept them, sustaining him with a body of troops under the Command of L<sup>t</sup> General [Hugh] Earl Percy. Major General Prescott took two pieces of Cannon a few Prisoners and obliged them to quit their Fort on this side the Ferry and retire to the Continent. I likewise sent a Battalion to take possession of Newport the Capitol of the Island in which were found some Cannon & Stores, which the Rebels on their sudden retreat had left behind them.

I shall as soon as possible send troops to the Islands of Conanicut and Providence and Occupy such other Ports as may be Necessary for the security of the harbour; having had it in Command from General Howe to give your Lordship the earliest intelligence of the success of his Majesty's Troops I have the honour to transmit this to your Lordship by Cap<sup>t</sup> Drummond one of my Aide de Camps to whom I beg leave to refer your Lordship for any particulars which you may Wish to be informed of. I have the honor to be

With great respect

My Lord your Lordships Most Ob<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

H Clinton L<sup>t</sup> Gen.

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

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO 5/94, ff. 388-389. The Grenadiers mentioned in Lt. Gen. Clinton's letter were the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadiers Battalion, which included Capt. Charles Graham's 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co.

### **Journal of Maj. of Brigade and Capt. Frederick Mackenzie, 5<sup>th</sup> Brig., Describes Amphibious Landing of the Expedition, Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island, Dec. 8 – 9, 1776**

8<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1776

The Army landed this morning at Weaver's Cove near M<sup>r</sup> Stoddard's house, in the following order –

The first Embarkation [debarkation] consisted of the Light Infantry, Grenadiers [including Capt. Charles Graham's 42<sup>nd</sup> Gren. Co.], and 10<sup>th</sup> regiment, under the Command of Major [Richard] General Prescott...

The first Embarkation under Gen<sup>l</sup> Prescott, marched as soon as formed to the high road from Newport to Bristol ferry, a short distance from the landing place, and finding that the few of the Enemy who were on the Island, had retired in haste towards the N. end of it, he pursued them to the ferries, where he took a few prisoners, and a 9 p<sup>r</sup> [pounder] Cannon; and saved a great many Cattle & Sheep which they had not time to carry off...

9<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>

As the troops could not get their tents on shore from the transports last night, they were obliged to lie without any shelter, on a bleak hill, much exposed to the severity of the weather. The troops [including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadiers] which advanced toward the ferries, were Cantoned in the adjacent houses & barns. Most of the tents were got on shore this morning and pitched...

Source: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. I, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 123-124.



Detail from "A topographical chart of the bay of Narraganset in the province of New England, with all the isles contained therein, among which Rhode Island and Connonicut have been particularly surveyed, shewing the true position & bearings of the banks, shoals, rocks &c. as likewise the soundings; To which have been added the several works & batteries raised by the Americans. Taken by order of the principal farmers on Rhode Island," by Charles Blaskowitz, 1777

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

**Excerpts of Notebook of Lt. John Peebles, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion, Describing on His Company's Amphibious Landing, Rhode Island, Dec. 8, 1776**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. got in the flat Boats early in the morn<sup>g</sup>. The [3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion] Light Infantry & [3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion] Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. & assembled under the stern of the [50-gun *HMS*] Experiment at a signal from the *Como*: & repeated by the Experiment we pushed off to shore & landed without any opposition about 4 miles to the Northw<sup>d</sup>. of New Port, we bent our course towards the Town at first for about a mile or more, and then turn'd back and marched towards the north end of the Island, when about a mile from Bristol ferry the Gren<sup>rs</sup>. were order'd to lay down their Packs & load... we march'd towards the ferry and came time enough to see the last two [rebel] boats push off ... The Rebels having a few Guns on t'other fired some round shot at us 9 12 & 18 pounders, but did no hurt – we lay upon our arms in a field about 3 or 400 yards from the ferry till even<sup>g</sup>. & then went into the adjacent Houses & barns some of which were inhabited and other not... [the rebels] make a show of 3 or 400 men on t'other side, have some works & are busy working still; the ferry near a mile across, on this side or which is a fort not quite finished intended for the deffence of this End of the Island...



Monday 9<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. The Troops Canton'd in Houses & Barns as most convenient some better & some worse...

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. Cold Weather, the wind at NW. The Batt<sup>n</sup>. Parades at 10 in the field next the Wind Mill, the Light Infantry canton'd on the east Road the Gr<sup>rs</sup>. on the West...

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. the Batt<sup>n</sup>. assembled at the Q<sup>r</sup>. next the town about noon, & marched into Town to the Quarter allotted for them. The men in uninhabited Houses, & some of the officers, others billeted on families...

Source and Note: NRS, *Peebles' Journal* Entry Dec. 8 - 18, 1776 and published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Army Record Society, Stackpole Books, 1998, pp. 70-72.

**Excerpt of Letter from Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sir William Howe to New Jersey Commander Maj. Gen. James Grant Regarding Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton's Capture of Rhode Island, Dec. 8, 1776**

N. York Dec<sup>r</sup>. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Friday

...Should this be ye first advice to you of [Lt. Gen. Henry] Clinton's possession of Rhode Island without y<sup>e</sup> loss of a man, I shall be pleased, knowing y<sup>e</sup> first messenger of good news is ever in favor. Good quarters for y<sup>e</sup> Troops in Newport & one brigade in Cantonments. The Rebels quitted on ye first appearance, crossing ye ferry to Bristol. [Maj. Gen. Richard] Prescott was detach'd after them with L [Light]. In [Infantry]: & [3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Company] Grend<sup>rs</sup>. & catch'd a few of them...  
Ever Y<sup>rs</sup>.

So Cold I can hardly hold y<sup>e</sup> pen.

*W Howe*

M.G. Grant

Source: *James Grant Papers of Ballindalloch Castle, Scotland*; Library of Congress Microcopy, Reel 36, Army Career Series, Correspondence, December, 1776. Transcribed by Todd Braisted.

**British Officer's Account of Capture of Rhode Island; Newport, Dec. 8-17, 1776**

*Extract of a Letter from an Officer at Newport, Rhode Island, to another Officer at New – York, dated the 17th December 1776.*

“Our Troops have taken this Town and Island without the least Opposition. A Deputation of the Inhabitants waited upon the [Lt.] General [Henry Clinton] at our Landing, to make their Submission, but, would you believe it, they now murmur because the Army has taken Possession of some of their Houses for Winter Quarters? We have taken up a few People for Prisoners; and a great many Guns were left behind in several Forts. If we had arrived about three Hours sooner, we should have cut off *Hopkins's* Squadron of three Ships, which got away just as we came up. The Winter here is setting in very severe, as I suppose it is with you.”

Source and Note: *New York Gazette and Weekly Mercury*, Dec. 23, 1776, p. 3. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co. participated in the landing with the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Bn.



Detail from "A plan of the town of Newport in Rhode Island," 1777, by Charles Blaskowitz

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

**Journal of Maj. of Brigade and Capt. Frederick Mackenzie, 5<sup>th</sup> Brig., Describes Operations of 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion, Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Aquidneck Island and Newport, Rhode Island, Dec. 12 – 18, 1776**

12<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>

Snow last night for some hours, which lay three Inches deep on the ground this morning. Cold raw weather all day.

The troops went into Cantonments this day. The whole is now Cantoned over the Island, except the 22<sup>d</sup> Regiment, and [Hessian] Regiment Du Corps, which are quartered in Newport, and doing duty there...

17<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> Hard frost, and cold wind at N. Clear weather.

The 43<sup>rd</sup>, 54<sup>th</sup>, and 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiments of [Maj.] Gen<sup>l</sup> [Francis] Smith's brigade, changed their quarters this morning, and cantoned in the houses at the N. end of the Island, taking the advanced posts opposite Bristol and Howland's ferries.

The Grenadiers and Light Infantry, which had hitherto occupied that part of the Island, fell back, and quartered with 3 miles of Newport...

18<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> very cold weather and hard frost.

The Grenadiers and Light Infantry went into Quarters in Newport.

Source: *Dairy of Frederick Mackenzie*, Vol. I, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1930 and reprinted by The New York Times & Arno Press, 1969, pp. 126-128.

**Lt. John Peebles' Account of Quarters and Partial Uniform Change of 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, Newport, Rhode Island, Dec. 21 and 29, 1776**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>... The Comp<sup>y</sup> all in one House at the South end of town – we live at Tavern 1/6 a head for dinner wine very high...

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. The [3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier] Battalion went to Church inform our Comp<sup>y</sup>. dress'd in britches for the first time, what would [Maj. Gen. Archibald Montgomerie, Earl of Eglinton] L<sup>d</sup>. E: say if he saw us...

Source a: *Peebles' Journal* Entries for Dec. 21 and 29, 1776 and published in *John Peebles' American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Army Record Society, Stackpole Books, 1998, pp. 70 and 75. "1/6 a head" means one and a half shillings for each officer for dinner. A lieutenant's pay was four and 2/3 shillings per day. It cannot be determined from Peebles' note whether the company was in knee breeches, which was a standard winter uniform, when worn with warm leggings, or in long trousers (especially gaitered trousers which became very common) as the war progressed.

**Excerpt of Letter from Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sir William Howe to Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis Advising that He is Bringing Troops Back from Rhode Island (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company), New York, Jan. 11, 1777**

N. York Saturday Noon.  
Jan 11<sup>th</sup>

My D<sup>r</sup>. Lord...

I have wrote today for y<sup>ou</sup>. L [Light]. In [Infantry]: [3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion British] G<sup>rs</sup>. & 3<sup>d</sup>. brigade to come here from Rhode Island with<sup>t</sup>. delay w<sup>h</sup>. will replace y<sup>e</sup>. loss of [Col. Johann] Rall's brigade & fit us better for a march over y<sup>e</sup>. Delaware, but w<sup>h</sup>.at present I see no prospect of, & as all I can wish for ~~at present~~ is to remain quiet for a short time in Brunswick & Amboy, I shall defer my visit to you until a prospect of employment may call me thither to cooperate w<sup>ith</sup>. You removing y<sup>e</sup>. Enemy from y<sup>e</sup>. Jersies...

Adieu My D<sup>r</sup>. Lord Y<sup>rs</sup>.&c WHowe

Source: *James Grant Papers of Ballindalloch Castle*, Scotland; Library of Congress Microcopy, Reel 37, Army Career Series, Correspondence, Jan. 1777.

**Lt. Gen. Hugh, Earl Percy's Order for the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion (Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co.) to Prepare to Embark, Rhode Island, Jan. 16, 1777**

Given by Earl Percy...  
16<sup>th</sup> January [1777]...

The 3<sup>d</sup> Battalion of Light Infantry, and Grenadiers, and 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade of British to prepare for immediate Embarkation.

The Light Company and Grenadiers of the 54<sup>th</sup> are not to embark...

Source and Note: *General Orders Rhode Island December 1776 – January 1778*, Ed. Don Hagist, Heritage Books, Westminster (MD) 2007, p. 23. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company is being ordered to embark for New Jersey with the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Bn.



Detail showing Amboy on left and Staten Island on right from “*Plan of Perth Amboy from an actual survey. Sketch of Bonham Town,*” 1777, by James Grant (Dep. Surv. and Eng. Alexander Sutherland)

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

### **Lt. John Peebles’ Account of Orders for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company to Embark on the *Transport Eagle*, Newport, Rhode Island, Jan. 16-28, 1777**

Tghursday 16<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>ry</sup>. the morn<sup>g</sup>. mild & pleasant... came to snow in the afternoon... In Orders, the [3<sup>rd</sup> Bn.] Light Infantry [3<sup>rd</sup> Bn.] Grenad<sup>s</sup>. & 3<sup>d</sup>. Brigade to hold themselves in readiness for immediate Embarkation, except the L: Infantry & Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. of the 54<sup>th</sup>. Regt...

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>. hard frost wind N.W. Orders last night for putting our heavy baggage on board this morn<sup>g</sup>. The *Eagle* & *Argo* the 2 ships for the Grenad<sup>rs</sup>. the 15<sup>th</sup>. 33<sup>d</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. on the former, the 28<sup>th</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. 46<sup>th</sup>. & 57<sup>th</sup>. in the latter...

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup>. fine clear frosty w<sup>r</sup>. [weather] orders for Embarking tomorrow morn<sup>g</sup>. repeated, to parade at the usual place at ½ after 8. & at the Grand parade at 9...

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cold Clinging frost wind at NW. sent my baggage down to the [transport] *Minerva* to go in her boat, went to the Barrack & marched up the men to the parade where the rest were waiting for us, & M<sup>r</sup>. [Capt. Charles or Lt. William] Graham never thinking about the matter marched in Batt<sup>n</sup>. to the Grand parade & from thence to the South Wharfs where we Embarked. 3 comp<sup>ys</sup>. the 15<sup>th</sup>. 33<sup>d</sup>. & 42<sup>d</sup>. on board the *Eagle* Cap<sup>t</sup>. Noble, the 28<sup>th</sup>. 37<sup>th</sup>. 46<sup>th</sup>. & 57<sup>th</sup>. on board the [Transport] *Argo* – The [3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion] Light Infantry & 52<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. embark’d in the morn<sup>g</sup>. the 3 other Reg<sup>ts</sup>. in the afternoon, the wind now about North...

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>ry</sup>. a Signal was made about 2 oclock in the morning for sailing on which the ships got up their anchors & got underway by 3...

Monday 10<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. fine frosty weather... Orders to land our heavy Baggage immediately and lodge it in our respective Reg<sup>tal</sup>. Stores [in New York]...

Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. hard frost... about 2 P.M. came to anchor about a mile or more from Amboy [New Jersey]...

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>ry</sup>. hard frost & a cold N.W. wind in the forenoon warp’d up opposite to Amboy but it blew too hard to get near the Town... The Commanders went ashore to Amboy & return’d in the Even<sup>g</sup>. but no word of our landing not where we are to go. Amboy and Brunswick & the villages between are occupied by our Troops but never move out except in large Parties...

Source and Note: *Peebles’ Journal* Entries for Jan. 16 -28,1777 and published in *John Peebles’ American War*, Ed. Ira D. Gruber, Army Record Society, Stackpole Books, 1998, pp. 79, 81-83, 88 and 92.

### **General Order Notes the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion, Including the**

**42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, had Arrived at New York from Rhode Island, Feb. 5, 1777**

Head Quarters New-York

Feb<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1777...

The Flank Corps, and 3<sup>d</sup> Brig<sup>de</sup>. lately arriv'd from Rhode Island, will take up all their recover'd Men found in New York and order them to join their Regiments immediately.

Source and Note: *Orderly Book of General Sir William Howe, Kept By Major Stephen Kemble, Deputy Adjutant General, 29 January 1777 - 20 June 1777*, New York State Library, Manuscripts and History Library, Accession Number 6744. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion is covered in this order as part of the "Flank Corps."

**Excerpts of a Letter No. 45 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing the Return of Troops from Rhode Island Including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Company, New York, Feb. 12, 1777**

N<sup>o</sup> 45

New York 12 February 1777

My Lord,

The Disposition of the Troops in this Quarter having undergone little Alteration since my last Dispatch of the 17<sup>th</sup> January, I have only to advise your Lordship of the Return of a Brigade of British and some Companies of Grenadiers and Light Infantry from Rhode Island, to strengthen [Lt. Gen. Charles] Lord Cornwallis's Corps in Jersey, in order to enable His Lordship, with more Security to the Posts of Brunswick and Amboy, to make a Movement, when the Weather proves favorable against the Enemy, still remaining at Morristown.

Lieutenant General [Henry] Clinton being gone to England, [Lt. Gen. Hugh] Lord Percy has succeeded to the Command at Rhode Island...

I have the Honor to be, Your Lordship's  
most faithful and most Obedient Servant

W. Howe

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

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. 234-237 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO 5/94. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Co. was one of the returning units as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> British Grenadier Battalion. Letter published in *London Gazette*, Mar. 18-22, 1777, p. 1.

**Excerpts of a Letter No. 47 from Gen. Sir William Howe, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Lord George Germain, Secretary of State for the American Department, Describing Revised Plans for the 1777 Campaign, Apr. 2, 1777**

New York 2 April 1777

My Lord...

My expectations of a move in the winter against the Enemy in Jersey upon the arrival of the troops from Rhode Island, as Mentioned in a former letter, have been frustrated by a deep fall of snow which rendered the country impassable, and since the breaking up of winter the depth of the roads forced me to relinquish the idea...

Source: *Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. XIV, Transcripts 1777*, Ed. K. G. Davies, Irish University Press, Dublin, 1976, pp. 64-65 from TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, 1776-1777* at CO 5/94, f. 143.